

Newsletter



Welcome to New Families

September is an exciting time for each year group but especially for our Reception pupils and their parents.

A warm welcome to all who are new to Down Ampney. Our new friends have settled in brilliantly and we hope they are enjoying school as much as we enjoy having them.

We are holding open mornings on Friday 7th October and Thursday 20th October though can accommodate prospective families at other times. If you know of anyone moving into the area or looking for a School place in September 2023, please do let them know about us.

After school clubs and wraparound care

Our wraparound care is available from 7:45am to 5pm daily and is run by Mrs Paterson and Mrs Woodruff. In addition to this we have an exciting after school programme. In Term 1 we have Choir Club on a Monday, sports on Tuesday, gymnastics on a Wednesday and Eco Club on a Thursday.



Eco Award

Great work from our eco council



Gold Sports Mark

Another milestone for Down Ampney



New Library

Help us finish our library by raising funds for wildflower painting

Eco Award

Great work from our Eco Council.

Pupils at Down Ampney Primary School have earned an international accreditation this academic year, recognising their amazing work in making their school more environmentally friendly and raising eco-awareness in fellow pupils.

Eco-Schools is an international education programme that prompts young people to explore sustainability and climate change and take action.

“..makes us feel heartened and positive about the future of our planet”

Pupils collaborated to conduct an environmental review, assessing how eco-friendly their school is. They reviewed everything from the school's recycling practices, to energy usage, to how environmental themes are covered in classrooms. Building on their findings, the pupils planned a year of activities that would up their green-credentials.

The group connected their work to three Eco-Schools topics: Biodiversity, Waste and Improving School Grounds.



Activities included setting up a dedicated recycling point, lobbying the school caterers to supply food in re-usable containers, planting bulbs and trees throughout the school grounds and setting up a Community Compost bin.

Eco-Schools England Manager, Adam Flint, said: “Earning an Eco-Schools Green Flag Award takes passion, commitment and a desire to make a difference. Pupils should be proud of their great work. They're an inspiration and it makes us feel heartened and positive about the future of our planet.”

To see examples of the pupil's work, visit downampneyprimaryschool.co.uk/ecocouncil

A huge well done to Mrs Russell and all members of the eco-council.

NEW LIBRARY AND WILDFLOWER SPONSORSHIP

Over the summer we had lots of building work completed including the creation of our new library. We are extremely grateful to our amazing PTA for partially funding this.

We are currently looking for sponsorship for the completion of this project which is to paint a wildflower meadow around the tree. If you would like to sponsor one then please follow the link we've provided on our website at

downampneyprimaryschool.co.uk/fundraising



Gold Sports Mark

Thanks to the efforts of our sports council and Miss Homan-Green, we have been received a Gold School Games Mark.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust, to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. We are delighted to have been recognised for our success.



We are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who make our competitions possible.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs. We are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

Events So Far This School Year

We have had a great start to the school year with our whole-school swimming resuming on Friday afternoons.

Our first inter-school sporting event saw us receiving four of the top fifteen places at the district cross country event.

Children in Class 2 have joined others from around the world for an Eco webinar as part of Big Green Week and learnt all about the small changes we can each make to bring about change for good.

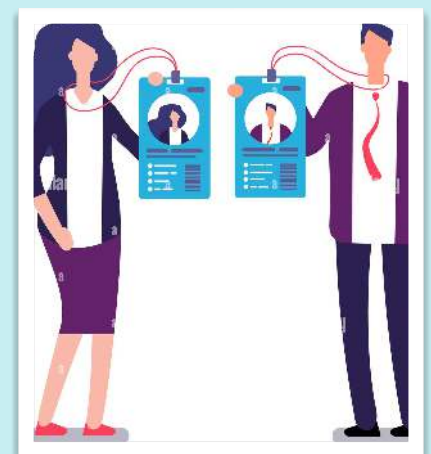
The teachers have also enjoyed a day of learning when Mr T Does Primary History worked with them to review the history curriculum that is delivered at school to ensure it represents our locality, diverse heritage and the world our children will live in.

NEW STAFF AND STAFFING STRUCTURE FOR THE YEAR

We welcomed Mr Morgan in September to cover Mrs Shurmer's maternity leave that starts in October. Mr Morgan will be teaching Class 3 (year 5&6) this year.

Miss Homan- Green teaches Class 1 (Reception/Years 1&2) and Mrs Gray and Mrs Russell job-share Class 2 (Years 3&4).

Mrs Paterson, Mrs Oodian and Mrs Walters support children throughout the school. In addition to this, Mrs Walters teaches each class one afternoon a week to release teachers for their PPA time.



PTA News

The PTA raised over £2000 for the school in the last year. They provided most of the funding for the library and have also funded coaches to the panto and literature festival event. The year's fundraising is off to a flying start with the bi-annual bags for school collection, Here's a few words from Tina Morrison, PTA Chair.

On the 26th September, we welcomed PTA members, new and old, to our first meeting of the school year.

We discussed plans for the school year, with lots of fundraising ideas for our wonderful school being presented, while having some fun along the way. Each member of the PTA plays a huge part in helping support the school.

We are currently in the planning stages of our "carols in the community" event, which gets all the school children involved as well as members of the village and of course the PTA.

Our next meeting in October will see the further planning of this event as well as Wreath Making, Christmas card designing and plans for the New Year.

Our next fundraising event is the Fancy Dress School Disco on October 31st.

We're excited by the year ahead and welcome all extra hands. If you would like to get involved, please do email us on pta@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk

Tina Morrison, PTA Chair

Governor News

At the end of the summer, we said goodbye to 3 governors who had served the school for several years. I would like to repeat our thanks to Penny Morse, James Powell and Trevor Gillis. At the first meeting of the year Geoff Booth was appointed as the new chair of governors and Chris Nott continues as vice-chair. We currently have vacancies for parent governors and applications need to be received by Wednesday 5th October. If you are interested in this position then do not hesitate to contact me on head@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk or Geoff on chair@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10th October : Quick Sticks Hockey Tournament

18th October: Bee Netball Tournament

21st October: Last day of Term 1

31st October: Fancy Dress School Disco

