

Newsletter



Prayer space day

On Tuesday 4th February the children in Class 1 travelled to Kempsford Primary School to join with other local schools for a Prayer Space Day. The children completed various activities including making bracelets, creating medals, thinking about overcoming their fears, and problem solving. Through these activities the children were able to think about what it is that makes them each special. They were also able to discuss what good teamwork is and give examples linked to both and the wider world. One popular activity was where the groups of children had to stand on a pretend raft and turn it completely over without falling into the water. As they used their problem solving skills, they also worked well with other children who they didn't know and showed excellent social skills. It was lovely spending time thinking about how special we all are and how we can share our individual qualities with the people around us.

In the Net

On Wednesday 5th February, we were delighted to be able to host 'In the Net', a fantastic, interactive play with very important Internet safety messages. The performance tackled issues such as bullying online, digital footprints, using passwords, not sharing personal details, what to do if anything online was scary and encouraging the children to always share worries with an adult.

Term 3 Clubs

Monday

Computing and recorder club

Tuesday

Drawing and outdoor club

Wednesday

SATs club

Thursday

Games and netball

All the children really enjoyed watching the play and interacting with the characters to help them make the best choices when using the Internet!



information meant that class 3 were well equipped for their train Journey from Kemble to Gloucester. All of the children were given a sticker and Class 3 were given a blank ticket that they could decorate ready for their train trip. The QR code on their ticket takes your child to a webinar about rail safety and rail information. Please encourage your child to have a look and watch, as Platform are a charity and receive more funding the more children watch!



Swimming

We have really enjoyed going swimming as a whole school this term and have all been working hard on building our skills. Whilst at the leisure centre we have also been having a PE session in the dance studio, playing games such as dodgeball, team games and opportunities for the children to create their own games.

Rail Safety Talk

On 10th February, Class 2 and 3 had an interactive session from Platform all about rail safety. They learned about how useful trains are and that they are one of the safest ways to travel in the UK. There were lots of interesting facts shared such as the average speed a train travels and how long it takes for a train to stop. All of the children were able to show that they understood the dangers associated with trains and railway tracks. They also learned how to stay safe around the track, on a platform and when getting on and off of a train. This



Safer Internet Day

Tuesday the 11th of February was Safer Internet Day and the theme for it this year was 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'. Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety. All children in the school took part in a session or activity to explore

how they can make the most of their online life, safely and happily. Key Stage 2 came together for this day and joined a webinar hosted by 'Tech She Can' who focused on today's digital world and the importance of navigating the online world safely and responsibly. She also highlighted many exciting careers available in cyber security. Children in Class 1 created some lovely posters about how we can keep ourselves safe online.



Graphic Novel Club

We were very fortunate to be joined by Lisa from Cirencester Library regularly in school who hosts a Graphic Novel Club. This club is for anyone in school who enjoys reading graphic novels or wants a taster to see what they are like. In this club, we get to look at a range of different graphic novel books that Lisa recommends. Following on from this club, the school has purchased a wide variety of graphic novels that the children have enjoyed such as Bunny vs. Monkey and Dog Man.

Graphic novels are great for children as they are often comical and quick to read. They also offer a rich reading experience that engages a wide range of readers from children in KS1 to KS2 and beyond. A recent survey by the National Literacy Trust found that children who read graphic novels by choice are twice as likely to enjoy reading more overall and rate themselves as good readers.

Dance Festival

On Thursday 13th February a team of dancers from Year 1 to Year 6 performed to 'Blame it on the Boogie', which they had been rehearsing in school. The dancers had a great time and loved the opportunity to perform on stage along with other Gloucestershire Schools.



Vikings in Gloucester!

