



## **\*STOP PRESS\***

We are delighted to announce that we have secured tickets for all children in KS2 to travel to Malvern Theatre to watch 'a boy at the back of the classroom' on March 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be travelling by coach leaving school at lunchtime and we should be back at school before 6pm. We will send out an email and set up a payment - we are asking for £10 per child as the PTA have offered to fund the coach and we have managed to get a discount on the tickets. The children are all very excited about this event.

We have also been offered free tickets to a school book festival in Cirencester on Friday March 8<sup>th</sup> – this is an INSET day and the school staff have training on this day. If your child would like to attend this event then please email [head@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:head@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk) and I will try to arrange for governors or supply staff to accompany them. You would need to be able to arrange transport to and from the Barn Theatre, for class 1 it will be 9:30-10:30 and for class 2 and 3 it will be from 1-2pm.

## **Children's Mental Health Week**

The children took part in a variety of educational experiences for children's mental week, we combined it with many other areas of PSHE and safeguarding to enable children to make connections between them. We looked at safer internet day and limiting screen time which combined with the discussion we had regarding the importance of sleep. We talked about keeping safe and all children learnt age appropriate first aid and CPR as well as talking about the role of young carers and how we can support them. The week ended with all of the children wearing a scarf and wrapping themselves with self love with a Lizzie Bean session. Thank you to all parents who attended the parents PSHE meeting.

## **Parents evenings – Spring term**

It was lovely to be able to discuss your child with each of you this week either in person or on the telephone. We will soon be sending out individual attendance updates to let you know your child's attendance at this midyear point. Please remember that I cannot authorise holidays in term time but it is vital that you are honest with the school about any absence so that it can be recorded accurately and also so that the child can openly discuss key events in their lives.

## **Parents Information evenings next term**

As you are aware throughout the year we hold additional parents' information evenings on a variety of topics. We have some in Term 4 around assessments. These are for parents in Reception, Y1 and Y2. Each session will be held at 3pm and repeated at 4:45pm. Please email [admin@](mailto:admin@) to book a place.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb after school Y2 SATs information evening

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March after school Y1 PSC information evening

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April EYFSP information evening - Reception parents

## **After school clubs**

Next term teacher lead after school clubs are as follow:

Monday – Yoga/mindfulness and SATs club for Y6

Tuesday – games club and SATs club for Y6

Wednesday – choir/music club and SATs club for Y6

Thursday – Spanish club and netball club (which is at Kingshill school).

We will be changing clubs after the Easter holiday.

## **Safeguarding update**

The safety of the children and staff is our paramount priority and as such we have once again commissioned a safeguarding audit this year. This years was carried out by Gloucestershire County Council and was very thorough, Pip Taylor one of our safeguarding governors was in school for part of the audit. One of the areas that we have reviewed in light of the audit is to update our Acceptable Use Policy – this will be issued to you all at the start of next term for you and your children to complete, updates to this include the not wearing of smart watches. In addition to this we have been advised to write a parents code of conduct – this will also be sent out at the start of next term to be signed by all parents and adults that are taking on that role. This policy has been written with the governors based on advise and models from the LA. If you have any questions regarding these policies then please contact myself or Geoff Booth Chair of Governors.

## Dance festival – April 16<sup>th</sup>

If your child is keen to take part in this years dance festival then we will be running sessions on 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March and the 10<sup>th</sup> April after school to rehearse and the event is on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at Cheltenham Town Hall from 6:30-7:30pm. The children will need to commit to all four after school sessions and be able to be collected after the festival from Cheltenham. If your child would like to take part please email [head@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:head@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk)

## Bobble hats

As many of you know the local knit and natter group knitted 30 bobble hats for us to go to the O2 so that we could spot them. Many of the children were keen to have them – they are now for sale for £5. If your child would like one please let me know as they come in a variety of sizes!

## Common Exception Words

Lots of the children will have brought home common exception words following their recent assessments – these are not homework sheets to be completed by a certain time. These are so the children know which one they need to practise if they have any spare time.

## PTA meeting

The next meeting is on 20<sup>th</sup> February at 6:30pm at the school. It would be lovely to see you all there!

## Oracy competition

A huge congratulations to Freddie in class 1, Nellie in Class 2 and Isabel in Class 3 who each won the class competition and will represent the school at the next round of the competition which will be on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 9:15am at Powells Primary School. Each child can take two people with them to watch – please email [head@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:head@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk) to let me know the names of the people that are coming or if your child needs a lift to the event.

Key Dates	
19 <sup>th</sup> February	Term 4 starts
26 <sup>th</sup> February	Cross country year 3 – Year 6
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Y2 parents information session regarding SATS 3pm and 4:45pm
7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day – We are travelling to Southrop school to meet an author! School uniform to be worn
8 <sup>th</sup> March	INSET – school closed to pupils
11 <sup>th</sup> March	KNEX challenge day KS2 – paid for by PTA
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 and 4 Multisports
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Y1 parents information session regarding phonincs screening check 3pm and 4:45pm
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Panathlon
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Bee Netball
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Mock Trail – note change of day!
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter Service at Church 2pm
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	End of Term 4
8 <sup>th</sup> April	Term 5 starts
9 <sup>th</sup> April	Reception parents information session regarding early years foundation stage profile 3pm and 4:45pm
10 <sup>th</sup> April	Swimming Gala Year 5/6
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Swimming starts

<b>16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Dance Festival
<b>7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Quad Kids
<b>13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Y6 SATs
<b>24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	End of Term 5
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	Term 6 starts
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Multiplication Tables Check Y4
<b>10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Phonics Screening Assessments Y1
<b>11<sup>th</sup> June</b>	In the Net – internet safety play Year 4
<b>12<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Leavers service at Gloucester Cathedral
<b>17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June</b>	Careers week
<b>18<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Rounders Year 5/6
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	Small school fundraising event
<b>24<sup>th</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Residential for Class 3 (more details to follow)
<b>6<sup>th</sup> July</b>	School Fete
<b>10<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Schoolbeat visit for class 3
<b>11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Deer Park School Induction days
<b>19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Last day of term for pupils
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	INSET day