



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Friday 2nd December 2022

Dear friends and families,

We are so grateful to all of you who have donated things, decorated the school and volunteered your support for tonight's Christmas Extravaganza. It really is going to be a rather special event. Do come along and join in the fun and bring your friends and family. There are still opportunities to volunteer on the surprise cups stall if you are free for 30 minutes.

Over the past few days our children have been busy.

School Council food tasting

This week Lee, our cook, held a food tasting session with our School Council. They were given a sample of some of the new menu dishes to try. They voted on which foods they wanted to keep and what foods could be replaced if children did not like them. What a great food tasting session we had. Most of the children voted that they did not want the whole fish and chips as they love the bubble battered salmon. This is great news and will be taken on board. Great work School Council!



Christmas is coming!

EYFS are really enjoying their new role play area. They have loved exploring their Santa's Grotto role play area. It is just magical!



The colours of Christmas

This week the Bridge project came to talk to EYFS about the colours of Christmas, we loved finding out about the Christmas story and exploring all the lovely resources. We explored the colours of Christmas through an open the box activity. The children loved it!



Fire Safety visits

In Year 1 and 2 this week we had a visit from a Fire Safety Officer. She told us all about how to stay safe and what to do in a fire. She even linked this back to the Great Fire of London and showed us how the fire brigade worked back then. We had an amazing time role playing how to be a fireman and joining in with a story. She also visited EYFS as you can see they loved role playing as fire fighters!



This week our Year 5 children also took part in a fire safety session this week led by Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service. They took on the role of Reporting Officers and investigated evidence from different fire incidents. After they had noted down all the key information, the children had to come up with advice to give others about what they could do differently to prevent something like this from happening again. The children gained knowledge on how to prevent fires and how to stay safe if there is a fire.



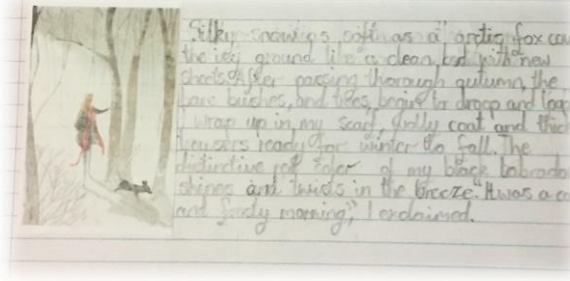
Christingles

Year 3 and 4 have been busy making Christingles in their RE lessons. They have learnt about the different parts of the Christingle and the symbolic meaning behind them. They especially enjoyed eating the sweets afterwards!



Year 6

It has been another exciting term for Falcons class with the students getting thoroughly involved in all areas of the curriculum. We had a great time coding our own games in Computing and loved the chance to alter the designs and patterns our icon made. Our Art and DT projects have just been completed with some amazingly intricate William Morris templates and some carefully stitched Christmas samplers using cross-stitch. All of this rounded off with the usual successes in Maths and, in particular, most professionally written newspaper articles in English. What a talented group of students these are!

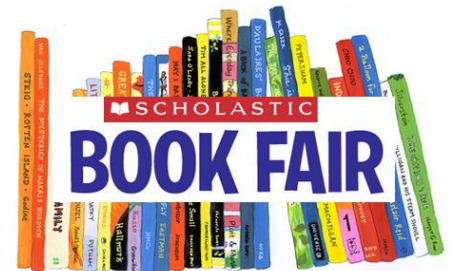


ICT teaching

We are delighted to share that specialist coding teaching will restart after the Christmas break. Next term Year 5 will be taught by Burgate Schools Mr Barker on a weekly basis.

Scholastic Book Fair

We are delighted to let you know that the Scholastic Book Fair has again arrived in school. Don't forget to come into Reception and take a look or come and have a look during the Extravaganza. There are lots of lovely books on sale. The commission from all sales is used to buy new books for the school library.



Adverse Weather Conditions

Whilst we are not anticipating a white Christmas, I have noticed lots of weather warnings in the press, so I thought it would be a good time to share our Adverse Weather protocols with you.



In the event of adverse weather conditions, we will make every effort to keep the school open. This involves keeping 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 live much further away than parents.

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, it is because it is considered that the site is unsafe or due to lack of staff. We aim to share our decision by 7:30am. If we are unable to open safely, we will send out a comms to all parents and post an update on the school website and Facebook page.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at tonight's extravaganza – it is going to be fabulous.

Best wishes

Paula Carlton

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