



Downham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

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Autumn Term 2011

Friday 23rd September 2011

This week in assembly we have been thinking about those who are less fortunate than ourselves. This included hearing about the story of 'The Widow's mite' and Miss Boyd's and Miss Proctor's trip to Romania as well as our assemblies conducted by Pastor Cox and Rev. Robertson. Please take time to talk about this important theme at home with your children and consider what they might do to help others.

Life in school

All new reception children have started school. We also welcome ten further children who have joined our school in other classes. We wish them a very happy and successful time at Downham School. Children are now well and truly involved in all the new themes that are going on and displays are reflecting the quality of work as well as exciting and motivating the children.



GE best work

RP work to inspire a space topic

School Library

If any parents or relatives have any good quality, current nonfiction books that they no longer require, we would be delighted to have them for the school library. Please bring them to the school office.

Bottle Tops

We are still collecting bottle tops but these can now only be milk bottle tops. Please bring them to the school office.

Harvest

Our Harvest Festival celebrations will be on Tues 4th and Wednesday 5th October. As usual, all children will take part and parents are welcome to attend. Due to space limitations we will split the school and VB, ES, CW and LB will have their celebration on Tues 4th, with RP, GE, MM and KN (yr 1 only) on the 5th. The celebrations will commence at 2.30pm. Reception children will celebrate harvest within their classrooms.

This year, as part of our Harvest Festival celebrations, we will be asking for donations for the *Harvest for the Hungry Campaign*. The Harvest boxes have been delivered to the school, one per class, and we would ask for the following: Foundation and Key Stage One classes to bring a packet of PLAIN FLOUR or RICE. Key Stage Two classes to bring a packet of SUGAR or LENTILS.

Please can you make sure that the food has a "best before" date after January 2012 and it is brought into school in a plastic bag.

The charity has also asked for donations to help send the boxes to Bulgaria, and we will therefore hold a collection at the Harvest Festival Celebrations to support this much needed venture.

The children will learn more about the *Harvest for the Hungry Campaign* in their assembly on Friday. You can also learn more about the campaign from the website www.harvestforthehungry.co.uk

School Priorities - presentation

As you know one of our major priorities this year is writing and alongside this come presentation skills. The children have individual presentation / handwriting targets which are being reviewed regularly. Your child should be able to tell you their target! Please encourage them in this target when supporting work at home. There are displays in the classrooms and on our WOW board in the hall demonstrating outstanding progress in presentation skills.

Wine tasting Evening-Reminder

The staff are holding a wine tasting evening on Friday 30th September at 7.30pm. There will be a number of white and red wines to taste. The evening will be informal and in a quiz style with teams of 8. You are welcome to bring your own nibbles. The money raised from the event will go to the Romania visits of Miss Proctor and Miss Boyd. The event is being hosted by a wine expert who has a wealth of knowledge. Please get tickets at a cost of £15 from the school office as soon as possible.

PTA News

Out of School Successes:

Please continue to inform the school if your child achieves an out of school success. We would love to celebrate their achievements with them. We share out of school successes in our whole school assembly on Monday.

Congratulations this week goes to:

- Antonio Bull for coming second in her ballet competition.
- Anna Collis for winning the best beginner in a recent sailing competition.
- Charlie Collis for coming first as the best junior in a recent sailing competition
- Cameron Brown for being awarded best behaved footballer by his club.
- Marney Easen for competing and winning in the Essex Championships in beam, bar, floor and overall champion.

Green book entries

Staff send children to us if a child has produced an especially good piece of work, tried very hard or shown very good behaviour. They receive a Headteacher sticker and they write their name into the 'Green Book'. This week the entries are:

- Francesca Warrior for beautifully presented homework about space
- Amelia Armiger, Jessica Gladwin and Marney Easen for a wonderful newspaper recount

Star of the Week

Each class has a star of the week. This is a different child or adult every week. The class share what they believe are the qualities of that child. Congratulations to the children who are 'stars of the week'.

Headteachers' Award Finn Foley for being especially helpful consistently at playtime	Class JA Dominic Lycett	Class KN Lucy Sherwin	Class LB Bella Bailey	Class MM Mazie Blewitt
Class G/E Oliver Bradbrook-Dibley	Class ES Bailie Underwood	Class CW Jacob Fells	Class VB Daniella Constantinou	Class RP Michael Roberts

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Craig and Mrs Wilson
Headteachers

Letters that have been emailed this week: Braintree Trip letter for Class CW, Bikeability for Year 6 in Group 1, Art Club letter, Girls in Year 5 Football letter and Boys in Year 5 Football letter.