

NEWSLETTER

INSPIRING ALL TO SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS
CHALLENGE - CREATIVITY- CRITICAL THINKING-
COLLABORATION - COURAGE



Edition 27: 30th April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, some pupils from Year 4 made us extremely proud as they took part in the Mighty Oak Public Speaking Competition, where they debated the motion that the school day should start at 10am. One of the trickiest parts was having to answer questions from the audience without knowing in advance what they would be! The girls spoke with great confidence and did brilliantly! Thank you to their family members for coming along to support them. Also this week, the whole school took part in the Mini London Marathon. The sun shone and it was wonderful to see the children exercising and having fun outdoors - what a great way to boost their mental and physical health! We wanted to let you know that we really appreciate your feedback and comments.

We have heard from some parents that the new acrylic jumpers and cardigans are uncomfortable and itchy for the children. We are in discussion with Danielle's about changing to a softer fabric and will let you know as soon as we have some news.

By way of a further update, we have had a meeting with our wraparound care provider today. We hope to be able to bring you some more details about this shortly.

We will be bringing back our "Meet The Staff Member" feature on our weekly newsletter. Today it is the turn of Mr Winney. You can read all about him overleaf!

Have a wonderful long Bank Holiday weekend!

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



WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

EYFS - 97.2%
Year 1 - 91.5%
Year 2 - 94.6%
Year 3 - 97.0%
Year 4 - 96.9%
Year 5 - 97.0%
Year 6 - 95.8%
Total - 95.8%



WELL DONE DUCKLINGS!

MEET THE STAFF MEMBER!

We are going to bring back a popular feature where we introduce a member of our team every week! This week it is the turn of Mr Winney, our Site Manager. "I attended Billericay school and at 17, I joined the Royal Marines in 1989 where I served for over 10 years deployed to various countries around the world including Gulf War 1 in Northern Iraq, Bosnia, Norway and Africa. In 2004, I joined the Metropolitan Police serving for 17 years. For 10 years, I was a Firearms Officer based in Westminster, protecting sensitive areas such as Downing Street, Palace of Westminster and various Foreign Embassies.

I started at Downham C of E school in July 2024 as the Site Manager. I have a keen interest in fishing, running and DIY. I recently ran the Brentwood half marathon where I clocked a time of 2 hrs 28 minutes - not too shabby for an older chap! I am also a member of Villerica Lodge, having been a Freemason for the last 10 years we have raised lots of funds for local charities. We also donated the three Buddy Benches that'll soon make an appearance at the school. Oh and yes I do like doughnuts!"

IMPORTANT DATES:

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
7th May: EYFS & Year 1 Forest School (swap for this week)
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 (details to follow)
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
2nd June: Yy 5/6 cricket at Wickford Cricket Ground (invited pupils)
8th June: Year 1 Phonics Screener Check this week
10th June: EYFS trip to Barleylands
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

