



2024-25 Week 23 Update

This Week

It has been a very busy start to March, with secondary allocations coming out on Monday. We are delighted that all of our Y6s got their first choices and will move on to Farmers, Bradon Forest and Kingshill this year. Information has started to be shared with us for open events for the current Year 5s, so the cycle starts again. Allocations for places to start Down Ampney in September will be coming out next month, and indications are that we will be oversubscribed with a waiting list. As you are aware, siblings take priority, but if you know anyone who does not get in, please do get them to get in touch, and I can let them know how the appeals process works. We are hopeful that our PAN will increase to 12 in future years and that we can continue to accommodate those children wanting to join us.

Other events this week included hosting over one hundred children from the six local small church schools to experience Lent, which we held at All Saints Church on Wednesday. It was lovely to see the children from these local schools come together and consider our Christian Distinctness as well as compare the fasting element of Lent with other world religions. Yesterday, a group of children travelled to Rodmarton to see Tweedy, the clown, share his new book, and a team of KS2 children won the Panathlon for the area and got through to the Gloucestershire finals later in the year. We enjoyed World Book Day, and every child in the school took home a free book from our bookstore.

Swimming

We have managed to secure an additional swimming session to replace last week's lost lesson, and this will be on Friday, April 4th.

Spirituality Garden

Phase one of the creation of the spirituality garden is now complete, and I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped with this last weekend. There is more planned, and the children throughout the school have spent time this week designing what they would like to be added next. We will add some items to our Amazon Wishlist to share soon. There will also be some more construction, so watch this space for details on when you can volunteer to help. We will share information about other 'jobs' that you can offer to assist in the forest school area. The first is weaving the willow dome – no experience is needed, just the willingness to climb a ladder and weave willow. Please let me know if you think you can help, as this is the perfect willow weaving season!

Next Week

We have a busy week next week at a staffing level with a variety of courses, visits, and transition meetings with secondary schools taking place. Don't be surprised if your child lets you know that they have been taught by a different teacher! Mrs Woodruffe and I are also working hard behind the scenes for the next part of the academisation integration, with us reaching the year-end and final closure of our GCC school accounts, as well as the transfer of our management information systems to be in line with the trust. Please bear with us if emails take longer to reply to during this process.

Early Adopter Free Breakfast Clubs

We are delighted to be one of fifteen schools in Gloucestershire to pilot the government's new free breakfast club schemes. This means that from Easter, we will be providing a free breakfast club from 8 am. We have decided that for term five, we will also not charge from 7:45-8 am while we monitor the take-up and arrival times of the children. More details will follow on this, and we hope it will be something that you will all make use of.



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Parent meetings

Appointments are being sent out today – please check your messages through parentmail.

PTA update

This week, the PTA met to discuss some of the events that are coming up:

Thursday, March 20th – after school water bottle sale (a chance to stock up on water bottles!)

Saturday, April 5th - Sunday, April 27th – Easter Egg trail around the village.

Friday, April 11th – make the rules days (fundraising shared with Mrs Frost London Marathon)

May 16th – school disco – more details to follow.

Rev. Swanton's Last Service

We are hoping to have a school presence at Rev. Swanton's last service, which will be on Sunday, April, at All Saints Church. To assist our planning, please let me know if your child will be able to join us that morning (exact timings to follow).

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

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

March 24th	Parent progress meetings this week – NO CLUBS
March 28th	INSET DAY
April 4th	Class 3 morning at De Vere hotel
April 11th	Easter egg hunt and non-uniform day
May 12th	Year 6 SATS week
May 23rd	Sports Day (if dry)
June 3rd	School beat visit
June 10th	Y6 leavers service at the Cathedral
June 17th	RIAT STEM day
June 21st	Small school fundraising
June 23rd	District Sports
June 26th	Area Sports
1 st and 2 nd July	Farmors Induction days
July 4th	School Fete
July 18th	Last day of the term