



# Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Readers of the Term Autumn 2022

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear families,

As we approach the end of a very busy term, the Christmas holiday is almost here and as always, it seems not very long ago since I was welcoming you all back after the summer break.

However, this term has been very different, this term many children have moved into mixed year groups and enjoyed getting to know new friends. Even children who joined us in September are now old hands, and our lovely Reception children all

know the routines and their way around the place, as if they have always been with us.



This was also evident in the wonderful EYFS performance of The Little Nativity last week. Children performed confidently to two audiences – it really was special.

The same is true of our KS1 pupils whose three performances of

‘Bethlehem Bake off’ delighted friends and families alike.

Please join us all in saying well done to Albie, who raised funds for Naomi House, by participating in a fun run dressed as Santa. He looked like he was having a great time too. Well done Albie!





### Reader of the term

This week our reader of the term winners for Autumn 2, visited the Rocket Bookshop in Salisbury. Children were able to select a book of their choice as winners, before Jo the owner read Christmas stories to them. The winners then celebrated their visit with a hot chocolate before coming back to school. As our first winners we would like to congratulate them. The draw for next term is already open with one winner from each class put into the draw. Please encourage your children to keep reading five times a week, the next draw will be at the end of term 3.



### Year 6 Visit to Beaulieu

This week our Year 6 children visited Beaulieu to learn about life in a Victorian household and how Christmas was celebrated in that period. Dressed for the occasion along with their Victorian style packed lunches, they really embraced the spirit of the day and had a great time discovering more about the Victorian period.



### DT skills in Year 5

Year 5 have been busy developing their DT skills in textiles this term. Each child has designed and sewn a decoration which is currently hung on the school Christmas tree. They also put their ICT skills to good use, taking photographs of their finished pieces using the green screen in school.

### Pond dipping in Year 5

Our children are never too old to go pond dipping. Before the winter chill arrived our Year 5 pupils searched for specific species in the pond, finding several Mayfly Nymph's. We are delighted at this species would not have been there had we not renovated the pond area – thank you to those families who helped Mrs Wells with this.





Christmas is always the perfect time of year for being around the children– they are all so full of joy, and laughter and the magic of Christmas it is simply infectious. This year once again they have shown us adults the awe and wonder of the season. They have shown us that Christmas magic can be found in happy times but also in times of challenge – perhaps it is then that it is needed most

This is because this year for some of our families, Christmas may not be the same as ever before. Some are far away from family and friends, some have lost loved ones and some may be struggling to make ends meet.



So as a community and out of love for one another perhaps we can all take a minute and reflect on how we can share love peace and joy with one another this Christmas. Whether it be a smile from a distance, a play date or even being a listening ear in the borough or at the park.

So at this special time of year, as we leave each other for a short period to spend some well deserved time with our families let us take time to reflect on and appreciate all that we are thankful for.



I am incredibly humbled by you our wonderful parents as well as our wonderful team in school. I always knew that the Downton Primary school family was remarkable, but all of you have all shown me and each other, just how special the Downton community is. Thank you!

Have a wonderful Christmas break with lots of time filled with fun, food and festivities and of course love.

Merry Christmas

*Paula Carlton*

Paula Carlton

