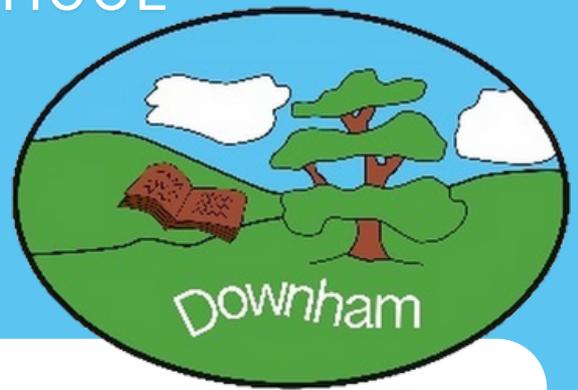


NEWSLETTER

INSPIRING ALL TO SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

CHALLENGE - CREATIVITY- CRITICAL THINKING-
COLLABORATION - COMPASSION



Edition 5: 3rd October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, we had a visit from our CEO, Sean Tobin and Bethan Russell, our School Effectiveness Partner. He wrote *'It was a real pleasure to visit the school and see so many examples of good practice in action. I was particularly impressed by how engaged the pupils were in their learning, the excellent behaviour across the school, and the calm, tidy environment you've created. Most of all, it was wonderful to see happy, smiling children who clearly feel safe and supported.'* Thank you to those parents who have already completed their online parent survey. We are most grateful to you for your feedback. Finally, we have exciting news to share...the PTA are launching a Scarecrow Festival for half-term week! Please see the attached leaflet for more information. Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Walker, Executive Headteacher & Miss Bailey, Executive Deputy Headteacher

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Please don't forget to send in donations for our Harvest Festival food collection, which will run until Friday 10th October. Each class is being asked to donate non-perishable items, all of which will be donated to the Billericay Food Bank.

We would be most grateful for donations of the following:

EYFS: Rice

Year 1: Pasta

Year 2: Tins of fruit or vegetables

Year 3: Jam

Year 4: Cereal

Year 5: Tea bags

Year 6: Biscuits



Thank you to all those who have contributed so far.

IMPORTANT DATES:

8th Oct: NSPCC workshops for Years 2, 5 and 6

9th Oct: Cross county race 1

12th Oct: 11am Harvest Service at St Margaret's Church, Downham

15th Oct: ECFRS Firework/Halloween Safety Assembly

16th Oct: Year 2 trip to Essex Fire Museum

17th Oct: Year 4 trip to British Museum

23rd Oct: PTA disco

4.30-6.00pm EYFS/KS1 6.15-7.15pm KS2

24th Oct: 9.15am Year 5 parents invited in for Rise and Shine Assembly

24th Oct: Last day of Autumn 1

3rd Nov: INSET Day

4th Nov: First day of Autumn 2

10th/11th/17th/18th Nov: Year 6 Bikeability

11th Nov: 10.45am Laying of a wreath at Ramsden Heath (Worship Group)

20th-25th Nov: Scholastic Book Fair

22nd Nov: 12.30-4pm PTA Christmas Bazaar

24th Nov: Royal Albert Hall (choir)

3rd Dec: Whole school panto trip (am)

3rd Dec: 1.15-3.15pm PTA Christmas activities in hall



ATTENDANCE:

We have received several requests for absences due to term-time holidays. We are writing to remind all parents and carers of our school policy regarding requests for student leave during term time. The school's position is in line with Essex County Council and the Department for Education (DfE)] guidance, in that our school is unable to authorise any requests for holidays during term time. We may only grant leave in exceptional circumstances, and a family holiday is not considered an exceptional circumstance.

Missing school, even for a few days, can have a significant and detrimental impact on a child's education and attainment.

Unauthorised absence from school may result in the issue of a penalty notice (fine) from the Local Authority.

A LITTLE REMINDER:

It has been brought to our attention that car engines are being left running outside school when dropping children off and collecting from school. This is an issue that affects both air quality and the experience for families walking to and from school.

We would politely request that you please switch off your car engines when parked or waiting. October is International Walk To School month - you can find more information here: <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/get-involved/international-walk-to-school-month/>



OUR DOWNHAM 5C AWARD WINNERS FOR THIS WEEK:

Year 1: Jack for Courage

Year 2: Pearl for Critical Thinking

Year 3: Ce-ce for Challenge

Year 4: Charlie for Challenge &

Boston for Critical Thinking

Year 5: Finley for Courage

Year 6: George for Creativity



HEADTEACHER'S AWARD:

This week's award goes to Caitlin in Year 5. Caitlin plays an active role in Worship Group and really impresses Miss Bailey with her sensible and mature attitude.



Don't forget that the next Downham Family Service is on Sunday 5th October at 11.00am. They will be collecting non-perishable items for their Harvest Festival!

Harvest

