



# Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Paula Carlton BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs A Bates BSC PGCE QTS



Friday 10th September 2021

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of our first full week, it is great to share some of the exciting things we are doing in school with you all.

This week we have been delighted to welcome our new Reception children and their families into school. It has been a great start for the children, who have all settled in really well. So well in fact, that it feels like they have always been here! It was lovely to see them all in the hall yesterday, enjoying their first of many school lunches. The children told us this morning that *'the brownies were particularly tasty'*.



This week our Year 6 pupils learned quite a lot about the world in which we live. They played the World Feast game which simulated the trading of goods between countries, rich and poor. They reflected on their learning and told us that *'The World Feast Game was a really great, yet challenging, activity, and it really opened our eyes to see how unjust the world can be. By playing it, we found out that the world is not always an equal and fair place for trading, and that some countries don't have enough money or resources. We learned that often people are greedy and only think for themselves, when they could so easily help others - we wanted the best for everyone.'*



At Downton, we really do feel that we work in a team with you our families to support children to be the best they can be. With this in mind, we would like to let you know about some parent workshops which you might find useful.

## Reading and Spelling

Visit our reading and phonics page on the website for links to useful websites and apps which can support your child's reading and spelling at home. You can also find digital copies of our reading and spelling leaflets full of comprehension questions to ask whilst sharing stories and games to make spelling fun. Printed copies are also available in the school office.



## Year R Parent Session

Our Reception team would like to invite parents to a short meeting in school on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September from 12:15pm – 12:45pm. During the meeting they will share with parents how we teach phonics and reading which will help you support your child with their reading. They will also share the maths objectives for the new EYFS curriculum and suggest ways in which you can build on in school learning at home. We appreciate that this meeting is during the working day, if you are unable to join due to work commitments do let us know.

## Phonics screening check workshop

Following the cancellation of the Year 1 phonics screening check in the summer, the DfE require Year 2 pupils to take the check in the second half of the Autumn term. We are holding a parent information morning on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 9:00-9:30am in the school hall for Year 2 parents with guidance on what the check will look like and support materials available. The PowerPoint slides and links will be available on the website for anyone who cannot attend.

## Maths at Downton Primary

During our maths lessons, all children are starting with a Place Value unit. We understand that many parents feel like maths has changed and can sometimes find it difficult to keep up to date with modern teaching methods in maths.

White Rose Maths, the teaching resources we use in school, have teamed up with TV presenter, teacher and parent Michael Underwood to bring parents a mini-series called Maths with Michael.

Episode 1 of this series focusses on Place Value. This short video aims to give parents a brief overview of some of the teaching methods/strategies used within KS1 and KS2.

You can even download a 'Parent Guide' full of lots of resources and activities that you can use to support your child's learning at home. You can access the video through this link. <https://whiterosemaths.com/for-parents/maths-with-michael/>

### Episode 1 - Place Value



#### Get the Parent Guide

A short 'how to' guide providing information on how you can help your child understand Place Value

## After School Clubs

All clubs are up and running from next week – please find the timetable on our website via this link:

<https://downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk/school-clubs>

Some of our clubs still have availability so please do check SchoolGateway and the Premier Sports website:

<https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/18456/?location=downton>

## Early Morning Reading

Following on from our previous success of early morning reading in Key Stage One we are looking for volunteers to come in and hear pupils in Years 1 and 2 read for the first half an hour of the day.

The reading sessions would start after drop off and finish at 9:30. If you are able to help, or know of anyone who can please contact the office.





## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**GET INVOLVED!**

## DPSA AGM

Our wonderful parent teacher association, invite you to join them for their AGM. All parents are welcome. They really do a fabulous job raising funds for the school and putting on memorable events. They are seeking new members and hope that as many of you as possible can join them in The Goat on Monday 20th September at 7:30pm. Our chair Laura Snelgrove and Treasurer Kayleigh Savage will be stepping down. We thank them both for their hard work and dedication to the school and our children.

## Bag2School

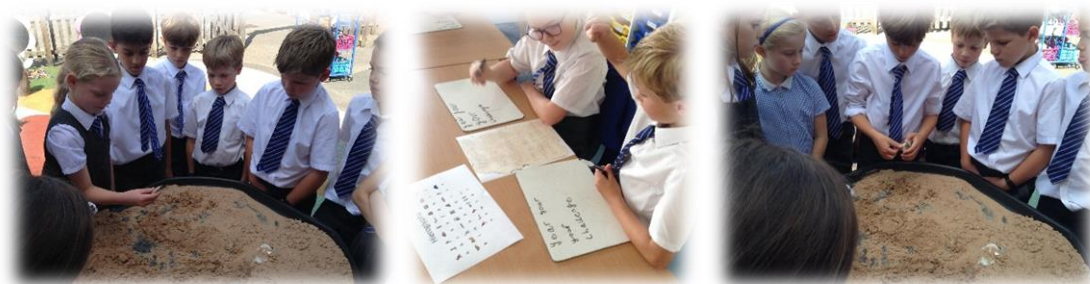
Following our previous success with Bag2School, we have another collection date confirmed for Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November. A great excuse to have a clear out of those cupboards and help raise money for the school.

Please do check the list of what they can accept as any bags containing items which are not accepted will not be taken - <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>. Items can be bagged into black bin liners and dropped in to the school office from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November.



## Year 4 learning about Ancient Egypt

Year 4 got immersed into their Ancient Egypt topic this week by becoming History Detectives. We found a scroll left in one of our classrooms and it was all written in hieroglyphics. We went and discovered some stones in the sandpit that had the hieroglyphics and the letter that they represented. We had so much fun decoding the letter and then worked out how to write our own names in hieroglyphics too!



## Visit from Bramshaw Dance and Performing Arts

Emma from Bramshaw Dance and Performing Arts visited the school this week to run a Musical Theatre taster session before starting their after school club next week. Both our Dormice class and Badgers class had the opportunity to take part in the session where they completed group activities and performed a song together.



## Secret Present Room

It's that time of year already where our DPSA begin planning the ever popular Secret Present Room. They are looking for donations for gifts, both for men and for women and would be grateful if you could bring these to the school office. Plans are also underway for the Christmas Extravaganza which was hugely missed last year. They need lots of help and volunteers to make this a success and great fun for all the children, so if you would like to get involved, please let us know and we can put you in touch with the DPSA team.



### Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

The Rotary Club of Fordingbridge are co-ordinating their annual Shoebox Appeal for 2021 and therefore wish to ask you to consider supporting this very worthwhile event. It is a very worthwhile event, one which can benefit not only the recipient, but the child who prepares the box, by helping them become aware of the needs of disadvantaged children in other countries. This year our District is again donating to Albania, Montenegro, Moldova and Romania. Leaflets will be coming home next week and the deadline for shoe boxes to be in school is Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October.



### Dates for the Fridge

Please find attached Dates for the Fridge for Term 1 and 2. These will be added to the school calendar on the website and updated when new dates are confirmed.

What a wonderful start to the year, the sound of laughter at playtimes and seeing the children enjoying one another's company is very precious. It is great to be back together again. Have a great weekend.

*Paula Carter*

