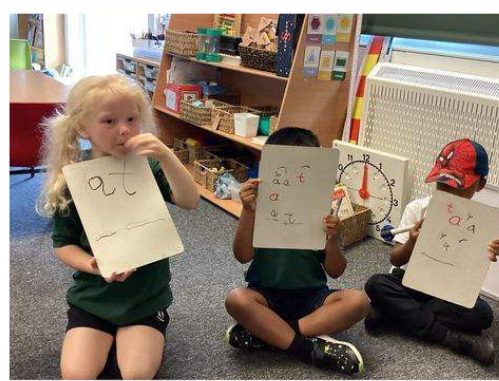


Newsletter



Vaughan House



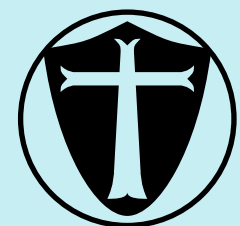
Thames House



Dakota House



Templar House



A New School Year

The start of a new school year is always a favourite time of year for teachers. Not only do we get to open all of the new stationery, but we get to welcome new families and colleagues and hear how those who have moved on are doing. This term we welcome Miss Phipps as a teacher in Class 2 and Mr Perryman as a teaching assistant.

Dobbies Community Grant

At the end of last year, we heard that we had won the community award the eco-ambassadors visited the store to select items and create a list of items they would like purchased to enhance the school



grounds still further. After several more trips to Dobbies we have now spent the grant on a variety of items including more trees, mud kitchens, animal habitats, a bird bath and lots of lovely plants.



Wellbeing

We take the wellbeing of the children and staff seriously at Down Ampney with Miss Homan-Green being our mental health champion and Mrs Gray holding a diploma in trauma informed school practice. We are also delighted to announce that Mrs Paterson is now a qualified ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant). We also love having the amazing Lizzie Bean in school, she led a session at the start of term that involved talking about what we love about ourselves and what makes us amazing. We also talked about how we grow and who supports us.

Year of Reading

As a school we have embarked on the 'Year of Reading' project, a venture alongside other local Primary and Secondary schools with a vision to build the profile of reading for our children. The launch took place in Cirencester in the summer term and has resulted in the appointment of our school reading ambassadors to help drive our vision in school. The project includes the opportunity to attend various events taking place across the year, including the Cheltenham Literature festival and Stroud Book festival, as well as projects taking place in school.

One of our projects, with Forest Green Rovers, also includes them running a football club for all children within the school at lunch time, which has had a strong uptake. This is then followed by a weekly reading workshop.

The first event this year was when class 3 joined author Natasha Farrant for a webinar workshop where they used their imaginations to describe a special place from different points of view.



Experience Harvest

All of the children in Key Stage 2 attended Down Ampney All Saints Church to Experience Harvest on Wednesday 27th September. The children enjoyed an interactive carousel of activities to explore the rich harvest of our land and the spiritual harvest of our lives. The children gained a fuller understanding of the significance of nature's cycles of growth, and explored Christians beliefs about how the spirit of God produces growth in character, in what the Bible calls "Fruit of the Spirit". The children visited a variety of stations before coming together to give thanks.

The stations were Harvest of the garden – Patience, Harvest of the ocean – Peace, Harvest of the flock – Humility, Harvest of the grain – Generosity, Harvest of the earth – Joy and Harvest Thanksgiving – Faithfulness.

Visit from Brass Band England

We were delighted to welcome Paul from Brass Band England into school to lead a musical workshop for



the whole school. We will be running a brass band club to develop the skills learnt starting on Friday 20th October.



Green Flag award with distinction

We are delighted to have received news that this year we were awarded our Green Flag award with distinction. This means that we have received a plaque as well as our certificate. For part of our award this year we have developed the biodiversity of the school site and set up our allotment at the community gardens.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tue 3rd Oct - Open Morning

Mon 9 Oct - Y3 Literature Festival Visit

Thu 17 Oct - Netball Match

Fri 27 Oct - End of Term 1



Gold – sports mark award

We also received great news over the summer that we have once again been awarded our Gold Sports Mark. This demonstrates our commitment to



engaging in sporting activities with other schools and developing children's positive attitude to fitness and sport. Our first sporting event of the year was cross country at Kingshill school, which in true cross country style was very soggy! This did not dampen the smiles when the children came across the finish Open Days

We have two open days in October for any prospective parents for September 2024. These are on Tuesday 3rd October 9:30-11:30am, Wednesday 11th October 9:30-11:30am . Do invite anyone alone to these or if they cannot make them do encourage them to contact the school for alternative times.

Clubs Up and Running

Choir have been heard singing beautifully around the school and are excited to start learning some songs to share at a community event later in the year.

Key Stage 2 Art club has created harvest posters

Key Stage 1 PE club have been busy getting active, making obstacle courses to work on our balancing skills and some yoga to stretch us out.

Key Stage 2 Science club – have completed an investigation into liquid density, where they layered different liquids on top of each other. Children also made tornadoes in a bottle!

Councils

The Worship council has coordinated the harvest festival and donations to the food bank. The School council are planning fundraising events for children in need and young voices as well as planning activities for youth parliament week. The Eco-council have planned a lake litter pick with the green committee with the De Vere hotel and the Sports council have started by looking back at what we enjoyed in PE and Sports events over the last year and have voiced what they would like to have included this year. We have also talked about how we can raise the profile of our 'Active 30 minutes' in school and how we can do so at break and lunch times.

School Houses

We have all been put into our new school houses and we have appointed House Captains who are proudly showcasing their badges and enjoying their new roles. The new school houses are Thames, Dakota, Vaughn and Templar.



Curriculum News

In science this term class 3 have started their electricity topic by following in the footsteps of Michael Faraday, who made a battery in 1812 from seven halfpenny coins, stacked with seven zinc discs and separated with six pieces of paper soaked in salty water. The children made timelines of key events in the history of electricity, then made their own batteries using 2p coins, foil and salty water. We were thrilled when we recorded a voltage from them on our multimeter! Prayer and Spirituality Day

Thank you Siddington C of E Primary School for inviting us to your prayer and spirituality day. It was lovely to stop and consider the "Wows, Ows and Nows" of life alongside you.

In Geography we had a global Geography lesson thinking about the issues facing some of the most marginalised communities in the world. Dr Liam Saddington, from Cambridge University, spent an hour with the children



exploring questions such as; "What is a country?", "Can anyone start a country?" and "What does it take to become a country?". We explored three communities, which are not recognised as countries and thought about how they are excluded from the international system. The children had fantastic ideas around the concept of community and governance and were able to present to each other on the issues facing Taiwan, Somaliland and Kurdistan.