



Downham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

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Autumn Term 2011

Friday 30th September 2011

Assembly

We are looking at the theme of sharing as we prepare for the time of Harvest. The children heard the miracle of feeding the Five Thousand. We have also entered into the season of Michaelmas and the children heard the story of St Michael the Archangel on Michaelmas day (29th September)

Life in school

VB and PR enjoyed their visits to the Planetarium in Southend as part of their space inspired topics. When Mrs Craig questioned the children about what they had learnt she was bowled over by the following facts:

If you point your thumb in the air towards the sky, your thumb nail will cover 50 million galaxies. Within our galaxy, the Milky Way, there are over 200 thousand million solar systems.

The Sun loses 4 million tonnes of its energy per second.

Neptune has recently completed its orbit of the sun. As it's much further away from the Sun than the Earth, its orbit takes much longer. It takes almost 165 years to orbit around the Sun.

This week we have also had a trip to the zoo by GE, and a trip to Braintree Victorian Museum by CW. We would like to say a big thank you to parents for supporting these visits and the PTA for subsidising the coaches.

Central League Football



Thank you to everyone who came to support the children on Wednesday's football tournament at Mayflower. The sun was shining and everyone was in good spirits. The girls did particularly well and won a trophy for showing good sportsmanship. Special mention to Annabel Crease and Jackson Fisk for their excellent goal keeping skills.

Hayling Island REMINDER

There will be a meeting on Monday 3rd October at 6pm for Year 6 children and their parents about the residential visit. This will be in the school hall and should last approximately forty minutes.

Reminder

This is to remind you that teachers are always happy to discuss any aspect of your child's learning with you and appointments can be made with the school office. Could we politely remind you that teachers are extremely busy before school, setting up for lessons which commence at 8.45am. Should you wish to pass a message on to your child's teacher in the morning there is always a teaching assistant available on the door to do this for you. There is also a senior teacher on duty at the gate every morning and afternoon who would be happy to pass on messages to teachers should you prefer.

Presentation

As you are aware we have put a great deal of work into improving children's general presentation this term with regular handwriting sessions and children working towards individual targets. There are 2 ways you can support us on this.

1. When your child completes a piece of written homework - maths or English, could you please ask them what their current target is and support them in ensuring they make a special effort with this in their homework.
2. We expect the same standard of presentation in homework as at school. All children from year 4 and above should be joining their writing and using a black fibretip or rollerball pen. If you feel your child's presentation is not the best it can be please don't hesitate to ask your child to repeat it. In this way we can demonstrate consistency of expectation between home and school.

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 uniform shop

The shop is closed for annual holiday from Wednesday 20th October till Wednesday 2nd November inclusive.

Wine Tasting

It is with disappointment that we have had to cancel the wine tasting event this Friday due to lack of support.

PTA News

The PTA held their AGM on Tuesday. Thank you to all the members who have served on the committee last year. It makes a fantastic difference to the opportunities we provide for your children. Please support their work in the coming year. A new committee were formed and we wish them every success.

The PTA would like to remind parents about the Harrods coach trip on Saturday 12th November. Please see the flyer that was sent with the previous newsletter email.

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:

- ✓ Katie Cronin for achieving her water skills grade one.
- ✓ Joe Drumgold for coming first in a recent go Karting competition.
- ✓ Lauren Stoffer for coming first in 'Own a Pony' competition where she had to answer questions, muck out her pony and groom him.
- ✓ Leon Imber for achieving his green belt in karate.
- ✓ Alfie Blewitt for being awarded 'Save of the Year' from his football club.
- ✓ Peter Cronin for achieving his yellow belt in karate.
- ✓ Jack Ingram for achieving his yellow belt in karate.

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:

- Joe Drumgold for his space alliteration poems
- Jaime Fowler for her beautiful painting of The Mayflower
- Elisia Robinson for lovely writing
- Charlotte Lycett for excellent standard of homework
- Isabel Beadle for making a 3D solid- the trickiest in the class.

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 Lauren Stoffer for being very polite and caring	Class JA Charlotte Flood	Class KN Bobby Smith	Class LB Prince Kunwar	Class MM Caitlin Morrish
Class G/E Saffron Beal	Class ES Daniel Hilden	Class CW Amy Jones	Class VB Danny Ronald	Class RP Ayron Redgrave

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Craig and Mrs Wilson
Headteachers

Letters that have been emailed this week:

PTA Newsletter
Parent Governor Election
Hyde Hall Trip and Permission Slip for Class ES
Times Table for Year 3
Phonics letter for KS1 and KS2.



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