



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

Gravel Close, Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 3LZ

Telephone: 01725 510556

Email: admin@downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk Website: www.downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Paula Carlton BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs A Bates BA (Hons) QTS & Mrs M Ford BA (Hons) QTS



Tuesday 5th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to EYFS. Whether you are new to the school, or an experienced member of the school community, this letter will provide you with some guidance on how things run in EYFS.

Classes

Below is information of the class teacher structure for each class.

	Class teacher	Teaching assistant
Rabbits Class	Mrs Job (Monday-Friday)	Mrs Dunlop (Monday-Wednesday) Mrs Hall (Thursday-Friday)
Squirrels class	Mrs Barclay (Monday-Thursday) Mrs Wells (Friday)	Mrs Humphreys (Monday-Friday)

Drop off and Collection

Just a reminder that from Wednesday 6th September – Friday 8th September please drop off your child at 8:50 am and collect them at 12pm from the white door next to the school office.

From Monday 11th – Friday 15th September drop off your child at 8:50am and collect them at 1:15pm from the white door next to the school office.

From Monday 18th September drop off will be at 8:45 am from the white door next to the school office and collection from their classroom back door next to the painted rainbow arch on the playground outside our classroom – this is accessed through the main white gate to the playground further up Gravel Close. The gate is opened at 3:05pm for EYFS parents.

Reading

We place high importance on reading at home, in school we teach your child the skills of reading, and we ask that you practise these skills with them at home. We will provide further information on supporting your child to read at home in our reading workshop on 13th September at 12:30pm in school.



We ask that your child reads to an adult at home **five** times per week and that you sign and date the Reading Record to say that they have done this.

Reading Records are checked, and books are changed every Monday and Thursday so please ensure they are in school. These will be checked by either the Teacher or Class TA. Your child will also read to volunteers at school throughout the week, so we recommend they bring their Reading Records every day. Children who have read five times in the past week, will receive a ticket for the reader of the week termly draw. Winners of the reader of the week draw will be celebrated in Celebration assembly, and three times a year a raffle is held and one winner from each class goes for hot chocolate and a story in Salisbury.



Knowledge Organisers

Each Term, your child will be sent home with a Knowledge Organiser for their topic. At Downton Primary School, we use Knowledge Organisers (KOs) in class and as homework to help children learn the essential knowledge, for each topic they study. A Knowledge Organiser sets out in detail what we want children to know by the end of the topic. In school, we expect the majority of children to be able to recall all of the information on the KO by the end of each term. Please help your child with this by playing games or by asking multiple choice questions using the sheet. This learning will be reviewed in class. It is also useful for children to go back to previous KOs and revise these so that the information from previous learning is not forgotten.

Teachers and lessons

Our PPA (planning, preparation and assessment time) is on a Wednesday afternoon. The children will be taught by our HLTAs Mrs Humphreys and Mrs Dunlop with additional adults supporting.

Water bottles

Hydration is incredibly important - we ask that all children bring a water bottle to school every day. This can be kept in the classroom, and we will encourage them to drink regularly. Water bottles should be brought home and then washed and sent back to school the following day.

Snacks

The government supplies a daily fruit / vegetable snack for every child for morning break. There is a set piece of fruit on every day, if your child may prefer a specific snack you may provide their own - these must be fruit or vegetables – fresh or dried, chocolate and crisps are not permitted. Please note that to protect children with allergies we are a **nut free school** so items such as nakd bars are not appropriate.



Uniform/ PE kits

We consider it important that our pupils are smartly dressed and believe a uniform looks smart and adds to the children's sense of identify and belonging at school. Parental support in this respect is greatly appreciated. Our School Uniform Policy can be found on the School website.

The children will need to come to school in PE kits on the following days: **Mondays and Thursdays.**

Communication

Parental engagement is vital to success in a child's education, and we are looking forward to working closely with you all. Both classes have their class page on the school website, where you will find copies of our Topic Map, Knowledge Organiser and recent photographs of our learning. Over the course of the year, there will be three parents evening where we can discuss your child's progress. If at any point throughout the year you need to contact your child's class teacher, please email admin@downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk who will ensure your message is forwarded to the correct member of staff. We are also available in person at the beginning and end of each day.

In EYFS we communicate as much as possible via the **Seesaw app**. Please do download the app and check it regularly for updates on your child's learning. You may also add to it with "celebration moments" such as earning a swimming badge, riding a bike with no stabilisers, writing their name for the first time ...



Dates for the Fridge - Term 1 - EYFS

13 th September 12:30pm	Reading Workshop
19 th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning
25 th / 28 th September	Parents Evening
3 rd October	E-safety Workshop
6 th October 2:30pm	Stay and play with your child
10 th October	Harvest Festival

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

The EYFS Team

