



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Wednesday 6th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Lower Key Stage Two. We are really excited to be teaching your children this year. Whether you are starting Key Stage Two, 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 our key stage.

Classes

Below is information of the class teacher structure for each class. Photos of the class teachers and TAs will be added to our class page shortly.

Hawks Class	Mrs Maddison (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)	Mrs Johnson (Thursday and Friday)
Badgers Class	Miss Sadler (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)	Mrs Thomas (Thursday and Friday)
Kestrels Class	Mrs Wakeman (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)	Mrs Payne (Friday)

Reading

We place high importance on reading at home, whether children read to themselves, or to an adult. Reading aloud to an adult is incredibly beneficial to enable children to continue to make sense of vocabulary, punctuation, characters, plot and more! If your child reads to themselves, ask them questions about what they have read. We can provide further information on supporting your child to read at home on request. 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 every Monday, so please ensure they are in school. These will be checked by either the Teacher or Class TA. Your child will also read to an adult at school throughout the week, so we recommend they bring their Reading Records every day. Adults will review what the children are reading, and children can change their reading book any day of the week. Children who have read five times in the past week will receive a ticket for the reader of the week termly draw, and a have the chance to be selected as 'Reader of the Term'. The winner gets the chance to go to the Rocket book shop in Salisbury to choose a book as a gift for their achievement, along with a hot chocolate at Boston Tea Party.

Spellings

Spellings will be set on Monday and children will be tested on Friday. Space is provided in their home spelling book for them to learn these every day of the school week. We do not expect children to learn their spellings over the weekend. Please ensure children come to school with their spelling books on Friday for the weekly spelling test.



Homework

Homework is set on Wednesdays and is due in the following Monday. Maths homework for Years 3 and 4 is times tables based. For homework, children will learn the next times table that will be covered in class. For example: Term One, Year 4 will learn the 4 times table in school and for homework, they will learn the 6 times table. The aim is that children will be pre-learning the next times table, so they will have some prior knowledge when it is covered in class.



Year 4 children: we will be preparing the children throughout the year to sit the statutory times table test in June. If your child would like to practise, the website link is below.

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>

Knowledge Organisers

Each term, your child will be sent home with a Knowledge Organiser and Topic Map 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 using low stakes quizzes. 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. Children will be asked to write about this learning in class at the end of each term.

Teachers and lessons

Our PPA (planning, preparation and assessment time) is on a Wednesday afternoon. Over the year, the children will have a rotation of either: Science, taught by our Science specialist Mrs Wells; PE, taught by our Sports Coach Mr Hamilton; or Art/DT, taught by our Art teacher Mrs Townsend during this time.

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 only contain water (no juice or squash), and should be brought home to be washed daily, then back to school the following day.

Snacks

A reminder that children should bring a snack for morning break. These must be fruit or vegetables – fresh or dried, chocolate and crisps are not permitted. We have been really impressed with the healthy snacks that the children have been bringing into school. Please note that to protect children with allergies we are a **nut free school**.



Uniform/ PE kits

We consider it important that our pupils are well dressed and believe a uniform looks smart and adds to the children's sense of identity 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:

Hawks Class	Wednesday & Thursday
Badgers Class	Tuesday & Wednesday
Kestrels Class	Monday & Thursday



Swimming and Recorders

This year, due to our two year rolling curriculum, there will be no swimming lessons. The current Year 3 children will go next year, when they are in Year 4. We are delighted to share that Year 3 children will be taught the recorder in school by Mr Hind on Friday afternoons. The school has sufficient recorders for each child. We look forward to welcoming you in at the end of the year for our Year 3 Recorder Concert.

Communication

Parental engagement is vital to success in a child's education, and we are looking forward to working closely with you all. All three 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.

Stonehenge Trip

We are very excited to let you know that we will be going on a trip to Stonehenge in two weeks. A letter with more details about this will be coming out this week. It will be a great way to immerse children in their topic and bring their learning to life. If you would like to volunteer for this trip, please let the school office know.

Dates for the fridge Year 3/4

Monday 18th September	Kestrels Stonehenge Trip *
Tuesday 19th September	Hawks Stonehenge Trip *
Wednesday 20th September	Badgers Stonehenge Trip *
Friday 22nd September	Year 3 & 4 Open Afternoon
Monday 25th September	Parents Evening
Thursday 28th September	Parents Evening
Tuesday 11th October	Harvest Festival
Wednesday 18th October	Teacher Training Day

***Please let us know as soon as possible if you are able to help on one of our school trips.**

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

The LKS2 Team

