



This week there was much excitement in the school as Christmas preparations started and the school was decorated for the festive season. Class 1 have a random act of kindness advent calendar and the other classes have their own countdowns for the end of the year. We also have been thinking what other religions celebrate at this time of the year. Through the school's work with GlosGeog (The Gloucestershire branch of the Geographical Association), we were one of 11 schools in the UK selected to take part in a webinar with the first female explorer to spend the winter in the Arctic.

Christmas in the community

This Thursday is our annual Christmas in the community event, we are hoping that all children and their families will all attend. We would like all children to meet in class 1 at 5pm so that they are ready to sing at 5:15pm. If your child is not able to attend please email admin@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk as many have specific parts. For the event please wrap up warm and ensure you bring cash and card and many stalls will only accept one of the other. There is a food van, lots of stalls as well as a pre-loved uniform stall and the ever popular bottle tombola. The event ends at 7pm. Children need to be wrapped up warm but we ask for no gloves whilst they are singing as they struggle to hold the words.

Christmas cards

Children can continue to bring in Christmas cards and pop them in the post box in the porch – these will start to be delivered this week and the last day of posting will be next Wednesday.

MTC parents meeting

This Wednesday at 3pm parents of Y4 children are invited to a Multiplication timetables check information session. Please book via admin@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk so that we know how many packs to print.

Year 6 parents.

All Year 6 parents are encouraged to email myself or Mrs Russell on head@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk or class3@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk to book an individual session to discuss next steps for SATS revision and preparation for secondary school. It would be good to get these arranged before Christmas.

Nativity Play – Class 1 Thursday 21st December

This will be in the village hall on Thursday 21st December at 1:30pm. Although class 1 will be performing the nativity all children will be watching and ready for collection early on this day. We will know a rough time when rehearsals are a little more developed but it is likely to be about 2:30pm.

We would be grateful if you could let us know if you are coming to watch -please email admin@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk

Oracy competition

We have once again entered the oracy competition this year. We will be holding the heats in the new year but it would be great if the children could start to think about which topic they would like to speak about. Please see the attached poster. We will be running the competition in the first week of the Spring term.

Swimming and Residential payments.

In order to help you with budgeting for these payments and in order to help us as a school with the cashflow of making deposits and coach bookings we would encourage you to start to make payments towards both swimming and the residential. You will find these in the parentmail shop.

Young Voices

Please continue to practice the songs and dances with your child at home.

<https://yvmusicroom.com/parentRegisterReferral?code=MzUxNy8xNjk1OTg3Nzgw>

If you would like to order a YV24 Concert video there is currently a discount code '**PREORDER**' please use this link yv24film.co.uk The cost is currently £9.99 (usually £12.99).

A repeat of the information for the next few weeks!

On Tuesday 19th December we are going to the Barn Theatre to watch 'Treasure Island' and then walking to the Salvation Army Hall for a Christmas party. The school will be closed on this day to allow for all staff to attend the theatre and party. We are therefore asking for parents to arrange for their children to be dropped off at the Barn Theatre at 10am and collected from the Abbey Grounds Carpark at 2:45pm. There will not be any before or after school club on this day. If this causes any problems then please speak to me and we will try and find a solution. I am very sad that I will not be able to join the school on this trip as one of my sons is having an operation in Bristol. I have one of the few staff cars with insurance to transport children so our ability to offer transport is severely restricted. **We would be grateful if the £10 payment for this trip could be made ASAP.**

There is no after school club for the last week of term Monday 18th, Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th or Thursday 21st due to staff training, school trip and early finish times. Again if this causes huge issues please speak to us regarding any support we can offer. Breakfast club will run that week apart from on Tuesday 19th December when we are asking for children to be dropped into Cirencester for 10am.

Wednesday 20th December is our annual Christmas jumper day and our Christmas lunch – you will have been sent a separate email this week requesting you to make choices and payments by **Tuesday 5th December**. If you have any problems with this then please contact Mrs Woodruffe.

Mosque and cathedral trip – January 15th

All children in class 2 and 3 will be joining children from Ampney Crucis to visit the Mosque in Gloucester before joining many other schools at the Cathedral for the annual Christingle service. Costs of this and timings will be sent out closer to the time.

Key Dates	
11 th December	PE leadership skipping
12 th December	Boccia after school
19 th December	Treasure Island and Christmas party – drop off at Barn Theatre at 10am, collection from Abbey Grounds carpark at 2:30pm
20 th December	Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day
21 st December	Nativity at 1:30pm at the Village Hall – EARLY collection time to be confirmed
22 nd December	INSET day
8 th January	Term 3 starts
15 th January	Mosque and Cathedral Christingle visit
9 th February	End of Term 3
19 th February	Term 4 starts

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11th March	KNEX challenge day KS2 – paid for by PTA
22nd March	End of Term 4
8th April	Term 5 starts
12th April	Swimming starts
13th – 16th May	Y6 SATs
24th May	End of Term 5
3rd June	Term 6 starts
3rd – 14th June	Multiplication Tables Check Y4
10th – 14th June	Phonics Screening Assessments Y1
12th June	Leavers service at Gloucester Cathedral
17th – 21st June	Careers week
22nd June	Small school fundraising event
24th- 26th June	Residential for Class 3 (more details to follow)
6th July	School Fete
10th July	Schoolbeat visit for class 3
11th – 12th July	Deer Park School Induction days
19th July	Last day of term for pupils
22nd July	INSET day