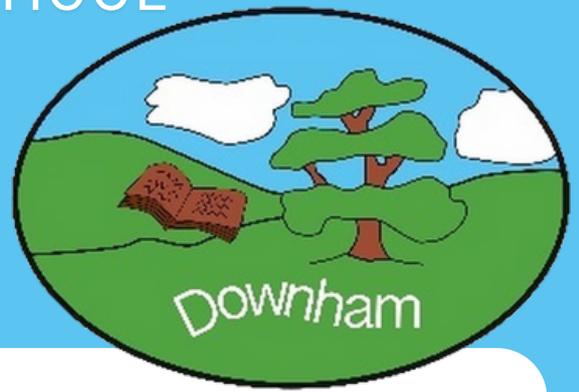


# NEWSLETTER

INSPIRING ALL TO SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

CHALLENGE - CREATIVITY- CRITICAL THINKING-  
COLLABORATION - COURAGE



## Edition 16: 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! It was wonderful to welcome the children back to school on Monday. The weather has been bitterly cold this week, but in school it has been so joyful seeing the children being back with their friends and starting their new topics.

We have some exciting news to announce that on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026, we officially became part of Berlesduna Academy Trust! This partnership opens up fantastic new opportunities for our pupils to collaborate with peer schools, while allowing our staff to share expertise and best practices across the Trust. While our unique school identity remains the same, we are excited to grow within this supportive and vibrant educational family. We are very much looking forward to the year ahead, and all the positive changes that it will bring.

Next week, there are information sessions for parents of pupils in Year 1 and Year 4. Please join us in the hall if you can, and allow a few minutes beforehand to complete the signing-in process. If you are unable to make it, information will be sent home with your child. We will be explaining everything you need to know about the Phonics Screening Check and the Multiplication Tables Check. We really hope you will be able to join us.

Have a lovely weekend!

Ms Walker, Executive Headteacher (NPQEL) & Miss Bailey, Executive Deputy Headteacher (NPQH)

## CENSUS DAY

Thursday 15th January is School Census Day. This is a very important day for our school because our government funding for the entire year is calculated based on how many children take a school meal on this specific day. Even if your child usually brings a packed lunch, we would be incredibly grateful if they could choose a school meal this Thursday. The more children who eat a school-prepared lunch, the more money we receive to spend on books, playground equipment, and learning resources. Mrs Sexton and Mrs Patten will be serving a delicious all-day breakfast (sausages, bacon, hash brown bites, beans and scrambled egg) on this day. Please book via ParentPay by the end of Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026. **Parents who have already ordered next Thursday's lunch will need to reorder for that day.**



## ATTENDANCE:

Here is the attendance for each class for this week:

Ducklings - 98.9%

Robins - 98.9%

Nightingales - 96.2%

Woodpeckers - 98.3%

Kingfishers - 97.9%

Owls - 96.0%

Eagles - 89.5%



**WELL DONE DUCKLINGS AND ROBINS!**

## IMPORTANT DATES:

12 Jan: Year 1 Parent Information Session in hall, 2.30pm

13 Jan: Year 4 Parent Information Session in hall, 2.45pm

15 Jan: Special All Day Breakfast lunch

19 Jan: Year 6 Parent Information Session in hall, 2.45pm

21 Jan: Bowling event (invitation only)

22 Jan: Cross country race 3

27 Jan: Swimming gala at Mayflower School

30 Jan Dental check for EYFS & Year 3

4 Feb: Year 3 trip to Chelmsford Museum

4 Feb: Year 5 trip to Southend Planetarium

6 Feb: NSPCC Number Day

10 Feb: Safer Internet Day

10 & 11 Feb: Parents' Evening

## OUR DOWNHAM 5C AWARD WINNERS FOR THIS WEEK:

**EYFS** - Olivia for collaboration

**Year 1** - Charlie for challenge

**Year 2** - Leo for critical thinking

**Year 3** - Nula for challenge

**Year 4** - Eliza for critical thinking

**Year 5** - Lloyd for collaboration

**Year 6** - Victor for challenge and critical thinking



## HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

This week the Headteacher's Award goes to Summer in Year 1 for really impressing me with her amazing phonics!

Well done, Summer, you are a superstar!



## A VERY SPECIAL INVITATION!

The children in EYFS would like to invite their mum or grandma to have lunch with them in school on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March (just before Mothering Sunday). You will be able to order a meal on ParentPay: either fish fingers or veggie nuggets with chips and cake for dessert!

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June, it will be the turn of Year 1 inviting their dad or grandad for lunch (just before Father's Day!)

## POLITE REMINDER

We absolutely love seeing all your four-legged friends on the gate, but please remember that dogs are not permitted onto the school site or grounds.