



Downham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Inspiring Children to Soar to New Heights

Creativity

Collaboration

Critical Thinking

Courage

Challenge

Weekly Round-Up: Friday 28th March 2025

Good afternoon,

The school has been abuzz with preparations for our Easter Celebration! We are looking forward to welcoming you to our special service at William de Ferrers School on Tuesday 1st April (next week!). It's a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a Church of England school family to celebrate this key Christian festival. Hopefully you have got your tickets for this event already. If not, speak to Mrs Doyle in the school office. The Celebration will begin at 6.30pm but doors will open at 6.15pm.

Today, members of the PTA have been in school running a Mothers' Day shop. We would like to thank Mrs Radley, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Terry, Ms Holt, Mrs Simpson and Mrs Temple. The children loved going shopping and choosing gifts for their mums.



To all the mums reading this: there is no love quite like a mother's love - you are truly special and we hope you have a restful day on Sunday. You deserve it!

Meet THE TEAM

Mrs Applewhite



Mrs Applewhite leads our EYFS team in Ducklings Class. She is wonderful at welcoming new pupils and families to Downham, and helps each little Duckling settle into school life. Mrs Applewhite is a highly experienced teacher, having joined Downham's teaching team in 2007. She co-ordinates School Council and is also responsible for Phonics and EYFS/Key Stage 1 English.

Outside of school, Mrs Applewhite is a mum of two grown up children and two cats. She loves spending time with family, going on adventures and attending Robbie Williams concerts! Mrs Applewhite is helpful, wise and compassionate - a trusted friend and a true leader within our school community.



Katie and Belle are organising a second-hand uniform sale. If you have any PE t-shirts, jumpers or cardigans which you would like to donate for this sale, please bring them to the school office on Monday 31st March at 8.45am.

The sale will take place on the school playground on Thursday next week at pick-up time (3.15pm).

Head Teacher's Award	Tom - consistently demonstrating the 5Cs and being a great role model around the school	
Class Teachers' 5Cs Awards	Ducklings	Zaya - critical thinking and creativity when den building
	Robins	Leo - challenge - brilliant effort with independent writing of a setting description
	Nightingales	Arthur - challenge when working hard on handwriting and presentation
	Woodpeckers	Joey - challenge throughout the week
	Kingfishers	Amber - challenge with tests throughout the week
	Owls	Nellie - creativity with Home Learning projects
	Eagles	Amelia - challenge and creativity with World War II topic work

 Times Tables Rockstars	
Woodpeckers	Ben
Kingfishers	Alexandra
Owls	George
Eagles	Chloe
Class of the Week	Kingfishers

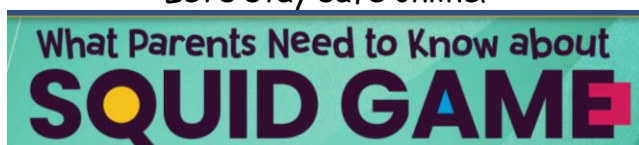
House Points			
Water	Earth	Air	Fire
605	563	611	527



Congratulations to Lottie (Kingfishers) and Taliyah (Kingfishers) who are both "Rock Heroes" answering questions under 1 second!

Please read the Parent Guide and share relevant information with your children.

Let's stay safe online!



Kingfishers will have a treat next week for being the class who have participated the

Attendance: Whole School Attendance: 95.7 % Class with highest attendance: Woodpeckers Class - Well done!	
Ducklings	93.2 %
Robins	96.5 %
Nightingales	97.2 %
Woodpeckers	98.6 %
Kingfishers	92.9 %
Owls	95.0 %
Eagles	96.4 %

The importance of school attendance. Improving attendance is everyone's business. The barriers to accessing education are wide and complex, both within and beyond the school gates, and are often specific to individual pupils and families. The foundation of securing good attendance is that school is a calm, orderly, safe, and supportive environment where all pupils want to be and are keen and ready to learn. Some pupils find it harder than others to attend school and therefore at all stages of improving attendance, schools and partners should work with pupils and parents to remove any barriers to attendance by building strong and trusting relationships and working together to put the right support in place. Securing good attendance cannot therefore be seen in isolation, and effective practices for improvement will involve close interaction with schools' efforts on curriculum, behaviour, bullying, special educational needs support, pastoral and mental health and wellbeing, and effective use of resources, including pupil premium. It cannot solely be the preserve of a single member of staff, or organisation, it must be a concerted effort across all teaching and nonteaching staff in school, the trust or governing body, the local authority, and other local partners.

