



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Friday 27th January 2022

Dear Downton Families

Once again it has been a busy week in school. There have been some lovely moments as we once again have started to move from remote worship to in-person worship. As a result, staff and children in Key Stage 2 thoroughly enjoyed singing worship this week. We hope to extend this further next week if our Covid numbers remain low.

A very important reunion between Year R and their buddies happened this week – with the children thoroughly enjoying sharing stories together. It really was very special.



It was just so lovely to welcome the Bridge Project back into school. During their visit they had our Reception children totally captivated as they learnt about the Creation. During the session they told the story using colourful props. Children then created different sections of the story using arts and crafts, bringing the whole story together in a vibrant display.



Year 3 & 4 Hockey at Alderbury

On Monday, we had a team of children from our Year 3 and 4 classes headed to Alderbury for a hockey match. Although they may not have been victorious, they were winners in our eyes displaying excellent team work and skills. It was also the debut for our new sports kit, in which I am sure you will agree they all looked very smart, representing their school with pride. Well done to you all!



Platinum Jubilee

We are really excited to share with you all that Downton Primary School and The Trafalgar School have joined up to run a street party for 'Generations Together' to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The event will take place on Thursday 26th May. More information will be shared in due course.



Five Rivers Exhibition

The school is once again exhibiting at the Five Rivers Leisure centre. Work from all Year groups is on show. This year the theme is Downton in Bloom, with paintings and pastel work on flowers. The children at Downton Primary School have brightened the beginning of the year with a burst of colourful flowers inspired by:



Year 1	Focus
Reception	observational drawing of flowers (pencil, watercolour, oil pastels)
Year 1 and 2	Georgia O'Keefe (black paint mixed with PVA glue, oil pastels) and poppies (paint)
Year 3	The flowers in Frida Kahlo's self- portraits (oil pastels)
Year 4	jungle flowers linked to their topic on Rainforests (paper collage)
Year 5	Watercolours close-up flowers
Year 6	the Victorian botanical painter, Marianne North (acrylic paints on canvas)

We have received an email from one visitor to the Five Rivers Leisure Centre saying how impressed they are with our pupils' artwork naming a favourite piece. Well done Carter! Please go along and enjoy the work will be on show until the end of February.

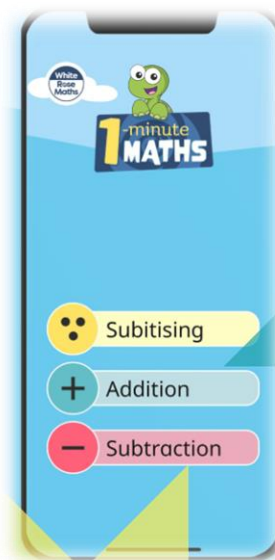
KS1 Maths App – for all Key Stage One pupils

White Rose Maths have designed a new app to support children in school and at home.

This new 1-Minute Maths app helps children build greater number confidence and fluency.

It's all about targeted practice in engaging, one-minute chunks. The first version of the app is aimed at Key Stage 1 pupils (ie, age 5-6 years). Individual one-minutes tasks focus on adding and subtracting – and on 'Subsiting', the skill of instantly recognising the number of items in a group without counting.

Your child can choose any topic they want to try. They then answer a unique series of questions (so it's a different set of questions every time). If they're struggling with a question, a 'Hint' button will give a helpful clue by showing the question in a different but familiar way. When the one minute's up, they'll see a feedback screen telling them how they've done.



You can download it by typing in '1-minute Maths' to any of the download sites below.



Adverse Weather Conditions

In the event of adverse weather conditions, we will make every effort to make the school site safe by clearing and gritting paths for access. Should there be heavy snow, we cannot guarantee that all staff will be able to get here should roads be hazardous, as many teachers and teaching assistants live much further away than parents. We aim to make a decision by 7.30am, it is never an easy decision to make because even if some of the children can get to school, staff may not and we need to have enough staff to operate safely. If an early morning decision is made to close completely, because it is considered that the site is unsafe or due to lack of staff we will send out a comms and put it on the school website and Facebook pages.



Bin Weighing

Despite restrictions our Year 6 Eco-Council have continued to weigh the bins, ready to share which classes produce the least waste paper. Teachers are always on the edge of their seat during Celebration Worship where the results are shared by the children with the whole school as we celebrate the most sustainable class.



Clerk to the Governors vacancy

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and highly motivated Clerk to the school Governors immediately, to provide administrative support and guidance to our Governing Body on our governance, constitutional and procedural matters. Knowledge of how schools and governing bodies operate would be an advantage, along with previous experience of similar work; however training can be provided. If you are interested in this role, please email one of the Chairs on pullyatt@downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk or ddrennan@downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk



Thank you all for your continuing support and cooperation. I know if we work cooperatively as the fabulous community that we are, we can get through this next challenge together.

Best wishes

Paula Carlton

