



## 2024-25 Week 9 Update

### Welcome to Term 2

It has been great to welcome you all back for term 2. Although this is a seven-week term, it is always the one that whizzes by with the build-up to Christmas, dark nights and the many plans for the year ahead. It is also a jam-packed term for us as a school, as we are still on track to join the Corinium Education Trust on January 1st. Much like buying a house, there are multiple legal things behind the scenes, and there is lots of excitement amongst the staff regarding joint activities that we can access and a share of the workload for some other areas.

Here are a couple of examples of this so that you know why we have made this decision and what it will mean for us going forward. For the children, it will mean continuing joint activities such as the Stroud Book Festival visits, funded by a grant that the school improvement lead for CET obtained. For teachers, opportunities such as the joint writing moderation sessions between schools, which are happening this week, allow teachers to work with others who teach the same year group and moderate a larger sample of work. This collaboration is an excellent professional advantage and will help retain our teachers due to wider opportunities. Finally, due to a change in initial teacher training regulations, all school-based mentors need to attend a 5-day training course, so despite me hosting students and acting as a mentor for nearly 30 years, I would have needed to be out of school for a whole week if we were not joining CET, for us to continue to host student teachers. Within the trust, one person has completed the training and can take the role centrally, allowing the heads of the schools to remain in school more.

### Second-Hand Clothes Sale

Starting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November, there will be a second-hand uniform sale. We will also be selling coats, wellies, trainers and **Christmas jumpers**, so if you have any of these to donate, please bring them in. This will operate as an honesty shop with people invited to make donations for what they take.

### 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. Please pay for the pantomime immediately if you have not done so already.

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.

### PTA AGM – Tuesday at 6 p.m. – PLEASE COME ALONG

We could not do many of the things we currently do if it were not for the fantastic work of the PTA. It would be great to see as many of you as possible at the AGM on Tuesday evening.

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

More information about the child-led stalls will come home next week. Please ensure you have the date in your diary, as the children will be singing at the start of this event if possible. On Friday, November 29th, we invite children to wear non-school uniforms and donate a bottle for



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the tombolo 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 had a challenging task today: judging the bake-off. We are very grateful for all the entries, and hopefully, this will raise lots of funds for our DT food lessons this term. The house captains wanted to thank Edie, Rose, Alasdair and Fraser, who made some cakes for children with allergies. As was Dan's chocolate cake and Lily's art and Autumn cakes were incredible. The teachers were excited to see some of their favourites, including Oreo brownies from Amy and a crumble slice from Kit and Chloe.

Milo won this week's bake-off for his very scary monster cakes! Well done, Templar House. Next week is the Thames house, followed by November 22nd Vaughan and November 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Year six leavers' hoodies

This year, the Year 6 children have requested that they have their hoodies early so they can wear them on a Friday for PE (not Tuesdays) and at selected events. Usually, they are not handed out until July, when wearing them is hopefully too hot! This seems like a very sensible request, so it has been granted. Therefore, please email Mrs Woodruffe the hood size you would like for your year 6.

### Size conversions

Size	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL	3XL	4XL	5XL
Size:	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL	3XL	4XL	5XL
Chest (to fit):	34	36	40	44	48	52	56	60	62

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

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

November 11th	Second-hand clothes sale on the porch
November 11th	Armistice service at the war memorial at 11 am
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	Sports hall athletics
November 26th	Sports hall athletics
November 29th	Bake Off Dakota
November 29th	Non-school uniform day – Please donate a bottle for Christmas Fayre
December 3rd	Dodgeball



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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 17th	Christmas jumper day
December 18th	Christmas lunch day
December 18th	Carols in the church at 2pm
December 19th	Pantomime
December 20th	Nativity Play