



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 14^h March 2025

Good afternoon,

What a busy week! Science week has been a great success and we would like to thank so many of you for coming into school on Family Science Day. The children loved working alongside family members and carrying out investigations along the theme of Changing and Adapting.

We were very pleased to welcome Dr Wilder (Ada's mum) and Dr Dearman (Mrs Dearman's son) to school to talk about their work as scientists. Dr Dearman works in the field of chemistry; he is involved in carrying out agricultural food research. Dr Wilder is a cardiovascular pharmacologist and gave us an important reminder that Christianity and science are not exclusive but actually go hand in hand with each other



We are proud to announce that our team of two Year 1 children and two Year 5 children won the Berlesduna Science Competition this week. They carried out an investigation and presented their findings in front of all the representatives from other schools. They did a wonderful job!

In other news, the Year 5 and Year 6 classes attended Life Expo at Billericay Baptist Church this week and enjoyed the opportunity to explore more about the life of Jesus and how the Christian faith can impact us today. Our cross-country runners took part in Round 2 and did us proud! We had 3 top 10 finishers and Teddy qualified for the County Finals!



Perhaps you have seen signs when visiting a doctor or dentist surgery or boarding a bus which ask that all members of staff in these environments are treated with respect. At Downham, we continually work hard to build a culture of respect. We believe that respect is key to living in a happy, productive society. When we show respect to other people, then we can expect respect in return. We encourage the children to respect adults, their peers, themselves and their environment.

Children learn from what they see and hear. Please remember this when you are communicating with school staff and with each other on the school grounds and beyond. There will be times when we have concerns or are unhappy but it is important that we respond to all situations appropriately and respectfully.

Please remember that all email communications should be sent to teachers via the school office. What's App groups set up by parents are not organised or administered by school staff. We ask that any communication about the school on social media be respectful.



We are delighted to introduce Miss Bailey our new Executive Deputy Head to the Downham community.



Miss Bailey brings a wealth of experience to her role. She has been Head of Ford End C of E Primary School since April 2023, where she successfully led the school through a period of rapid improvement, culminating in an Ofsted judgement of 'Good' in all categories in November 2023. This achievement was the result of hard work, determination, and perseverance. Her leadership has deepened her understanding of church school leadership and strengthened her ability to develop the Christian distinctiveness of the school in the best interests of the children and wider community. She recognises that, as a small church school in a village, strong relationships with families, the church, and the local community are essential.

As a leader, Miss Bailey is reliable, solid, and trustworthy. She remains a calm and stable influence, even in challenging situations, and is known for her sensitivity to the needs of others, as well as her conscientious and industrious approach. She understands the importance of building trust among colleagues, ensuring a collaborative and supportive environment.

The new leadership structure includes an Executive Headteacher, an Executive Deputy Head, and an Assistant Head. This model strengthens the school by ensuring leadership is both strategic and hands-on:

- The Executive Headteacher provides overarching leadership, ensuring consistency, high standards, and alignment with the school's vision.
- The Executive Deputy Head leads on key areas of school improvement and daily operations, providing strong leadership across the school.
- The Assistant Head plays a crucial role in supporting pupils, staff, and the wider school community, focusing on teaching, learning, and pastoral care.

This structure enables a collaborative approach to leadership, ensuring strong guidance at every level while maintaining stability and continuity for pupils, staff, and families. We will continue to keep you informed and welcome any further questions you may have.

Head Teacher's Award	Lewis and Sarah - we are so proud of you both! You have made so much progress throughout your time at Downham and we are really going to miss you both. We wish you well as you move to Florida!	
Class Teachers' 5Cs Awards	Ducklings	Jack - courage when going to an after-school club
	Robins	Althea - collaboration and critical thinking - working brilliantly in our science investigations this week, asking and answering her own science questions.
	Nightingales	Victoria - creativity when sketching African animals
	Woodpeckers	Charlie - challenge with handwriting practice
	Kingfishers	Oliver - courage when joining in football with friends this week
	Owls	Betsy and Fletcher - showing all 5Cs at the Berlesduna Science Competition this week. Well Done!
	Eagles	Lewis and Sarah - Good Luck in America! We will miss you!

House Points			
Water	Earth	Air	Fire
259	138	229	195

 Times Tables Rockstars	
Woodpeckers	Ben
Kingfishers	Lottie
Owls	George
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: 95.5 % **Class**
with highest attendance:
Ducklings Class - Well
done!

Ducklings	100.0 %
Robins	96.1 %
Nightingales	93.8%
Woodpeckers	96.9 %
Kingfishers	94.3 %
Owls	94.2 %
Eagles	95.9 %

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 17th 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 1				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mac and Cheese	Butcher's Sausages	Roast Turkey	Mild Chilli con carne (No Kidney Beans)	Fish Fingers
Spinach & Tomato Pasta (V)	Glamorgan Vegetable Sausages (V)	Roasted Vegetable Parcel (V)	Mild Quorn Chilli con carne (V)	Veggie Nuggets (V)
Garlic Bread and Sweetcorn	Mashed Potatoes, B/Beans or Peas, Gravy optional	Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy	Served with Wholemeal Rice and Green Beans	Served with 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	Ham, Cheese or Tuna baguette	Ham, Cheese or Tuna baguette
Oat Flapjack	Chocolate Sponge	Fresh Fruit Platter	Fruit Yogurt	Favourite School Mousse
Salad Bar Available	Salad Bar Available	Salad Bar Unavailable	Salad Bar Available	Salad Bar Available



Please remember to label all items of clothing, lunch boxes, snack pots and water bottles. This will make it much easier to retrieve lost property. Please check the Lost Property baskets in the school's foyer for any missing / lost items.

This Week

		
<p><i>Berlesduna Science Competition</i></p>		<p><i>Life Expo at Billericay Baptist Church</i></p>
		
<p><i>EYFS</i></p>	<p><i>Year 1</i></p>	<p><i>Year 2</i></p>
		
<p><i>Year 3</i></p>	<p><i>Year 4</i></p>	<p><i>Year 5</i></p>
		
<p><i>Year 6</i></p>	<p><i>Mr Poulson couldn't resist getting involved in Family Science Day</i></p>	<p><i>Year 5 took part in the Step into the NHS competition</i></p>

Diary Dates

Friday 21st March -Non-uniform:
Wear Something Red and bring a
donation for Comic Relief
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!

