

Newsletter



Mock Trial

On the last Thursday of the term, children in class 3 took part in a mock trial at Cirencester Baptist Church, where they played the part of the prosecution and won their case to convict a child who had taken drugs into school. This follows a body of work we have undertaken about the rule of law, British values, and the importance of making good choices in the next stage of their education. We would like to thank the local magistrates and Mrs Dearsley for helping to prepare for the trial. The children were congratulated on their performances, costumes and behaviour. With our prosecuting lawyer even winning an award for the best individual performance out of all 12 schools involved. Out of all of these schools, we came second overall, a fantastic achievement only made possible through the dedication of staff, volunteers, and the children themselves. We would also like to thank the Rotary club for organising and hosting the event.

Easter Service

At the end of term we walked through the village to the Church where we were joined by Rev. Swanton for our Easter Service. Each class lead part of the service, sharing the importance of the Easter story, reading their acrostic poems and singing some of our favourite hymns. Many of the children also had a chance to ring the church bells.



Easter Egg Hunt

The sun came out for our annual Easter Egg hunt. This year the children had to follow picture clues around the school and combine their orienteering and map skills as well as teamwork to find each egg. Many thanks to the PTA for the donation of eggs. We hope you all have a great break.



World Poetry Day

A huge thank you to everyone at All Saints Church for our recent donation of poetry books. We enjoyed sharing them today on world poetry day as well as sharing poems and reading the acrostic ones we wrote at our Easter Service.



Bee Netball Tournament



Thank you to Helen Pauling and the young leaders for running a netball club at Kingshill for the past term, the children who have attended have really enjoyed working on their skills and tactics. We ended this term with a Year 4/5/6 Bee netball tournament, where they were able to put those skills into play. The children really enjoyed playing against many other school teams and ending with a celebration of the School Games values by receiving wristbands to highlight the values they showed. Thank you to Mrs Sage for coaching the netballers.



Year of Reading Trip

This term, the children in KS2 travelled to Malvern to watch *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, about a Syrian refugee arriving at a school in England, adapted from the book by Onjali Rauf. It is linked to one of our recent Year 5/6 Reading Spine books, which many have read: “No Ballet Shoes in Syria” by Catherine Bruton. Children from local schools joined us as part of our Year of Reading.



Online Safety Visit



Class 3 had their termly visit from PCSO Leah Davies last week and were reminded how to stay safe online, such as not having personal or contact information publicly available, and how to access help at school and various other services.

Multi-Sports Day

Children from class 2 participated in a multi-sports day at Cirencester indoor arena, in an event organised by Mrs Pauling from Cotswold Sports Partnership.

They took part in archery, skipping, tchoukball, rounders, cricket, dodgeball and skipping.



K'Nex STEM Day

A STEMWORKS ambassador came to school and helped the children in KS2 put their DT and computing skills together to create fairground rides. They created these from K'Nex and then programmed them to make them work!

The children enjoyed this massively and their creations were able to get up to quite some speed.

Huge thanks to the PTA for funding such great STEM enrichment events.



World Book Day

All pupils participated in a “Meet the Author” writing and illustration workshop led by Tracey Corderoy. They enjoyed sharing their favourite books with friends and each took home a world book day book of their choosing.



Spring is here

Despite the odd weather at the end of this month, the scenery around school has come into spring. The bulbs we planted in November have begun to flower, brightening up our forest school area.



DT Structures

Class 3 designed and built the structures they had designed as a new tower for the O2. They were tasked to design innovative, functional, appealing, and stable shell structures that would be fit for purpose. This used their knowledge of cityscapes from their art topic, and their recent trip to London.



Focus on Class 1

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have really enjoyed learning about our environment and exploring the school grounds this term. We have been on welly walks to identify signs of the seasons we are in and identified different plants growing in our surroundings, including different types of evergreen and deciduous trees. We also looked at different maps to identify the school and its grounds, pointing out key areas, we then drew freehand maps of the village car park, noting key physical and human features and annotated our drawings.



Oracy Competition

Well done to our school winners of the oracy competition who travelled to Powells school in Cirencester for the South Cotswolds heat. They had to make a presentation on a topic of their choosing, and present it in front of all the other schools in the South Cotswold and a judging panel who asked them questions about their chosen topic. The topics selected by our pupils included: Mary Anning, Canada, and Pokemon. We are all very proud of you. Well done! Taking part in a wide variety of personal development opportunities, especially with other schools is something that we pride ourselves on.



Games Club

Games club has been a success this term. The children have enjoyed playing board games and games they can access online. Every week, the children had an opportunity to play and learn new games such as Coppit, Uno, Jenga and a game based on the Ancient Egyptians! It was great to have some children leading games as 'games masters' and showing other how they can be successful.



Term 5 Clubs

In April, the start of term 5, there will be changes to the clubs running. If you would like your child to attend, please contact Mrs Woodruffe at admin@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk. Club lists will close at noon on Monday April 8th.

Monday : KS2 Rounders and SATs Club

Tuesday : Y2,3,4 Maths club, SATs Club, Reception/Y1 Craft Club

Wednesday : Reception to Y4 Choir/Music Club, Year 5/6 Maths Club

Thursday : Spanish Club

Key Dates

Key Dates	Event
April 8th	Term 5 starts
April 9th	Reception parents information session regarding EYFS profile 3 pm and 4:45pm
April 10th	Swimming Gala Year 5/6
April 12th	Swimming starts
April 16th	Dance Festival
April 30th	Class 3 team building day with Rodmarton School ahead of our joint residential

Have a happy Easter from everyone at Down Ampney, we look forward to seeing you back in school soon.