Lunch Menu for Week Beginning Monday 31st March 2025

All meals must be pre-ordered (and paid) on the ParentPay website. Class teachers will no longer be taking a lunch register. Any children without a pre-booked lunch must have a packed lunch.

Week 3				
Cheese and Tomato Pasta Bake	Butcher's Been Burger in a Bun	Butcher's Sausages	Mild Chicken Korma	Fish Fingers
Vegetable Pasta Bake (V)	Quorn Burger (V)	Vegetable Sausage (V)	Mild Quorn Korma (V)	Veggie Nuggets (V)
Garlic Bread and Sweetcorn	Potato Wedges, Baked Beans or Peas	Roast Potatoes, Vegetables, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy	Wholemeal Rice and Green Beans	Chips, Baked Beans or Sweetcorn
Jacket Potato with Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato with Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato with Tuna or Cheese with side salad	Jacket Potato with Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato with Tuna, Cheese or Baked Beans
Ham, Cheese or Tuna Baguette	Ham, Cheese or Tuna Baguette	Ham, Cheese or Tuna Baguette	Ham, Cheese or Tuna Baguette	Ham, Cheese or Tuna Baguette
Oat Flapjack	Orange & Lemon Sponge	Fresh Fruit Platter	Fruit Yogurt	Favourite School Mousse
Salad Bar Available	Salad Bar Available	Salad Bar Unavailable	Salad Bar Available	Salad Bar Available



Please remember that we are a nut-free school. We have some children with severe nut allergies so we make sure that all food prepared onsite is nut-free. We ask you to check that all snacks and lunchboxes are similarly nut-free. Thank you for your support.

This Week



*Easter
Craft in
Ducklings*



*The
ducks are
back!*



*Sue from SMB visited
Nightingales this week for
their RE lesson.*



*Year 1 - Robins
have been having
fun in the sun.*



Music in Year 4



*Home Learning
Celebration in
Year 5*

Diary Dates

Tuesday 1st April at 6.30pm
Easter Celebration Service - see
below for more information

Thursday 3rd April at 3.15pm -
second hand uniform sale on the
front playground

INSET DAYS:
22nd & 23rd May



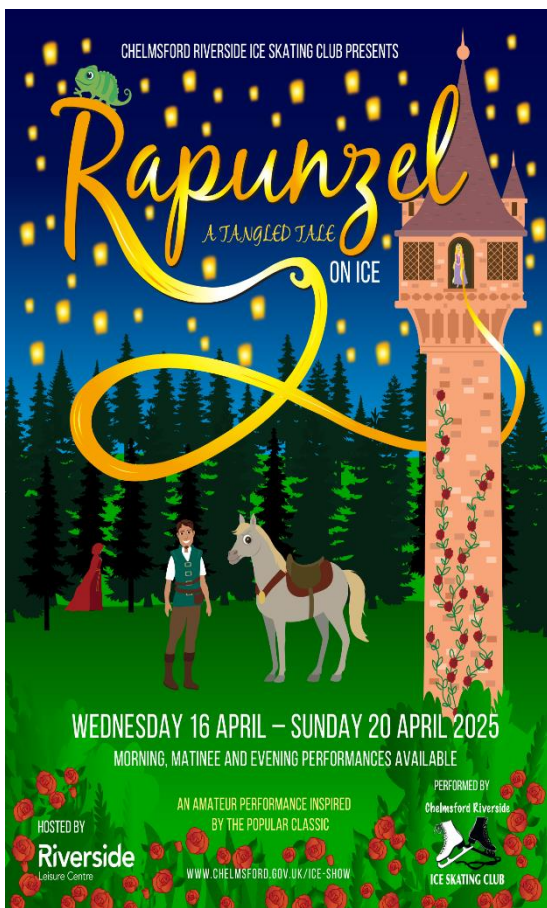
Our Easter Celebration will
be held at William de Ferrers
School in South Woodham
Ferrers on Tuesday 1st April
at 6.30pm.

We hope you will be able to come along to
this special whole school community event.
Each class will be retelling a section of the
Easter Story.

Tickets (2 per family) cost £2 each and can
be paid for via ParentPay.



On the first Sunday of
every month, there is a
Family Service at St
Margaret's Church of
England, Downham, at 11am.
Rev Jacqui would love to
see you there!



Sunday 4th May



VE DAY[®]
80TH ANNIVERSARY

Norton Meadows
(behind Ramsden Heath Village Hall)

1pm to 5pm

See the attached flier for more
information.