

# NEWSLETTER

INSPIRING ALL TO SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

CHALLENGE - CREATIVITY- CRITICAL THINKING-  
COLLABORATION - COURAGE



## Edition 31: 5th June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back, everyone! What a week of weather we have had! We hope you all enjoyed the glorious sunshine during the school holidays. Mother Nature seems a little confused lately, treating us to four seasons in a single day. Because our British weather is so beautifully unpredictable right now, please ensure your child comes to school fully prepared every day. They will need: a raincoat for sudden downpours, a water bottle to stay hydrated and sun cream applied before school starts.

On Tuesday, our Year 5 and 6 boys proved that a bit of rain cannot dampen their spirits! They hit the pitch at Wickford this week for their cricket tournament. While the event was ultimately rained off, our boys still managed to secure a fantastic victory in their game before the heavens opened. A huge thank you to Mrs Cronin for braving the elements and supporting the team!

Today, our school grounds were filled with extra giggles as we welcomed the wonderful children from Ramsden Village Pre-school. They joined Miss Proctor for a fantastic "Stay and Play" morning. It was wonderful to see them exploring their future surroundings in anticipation of their big move to us this September. Lastly, we are incredibly fortunate to have received three beautiful new "Buddy Benches" this week. These were kindly donated by Mr Winney and the Villerica Lodge 4053 of Freemasons. These special benches will carry our caring Christian ethos straight out into the playground. They ensure that every single child always has a safe space to find a friend, share a chat, and feel included. Look out for them in the playground.

Have a wonderful, restful weekend!

Miss Bailey, Executive Deputy Headteacher (NPQH)



## MEET THE STAFF MEMBER: MISS PROCTOR

I have been part of the Downham team since 2009 and have proudly been Assistant Head Teacher since 2017. During my time here, I've had the opportunity to teach across all Key Stage 2 classes and I'm really looking forward to joining the Ducklings class next year. I love teaching all areas of the curriculum, but I have a particular passion for maths! Music is another big interest of mine—I play the piano (although perhaps not quite as well as I used to!), lead the school choir and am particularly proud to be part of a school that loves singing. In my classroom, I'm always thinking: "Would I want to be in this lesson? Would I want to do this activity?" I try to make learning as fun, engaging and relatable as possible, because I truly believe children learn best when they are happy and enjoying themselves. I'd like to think the children would describe me as firm but fair, approachable and caring and as someone who makes learning enjoyable. Outside of school, I have a son, Alfie, who is in Year 1. He loves football (and is Arsenal mad!), as well as drawing, reading, writing, swimming, and playing video games. As a family, we enjoy going to the park, cinema and theatre, as well as visiting family. Alfie is a real thrill-seeker—he loves theme parks, fast rides, water slides, trampolines and climbing. I'm not quite sure where he gets all his energy from, but we do our best to keep up with him! I'm so pleased to see all the positive changes that have been taking place at Downham over the last year. It's really exciting to be part of it and I'm looking forward to seeing what the future holds.

## WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

EYFS - 97.3%  
Year 1 - 94.7%  
Year 2 - 87.0%  
Year 3 - 97.3%  
Year 4 - 96.0%  
Year 5 - 84.7%  
Year 6 - 95.0%  
**Total - 93.0%**



**WELL DONE DUCKLINGS AND KINGFISHERS!**

## HEADTEACHER'S CUP

This week's Headteacher's Cup goes to Teddie Y. Teddie is exceptionally kind and caring to everyone. He really challenged himself this week by speaking in front of others at the Bible presentation.



## IMPORTANT DATES:

8th June: Year 1 Phonics Screener Check this week  
9th June: 1pm Year 6 Leavers' service at Chelmsford Cathedral  
9<sup>th</sup> June: Forest School for EYFS & Year 2  
10th June: EYFS trip to Barleylands  
10th June: 9.30am Meeting for new EYFS intake in hall (parents only please)  
12th June: Forest School for Year 1  
14th-17th June: Year 6 Residential  
16th June: 7pm Junior Music Festival  
17<sup>th</sup> June: PTA World Cup day (wear something red, white or blue)  
18th June: BAT football and netball tournaments (invited pupils) at The Willows  
18<sup>th</sup> June: Year 2 Mini-games at Mayflower School  
19<sup>th</sup> June: 12pm Year 1 lunch with a special man in their lives  
23<sup>rd</sup> June: District sports at Billericay High School (selected pupils)  
24th June: Class photographs  
24th June: Sports Afternoon (details to follow)  
25th June: 10-11am EYFS Teddy Bears picnic at Mayflower School

## OUR DOWNHAM 5C AWARD WINNERS FOR THIS WEEK:

EYFS - Bella and Anastasia for Collaboration  
Year 1 - Teddy for Courage.  
Year 2 - Elsie Kheng for Creativity  
Year 3 - Trey for Challenge  
Year 4 - Joey for great Collaboration in all his learning this week  
Year 5 - Harrison for taking on challenges with tennis and in our new topic.  
Year 6 - Arabella for Challenge in the play

