



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Friday 7th July 2023

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of another exciting week filled with academic achievements, extra-curricular activities and transition events, we want to ensure that we celebrate some of the achievements within our lovely school community. It was so lovely to see the children smiling and settled in their new classes this week. The school felt calm and at peace, which was just a perfect end to weeks of planning.

Tri Golf Finals



We are so proud of our Golfing team, who participated in the Wiltshire School finals on Wednesday at Dauntsey's this week. At the beginning of the school year, the team of Year 4 and 5 children played in the Wiltshire & Swindon School Games golf tournament in which they came forth in the tournament securing a place at the regional finals. Our golfers represented the school with pride, demonstrating their determination, sportsmanship and teamwork throughout the event. In the final there were seventeen other schools. We are extremely proud to share that our students, were placed first place scoring over a hundred points more than any other team participating. As a result, they won gold medals for Downton Primary School. Please join us in thanking Mrs Dawkins who prepared them through after school golfing sessions. As well as a sincere thank you to Mr Hughes for his support on the day! We couldn't be prouder, well done to you all!

Year 5 River Dipping



This week year 5 worked with the Wessex Rivers Trust whose aims are to educate school children about the history, national importance and wildlife of our chalk streams and rivers. Year 5 were able to research to learn about the life-cycle of its inhabitants. They thoroughly enjoyed this hands on learning, and came back dry despite the higher level of the river.



Kelly Simm Athlete Visit



Kelly spent the morning leading the students from the school in various physical exercises, including star jumps and push-ups; all students from every year group took part. After each child had taken part in the exercises, Kelly then presented an assembly for students in years 3-6; she took the opportunity to present a video detailing and explaining the different gymnastic events that she performs in. Unfortunately, she had injured her shoulder the day before, but I think you will agree from the photographs, the children had a wonderful time participating in this event. Thank you to you and your families for supporting this worthy cause. The children raised £4318.50. Amazing!

Year R trip to River Bourne Community Farm



Rabbits and Squirrels had a wonderful visit to River Bourne farm. They enjoyed feeding the animals and exploring the beautiful environment. The children's favourite animal was Peggy the pig who is expecting piglets any day now! They also enjoyed stroking the alpacas and the rabbits. River Bourne farm is free to visit and is a super summer holiday trip, you may even get to see Peggy's piglets too!

Budding News Reporters in Key Stage One



Over the last two weeks Year 1 and 2 have been busy writing news reports all about a whale that washed up on a beach. They used the story 'The Storm Whale' to help give them ideas and to help build their vocabulary. Today, they recorded their reports with a news room background as they read from their own scripts. We are so proud of all of our children, as they all confidently read their work in front of their friends and worked so hard to produce the best work that they can.



Violin lessons

Sara our violin and viola teacher at school has a few timetable slots available for September 2023. She is passionate about sharing her enthusiasm for string teaching and is happy to teach individual or small group lessons during school hours. She can also support with hiring/purchasing instruments if needed. If your child is interested in lessons please don't hesitate to drop her an email for more information: stringissimo@yahoo.co.uk



Playground Squad – This week our playground leads have been preparing a playground update article for this newsletter.

Our playground

This year, we have been improving our playground to make it more fun and make sure no one is bored. We bought new equipment, like fabric balls, frisbees, badminton rackets and shuttlecocks. We have different areas to play with these so that no one gets hurt. We have dressing up areas to use for people to have fun making up plays. For quieter times, we made colouring trays with pictures and pens and rainbow crayons. We even now have new umbrellas for our benches so we can have some shade while we draw and talk. We even have a new reading shed! All the playground leaders work hard to tidy the boxes. In our boxes, we put skipping ropes, soft balls, rackets, badminton rackets and scoops. We always remind people to look after the equipment and we help organise it.

“We think the zones are very helpful because people used to be hit by skipping ropes when running around and now things are in different areas so it is safer,” Louie Arnold.

“I really enjoy having more hoola hoops because it is fun and they are weighted so they are better for hoola hooping.”

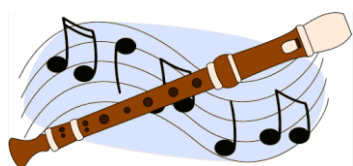
Rose Johnson

“I love skipping at playtime – it is way better in the zones because there is space to do triple cross skipping, the combo and the triple skip!” Hugo Small

“The boxes keep the equipment safe and it doesn’t get muddled or lost. The reading corner is really good because people can read books at play.” Jack Pearce



Article written by: Hugo Small (8) Louie Arnold (8) Jack Pearce (8) and Rose Johnson (7)



Recorder Concert Reminder

Just a quick reminder that the Year 3 recorder concert will be taking place on Friday 14th July at 2:30pm. Entrance will be via the Memorial Gardens with the concert taking place on the outside stage, weather permitting. If it is raining, the concert will then take place in the school hall.

As we go into the weekend, we hope you enjoy time with your families following the return of the sunshine. We look forward to seeing you back with us on Monday.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Carlton".

Paula Carlton

