



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



Friday 8th of September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 5/6. Whether you are starting Upper 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 Year 5/6.

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 at home 5 times per week and that you sign and date the Reading Record after each read 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 the Class Teacher, Miss Emm or Mrs Yevko. Your child may also read to an adult at school throughout the week, so we recommend they bring their Reading Records every day. Children can change their reading book any day of the week.

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 practise Monday - Thursday. We do not expect children to learn their spellings over the weekend. **Please ensure children come to school with their spelling books on Friday; these will remain in school over the weekend.**

Homework

Homework is set on Wednesdays and is due in the following Monday. Homework for Years 5 and 6 will be mathematics and EITHER reading comprehension OR spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPAG) which will be set on alternate weeks. The children will be set their Maths homework in their Maths class and they will mark this with their Maths teacher every Monday. Their reading comprehension will be marked in the home class with their class teacher every Monday. **As the textbooks for homework are re-used each please, ensure you and your child do not write inside them.**

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 they need 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.

The KO is split into sections for children to learn each week at home. 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 Thursday morning. The children in Stags and Owls class will be taught on rotation by PE specialist Mr Shipley and then Mrs Townsend for spellings, guided reading and French. Falcons class will be taught by our Science specialist, Mrs Wells, during this time. They will then be taught spellings, guided reading and French by Mrs Payne. Owls class will be taught English by Mrs Bates every Tuesday and Miss Palmer's Maths group will be taught by Mrs Ford every Friday whilst the class teacher has their subject leader time. Please also note that your child may move classes to be taught Maths; these groups are fluid and may change throughout the year.

Water bottles and pencil cases

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 back to school the following day. School provides all necessary stationery and resources so children will not be required to bring in pencil cases; they will not be used if they are brought in.

Snacks

A reminder that children should bring a snack for morning break. These must be fruit or vegetables – fresh or dried. We have been really impressed with the healthy snacks that the children have been bringing into school.

End of Day

If your child has permission to walk home independently, please ensure you have completed the online form sent to from the office on Monday 4th September which can also be found here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/S7tyqZ1zJs> Children being collected by adults will be on the 'middle playground' ready for 3:15pm. Please enter via the gate to the memorial hall gate closest to the Year 5/6 classrooms. This will be in effect until after the Christmas holidays whilst the weather permits. The office will also need to be notified of any changes to home time arrangements, such as other adults permitted to collect your child.

PE Kits

We are continuing to ask that your child comes to school wearing their PE kit on the days their class is taught PE. Please see PE days below:

Stags: Monday and Thursday

Owls: Monday and Thursday

Falcons: Wednesday and Friday

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 each term's 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.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Palmer, Miss Abel and Mr Howell