As part of the work we have done with [Platform Rail](#), Class 3 followed their rail safety talk in school with a trip by train to undertake a historical walk around Gloucester. Platform Rail is a rail education scheme that works with schools to empower young people in accessing the railways, understand rail safety and provides fully funded trips for schools. We started the day at Kemble station, where children put their rail safety learning into practice

standing behind the yellow line and boarding the train safely. The children were taught how to read and interpret the platform digital train board and learnt the reality behind those pesky train delays! Luckily, the driver made up for the delay by sounding his horn and waving at our excited group! On the platform, children first made a human chronology of the history of Gloucester, before we visited the sites themselves. Gloucester was a Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Viking settlement, playing an important part in all three time periods. The Viking name for Gloucester was *Glevum* and we spotted lots of references to that in the signs, mosaics and historical features around town. We were able to see the Roman wall remains sunken below the current city streets, spot the tailor's shop where the Beatrix Potter story 'The Tailor of Gloucester' was set and visit historical sites of Gloucester such as the crossing place of the four Roman roads and St Oswald's Priory. St. Oswald's Priory was founded by Lady Aethelflaed of Mercia, daughter of Alfred the Great, around 900 CE. After a lovely sunny lunch, children took on the role of Viking characters, describing the reasons they left their homeland and what brought them to Britain. We ended our time in the city with some Viking and Anglo-Saxon games. Returning to Kemble meant we could practise finding our train on the large electronic station timetable and we talked about using the end destination to find the right train and how the timetables use 24 hour time. The QR code below will take you to the Platform website to find out more about our day!





Science book review club

In Science Book review club last term, the pupils had access to a whole range of non-fiction books as part of the Young People's Book Prize. Our meetings each week were held by a different pupil, 'the chair', and each child was able to give their own feedback about a title they had read. The students took turns selecting a different book each week to take home and explore, identifying some of the most fascinating facts they could share with the group. Some of our favourites were, 'Can You Get Rainbows in Space?' by Sheila Kanani and 'Mission: Arctic' by Katherina Weiss-Tuider. At the end of term, we collated all the feedback and

decided on a winning book! Winning in all categories was 'Engineers making a Difference' by Shini Somara. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the judging panel for this year's prize!

Recorder Club

Music plays an important part in the life of our school and we are pleased to be able to offer various musical clubs over the course of the school year. Recorder club happens on a Monday after school and is open to children in KS2. We have been working hard each week to learn how to play the notes B, A, and G. As we learn how to play the notes, we are also developing our ability to read notation so that we know what the notes look like on a musical staff. This term we are looking forward to moving on to learning some new notes. We play along to backing tracks with a variety of different musical genres and are often surprised by how good we sound! As we develop all of these skills, we are also learning how to play as part of an ensemble. This means we listen to those around us and try our best to create a good sound together.

If you are in KS2 and are interested in trying recorder club, please let Mrs Woodruffe know.

SATS Tips

SATS Season is nearly upon us and the most important message to our Year 6s is "Just do your best!"

SATs (officially called the Key Stage 2 National Curriculum Tests) are used, alongside teacher assessment of English writing and science, to measure school performance and to make sure individual pupils have the support that they need as they move into secondary school. Across one week (w/c 12th May), children across the country will sit national curriculum tests in English grammar, punctuation and spelling, English reading and Mathematics, arithmetic and reasoning. The data gathered from these assessments will provide

vital information to you about your child's attainment, support their transition to secondary school, and identify where additional support is best targeted to individual children. Whilst not the only measure used by secondary schools to benchmark children in Year 7, they play an important part in secondary schools initial judgments. At school, we have been calmly preparing and practising for a number of months, dipping into past papers, using previous papers to identify bespoke and whole class areas of improvement and getting a feel for how to answer those tricky questions!

As we enter the last full term before SATs week, children can maximise their chances of success, and start instilling a good revision ethic for secondary, by undertaking some revision at home, supported by their adults. Below are some links to revision areas, familiar to your child, that they can look at over the next 7 weeks. We will continue to prepare in school and through SATs clubs to make sure the children feel calm and ready to do their best.

Spelling

The spelling test is based on the spelling rules we learn at school, as well as the Common Exception Words. Try testing your child using past papers and identify any rules they are unfamiliar with.

