



Downham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Inspiring Children to Soar to New Heights

Creativity

Collaboration

Critical Thinking

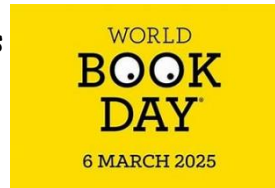
Courage

Challenge

Weekly Round-Up: Friday 7th March 2025

Good afternoon,

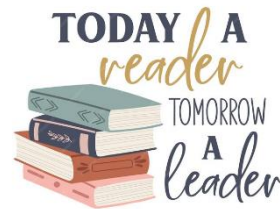
This week we celebrated World Book Day! Mrs Suters with an inspirational assembly, sharing ideas for reading and favourite books. The children looked wonderful, dressed as their favourite characters from books. Thank you for all of your hard work with these costumes; we appreciate that they don't just magically appear in wardrobes overnight but require a lot of effort on your part.



At Downham, we believe that reading is one of the most powerful tools we can give the children in our care. This year we have revamped our library; Mrs Tapley has worked incredibly hard to transform the old ICT suite into a dedicated library space. The children love spending time in the new library, choosing books and exploring different genres. If anyone has any good quality books which they would like to donate to the school's library, that would be great!

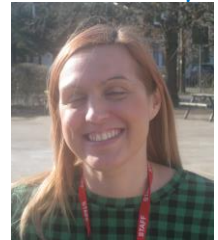
This year has also seen the introduction of class novels, with each child having access to a copy of the book being read. This allows opportunities to read along, choral reading and the development of comprehension and enjoyment. Statistics (from the National Literacy Trust) show that children who spend more time reading enjoy it more.

However, statistics also show that, in general, children have never read less than they currently do. At Downham we are seeking to reverse these trends and, working in partnership with you, raise a new generation of readers who become world-changers and leaders!



Meet THE TEAM

Mrs Maloney



We are pleased to welcome Mrs Maloney to our staff team at Downham. Mrs Maloney is our new Learning Support Assistant and will be supporting many children with specific needs in the days ahead. Mrs Maloney is a mum of 2 children (aged 6 and 9) and enjoys drama and dancing, art, concerts and movies. Although she does not currently have any pets, Mrs Maloney grew up surrounded by a range of pets - including snakes and spiders. Mrs Maloney has settled into life at Downham quickly and we look forward to getting to know her better in the days ahead.



This Week



Phonics with Mrs Waterman



Comprehension with Mrs Tapley



Talk Boost with Mrs Rivett



EYFS



Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6



Year 6 children help with organisation at lunch time to make sure everything runs smoothly





We are looking for new Midday Assistants to help at lunch times. If you are interested in applying for one of these positions, please contact the school office for more information.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Would you be interested in joining our Governing Body?

Governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of the school: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. We preserve its Christian character and work alongside senior leaders and support teachers to provide an excellent education to children. The Governing Body also has legislative responsibility and strategic oversight for safeguarding arrangements

We meet termly, currently on Tuesdays at 4pm, duration maximum 2 hours. Our next scheduled meetings are 1 April and 10 June. You would be required to undergo a full DBS check and complete an Initial on-line training course.

If you are interested, please email me if you have any questions:

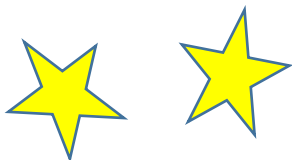
lwright@downham-ceap.essex.sch.uk
or contact the school office for an application form.

Thank you,
Linda Wright (Chair of Governors)

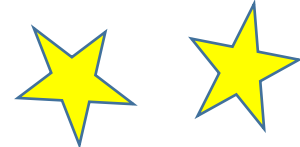


ClassDojo

Please make sure that all permission forms are back in school so that teachers are aware of any children who should not have their photo posted on ClassDojo.



Downham's
GOT
TALENT



Well Done to everyone who took part in Downham's Got Talent! The judges and audience were blown away by the talent on show. Sasha (Y6) and Jorja (Y5) were worthy winners and it was great to see Farrah and Grace receiving 'Life Time Achievement' awards!

Thank you to the PTA for organising such a brilliant event!

Head Teacher's Award	Beth - always ready to help others, demonstrating great care and empathy. She brightens the school with her quiet sunshine!	
Class Teachers' 5Cs Awards	Ducklings	Callie - creativity -designing and making a basket to go with her Little Red Riding Hood costume on World Book Day
	Robins	Ada - consistently showing ALL 5Cs - creativity, courage, critical thinking, challenge and collaboration
	Nightingales	Trey - creativity - a great World Book Day costume
	Woodpeckers	Chanelle - courage and challenge - performing at Downham's Got Talent
	Kingfishers	Polly - collaboration - always being respectful and doing the right thing
	Owls	Victor - collaboration - working well with others and showing good manners, impressing adults around the school
	Eagles	Farrah - collaboration - always helping others, with a big smile on her face

House Points			
Water	Earth	Air	Fire
333	214	233	223

 Times Tables Rockstars	
Woodpeckers	Ben
Kingfishers	Lottie
Owls	Kayden
Eagles	Archie
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: 96.3 % Class with highest attendance: Nightingales Class - Well done!	
Ducklings	97.2 %
Robins	91.7 %
Nightingales	98.6 %
Woodpeckers	95.0 %
Kingfishers	94.3 %
Owls	98.5 %
Eagles	98.1 %

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 10th 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 3				
Cheese and Tomato Pasta Bake	Butcher's Been Burger in a Bun	Butcher's Sausages	Mild Chicken Korma	Fish Fingers
Vegetable Pasta Bake (V)	Quorn Burger (V)	Vegetable Sausage (V)	Mild Quorn Korma (V)	Veggie Nuggets (V)
Garlic Bread and Sweetcorn	Potato Wedges, Baked Beans or Peas	Roast Potatoes, Vegetables, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy	Wholemeal Rice and Green Beans	Chips, Baked Beans or Sweetcorn
Jacket Potato with Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato with Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato with Tuna or Cheese with side salad	Jacket Potato with Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato with Tuna, Cheese or Baked Beans
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	Orange & Lemon 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 that we are a nut-free school. We have some children with severe nut allergies so we make sure that all food prepared onsite is nut-free. We ask you to check that all snacks and lunchboxes are similarly nut-free. Thank you for your support.



Diary Dates

Tues 11th March - Y6 Life Expo
Wed 12th March - Y5 Life Expo

Wednesday 12th March - Family
Science Day

INSET DAYS:

22nd & 23rd May



Each class will have time in the school hall on Wednesday 12th March as part of a special Family Science Day. This will be a wonderful opportunity for your child to explore the exciting world of science and parents / grandparents are warmly invited to join us for their child's session. Times are as follows:

Eagles (Year 6) 9.00 - 9.40 am

Owls (Year 5) 9.45 - 10.25 am

Kingfishers (Year 4) 10.30 - 11.10 am

Ducklings (EYFS) 11.15 - 11.45 am

Woodpeckers (Year 3) 1.15 - 1.55 pm

Nightingales (Year 2) 2.00 - 2.30 pm

Robins (Year 1) 2.35 - 3.05 pm



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!

