



Downham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Inspiring Children to Soar to New Heights

Creativity

Collaboration

Critical Thinking

Courage

Challenge

Weekly Round-Up: Friday 21st March 2025

Good afternoon,

What a joy to hear the sound of singing around the school this week as the children are practising for our Easter Celebration. Each class is working on retelling part of the Easter story, from Ducklings right up to Eagles.

As Holy Week starts on a high note when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey and the crowds cheered and welcomed him, sometimes we feel that life is going well and we have lots of people cheering us on. Sometimes, like before the Last Supper when Jesus washed his disciples' feet, when we have opportunities to serve and help others. However, there are other times when we have dark days when our friends desert us and we feel alone, like Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and later when he died on the cross. That's when we need to remember that the story isn't finished yet - better days are ahead with Jesus' resurrection on that first Easter Sunday. It is imperative that we too keep our hopes high, even in the midst of dark days and stormy seasons of life. This is just one of the lessons we seek to teach the children in our care - the importance of holding hope in our hearts as we work together and help one another to meet our goals.

This week we have lost a good friend as our former colleague, Mrs Sally Thompson, lost her final battle against cancer. We have, however, also known great joy and success as the choir took part in the Key Stage 2 Music Festival and the Years 3 & 4 Football Team competed at a tournament at Mayflower High School, coming second overall. We would like to thank all parents and staff involved both in the music festival and the football tournament - without you, these wonderful events and experiences for the children would not be possible.



A TRULY GREAT
teacher
IS HARD TO FIND
♥ **Difficult** ♥
TO PART WITH AND
Impossible
TO FORGET

It was with great sadness this week that we learnt of the death of Mrs Sally Thompson - a much-loved former Teaching Assistant and Teacher at Downham.

Every child wanted to be in Mrs Thompson's class and every adult wanted to work alongside her; she radiated warmth, love, understanding and compassion. She took time to notice and support everyone - from the highfliers to the strugglers, recognising that everyone needs a helping hand from time to time. She was a passionate History leader and was always ready to share her knowledge and enthusiasm.

In recent years, Mrs Thompson loved meeting past pupils, parents and grandparents when she was out walking and loved to hear news of pupils she had taught. She kept in touch with many of her former colleagues and was a listening ear and a welcoming hug at the end of many a tough day.

So many in our wider school community are heartbroken by the loss of our dear friend. In the summer term, some of the staff will be raising money for St Luke's Hospice in memory of Mrs Thompson. We hope we can count on your support.

Head Teacher's Award	Harry -demonstrating great resilience and positivity throughout the week	
Class Teachers' 5Cs Awards	Ducklings	Meadow - creativity when using the loose parts
	Robins	Arthur - courage and challenge during Assessment Week
	Nightingales	Joshua - challenge when tackling reading activities
	Woodpeckers	Albert - critical thinking in Maths lessons throughout the week
	Kingfishers	Alexandra - critical thinking when responding to feedback in English
	Owls	Jamie - creativity and comedy - bring fun and laughter to Owls class this week
	Eagles	Isla Bea - critical thinking and challenge when completing tests

House Points			
Water	Earth	Air	Fire
242	139	243	250

 Times Tables Rockstars	
Woodpeckers	Ben
Kingfishers	Alexandra
Owls	Victor
Eagles	Chloe
Class of the Week	Kingfishers



Please read the Parent Guide and share relevant information with your children.
 Let's stay safe online!

Attendance:	
Whole School	
Attendance: 95.4% Class with highest attendance: Owls Class - Well done!	
Ducklings	94.8%
Robins	97.0%
Nightingales	91.4%
Woodpeckers	94.5%
Kingfishers	96.4%
Owls	98.1%
Eagles	96.0%

The importance of school attendance. Improving attendance is everyone's business. The barriers to accessing education are wide and complex, both within and beyond the school gates, and are often specific to individual pupils and families. The foundation of securing good attendance is that school is a calm, orderly, safe, and supportive environment where all pupils want to be and are keen and ready to learn. Some pupils find it harder than others to attend school and therefore at all stages of improving attendance, schools and partners should work with pupils and parents to remove any barriers to attendance by building strong and trusting relationships and working together to put the right support in place. Securing good attendance cannot therefore be seen in isolation, and effective practices for improvement will involve close interaction with schools' efforts on curriculum, behaviour, bullying, special educational needs support, pastoral and mental health and wellbeing, and effective use of resources, including pupil premium. It cannot solely be the preserve of a single member of staff, or organisation, it must be a concerted effort across all teaching and nonteaching staff in school, the trust or governing body, the local authority, and other local partners.

Lunch Menu for Week Beginning Monday 24th March 2025

All meals must be pre-ordered (and paid) on the ParentPay website. Class teachers will no longer be taking a lunch register. Any children without a pre-booked lunch must have a packed lunch.

Week 2				
Ham and Cheese French Bread Pizza	Chicken Nuggets	Roast Pork	Pasta and Meatballs	Fish Fingers
Margherita French Bread Pizza) (V)	Veggie Sausages(V)	Roasted Vegetable Parcel (V)	Quorn Bolognese (V)	Veggie Nuggets (V)
Baked Beans or Sweetcorn	Potato Wedges, Beans or Peas	Roast Potatoes, Vegetables, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy	Garlic Bread and Green Beans	Chips, Baked Beans or Sweetcorn
Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato with Beans, Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese
Ham, Cheese or Tuna Baguette	Ham, Cheese or Tuna Baguette	Ham, Cheese or Tuna Baguette with side salad	Ham, Cheese or Tuna Baguette	Ham, Cheese or Tuna Baguette
Oat Flapjack	School Cake	Fresh Fruit Platter	Fruit Yogurt	Favourite School Mousse
Salad Bar Available	Salad Bar Available	Salad Bar Unavailable	Salad Bar Available	Salad Bar Available



Thank you to everyone who donated to Comic Relief we collected £201.76. Thank you also to Chanelle and her mum for collecting money at the gate and painting red noses!

This Week



This week the choir, led by Miss Proctor, took part in the Key Stage 2 Music Festival.



Year 6 Topic Work

Ducklings Class have been using multilink in Maths this week.



The Years 3 & 4 Football Team came 2nd at their tournament this week!



Diary Dates

Tuesday 1st April at 6.30pm
Easter Celebration Service - see
below for more information

INSET DAYS:
22nd & 23rd May



For September 2025 we need volunteers to fill the following positions on the PTA:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer

The PTA plays a vital role in putting on whole school community events and fundraising. Without volunteers to fill these positions, it will not be possible to have a PTA for the next academic year. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Please get in touch with Katie or any of the current PTA members for more information or to volunteer.



Our Easter Celebration will be held at William de Ferrers School in South Woodham Ferrers on Tuesday 1st April at 6.30pm.

We hope you will be able to come along to this special whole school community event. Each class will be retelling a section of the Easter Story.

Tickets (2 per family) cost £2 each and can be paid for via ParentPay.

On the first Sunday of every month, there is a Family Service at St Margaret's Church of England, Downham, at 11am. Rev Jacqui would love to see you there!