2022 [Paper 2 Spelling](#)

2022 [Administering Paper 2](#)

2023 [Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling](#)

2023 [Administering Paper 2](#)

[Spelling Rules](#) by year group

Grammar

Use the past SPAG papers linked on Rollama to practise games linked to areas your child finds tricky.

Arithmetic

[Mathsbot Primary Menu](#) - Click on Key Stage 2 Arithmetic Paper.

Maths Reasoning

Use the papers we have completed already to practise. The mark schemes and past papers the children have already had a go at are linked here:

2022: [KS2 Maths Test Materials](#)

2023: [KS2 Maths Test Materials](#)

Sports club

Down Ampney offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities that pupils of all years can enjoy and participate in. This term in sports club, we made great use of our rounders equipment to introduce a new variation of the sport. Instead of the traditional bat and ball, the children played rounders with a football. By introducing a few basic rules of rounders, the children were also able to incorporate their existing knowledge and skills from football. We had so much fun trying something new, that we reached out to Sadie at School Sports who kindly lent us their Boccia equipment! The children had a great time testing out the curling stones in the sports hall and we even had a few competitive games. We will definitely be utilising the equipment in other clubs this term. Thank you Sadie!



Oracy Competition



A big well done to our 3 school winners who attended the 'Look Who's Talking' Oracy competition at Ann Edwards school on Friday 28th February. We had talks on climbing, beavers and guides which the judges felt were very inspiring!

[Read our 2 year PSHE rolling plan here](#)

Alongside core PSHE lessons, at Down Ampney we broaden children's experiences through a range of activities: Coram Life Education provides fun, engaging and memorable PSHE Education workshops, the "Life Bus". During these workshops, children meet Harold, the giraffe puppet ('Healthy Harold'), have discussions and watch short films about healthy eating, drugs — legal and illegal — and their effects on the body and how it works, friendships and their influence, and how choices and behaviours can affect their health and education outcomes. PC Leah comes in regularly to support our work on Internet Safety, talking to children about risks they may encounter and how to deal with them safely. We have also run a Rail Safety talk through Platform this year, taken part in World Mental Health day and offered children First Aid Training through Midlands Air Ambulance. The "economic" part of PSHE covers economic wellbeing and careers - at Down Ampney, we promote a wide range of career opportunities through career links on subject working walls, studies of key geographers, scientists and historians through subject teaching as well as our [annual careers week](#)

We also use Nationwide MoneySense workshops to help promote an understanding of money and savings from an early age.

Subject in focus: PSHE

At Down Ampney, PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education) covers a wide range of areas to prepare young people for the world they are growing up in.

PSHE education is statutory and this includes mental and physical health education, vital areas to ensure children are supported in. Down Ampney has a qualified Senior Mental Health Lead in Miss Homan-Green and Mrs Paterson is a trained ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Adult), giving bespoke one to one support to children when they need it. Mrs Gray holds a Level 5 diploma in Trauma Informed Practice and Down Ampney is a Trauma Informed School: one that is able to support children who suffer with trauma or mental health problems and whose troubled behaviour acts as a barrier to learning.

In PSHE lessons, we use Coram Life Education, which is the leading charity provider of relationships, health, wellbeing, and drugs education, to offer a whole-school approach to wellbeing and mental health. Children study the same topic areas across the school, at the same time, with learning tailored to their age group: Me and My Relationships, Valuing Difference, Keeping Safe, Rights and Respect, Being My Best and Growing and Changing.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 3rd - Secondary school allocation day
 March 5th - Experience Lent
 March 6th - World book date, reading ambassadors to meet Tweedy, Pentathlon.
 March 7th - Swimming
 March 14th - Swimming
 March 19th - Beep Beep Day
 March 21st - Swimming
 March 24th to March 27th - Parents meeting so NO TEACHER LED CLUBS
 March 24th - Graphic Novel Club
 March 28th - INSET day, school closed to pupils.