



Downside Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Karen Hooker

26th November 2021

Dear parents,

It's been another busy couple of weeks at Downside:

- We were really lucky to have a visit from the **Mayor of Luton**, Councillor Hussain last week. He spoke to all the children about his role, shared the meaning behind the ceremonial clothing he was wearing and answered some of our children's questions.
- Our Reception children enjoyed their visits to the local **library**.
- Our new **House Captains** have enjoyed running their first House meeting and encouraging their houses to do well in the weekly competition.
- Year 4 have taken part in their **Ancient Greek days** – it was lovely seeing what the children were learning about and making.
- The school photographers took individual photos of the children looking very smart in their uniform. Proofs will be sent home shortly, along with details of how to order.

Our fundraising for **Children in Need** raised just under £900 – which we were really pleased by.

Term time leave:

The school has seen an increase in term time leave requests recently. I know that we have had travel restrictions and that many families have not seen their relatives for a long time, but attending school is a statutory requirement for children. All children in the school have missed some learning and the team are working really hard to close this gap. Taking children out of school for a sustained amount of time will have an impact on a child's progress.

As a reminder, all parents should arrange an appointment with Miss Naz, our Family Worker, before booking any leave. Miss Naz will go through the procedures regarding the leave and will be able to speak to the class teacher to ensure that you are told what areas of learning you will need to teach your child to ensure they do not miss out academically.

As a reminder the school has 2.5 weeks holiday in December/January – an ideal time for families to travel and avoid taking children out of school.

Wishing you all a good weekend!

Yours sincerely,

