



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Friday 4th February 2022

Dear Families,

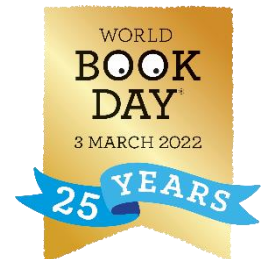
I can't believe it is February already. We have had an eventful week, with lots of exciting learning happening across the school. We were really proud of our Year 6 pupils who confidently talked to a visitor from the local authority yesterday about how to use the acronym BODMAS to remember the order of operations in maths.



ECO-Council met once again this week with pupil council representatives taking their roles really seriously. It was good to see so many of the pupils feeding back ideas from their classes with ways in which they as classes have decided to reduce our carbon footprint as a school. The meeting was expertly chaired by James Elmore and recorded by Tiah Emm as secretary. It really was a productive and well run meeting.

World Book Day

We are excited to announce that our World Book Day theme this year will be 'Once Upon a Time...'. As part of this we are asking the children to bring in their favourite book and come dressed as a character from it. The children will be doing activities linked to their book so it is important that the children are familiar with the book they bring in. Please look out for the letter from Miss Palmer with more details.



THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

We are having a **SWITCH OFF DAY** on Thursday 17th February. This is to make us all think about saving energy by reducing the amount of energy we use both directly e.g. in lighting or heating or indirectly by re-using items rather than buying new ones and recycling waste where possible. We all have a part to play in reducing global warming.

In the school we will have no electricity apart from in the kitchen and the office so the children can still have a school lunch.

Children will need to wrap up on the day to keep warm. **An extra layer of clothes under their school uniform** would be advisable. No home clothes may be worn on top of the school uniform.

In class, we will not be using the smart boards, laptops, lights, photocopier, printer, iPads or heaters. We will also be taking part in some activities connected to the theme of saving energy. **REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE!**



Save the Date from the DPSA

On Friday 1st April, the DPSA will be hosting “Chocolate Bingo” at 6pm in the school hall. There will be a “Dress Down Day” on Friday 25th March in exchange for chocolate which will all be up for grabs on the night. The DPSA are working hard behind the scenes to plan this event and will be sharing all the details with you very soon. How exciting that we are able to hold events like this again after such a long time!



International Language Day

We are excited to be celebrating International Languages Day this year. We are holding our day on Monday 14th February with the aim of giving children the opportunity to understand that there is a wide range of cultures and languages around the world. Each class will take part in a range of activities to discover a country and have some fun. There will also be a menu amendment to celebrate food from around the world, this will be shared with you later next week.

Football success for Year 3 and 4

On Tuesday, a team of our Year 3 and 4 children visited Trafalgar School for a football tournament where they competed against New Forest Schools and Longford Primary. We are delighted to share with you all that they won the whole tournament, winning all but one game in which it was a draw. Miss Emm and Mr Hamilton could not speak more highly of their energy, attitude, determination and team work – we are so proud of you all.



Calling all bakers!

The DPSA will be holding a cake sale after school on Monday 14th February and are calling on all keen bakers for some lovely baked goods for their stall. Individual cakes such as cupcakes, biscuits etc are preferred however we welcome any baked goods. Cakes can be brought into the office at drop off on Monday 14th February, or during the day providing they are here by midday. More information will follow from the DPSA next week.



Parking along Gravel Close

We would like to remind parents that driving or parking along Gravel Close for drop off or pick up is not permitted, for any reason. You should not be driving into Gravel Close unless you are visiting residents. Please consider the impact you have on our neighbours, your children and particularly children walking to and from school, when you choose where to leave your vehicle. Thank you.



Clubs and Wraparound Care for Term 4

Bookings for our clubs and wraparound care for Term 4 will open on Monday 7th February, with the exception of Premier Sport who we are currently awaiting confirmation from. Please note that bookings for all clubs will only be available for your child once any outstanding balances have been settled for this term.



Year R and 1 Exploring the Adventure Garden

Our youngest children had a wonderful time looking at what effect the cold weather had on everything in the garden. They found ice in the tuff tray, a stone that had split open because it was so cold and icy leaves and cobwebs in the bug house.



Year 1 Foxes really enjoyed bird watching in Science, not only were they able to identify and name the many birds they encountered, they also were able to record this information using tally charts. Well done Foxes!

Maths is fun

Our Reception children have really enjoyed maths again this week, looking at different ways to make 8, whether it is bean bags on a tens frame or spots on a Ladybird's wings. The Reception team will be holding a maths workshop for Year R parents on Wednesday 16th February at 2:30pm in school. The aim is to explain the different ways your children learn maths in Reception and give you some ideas to support your child with maths at home.



Covid update

While restrictions ease both in and out of school, we still remain vigilant and have a duty of care in controlling any possible cases in school. With this in mind, please can we remind you that if your child is displaying a symptom of a cough, raised temperature or loss of taste or smell, that they will require a negative PCR test before returning to school and the result must be emailed to the office. Lateral flow tests are only advised for asymptomatic testing or if there is a positive case within your household, which we would then politely request that lateral flow tests are taken daily. We thank you for your co-operation with this.



Absence

Although tempting as we have not been able to travel freely for so long, please do not book holidays or family days during term time. Missing even one or two days learning can be detrimental to your child's learning. Holiday absences will show up as persistent absence which is checked by Ofsted and is monitored closely each half term by the Education Welfare Officer. Thank you.

Safeguarding

At Downton, I'm sure you will appreciate that safeguarding of the children is of upmost importance. To support this, please can we ask parents to ensure they see their child through the gate at drop off and do not leave the vicinity until they have seen their child into school. We also request that you notify us should your child not be attending a club they have been booked into or that you have made alternative pick up arrangements for them. All clubs have a register of the children due to attend, therefore it is important for us to know if they are not due to be there for that session.



SAFEGUARDING

Junior Bake Off is back!

Do you love baking? Are you aged between 9-12 years old? If you're bonkers about bread OR have a passion for pastry, then you could be baking in the famous white tent in 2022! They are looking for talented home bakers to impress the judges. So if you or someone you know is ready to dough battle, then why not apply now! Interested bakers can apply online at - www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk



Have a restful family weekend.

Best wishes

Paula Carlton

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