

# NEWSLETTER

INSPIRING ALL TO SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

CHALLENGE - CREATIVITY- CRITICAL THINKING-  
COLLABORATION - COURAGE

## Edition 4: 25th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been lovely to have such warm sunshine this week! Yesterday I visited Whitmore and Crays Hill schools to look at their Sensory Rooms and get some good ideas for ours. Our intention is to create a welcoming, calm space which all children will get the opportunity to use.

Next week sees the tenth anniversary of the Berlesduna Academy Trust. On Friday, we will be having a special celebration - including cake! Please don't forget to order your child a special school dinner for Census Day on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October. Please also remember to return your child's slip for Parent Consultation Evenings as we will soon be allocating appointments. If your child has additional needs, teachers will be in touch to arrange a separate, longer appointment.

I wish you all a lovely and restful weekend. Miss Bailey, Executive Deputy Headteacher (NPQH)

### HEADTEACHER'S CUP

A huge shout-out to Brandon for showing outstanding responsibility and civic pride this week! After learning our new hedge plants were damaged, Brandon decided to buy replacements to keep our school looking bright and welcoming. Thank you, Brandon, for your exceptional care and strong sense of community!



### WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

EYFS - 100%  
Year 1 - 97.4%  
Year 2 - 93.7%  
Year 3 - 99.2%  
Year 4 - 98.4%  
Year 5 - 100%  
Year 6 - 90.7%  
**Total - 97.0%**

**WELL DONE EYFS AND YEAR 5!**

### OUR 5CS WINNERS FOR THIS WEEK!

Year 1 - Millie for Collaboration  
Year 2 - Jesse for Challenge  
Year 3 - Thea for Challenge  
Year 4 - Nula for Collaboration  
Year 5 - Mason in Owls for Courage and Compassion  
Year 6 - Bailey for all of the 5Cs



## HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

At Downham, we really value the strong partnership we have with our families. If you are concerned about any issue concerning your child, please do not hesitate to speak to us.

In the first instance, please speak to your child's class teacher, who knows them best.

If the matter is of a more serious nature, please make an appointment with Miss Bailey via the school office. Thankfully, most concerns can be resolved very quickly when addressed together.

On **Tuesday 6th October**, we will be coming together as a school to mark **World Cerebral Palsy Day**. We would love everyone to wear something **green** (non-school uniform) and, if they are able to, make a small donation to **Great Ormond Street Hospital**.

This day is particularly close to the hearts of Mrs Crook and Mrs Walsh, as both of their sons have cerebral palsy. Marking this day gives us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the strength of the cerebral palsy community, raise vital awareness, and uphold our shared responsibility to stand together in support of fairness, inclusion, and justice for people of all abilities.

We hope it will be a special day supporting a cause that means so much to us, and thank you for helping us make a positive difference.



## **DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM**

28 September - NSPCC Speak Out and Stay Safe assemblies  
28 September - Foodbank donations open  
1 October - Year 5 and 6 girls football tournament at Mayflower School  
1 October - Census Day special lunch  
2 October - Celebration of 10 years of Berlesduna Academy Trust  
5 October - Year 6 ECFRS Cyber Bullying and Online Safety workshops  
6 October - Wear green to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital  
8 October - Berlesduna Academy Trust Poetry Slam (invited pupils)  
9 October - Year 4 trip to British Museum  
9 October - EYFS Parent/Grandparent lunch  
12 October - Year 6 ECFRS Online Exploitation and Knife Crime workshops  
13 October - Netball tournament (letter to follow)  
15/16 October - Bikeability for Group A  
15 October - Cross Country Race 1  
15 October - Year 2 trip to Essex Fire Museum  
16 October - PTA Make The Rules Day  
16 October - Foodbank donations close  
16 October - Year 5 Class Assembly 9am  
20 & 21 October - Parents Evening  
20 October - Year 3 Class Assembly 2.15pm  
21 October - ECFRS Firework and Bonfire Safety assemblies  
22 October - Year 6 Parent/Grandparent lunch  
22 October - PTA Discos after school  
23 October - INSET Day  
23 October - Start of PTA Scarecrow Trail  
2 November - INSET Day  
3 November - First day of Autumn 2  
4 November - PTA Laser Show after school  
10 November - Flu immunisations  
11 November - Worship Group at War Memorial  
12 November - Cross county race 2  
13 November - Non-uniform day for hamper donations  
18 - 24 November - Scholastic Book Fair  
19 November - Hate Crime assemblies for Years 5 and 6  
20 November - Year 5 Parent/Grandparent Lunch  
23 & 24 November - Bikeability for Group B  
28 November - PTA Christmas Bazaar  
1 December - Blessing of our Christmas tree  
2 December - Panto trip  
16 December - Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day  
17 December - Class Parties with a very special visitor! 🧑‍🎅  
18 December - Last day of Autumn 2

