



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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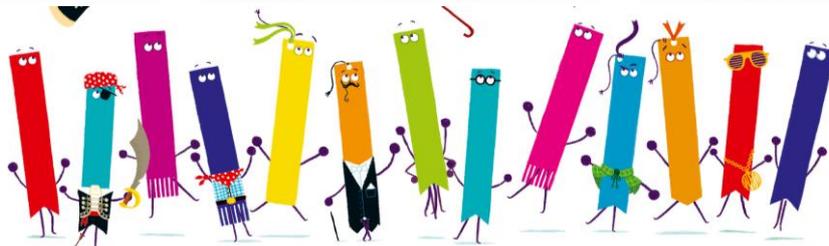


Friday 4th March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

There can be no better reminder of how much our children love reading than seeing their enthusiasm and hearing them share their favourite books yesterday. As always World Book Day is a special celebration at Downton and yesterday was definitely no exception.

It was lovely to see so many children working with different teachers and children – especially after such a long time apart - teachers and children alike were smiling at the end of the day. I would like to thank Miss Palmer, Miss Dunford and Mrs Watling for their hard work in ensuring that this event was the success it was. A huge thank you to you our lovely parents too for supporting us with this event.



As I walk around the school it is lovely to see the doors of each room decorated with childrens work from yesterday. Children spent time exploring the most wonderful book 'A Child of Books' – you can find out all about it here: <https://www.iamachildofbooks.com/>



As always our kitchen team and cook went the extra mile with a book themed lunch consisting of "Cloudy with a chance of Meatballs Marinara" and "Huggly's Pizza Baguettes"! Children told me they thoroughly enjoyed it and hope that these new meals appear on the main menu soon. We will need to ask our lovely cook if this is possible.



'Share a Story' Evening

It was lovely to see so many of you and your children at our 'Share a Story' evening yesterday – it has been far too long! The children thoroughly enjoyed coming back to school for a story. We hope you all enjoyed the parent reading workshop too. I would like to personally thank our parents and the DPSA for supporting this event – they stayed well after the event to clear up too. Without their help this would not have been possible. Thank you.



Social media

At Downton Primary School we pride ourselves on our positive and warm family community. Some parents have shared that they are uncomfortable about some negative comments made about the school on social media sites. Please remember, although social networking sites may appear to be the quickest and easiest way to express frustrations or concerns about the school (and those associated with it), it is rarely appropriate to do so. Other channels, such as a private and confidential discussion with the school or using the school's complaints process are much better suited to this. Our staff care deeply about your children and do all they can to have their best interests at heart, I know sometimes social media comments are written in the heat of the moment. Please bear in mind that children can misunderstand things, for a variety of reasons and we also sometimes get things wrong and will always admit this and apologise if this is the case. Let's work together and continue to be the strong caring family we have always been.



Drum lessons

Mr Taylor our drum teacher currently has availability for KS2 drumming lessons in school. Drumming is fantastic in a number of ways - your child will learn how to play an array of different songs, how to stay in time, develop coordination and rhythm, make up their own beats and fills, not to mention have lots of fun doing it! The school have a drum kit for lessons, but to begin with, you would only need a pair of sticks and a practise pad. If you would like more information, please contact the office who can provide you with Mr Taylor's contact details.



Club booking

Starting from next term, bookings for our after school clubs (with the exception of wraparound care) must be booked by 9am on the first day of term. After this time, bookings will be closed on SchoolGateway and any late booking requests must be made via the school office. Some of our clubs for this term still have availability, so if you would like to enquire about spaces, please contact the office.



Parking along Gravel Close

We would like to remind parents that in the interest of pupil safety we would appreciate it if you did not drive into Gravel Close for pick up and drop off. There are many children walking to and from school and we need to ensure that this aspect of their journey is as safe as we can make it – thank you.



Memorial Gardens

I have been contacted by a few parents who would like an update as to whether we will be changing the way we enter and exit school, post Covid. This is understandable as at this time of year the Memorial Gardens are muddy and wet. I am in contact with the Parish Council to look at solutions to this issue and hope to be able to update you in the near future. Should this cause you any concern please let me know directly. We have also been asked by the Parish Council if parents could kindly report any damage or vandalism that they may see within the Memorial Gardens, and across the village, directly to them along with photos. They have seen an increase in issues around the village and would be grateful for your support in helping to keep our village safe.



Thank you all once again for supporting us so warmly – we really do have a very special community.

Yours sincerely,

Paula Carlton

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