



### **A New School Year**

I am delighted to welcome the new families and pupils to the school as well as those returning. We have a record breaking 58 children on roll! This is great news for us as we will need to increase our numbers in order to see our dream of not only having a purpose built third classroom but the interest to start a pre-school. Although the school has operated with three classes since just before I joined, we are still regarded by the local authority as a two class school. The rise in numbers will continue to be a “chicken and egg” situation where we do not get the funding for the additional children until the financial year after they join. I want to reassure you that all decisions regarding the school are made with the children front and centre and to balance the books for this growth I have once again increased my teaching commitment, and increased teaching assistant hours so our adult to child ratio remains excellent.

### **Communications between home and school**

If your child is absent from school, please complete the online form via parentmail, email or phone the school. If your child is being collected by somebody else, please phone or email both Mrs Woodruffe and I to ensure we pick this up by the end of the school day. If you have a non-urgent piece of information or wish to send in photos or homework to your child’s class teacher then please use the class emails: [class1@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:class1@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk), [class2@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:class2@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk), [class3@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:class3@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk). These are not monitored daily but are checked a couple of times a week by either myself or the class teachers. If you would prefer to speak in person then you can speak to me on the gate most mornings, or class teachers at the end of each day. Meetings can also be arranged if needed. Our first set of parents’ evenings this year are the week of 9<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Secondary transfers**

I know it seems very early, but letters regarding secondary transfers have gone out to all pupils who live in Gloucestershire. There are several open mornings and evenings for pupils in Year 5 and 6 over the coming weeks. If you are planning to take your child to these, please email [admin@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk) so we are aware of their absence.

### **Reception 2025 places**

Open mornings will soon be published for next year’s cohort and if you know of anybody who would be interested in a place then do get them to contact us as school tours are starting next week.

### **Swimming refunds**

Some of you may remember that we had a swimming session cancelled last year. Therefore if you paid for your swimming in full and would like a refund of £10 please email [admin@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk), alternatively you can donate it to the school. Swimming for this academic year will start after Easter but will not be for all pupils. Once confirmed, we will set up the payment schedule to spread the costs.

### Supporting the school

There are several ways to support the school. You may sign up to the Asda cashpot, and/or put blue coins in the slots as part of Tesco Stronger Starts programme in the Cirencester stores. You can also donate old clothes to our clothes bank in the village carpark or buy us a gift from the Amazon wish list. If you would prefer to support the school in a practical way, we are always keen to have volunteers to hear readers, help with other activities or keep on top of our forest school. We also have a strong PTA that will be sending information about their activities for the year and how to get involved soon.

### Key Dates

17 <sup>th</sup> September	Class 3 Anglo Saxon Trip
17 <sup>th</sup> September	Governors Meeting
18 <sup>th</sup> September	Katherine Rundell Webinar
24 <sup>th</sup> September	Flu Vaccines
24 <sup>th</sup> September	School beat officer
25 <sup>th</sup> September	Deer Park Open Evening
4 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET day no school for children
7 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET day no school for children
9 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents evening
10 <sup>th</sup> October	Anglo Saxon webinar
16 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents evening
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Spirituality Day
25 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day of Term 1