

# Newsletter



## Return To Church

Harvest Festival and our first post-covid trip to Church.

The whole school enjoyed an autumnal walk through the village to the church followed by a celebration of Harvest and the singing of many favourite songs.

We were happy to be able to make a donation to Cirencester Food Bank who were very grateful. We are now taking part in the Food bank's Reverse Advent Calendar campaign, where families are encouraged to donate selected items each day in November so that the Food Bank can put together special Christmas Food Parcels.

## New Uniform

Our new uniform is available to view in the porch.

## 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 Woodruffe. In addition to this we have an exciting after school programme. Check the last page for club timings.



### Congratulations!

We're delighted to share that Mrs Shurmer has had a baby girl named Charlotte.



### Light & Bright

The party was great fun with some fabulous outfits!



### New Library

Help us finish our library by raising funds for wildflower painting.

## Science Focus in Class 2

Hands on exploration of scientific evidence is so important for children to understand and engage with Science and scientific ideas, especially those ideas beyond our living memory. Class 2 have been learning about rocks and fossils and we were really lucky to be allowed to borrow two incredible loan boxes from The Museum of Wales in collaboration with the Faulkes Telescope Project and the Science and Technology Facilities Council. These amazing loan boxes contained cast fossils of dinosaur vertebrae, teeth and claws, as well as meteorite pieces found all over the world. We learnt the different between a "fall" and a "find" and were able to apply our geographical knowledge in identifying where the meteorites fell. The most incredible rock we held was the Carbonaceous Chondrite, which was 4.56 billion years old! A sense of quiet and awe fell over the whole class as we passed this amazing rock around: the oldest thing we will ever touch.

We have also learnt about the different jobs that people do within the fields of geology and using the Association of Science Education diversity within careers resources, we learnt about the Earth Scientist, Anjana Khatwa who studies fossils to learn about the creatures that lived in the sea over 150



million years ago and Brianna Green, a Biogeochemist (we loved that job title!) who explores the Arctic permafrost to understand how global warming is affecting microbes that live in frozen soil.

Other fossils that we have been lucky to be able to handle and classify were found underneath a house while it was being renovated! These incredible finds allowed us to classify them as Cast Fossils, Mould Fossils or Trace Fossils and we also made our own examples of each kind of fossil, using our knowledge of how they were each formed.

We are really excited to welcome two local geologists, Neville and Sally Hollingsworth to our school in November. Neville and Sally were

responsible for finding and excavating mammoth bones from a huge site near Latton and have appeared in the David Attenborough documentary, The Mammoth Graveyard. We looked at where they had made these finds and located them on maps. Their most recent discovery was fossil evidence of tropical seas in a farmer's field near Stroud! They will be bringing some of their finds to show us and talking to us about how they made their discoveries. We will be inviting parents and carers to join us for this exciting morning.

## 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](http://downampneyprimaryschool.co.uk/fundraising)



## Sport

Our sporting events started well in term 1 with cross country at Kingshill where three of our children finishing with top 12 positions. The children also joined many other schools for a Bee Netball event and following this, have been invited to play a game against Ampney Crucis school this week. This week will also see a team taking part in a New Age Kurling events and Class 3 going to Cirencester College to take part in the district sports hall athletics event.

## Recent Events

We held three very successful open mornings so far this year and have more planned on Thursday 24th November and Thursday 8th December. If you know anybody looking for a school for next September or moving into the area please suggest they get in touch.

Lizzie Bean came into school to deliver a workshop with the year 6 children about transition and change. This was a great chance for the Year 6 children to discuss their wobbles and excitement about choosing their secondary schools and other events happening in their lives.

Class 1 had a visitor into school, Envoy Kim Whyard from Cirencester Salvation Army to discuss how being a Christian affects the way people live their life.

As part of their geography topic, Class 3 were visited by two people who have climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. One was successful and the other had to decline before reaching the summit due to altitude sickness.

Prizes were awarded to our budding artists for the pieces that they submitted into the village show including to Maxwell who also received a book voucher for his piece that was deemed best in show.

The teachers had a very informative INSET day led by Mr T does Primary History where they reviewed the history curriculum on offer at Down Ampney and shared lots of lovely new ideas that will be utilised this term.

The whole school also enjoyed the return of the Open the Book team to deliver a worship on the value of Generosity and a service in the church to celebrate Harvest.

## STAFFING STRUCTURE FOR THE YEAR

Miss Homan- Green teaches Class 1 (Reception/Years 1&2). [class1@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:class1@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk)

Mrs Gray and Mrs Russell job-share Class 2 (Years 3&4). [class2@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:class2@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk)

Mr Morgan is teaching Class 3 (year 5&6) this year.  
[class3@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:class3@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk)

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.

Mrs Mills is Midday Supervisor.

Mrs Woodruffe is School Business Manager.  
[admin@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk)

Mrs Gray is Headteacher and SENCo [head@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:head@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk)



## PTA News

The light and bright party held on Monday 31st October was enjoyed by all – photo.

The next PTA event is a wreath making evening on Friday 9th December. If you would like to book a place you need to do so by 11th November by emailing [pta@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:pta@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk)

Also coming up this term for the pupils is a make the rules day on Thursday 24th November. This is always a popular event and I know that some of the rules already requested are to be able to listen to Christmas songs and wear non-uniform!

Wednesday 14th December will be our Carols in the community evening from 5-7pm. It is hoped that all children and their families will be able to attend this event. Children will start the evening sharing songs and then there is a Christmas fayre in the hall, food and a raffle.

## Clubs

Don't forget we have a range of clubs operating.

Monday 3.15-4pm choir for all year groups.

Monday 4-4.45pm class 2 Maths Club.

Tuesday 3.15-4pm Sports Club for KS2 and Maths Club for Class 1.

Tuesday 4-4.45pm Maths Club for Class 3.

Wednesday 3.15-4pm Gymnastics Club. Limited spaces this term, book in advance.

Thursday 3.15-4pm Eco Club - but no session on 10th November.

If you do not already do so, please follow the school Facebook page for up to date information about what is going on.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 22nd November - Reading information evening for parents at 3pm or 5pm. Find how to support your child's reading.

Wednesday 23rd November - Maths information at either 4pm or 5pm. Find how to support your child's maths.

Thursday 24th November - Make the rules day.

Friday 25th November - INSET day.

Wednesday 14th December - School Christmas Lunch.

Thursday 15th December - Panto & Christmas Party - children to be dropped off and collected from Cirencester.

Friday 16th December - School Nativity play at 1.30pm all parents invited.

