DOWNHAM C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

INSPIRING ALL TO SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

CHALLENGE - CREATIVITY- CRITICAL THINKING- COLLABORATION - COURAGE

Edition 8: 23rd October 2026

A Wonderful Week at Downham! 🍂✨

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a lovely way to round off our first half-term of the school year! It's been another busy, brilliant week at Downham, with plenty to celebrate before we all enjoy a well-earned autumn break!

🌟 **Pupil Voice – Small Voices, Big Ideas!**

Today, Lloyd and Xander proudly flew the Downham flag at the **Berlesduna Pupil Voice event**, hosted by Felmores School. Joining pupils from across the Trust, they explored how British Values are woven into everyday school life, sharing ideas, experiences and thoughtful discussions.

Both boys were fantastic ambassadors for our school, representing Downham beautifully and demonstrating exactly what it means to *soar to new heights*! They thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and we couldn't be prouder of them. Well done, boys!

🍽️ **A Lunch Date with Year 6!**

There was an extra special buzz in the dining hall today as we welcomed our wonderful Year 6 parents and grandparents to join us for lunch! At Downham, we absolutely love opening our doors and inviting our families to share in the everyday magic of school life. There's something rather lovely about sitting down together, sharing a meal and enjoying a good natter! Thank you to everyone who joined us. We hope you enjoyed your lunchtime visit as much as we enjoyed having you!

🏆 **Two Audits, Two Reasons to Celebrate!**

Good things really do come in twos! This week, we received the findings from both our **Safeguarding Audit** and our **Benedict's Law Audit**, and we are delighted with the outcomes!

These positive findings are a wonderful reflection of the dedication, care and hard work of our entire Downham team, who strive every day to ensure our school is a safe, happy and nurturing place for every child.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to all the parents and carers who took the time to complete our parent survey. Your voices matter enormously to us. We value your feedback, celebrate the positives and carefully consider your suggestions as we continue to make Downham the very best it can be.

Half-Term Happiness… and a Little Festive Magic on the Horizon!

And just like that, our first half-term is complete! Where has the time gone?

I would like to wish all our wonderful Downham families a **safe, happy and restful half-term**. Whether you're heading off on an adventure, enjoying some autumn walks or simply embracing a few slower mornings, I hope you enjoy every moment. When we return, we'll be diving headfirst into **Autumn 2 – quite possibly the busiest, but definitely my favourite, half-term of the school year!** There'll be plenty of learning, laughter, excitement and, as the weeks go by, more than a sprinkling of festive cheer! ✨

With so much happening, please do keep a close eye on the **Dates for Your Diary** section of our newsletter. You won't want to miss a thing!

Thank you, as always, for being such an important part of our Downham family. Your continued kindness, encouragement and support mean so much to us all.

Have a fabulous half-term, everyone! We can't wait to welcome you back for another half-term of learning, laughter and soaring to new heights!

Miss Bailey (NPQH)



DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM:

(new information or changed dates in blue)
23 Oct - Start of PTA Scarecrow Trail
2 Nov - INSET Day
3 Nov - Start of shoebox collection
3 Nov - First day of Autumn 2
4 Nov - PTA Laser Show after school Gates open 5pm, starts at 6pm
6 Nov - EYFS & Year 3 Dental Visits
10 Nov - Flu immunisations
10 Nov - Netball tournament event 2
10 Nov - Non-uniform day to raise money for The Royal British Legion (wear red and black)
11 Nov - Worship Group at War Memorial
12 Nov - Cross county race 2
12 Nov - Berlesduna Maths Challenge (invited pupils)
13 Nov - Children In Need & Non-Uniform Day for hamper donations
13 Nov - Shoeboxes collected
18 - 24 Nov - Scholastic Book Fair
19 Nov - Hate Crime assemblies for Y5 & Y6
20 Nov - Year 5 Parent/Grandparent Lunch
23 & 24 Nov - Bikeability for Group B
23 Nov - Donations open for PTA hampers
27 Nov - Non-uniform day for hamper donations
28 Nov - PTA Christmas Bazaar
1 Dec - Blessing of our Christmas tree
2 Dec - Panto trip (am)
2 Dec - PTA Christmas Crafts (pm)
4 Dec - EYFS Nativity 9.30am
8 Dec - 9.30am KS1 Nativity
9 Dec - 9.30am KS1 Nativity
14 Dec - 5pm Year 6 Christingle Service at St Margaret's Church
15 Dec - 4.30pm Years 3, 4 and 5 Christmas concert
16 Dec - 4.30pm Years 3, 4 and 5 Christmas concert
16 Dec - Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
17 Dec - Class Parties with a very special visitor! 🎅
18 Dec - Last day of Autumn 2

