



## 2024-25 Week 8 Update

### Thank you

Thank you for an amazing first term of the school year. This week, I wanted to say a specific thank you for the donations to the food bank and to all of you who were able to attend our Harvest Festival. I also wish to thank you for the clothing donations. This helps to raise money for the PTA in an easy way and tops up the funds that also come from our clothes bank in the village carpark. The PTA raises money to support the school to provide a wealth of additional opportunities and resources to the children throughout the school; they have already pledged funds for the class 1 and 2 trips that will be held later in the year and have just restocked the book bag supplies to be given to children who join the school. Another thanks this week goes to the volunteers from the De Vere Hotel who spent a day in school clearing leaves, mowing the grass in the forest school and giving the hall toilet a first lick of paint.

### Happy half term and email communications during the break.

We hope you can enjoy a lovely autumnal half-term. During this period, staff inboxes will be monitored infrequently, and replies will not likely be received until our return on Monday, November 4th. If you have a safeguarding concern about a child, then details to report this can be found on the out-of-office reply when emailing [head@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:head@downampney.gloucs.sch.uk)

### Staffing update

Mrs Paterson has decided to reduce her hours to four days a week after half term to enjoy more extended weekends. After many years of service, we granted her request and will cover her hours internally with other part-time staff. We are delighted that she has agreed to attend school for events on a Friday, such as the upcoming nativity. We hope she enjoys spending extra time with family, friends, and hobbies.

### Upcoming deadlines

If your child did a Christmas card design, please ensure that you order by October 31st online to deliver your orders to school. If your child is in Year 6, you have until October 31st to choose your secondary school.

### Spirituality Day – Wednesday Class 3

On Wednesday, children in class 3 travelled to Hatherop to join other schools for a spiritual morning, during which they considered the language of spirituality and the importance of connecting with communities and being present in the moment to slow down and appreciate the natural world around us.

### Term 2 clubs lists are now closed

You will have been informed via parentmail which clubs your child has been allocated. Next term, we will be holding the following clubs:

- Monday – Choir, which is open to all with no maximum number
- Tuesday – Christmas Craft Club any year group maximum 20 children
- Wednesday – Champions of Antarctica Geography club Y2-6, maximum 12 children
- Thursday – Christmas Craft Club any year group maximum 20 children
- Friday – there will not be any clubs in term two due to Friday House Bake offs



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**In addition, the lunchtime brass band club will be returning this time, run by our very own Mrs Walters. If your child is keen to join, please let us know at the start of term 2. It is open open to Y2-Y6.**

### **Christmas in the community – December 12th 5–7 p.m.**

We are looking forward to our annual Christmas in the community event. This always starts with songs and carols from the school and choir before stalls and Santa’s grotto open for a couple of hours filled with Christmas spirit. This year, following the success of the summer fayre, many children are keen to run stalls. We will hold school council meetings to arrange this in the first week back, and more information will follow. We will soon send home raffle tickets; we already have some fantastic prizes. On Friday, November 29th, we are inviting children to wear non-school uniform and donate a bottle for the tombola for the privilege – this can be a bottle of anything from bubble bath to champagne, lemonade to perfume—the more varied, the better.

### **House Bake Offs**

The house captains are keen to run events throughout the year, and the first of these are the house bake-offs. We challenge all children to bake a cake, biscuits, tray bake, or savoury treats each Friday in November. The treats will be judged during the day and sold after school to raise funds for other house events. If your child is unsure which house they are in, just ask. Siblings are in the same house.

- November 8th – Templar
- November 15th Thames
- November 22nd Vaughn
- November 29th Dakota

As always, we ask that there are no nuts in any of the bakes. We hope that this is a fun event that all can join in.

### **Pantomime and wraparound care payments**

We remain on track for our conversion to join a trust in January. As explained last week, we need to force an early end to the financial year.

Can you please pay for the pantomime by Friday, November 8th?

If your child uses **breakfast and after-school clubs, we ask that all payments for term two be made ASAP, with payment closing on December 1st.** Financially, we need to force a year-end on December 31st, and our new accounts will start as an academy on January 1st. If you pay for wraparound care using Child tax credits, please contact Mrs Woodruffe for the new bank account details from January 1st.

### **Swimming**

We are still working on taking all children swimming this academic year cost-effectively, and considering rising numbers on roll and staffing ratios if we go in groups. We hope to finalise this soon and will communicate as quickly as possible.

### **Poppies**

They are now on sale on the porch.

**Key Dates – for the entire year, see the website – new dates or information in yellow**

<https://www.downampneyprimaryschool.co.uk/calendar/>

November 4th	Bring in donations of second-hand uniform



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November 5th	KS2 webinar with Joseph Coelho as part of the year of reading
November 7th	Class 2 Stroud Book Festival Time Travellers Webinar
November 7th	Class 3 Stroud book festival – lifts will be needed to and from Deer Park
November 8th	Year 1 and 2 3 Stroud book festival – lifts will be needed to and from Deer Park
November 8th	Bake Off Templar
November 11th	Second-hand clothes sale on the porch
November 11th	Armistice service at the war memorial at 11 a.m.
November 11th	Graphic Novel Club at lunchtime
November 12th	PTA AGM – please come along
November 14th	Visit from Gloucestershire Diocese Director of Education
November 15th	Bake Off Thames
November 19th	STEM day
November 20th	Alex T. Smith, author webinar
November 22nd	Bake Off Vaughn
November 25th	Graphic Novel Club at lunchtime
November 25th	Sportshall athletics
November 26th	Sportshall athletics
November 29th	Bake Off Dakota
November 29th	Non-school uniform day – Please donate a bottle for Christmas Fayre
December 3rd	Dodgeball
December 5th	Experience Advert – Class 2 at Kempsford School – parental transport might be needed.
December 5th	Christmas movie night
December 12th	Reception and Y6 screening
December 12th	Christmas in the Community event – 5–7 p.m.
December 18th	Carols in the church at 2 pm
December 19th	Pantomime
December 20th	Nativity Play