



Great news

I can confirm that this week, our budget has been set for next year, and we have been able to extend Mrs Wheeler and Miss Skinner's contracts for another year. Both are valuable members of our staffing team, and we are delighted that they will be with us for another school year. This week, the governors also decided to start the academisation process formally. The following steps are to obtain approval from the Diocese and the Regional Schools Commissioner. This is an exhilarating decision as we have been able to take our time to consult with several Trusts to find the one that will support our vision and values as well as ensure that we maintain our individuality going forward. The staff have been involved and are delighted with the governors' decision. More details about this will follow as the process continues.

Term 5 clubs

If you want your child to attend, please contact Mrs Woodruffe at admin@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk. Club lists will close on Monday April 8th, at noon.

Monday – KS2 rounders and Y6 Sats club

Tuesday – Y2,3,4 maths club and Sats club and Rec/Y1 craft club – **DANCE FESTIVAL WEEK 2**

Wednesday – Choir/music club rec-Y4 and Year 5/6 maths club – **DANCE CLUB WEEK 1**

Thursday – Spanish club – **DANCE CLUB WEEK 1**

Swimming Term 5 and 6

We will resume swimming again on Fridays from Fri, April 12th until the end of the school year. Please note there is no swimming on July 19th. As in previous years, we will get the coach to the swimming pool, but we request that parents collect from Cricklade Leisure Centre at 3:45 p.m. As usual, the children must come to school in PE kits on Fridays and bring their swimming kit and towel in a bag. The school will be split into two groups, and each group will get a 35-minute swim session. The other session will be held in the sports hall for PE. If you cannot collect your child from Cricklade or arrange a lift with another family, please contact the school immediately.

PTA Easter Egg Trial

Mr Hoppy and his eggs are once again hidden around the village for you to spot. If you would like to buy a map, they are available at school at the end of the day for £2 or at the village shop throughout the Easter holidays.

Helping out

I hope it will be dry enough to move the gravel to the outdoor classroom over Easter. I will ask for helpers once we have a few dry days to move it.

Recommended Read

Mrs Gray is looking forward to tackling her holiday reading pile, which includes Katya Balen, which she has not read before but is a favourite author for many in school. She has recently read Mwikali and the Forbidden Mask, written by Shiko Nguru, a Kenyan author. Mrs Gray loved the first in the series of the Intasimi Warriors and has added the next in the series to her wish list! It is in the library if you would like to read it.

Dance festival

The children are doing well with the rehearsals for the dance festival, which takes place at Cheltenham Town Hall on Tuesday, April 16th. There are two more rehearsals before the day on the 10th and **11th of April** after school. Tickets for the event are on sale here. <https://cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk/event/spirit-of-the-games-dance-festival/>

Mock Trial

Yesterday, children in class 3 took part in a mock trial 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 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. Several schools participated in the mock trials this week, and we came second overall. Alan received the award for best individual performance. We would also like to thank the Rotary Club that funded this event.

Theatre Trip

On Wednesday, 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. It was great to see this book that many of the children have read come to life. 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 Brunton. Children will also learn more about refugees in school during Refugee Week on June 17th. The theme for Refugee Week 2024 is "Our Home". From the places we gather to share meals to our collective home, planet Earth, everyone is invited to celebrate what our Our Home means to them. Children from local schools joined us as part of our Year of Reading. Thanks again to the PTA for funding the coach to enable us to go.

Bee Netball

The children did exceptionally well in the Bee Netball tournament this week, and I would like to thank Mrs Sage, who has been supporting our budding netball players during extra sessions at Kingshill this term. The young leaders have run the sessions. Thank you, Ampney Crucis School, for the invite – we have loved it!

Key Dates	
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
May 7th	Quad Kids
13 th – 16 th May	Y6 SATs
May 17th	PTA children's DISCO at the FOOTBALL CLUB!
May 17th	Class 3 Team building day with Rodmarton School ahead of our joint residential
May 21st	Orienteering Y5/6
May 24th	End of Term 5
June 3rd	Term 6 starts
3 rd – 14 th June	Multiplication Tables Check Y4
June 10th	Class 3 Team building day with Rodmarton School ahead of our joint residential
10 th – 14 th June	Phonics Screening Assessments Y1
June 11th	In the Net – internet safety play Year 4
June 12th	Leavers service at Gloucester Cathedral
June 15th	Small school fundraising event – proposed date change
17 th – 21 st June	Careers week
June 18th	Rounders Year 5/6
24 th - 26 th June	Residential for Class 3 (more details to follow)

26 th -26 th June	Commonweal open days
Week of July 1st	Crypt Open day
2 nd and 3 rd July	Farmors Open Day
July 6th	School Fete
July 10th	Schoolbeat visit for class 3
July 10th	Year 2/3 multisports
July 19th	Last day of term for pupils – 1:15 pm finish
July 22nd	INSET day