

Newsletter



Author Opens New School Library

Author Anthony Burt spent the day inspiring the pupils and running writing workshops before officially opening the new school library at Down Ampney C of E Primary School this month. The children were fascinated to find out the various organisations that Anthony writes for as well as writing children's fiction.

Throughout the day the children engaged in drama, writing and illustrating their own stories as well as being the first people to hear part of his new book. The day ended with all parents joining the children at reading cafés in each classroom to share the love of reading.

The library has been a year in the making from the children's first idea to transform an under-used room into a warm and cosy place to share books. The children worked with a local carpenter to realise their requirements of a tree, the planes that landed during the war and a returns box built into the design.

The whole school then undertook a 24-hour "readathon" to start the fundraising process.

A variety of other fundraising activities saw the library start to take shape and one last fundraising effort to sponsor a wildflower mural enabled the children's dream to come true. Local artist Laura Wright has very kindly painted the beautiful wildlife around the tree to create the perfect place to sit and share a book.



Library Launch
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Life Education Day
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P.E.
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Eco Council

Council activities this month were planting more trees and snowdrops in our wildlife area.

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Class 1 Design & Technology

Class 1 were tasked with designing and making a fruit salad. The final taste test proved very popular and they were rightfully pleased with the delicious results!

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NatWest Money Sense

Key Stage 1 took part in a NatWest Moneysense workshop with a volunteer from NatWest bank, where they had a £25 budget to decide on ingredients to buy to set up a smoothie shop. We talked about what a business is and thought about the purpose of money - focusing on wants and needs. The children paid for their ingredients and decided how many smoothies they would need to sell to make a profit. We ended the day making our smoothies!



Map Skills Day

At the end of term, all classes took part in a map skills session. Reception set up a map for a BeeBot to follow and used really careful directional language to programme it! Class 1 looked at a range of different types of map and talked about their purpose. They then drew an aerial map of the school from memory, decided where to hide an egg and marked the spot with an X. Class 2 used their maps later, to find the eggs. Class 2 and 3 used Ordnance Survey maps to explore map symbols, 4 and 6 figure grid references and measure real distances using the scale bar.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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Team Building

The children in class 3 enjoyed a team building day that started with climbing and orienteering, and finished with a campfire and sleepover at school.

The children worked together to overcome challenges throughout the day and each accomplished something they did not think possible at the start of the day.



For some this was staying away from home without parents overnight for the first time. Others overcame



fear of heights, and for a few it was trying new food.

We talked about all the firsts and hurdles that might be coming their way later in the year and how, by talking through them and being supported by friends they would conquer more tomorrow than they think possible today. Well done everyone for being willing to try new things.



Sport

This month our after school netball club has been very popular and prepared us well for the Bee netball tournament. We enjoyed the first of our



'alternative' PE afternoons where we experienced Zumba. We are looking forward to trying a variety of alternative sports in our weekly session to see how we can use our core skills and which ones we enjoy and might continue with outside of school.



Going Green

Down Ampney Primary School has gone green! A huge thank you to the generous donation from a villager to purchase the first item of our new uniform for each child.



Computing Day

We welcomed the DigiBus project and undertook a whole day of computing! Each group spent time programming robots, designing websites and enjoying a roller-coaster or two on the VR headsets!



Personal Health

We welcomed the lovely Anita from SCARF in school with her pop-up classroom. Each class had a session with her and the day ended with a parents session.



Class 1 learnt all about our skeletal system and what makes our body healthy. They also learnt about medicine and when we should or should not take it, and the importance of rest. They had great fun making faces to show feelings. We talked about bullying and how it makes people feel and how adults at school can keep us safe.



Class 2 had fun in the inflatable classroom thinking about 'What makes us unique'. They shared the brain toy and discussed things they would like to do on a

'screen free' day. They acted out the journey of food when we eat it. One child got to put on a special T-shirt and everyone else could then see inside his body! Our annual visit from Anita complements our weekly PSHE lessons.

Design & Technology

Class 2 have been engineers. They planned, designed and made night lights having evaluated shop-bought night lights first.



Science

In Science, their challenge was to use their knowledge of conductors and insulators to build a circuit with a working switch. The children reported on their findings for the best materials to use for their switches.

