



2024-25 Week 15 Update

Christmas Week

We have had a lovely end of term two at school this week. We all started the week looking very festive in our Christmas jumpers and shared a lovely Christmas lunch before our mid-week Carol service at the church. The week ended with a whole school trip to the theatre to see the Father Christmas Show and our very own class 1 nativity – Christmas Counts. We would like to thank you for all the lovely gifts and cards that you have sent to the staffing team. We hope you have a lovely Christmas, and we look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday, January 7th.

Dance Festival

This year, the dance festival is on Thursday, February 13th, and we will be travelling to Cheltenham Town Hall during the day, where we will perform between 3 and 5 pm. Can you please email to state whether or not your child wants to be a part of this event? If you say yes, then this will confirm that they are part of the dance troupe and that you will be able to collect them from Cheltenham at 5 pm. **We currently only have eight children signed up for this. Please let me know ASAP if your child is interested, as ideally, we need 12-15 pupils to make this work.**

Term 3 clubs

Confirmation of whether your child has been allocated a space is being sent via parentmail. Please let us know if you registered an interest and did not receive confirmation. There are still a couple of spaces available.

Academisation

We have received confirmation from the secretary of state that our academy conversion is complete, and she has signed it off, so we will officially join Corinium Education Trust on January 1st, 2025. This is a very exciting announcement and will provide the school with additional support in a variety of areas and allow for strategic planning to continue to ensure that Down Ampney is the BEST it can be every day. It is also a daunting one, not least for me as I have taught for Gloucestershire County Council since 1997 and received my P45 from them this morning! We have done all we can to ensure a smooth transition, but please bear with us as there are likely to be a few bumps and tweaks along the way.

Housekeeping

This is a gentle reminder that gates open at 8:30 am and teachers have planned activities for the children to start as soon as they arrive. The gates close at 8:40 am, and the registers are then taken. If your child arrives after this, then they will need to sign in at the office.

At the end of the day, children need to be collected at 3:15 pm. Please come inside the back gates to collect your children safely. If somebody other than yourself is collecting your child, please email admin@ or leave a voicemail for Mrs Gray. If your child is walking home, then this needs to be agreed with Mrs Gray and informed in writing.

No children may have mobile phones or smartwatches in school. If they need to bring them in as they are walking home alone, they will need to be handed in on arrival.

All children should be in uniform each day with suitable coats for the weather. We ask that you ensure all clothing items are named as we start to go swimming!

We will continue to use the field whenever we can, so feel free to send your child in with wellies and spare trainers/socks.

Drink bottles should only contain water, and snacks should be healthy for break time, ideally fruit.

Please update us with any new medical information or contact details.



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Swimming

We start swimming on Friday, January 10th. Children in Class 1 need to be collected from school at the normal time (3:15 pm), and all other children need to be collected from Cricklade Leisure Centre at 3:15 pm. If your children are split, please collect the one from Cricklade first., there will be no charge for after-school care until you arrive. Some children will be swapped due to group sizes. These will be confirmed after week 1 sessions. Please let us know if you are not able to collect your children from Cricklade.

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

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

January 6th	INSET day
January 7th	Term 2 starts for pupils.
January 10th	SWIMMING STARTS
January 13th	Teacher-led clubs start
January 22nd	Beyond the Gates parent workshop at Hatherop
January 28th	Scarf PSHE day
February 4th	Prayer Space Day Class 1 at Kempsford
February 5th	In the Net – internet safety for Y4
February 10th	Rail safety talk class 3
February 13th	Dance festival at Cheltenham town hall
February 14th	End of Term 3