



# Downton Church of England VA Primary School

Gravel Close, Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 3LZ

Telephone: 01725 510556

Email: [admin@downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk) Website: [www.downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Paula Carlton BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Megan Ford BA (Hons) QTS



Friday 9th December 2022

Dear friends and families,

What a wonderful start to the festive season at Downton.



### A Little Nativity performed by Rabbits and Squirrels

It was such a delight to watch our wonderful EYFS children perform their Nativity to family members this week. They sang and performed and danced with enthusiasm and pride. Every audience member left with a smile and a festive feeling.

### Christmas Extravaganza News

Thank you so much to Andy and Kayleigh Savage and the DPSA for organising this very special event last Friday evening. The event raised a fabulous £2,400 which is just amazing. It was such a lovely evening too. Special thanks also go to Mr and Mrs Shipsey for the donation of marquee for the event and to Mr Bishop for looking after our very special visitor. If you have yet to check your raffle ticket, please do so as there are still prizes awaiting collection from the school office.



### Secret Present Room

Thank you so much to Karmon Hall and the DPSA elves who have supported this year's Secret Present Room. The children have thoroughly enjoyed Christmas Shopping for family members and family pets. So much so that many of them have shared their purchases with us before taking them home. Thank you all – the children have truly found much joy in the giving the gifts.



### Readers of the Term

Congratulations to our readers of the term who are off to The Rocket Bookshop to select a book of their choice and hear a story read by the owner Jo. On our return to Downton, they will get the opportunity to share their books with each other and have a hot chocolate as a special treat. The draw for next term's reader of the week has already started so please encourage your children to keep reading as each week one child will be added to the class draw.



### Salisbury Radio Song for Christmas

Thank you Mrs Sims for preparing our Choir and Year 5 pupil's version of 'Sleigh Ride' which was aired on Wednesday during the Craig Hicks Breakfast Show and the afternoon drive with Grant Francis. If you missed it you can download it here <https://lovesalisbury.co.uk/product-category/songforchristmas/> for £1 with all the proceeds going to Salisbury Hospice Charity. Well done children!

### Adverse Weather Conditions

With the cold weather really upon us this week, I thought it might be a good idea to repeat last week's message re adverse weather. 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.



### Driving down Gravel Close

We have been made aware that some parents may be driving and parking along Gravel Close at drop off and pick up times. Can we please remind you that for the safety of the children and their parents that you do not drive or park along Gravel Close. We would also ask that you are mindful of where you park on neighbouring roads so to not block access to the school. We appreciate your support and understanding with this.



### Last week of term

Next week sees our last week of term before we finish for Christmas. It is set to be a very busy week for the children full of festive fun for them, we cannot wait! Here are a few reminders for you:

- Key Stage One Performances on Monday at 1:30pm and Tuesday at 9:30am and 1:30pm. Entry will be via the staff car park, with gates opening 15 minutes ahead of the performance times.
- Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day is on Thursday 15th December. Children are welcome to wear a festive jumper in place of their school jumper/cardigan. There is no need to pre-order the Christmas Lunch, children can order on the day and payment of £2.30 can be made via SchoolGateway.
- Our annual Carol Service starts at 1:30pm at St Laurence's Church. If you are available to walk the children to church with us, please let the office know and arrive at school for 12:45pm – thank you.
- Our last day in school is Friday 16th December.



It's back into school uniforms for the whole school for the last day of term. Term ends after our Carol Service at St Laurence Church on Friday 16th December by which time we will all be ready for a well-earned break and looking forward to our own family celebrations. Pick up from church will be approx. 2:10pm. Please note that children will not be able to walk home and any alternative pick up arrangements must be confirmed with the office by 3pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

I would just like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved with our school for making it such a warm and welcoming place to be; as well as a place where children can truly thrive. My very best wishes to all of you for a peaceful and joyful Christmas; we return to school on Wednesday 4th January.

Best wishes

