



# Downton Church of England VA Primary School

Gravel Close, Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 3LZ

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Headteacher: Mrs Paula Carlton BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mrs M Ford BA (Hons)



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Friends and Families,

The return of the Cuckoo Fair last weekend was so very special. We would like to say a huge thank you to the amazing DPSA team for their hard work and preparation for this event. We would also like to thank our families who visited the stalls, helped out on the day or sent cakes into school the day before. It was also lovely to see so many past parents pop in to lend a hand. Without each and every one of you, the day would not have been so special – what a wonderful community!

Thank you!



There were so many special moments during the day, one being our lovely school choir performance at the maypole. Many of these pupils had not had the chance to perform at such a public event before. However, they did so with a smile and confidence as they performed to a very large crowd. We are grateful to Mrs Sims who deputised for Mr Bunn on the day. It truly was a special performance.

It was lovely to see our past pupils assume the role of princesses at the Cuckoo Fair - a very special moment indeed.



## Open Classrooms

We would like to thank parents who attended our Year 3 /4 open classroom event last week. It was so lovely to see so many parents back in school again. This has set the tone for the rest of the open afternoons which are scheduled this term. Today – Year R parents will be joining their children in the classroom to share their work and spend time in their learning environment. Here are the remaining dates for this term:

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May – Foxes, Dormice & Hedgehogs

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May – Badgers & Falcons

## Year 4 Residential

Year 4 had the most amazing time on their residential. The children were absolutely superb and we are really proud of every single one of them. They started their trip by learning how to do orienteering and were split into groups of 3. Each child had to use a map to find different codes hidden all around New Barn although they did get rather soggy in the process! In the evening they enjoyed a large dinner of burgers and hot dogs and finished the evening with a late night walk. The next day they had the opportunity to participate in some Anglo-Saxon activities. They were able to see what type of house the Anglo-Saxons would have lived in, tried to make butter, flour and medicine how they would have back then.



## Spinnaker Challenge

If you haven't done so yet, we would really appreciate it if you could sponsor Malcolm Dean and a group of our parents who are abseiling down the Spinnaker tower to raise funds for the DPSA. You can donate via their JustGiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/DPSASpinnakerAbseil>

We are extremely grateful to them and wish them well for the day.



## Mini-Marathon

The Salisbury Schools mini-marathon is on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May at the Laverstock schools site. We are busy preparing KS2 pupils who wish to participate. If you decide you would like to join, pupils and parents can sign up on the day at the event.



## UK Children's Parliament

We are proud to announce that three of our pupils have been selected as MP's to contribute to the next debate in the UK's children's parliament. Following the record-breaking success of the previous COP26 Climate Change Debate, our children will be participating in a live parliamentary debate, hosted on a customised Microsoft Teams debating chamber focused on 'How we make the World a Safer Place?'

We will share the recording of the debate after the event.



### Pick up

We would ask parents to abide by the current pick up arrangements and would ask that you do not ask your children to meet you in Gravel Close, as opposed to the Memorial Gardens. We know this is frustrating, but we do need to ensure that the number of pupils exiting into the road in Gravel Close remains low. This is to ensure the safety of all pupils. Our School Council are proactively working with the Parish Council to resolve this matter and have shared their views about this issue as well as discussed plans for the new playground equipment with councillors.



### Statutory Assessments

As you may be aware children in some year groups will be sitting statutory assessment tests this year. These tests are a statutory part of the curriculum and they will assess the children's understanding in core subjects. Next week our Year 6 pupils will be sitting their end of Key Stage 2 assessments; all tests will be take place in the mornings. It is vitally important that pupils have a good night's sleep and arrive at school on time each day. We would appreciate it if your child wears glasses, that they bring them to school each day. Thank you to our lovely year 6 parents.

### Dogs in the Memorial Gardens

Please can we remind parents that dogs are not permitted on the Memorial Gardens as per the signage on the entrance to the park and field. This is a rule enforced by the Parish Council and we politely request that this is respected by our parents. If you have a dog with you at drop off or pick up, we ask that you secure them to the fence at the entrance of the park and do not have them with you in the queue. Thank you.



**No dogs**



### Sun hats and sunscream

Just a little reminder that while we are enjoying the sunshine at school, it is important we protect the children by ensuring they have a sun hat and also have sunscream applied before attending school.

Have a wonderful relaxing weekend enjoying the sunshine.

Best wishes

Paula Carlton

