



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Friday 7th October 2022

Dear Families,

This term there has been so much to celebrate and yet there is still so much to come. This week we thought we would share with you some of the recent highlights and update you on the events we have coming up. Thank you so much for your support and kindness this week.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Last week our Year 5 children hosted a wonderful coffee morning, raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support. There had clearly been some busy bakers at home as we were overwhelmed by all the delicious contributions – we had chocolate brownies, lemon biscuits, mini Victoria sponges to name but a few. The hall was full of our families, members of the community, local businesses and also our tiniest visitors – some children from pre-school. Thank you to all the efforts of Year 5 and their families, we raised over £500 for Macmillan which is amazing. We even had a thank you from Macmillan themselves on our social media post – “We ‘doughnut’ know what we’d do, without incredible supporters like you! The money you raised could pay for a Macmillan nurse for around 2 days helping people living with cancer and their families receive essential medical, practical and emotional support.”



Harvest

We are looking forward to our Harvest celebration which will be taking place on Friday 14th October. We are also delighted to share with you that George’s dad, Mr Phillips, will be joining us on the playground from 2pm with two of his tractors to help us represent and celebrate the food grown on the land. They will be on our playground at pick up for parents and children to see. A huge thank you to Mr Phillips for offering to do this for us – we know our children will love it.

This year our Worship council have decided to collect non-perishable food products for those most at need in the Downton Community. We would be grateful if you could send your child into school with non-perishable dried food or tinned food on the day, in support of this cause. Thank you.



Sustainability Day & Fair Trade Café

On Tuesday 11th October, we will be focussing on learning how to live sustainably. Every year group is focussing on the 5 R's which are Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose and Refuse through various activities during the day.

Some of these activities include using natural dye to bring an old t-shirt to life with tie-die, making beeswax wraps to use for sandwich wrapping and upcycling used paper. Our KS1 children will be making chocolate crispies using fair trade products to sell at our café after school, helping them understand how Fair Trade products can help the farmers.

Love Repair Café will also be joining us after school in the hall – please do come along and find out about all the wonderful things they do. It is hoped this day will inspire them to think about sustainability every day, share this with their families and implement the 5 R's in everyday life.



Tik Tok

While TikTok users are required to be at least 13 years of age, we understand this is no robust age-verification in place and as a result, children have access to this. It also means they have access to videos which are not appropriate and encourage younger individuals to take part in pranks, with the most recent one being brought to our attention involving damaging other peoples clothing by ripping shirt pockets. Please can we remind parents to monitor and be mindful of their child's access to these videos as these pranks resulting in behaviour of this nature will not be tolerated – thank you. If you need further support, there is an array of information on our e-Safety page of the website in the form of monthly newsletters and parent guides: <https://downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk/esafety>



Important dates for the remainder of the term:

- Friday 14th October – Deadline to return DPSA Christmas Card orders
- Monday 17th October – Deadline to return Rotary Christmas Shoeboxes
- Monday 17th October – School Photo Day – all children to wear school uniform
- Wednesday 19th October – last day of term – normal pick up times apply

Today we welcomed Rev David Hatrey to our school who is conducting our Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Inspection. Our children and parents have done us all proud today with their positive attitudes and communication with him, embracing and living out our school values of love, peace and joy, giving him a true Downton experience during his visit today. We look forward to sharing with you his findings to celebrate all that is special about our school.

I hope you have a restful weekend.

Best wishes

Paula Carlton

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