

NEWSLETTER

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

Edition 37: 17th July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are absolutely thrilled to share our Year 6 SATs results. An incredible 67% of our pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing, and mathematics combined, placing us comfortably above the national average of 63%.

Even more outstandingly, 17% of our pupils achieved greater depth combined, more than doubling the national average of just 8%.

Behind these phenomenal numbers are months of hard work, perseverance, and dedication from our children, alongside the tireless support of Mrs Suters and Mrs Tapley. We are immensely proud of every single pupil for their focus and effort—you have truly shone!

Finally, we want to end this final newsletter of year by sharing a very special and heartfelt farewell to our wonderful Mrs Applewhite, who is retiring. It is hard to believe that when she first joined us back in 2007, it was only on a temporary contract! That "temporary" role turned into nearly two decades of incredible dedication, during which she has given countless children the absolute best start to their school life. Her warmth, patience, and care have shaped the very foundation of our school. As she prepares to take life a little easier, we send her our warmest wishes for a long, happy, and richly deserved retirement—which we know will be filled with plenty of the music concerts she loves so much. Thank you for everything, Mrs Applewhite; you will be missed more than words can say! We would also like to say a special goodbye and thank you to Mrs Pearce, our Friday MDA, who leaves today. Mrs Pearce, you will be missed! I wish you all a safe, restful summer break, and look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 2nd September.

Best wishes,

Miss Bailey, Executive Deputy Headteacher (NPQH)

OUR DOWNHAM 5C AWARD WINNERS FOR THIS WEEK:

EYFS - All of Ducklings please for consistently demonstrating the 5Cs

Year 1 - Jesse for Challenge

Year 2 - Cleo for always showing all of the 5Cs

Year 3 - Polly for Challenge and Collaboration

Year 4 - Olive for all of the 5Cs

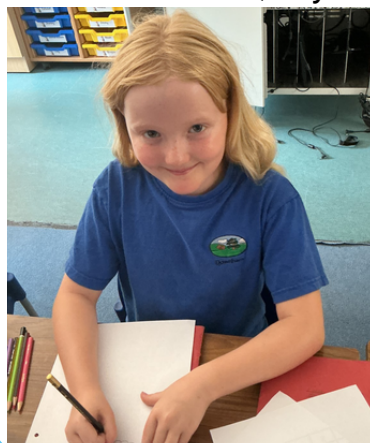
Year 5 - Bailey for Collaboration

Year 6 - All of Eagles for all of the 5Cs



HEADTEACHER'S CUP

Lily deserves the Headteacher Cup this week for showing courage and creativity in her performance in her Class Assembly this week! Well done, Lily!



YEARLY ATTENDANCE

EYFS - 95.2%

Year 1 - 93.5%

Year 2 - 94.5%

Year 3 - 94.8%

Year 4 - 95.4%

Year 5 - 93.8%

Year 6 - 92.9%

Total - 94.3%



WELL DONE KINGFISHERS!



This week, a media team came to film the whole school (in the shape of the number 10) on the playground, using a drone, which caused great excitement! We look forward to sharing the photo with you soon! In the meantime, please see details of how you can enter a competition to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Berlesduna Academy Trust!

PTA END OF TERM MESSAGE

The PTA wants to say a huge thank you for an incredible year. Together, we hosted an amazing line-up of events: Scarecrow Trail, Christmas Bazaar, Downham's Got Talent, Meet the Easter Bunny & Easter Egg Hunt, Mother's Day Craft Days, Two School Discos (each for KS1 & KS2), 'Make the Rules' days and fundraiser through Raffles, hamper draws, and preloved uniform sales.

Your generosity directly funded crucial school projects and resources this year, including: playground renovations, arts and crafts supplies, new 82" TV and soundbar for the school hall, a live chick-hatching project, the Samba music workshop, EYFS intake welcome books and Bibles for the current EYFS year.

A special shout-out goes to our phenomenal PTA parent helpers. Without your kind gift of time and effort, these events simply could not happen.

We are already busy planning an exciting calendar for 2026/2027. Have a fantastic, well-deserved summer break!"

Thanks!

THE 2JOHNS FEEDBACK

"Informative, thought provoking, actionable! As a topic that affects all our kids - and has the very real potential for such harm - it's a wonder this isn't on the national curriculum! So grateful for the tips on how to approach online safety. Thank you 2 Johns, and to the school for providing the opportunity."

Nicola Roberts

"I just wanted to say that the internet safety talk by The 2 Johns this week was one of the most valuable parent sessions I've attended. It was engaging, eye-opening and full of practical advice that every parent should hear. I'd really encourage all parents to take the opportunity to attend if it's offered again, as the information shared is invaluable in helping us keep our children safe online. A huge thank you to the school for organising such an important event."

Many thanks,

Louise Watson

"This was my 4th time watching "The 2 Johns", and once again, their presentation completely moves with the times. It is different every single time! Knowledge really is power. As a parent, learning what my children have access to and staying one step ahead of potential risks is so important. I only wish more had taken an invaluable opportunity to learn from their incredible knowledge and expertise.

Real eye opener."

Donna Stratford