DOWNHAM C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

INSPIRING ALL TO SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

CHALLENGE - CREATIVITY- CRITICAL THINKING- COLLABORATION - COURAGE

Edition 5: 2nd October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been wonderful to enjoy some autumnal sunshine this week! I hope you find the dates section of the newsletter useful, which gives you all the dates you need for the months ahead. To make it easier for you, I will add any new, or changed, dates in blue. As we now have several children who are not able to be photographed, from today, the newsletter will not contain any photos of children. We will continue to post photos of children on Class Dojo, including the recipient of the Headteacher's Award. I hope you understand why this change is necessary.

Today in school, we are celebrating the 10 year anniversary of the Berlesduna Academy Trust - we have lots of fun planned! We will put plenty of photos on Dojo later on today.

I wish you all a lovely and restful weekend.

Miss Bailey, Executive Deputy Headteacher (NPQH)

BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST

PARKING REMINDER

As our school year gets underway, please can we remind all parents and carers to park safely and thoughtfully around the school site. Please ensure you avoid parking on pavements or blocking our neighbours' driveways, even for a quick drop-off. Maintaining a positive, respectful, and harmonious relationship with our local community is so important to us, as is keeping the pathways and pavements clear and safe for all our children and families walking to school. Thank you so much for your continued support and co-operation in keeping our community safe and happy!



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AT DOWNHAM

We love celebrating our pupils' birthdays and making sure they feel special on their big day!

A gentle reminder to families that children should not take a day off school to celebrate a birthday. Every day of learning counts, and even a single missed day can impact a child's progress and routine. We kindly ask that any special outings or birthday parties are planned for after school or over the weekend.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain excellent attendance across the school.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

EYFS - 92.4%
Year 1 - 88.7%
Year 2 - 99.1%
Year 3 - 95.0%
Year 4 - 86.8%
Year 5 - 97.3%
Year 6 -85.0%
Total - 91.6%

WELL DONE YEAR 2!



DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM

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



FAMILY SERVICE



The next family service at St Margaret's Church in Downham is on Sunday 4th October at 11am. On 18th October, the church will be holding its annual Harvest Festival. You can find more information about both services in the October edition of The Herald magazine.