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Here is the attendance by class for the whole of Autumn 1:
EYFS - 95.7%
Year 1 - 93.9%
Year 2 - 96.6%
Year 3 - 96.1%
Year 4 - 94.1%
Year 5 - 95.8%
Year 6 - 95.5%
Total - 95.3%
WELL DONE NIGHTINGALES!



THANK YOU!

We seem to lose a lot of cutlery at school - we don't know where it all goes! If you are having a clearout over the holidays, we would be grateful to receive any unwanted knives, forks or spoons.Thank you for all items that have been donated already.



CAMP EPIC

DOWNHAM

Follow us!

@CampEpicPro

Camp Epic

AUTUMN TERM

Ofsted Registered

CAMP EPIC IS BACK THIS TERM & IT'S EVEN MORE EPIC THAN BEFORE!

- EPIC NEW CLUBS
- EXTRA PICK-UP TIME
- NEW HOLIDAY CAMP REWARDS SCHEME
- NEW COLLECTABLE CAMP EPIC TRADING CARDS!



After School Club
3:15-4:30pm
£6 Per session

After School Club
+ Snack 3:15-5pm
£8.50 Per session

Breakfast Club
7:45-08:30am
£5 Per session

ASC Lates' with Tea
3:15-6pm
£13.50 Per session

For more info or to Book, visit:

www.campepic.co.uk

Blythswood
CHANGING LIVES FOR GOOD AND FOREVER

Shoe Box Appeal 2026 Filler Ideas

Woman
Make-up
Sanitary products
Shampoo
Nail varnish
Small scissors
Tape measure

Girl/Boy age 3 - 12
(Please choose items appropriate to the age of child you have chosen)

Sewing/craft kit
Chalk
Paint by numbers
Paints
Colouring/sticker book
Crayons/Stationery
Jewellery
Socks
T-shirt
Pyjamas
Toy car/truck
Skipping ropes
Lego
Board game
Small ball
Playing cards

Teenage Girl/Boy
Make-up
Craft kit
Jewellery
Hair brush
Nail varnish
Hair band
Manicure set
Tennis ball
Puzzles
Board game
Wind-up torch
Dominoes
Deodorant
Thermal vest

Elderly woman
Hand cream
Folding walking stick
Slippers
Candle
Tin cup
Small clock
Tights

Man
Dominoes
Pack of cards
Tools
Tape measure
Tin cup
Wind-up torch
Shaving brush
Pen

Blythswood requests that each shoebox contains **a toothbrush and toothpaste, underwear, soap, sweets, toy/gift, scarf, gloves and hat**


BERLESDUNA
ACADEMY TRUST
Aspiration • Family • Success
PLAY PRACTISE PROGRESS ROCK!
SMALL STEPS BIG RESULTS!
BERLESDUNA
BATTLE OF THE BANDS
TT ROCK STARS
NOVEMBER SHOWDOWN 2026
LOUDER FASTER SMARTER TOGETHER!
TIMES TABLES BUILD BRIGHTER FUTURES
CAN YOUR SCHOOL BECOME BERLESDUNA'S TIMES TABLES CHAMPION?
TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER – FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2026
TOP SCHOOL
TOP CLASS
TOP INDIVIDUAL ROCKSTAR
MOST IMPROVED ROCKSTAR
EVERY CORRECT ANSWER COUNTS!
TT ROCK STARS
PLAY • COMPETE • CLIMB • BE A ROCKSTAR!
MATHS BUILDS BRIGHTER FUTURES