

NEWSLETTER

INSPIRING ALL TO SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

CHALLENGE - CREATIVITY- CRITICAL THINKING-
COLLABORATION - COURAGE



Edition 26: 17th April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wow - what a great way to start the new term - with a wonderful celebration of our new playgrounds! We were joined by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Chelmsford, Cllr Whitehead, Sean Tobin, CEO of Berlesduna Academy Trust and Courtney Freese, Director of Education. Mr Tobin told our reporter, Robyn Lucas: "Investing in high-quality learning environments is a key priority for the Trust, and we are proud to support Downham Primary School in creating a space where children can thrive. A great education extends beyond the classroom, and this playground is a vital part of that, encouraging creativity, confidence, and wellbeing. This investment reflects our commitment to ensuring every child has the opportunity to flourish, to build friendships, and to develop the skills that will carry them through life. It's more than a playground." The Mayor added: "It was fantastic to visit Downham Primary School and officially open these wonderful new playgrounds. It's clear how much this investment means to the pupils, and it was a joy to see their excitement as they explored the new space. The playground is an exciting addition for the school, and I'd like to thank the Trust for its commitment to supporting young people. I was particularly struck by how welcoming the students and staff were, it's a wonderful school community." Have a wonderful weekend!

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



The Mayor of Chelmsford encouraged the children to do a countdown until she cut the red ribbon! Thank you to the PTA for providing so many balloons - the playground looked amazing!

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

EYFS - 100%

Year 1 - 93.2%

Year 2 - 97.8%

Year 3 - 97.9%

Year 4 - 94.6%

Year 5 - 94.1%

Year 6 - 97.5%

Total - 96.4%

WELL DONE DUCKLINGS!



MAKE THE RULES DAY!

One of the children's favourite days is back! Next Friday, you can pay £1 for every rule you make. You can choose from:

- Juice in your water bottle
- Chocolate in your lunchbox
- Bring a teddy bear to school
- Wear trainers
- Tattoos/nail varnish

The PTA will be collecting cash/card on the gate on Friday morning.

OUR DOWNHAM 5C AWARD WINNERS FOR THIS WEEK:

EYFS - Millie for courage

Year 1 - Effy for challenge and creativity when blending paint into an ombre effect

Year 2 - Althea and Ruby for collaboration during a maths activity

Year 3 - Blake for challenge

Year 4 - Evelyn for courage and challenge in reading

Year 5 - Lorcan for taking on the challenge of a new school with courage

Year 6 - Jamie for challenge



IMPORTANT DATES:

24 April: PTA Make The Rules Day

27 April: Y4 Mighty Oak at Anglia Ruskin University

27th April: 2.30pm Meeting in hall about Yr 6 residential

29th April - Mini-London Marathon in school - all children to wear trainers to school

1 May: INSET Day

5th May: 9am EYFS Class assembly & presentation of Bibles

6th May: Year 3 Colchester Castle trip

6th May: Ursuline School staff visiting Year 5 girls

11th - 14th May: KS2 SATs

14th May (am): KS2 SATs treat

15th May: Eurovision celebration (am)

15th May: Junior Music Festival rehearsal (pm)

18th - 22nd May: Sports week

19th May: Mayflower School staff visiting Year 6 pupils

20th May: 9am Year 4 Class assembly

20th May: 10am Year 1 Class assembly

20th May: 12pm Sports afternoon/family picnic

1st June: Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check this week

8th June: Year 1 Phonics Screener Check this week

14th-17th June: Year 6 Residential

21st June: Year 1 Teddy Bears Picnic at Mayflower

1st-5th June: Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

8th - 12th June: Year 1 Phonics Screener Check

24th June: Class photographs

HEADTEACHER'S CUP



This week's Headteacher's Cup goes to Max for his fantastic home learning all about the chicks! Max also impressed me with his dancing in front of the whole school this week.
Go Max!