

NEWSLETTER

INSPIRING ALL TO SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

CHALLENGE - CREATIVITY- CRITICAL THINKING-
COLLABORATION - COURAGE



Edition 36: 10th July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have, by now, received your child's school report and have enjoyed reading about the progress they have made this year. I would like to say a huge "well done" to our wonderful Year 2 children for their fantastic performance of **Sunflower in My Supper** today! It was an incredibly impressive show, and we were all blown away by the amazing acting, singing, and music. A special mention must also go to the brilliant costumes and props that brought the whole story to life so beautifully.

Putting on a production of this scale takes an immense amount of effort behind the scenes. A massive thank you to Mrs Bennett, Mrs Hadley, and Mrs Dearman for all of their hard work, dedication, and creativity in putting this show together for our school community.

Looking Ahead to the Final Week

I genuinely cannot believe that this is the penultimate newsletter of this academic year! Time has flown by, and we are now rapidly heading into our final week of term.

As we prepare for the final stretch, I would like to wish all of our families a safe, happy weekend filled with sunshine and quality family time.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Monday for our final full week together!

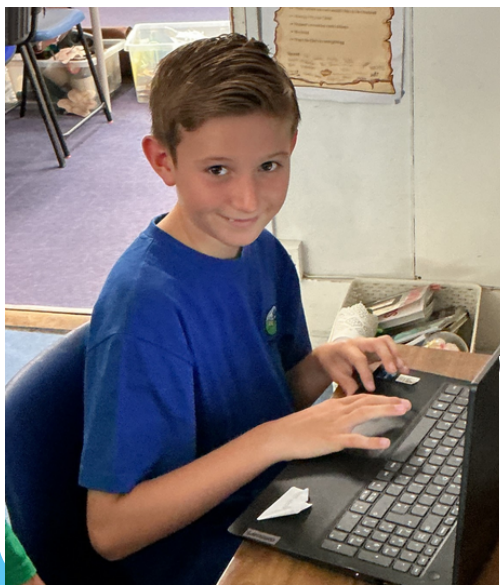
Best wishes,

Miss Bailey, Executive Deputy Headteacher (NPQH)



HEADTEACHER'S CUP

This week's Headteacher's Cup goes to George in Year 6, who really impressed staff with his mature attitude by being really engaged and responsive during the summer safety assembly.



OUR DOWNHAM 5C AWARD WINNERS FOR THIS WEEK:

EYFS - Henry J for Challenge

Year 1 - Ronnie and Jack for Challenge

Year 2 - All of Nightingales for Collaboration and Courage

Year 3 - Mya for Collaboration and Creativity

Year 4 - Barney for Courage and Challenge

Year 5 - James for always showing the 5Cs, especially Challenge.

Year 6 - Brandon for all the 5cs



WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

EYFS - 99.1%

Year 1 - 96.5%

Year 2 - 94.8%

Year 3 - 99.0%

Year 4 - 98.0%

Year 5 - 97.7%

Year 6 - 97.1%

Total - 97.5%



WELL DONE DUCKLINGS!



It was great to see Popcorn and his friends again! Haven't they grown?

IMPORTANT DATES:

13th July: Parents welcome after school to discuss their child's report (no appointment necessary)

14th July: 2.15pm Year 3 class assembly NEW TIME

14th July: 5.30pm 2Johns online safety session

15th July: Children spend time with their new teacher

15th July: 2.30pm Front Row Music concert in hall to parents who have instrumental lessons

16th July: 5pm Year 6 production NEW DATE

16th July: 9am Essex Libraries Summer Reading Challenge assembly

20th July: 9.15am Leavers service for parents in hall

20th July: DownhamFest - Sports day races/picnic/bouncy castle/ice creams on the school field

20th July: Last day of term

1st Sept: INSET Day

2nd Sept: Children return to school

NEXT WEEK:

The forecast is promising more very hot weather next week. I am happy for the children to come to school wearing summer uniform or smart school PE kits for the rest of the term.



MEET THE STAFF MEMBER: MRS DEARMAN

Before joining the wonderful team at Downham, where I have spent the last 21 years, I spent many rewarding years in the Early Years sector. This included the incredible experience of owning and running my own preschool in Chelmsford. My deep commitment to early childhood development has driven me to pursue extensive training in Early Years education, ensuring that our youngest learners always receive the best possible support, guidance, and care. Interestingly, my journey didn't start in the classroom! Prior to finding my true calling in early education, I worked for an international communications company as a Management Accountant. While I traded spreadsheets for storybooks long ago, that background gave me a unique perspective and a strong foundation in organisation and leadership.

On a personal note, I am the proud single parent of three wonderful grown-up children and a proud grandmother to my delightful 5-year-old granddaughter, and there is nothing I love more than spending my free time making memories with her. When I'm not with family or at school, you can usually find me keeping active in the swimming pool or curled up with a fantastic book.

I look forward to another wonderful year of supporting our school community and watching our children thrive!

