



# Newsletter 12

Headlines

24/02/2023

## Dates for your diary!

World Book Day - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
March - Dress up as your favourite book character  
Ash Class Assembly - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - 9am  
Parents Consultations - Mon 6<sup>th</sup> March and Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> March  
Horse Chestnut Class Assembly - Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> March - 9am  
Science Week - Fri 10<sup>th</sup> to Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> March  
Sweet Chestnut Class Assembly - Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> March - 9am  
Comic Relief - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March  
Sing Up Concert - Tues 21<sup>st</sup> March - Details to follow.  
Beech Class Assembly - Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> March - 9am  
Yr 6 Practice SATs Mon 27<sup>th</sup> to Fri 31<sup>st</sup> March  
End of Term Fri 31<sup>st</sup> March  
EASTER HOLIDAYS 3<sup>rd</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> April  
SUMMER TERM 2023  
First day of term Mon 17<sup>th</sup> April  
Class photos Tues 18<sup>th</sup> April  
May Bank Holidays - Mon 1<sup>st</sup> and Mon 8<sup>th</sup> May  
Year 3 and 4 Residential - 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May  
YR 6 SATS week Tues 7<sup>th</sup> to Fri 12<sup>th</sup> May  
HALF TERM - Mon 29<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> June  
YR 6 Transfer Day to TBS - Tues 4<sup>th</sup> July  
YR 5/6 Residential - Weds 5<sup>th</sup> to Fri 7<sup>th</sup> July  
Last day of term Fri 21<sup>st</sup> July  
AUTUMN TERM 2023  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Sept - Registration morning 9:30 - 12:00- new families onto camp  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Sept - First day of term

Dear parents and guardians,

## Science Week

As previously advertised, we warmly welcome children and their supporting adult to apply to present at our Science Fair on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March (see attached letter). For those new to the school, this annual event is one of the highlights of the school calendar for those taking part as well as the children and adults who get to experience the stalls. All school children will get the chance to look around the science fair which will be set out in the hall in the afternoon. Tables will be laid out for each exhibitor and last year we had over 20 science projects. The theme of this year is Connections (see flyer), but we welcome any science project idea. Spaces are limited so please get your proposals in soon so that you can be sure of your space.

## WBD

Downlands are celebrating World Book Day next **Friday 3rd March**

Children may come dressed as their favourite book character and are encouraged to bring the book in to share with their class. We also have a school's amazon wish list where you are able to purchase a book as a donation. The link is below.

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2R19SUMZRCZ56?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2R19SUMZRCZ56?ref=wl_share)

If you choose to kindly donate a book, a label will then be placed inside the cover of each book, saying who it was donated by. You can also leave a gift message to be included in the book. The book that you chose to donate will go into the Key Stage One or Two library so it may be enjoyed by the children of Downlands.

Any support in buying new books for our school library would be gratefully received so feel free to share the link with other members of your family who may want to donate a book to Downlands School.

May we stress that it is not compulsory to take part in this activity and pupils are free to come into school in normal school uniform if you and they prefer.

Your child will also be coming home with a £1 World Book Day voucher which can be exchanged for a FREE World Book Day Book or redeemed against any book sold by booksellers who are participating in the scheme.

## Parent consultations

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> of March, we will have our second parent consultations of the academic year. This is a welcome opportunity for parents and guardians to talk to their child's class teacher about academic and pastoral progress and look at their books at just over the half way point in the school calendar. An email and text will be sent out next week to enable parents to book appointments using our online system. However, please be advised that our parent consultation meetings are face-to-face and we will work hard to make sure that we stick to timings so please ensure punctuality and inform the school if you cannot make the appointment due to unforeseen circumstances.

## Sing Up event for Blandford Primary Schools

Mr Denison has accompanied 18 children to The Blandford School for the first rehearsal of this year's Sing Up concert: a collaborative singing performance involving all local primary schools. The main event is on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March** so please save the date if your children are involved.

## INSET Days 23/24

The school has written to all parents recently about the term dates for 2023/24. However, more details can be found on the website [here](#).

## **Residentials**

Residential trips for Year 5 and 6 to Cumulus, Corfe Castle on 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July and Leeson House for Years 3 and 4 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May are now available to book on School Money.

Information on each trip has been attached to your original email but can be provided as a reminder if you need it.

## **Clayesmore Cross Country**

Mr Denison led three children from Downlands school who combined with one pupil from Durweston Primary to form the Downton Team. The following girls competed in a gruelling relay race in the beautiful grounds of this prestigious school:

- Lola (Y4)
- Kendall (Y5)
- Isabella (Y6)

The girls performed fantastically well alongside approximately 700 fellow competitors and enjoyed splendid refreshments (including doughnuts) as well as a race finisher T-shirt for all.

## **Bold Voices**

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March, seven Y6 pupils have been invited to take part in the The Nurturing Equality Festival at Bryanston School. This is a pioneering project to bring older and younger pupils together to learn about and challenge gender inequality. The day will be led by Bold Voices who will support Bryanston and Blandford School Sixth Formers to run three workshops on gender inequality with Year 6 pupils from the Blandford Network. Please could you discuss this opportunity with your Y6 child and if they are interested, please encourage them to put a request for involvement in writing to Mr Rielly no later than Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

## **Netball**

Before half term, the following children competed in the Blandford Area Primary Netball Tournament:

- Layla
- Numa
- Pranjai
- Evie
- Millie
- Natasha

I am delighted to say that they came out as winners of the tournament overall and will now compete in the North Dorset Championship. Thank you to the excellent coaching of Mrs Murray.

Next Friday, as well as the Ash Class Assembly at 9am, there will be the usual Gold Book Assembly at 2:30.

Invitations will be sent on Thursday.

Have a great weekend.



James Rielly  
Headteacher