



Newsletter 03

NEWSLETTER

06/10/2023

Dates for your diary!

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Harvest Festival - Weds 11th Oct

HALF TERM - 23rd to 27th Oct

Halloween Disco (more details to follow) - Mon 30th Oct

Arts Week - Mon 20th to Fri 24th Nov

Last day of term - Fri 15th Dec

SPRING TERM 2024

TEACHER TRAINING DAY - Tues 2nd Jan

Spring term starts Weds 3rd Jan

HALF TERM 12th - 16th Feb

Last day of term - Thus 28th Mar

SUMMER TERM 2024

Summer terms starts Mon 15th Apr

HALF TERM 27th - 31st May

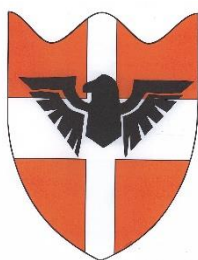
Dear Parents and Guardians,

Harvest Festival

You are warmly invited to attend our Harvest Festival, led by Padre Ken on Wednesday 11th October at 0900hrs. We are asking for donations of tinned goods, pasta, rice, biscuits, cooking sauces, cereals and UHT milk for the Blandford Food Bank so we ask your child to bring this in by Tuesday 10th October.

Houses

After consulting pupils, staff and parents, the common favourite choice for House names was as follows:



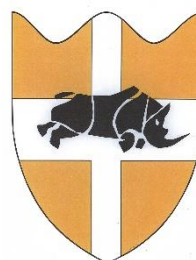
FALCON



JAGUAR



KIWI



RHINO

Children have been sorted into Houses, with siblings being in the same House, and they will be informed of this next week. Plans are underway for a House singing competition next term and to link the issuing of our Value Awards to a

new House point system. Watch this space.

Halloween Disco

As you can see from the important dates at the side of this newsletter, we have added a Halloween school disco to our school calendar on Monday 30th October. More details to follow, but please save the date.

Jewellery and PE

Our school uniform policy states:

On health and safety grounds, we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are a single, plain, ear-ring stud in each pierced ear. We ask that children either remove these before PE and games, or to cover them with a plaster (supplied from home).

We respect that one of the 9 protected characteristics is how people choose to present themselves, particularly on matters related to a chosen faith. Nevertheless, on grounds of health and safety, we must ask for conformity to this rule for PE lessons. We ask for parents who are concerned about this to please get in touch.

KS2 snack choices

Our Healthy Eating policy is on our website and can be found [here](#). We are noticing that some KS2 children are not adhering to our policy in terms of snack choices for morning breaktimes. Here is the relevant extract:

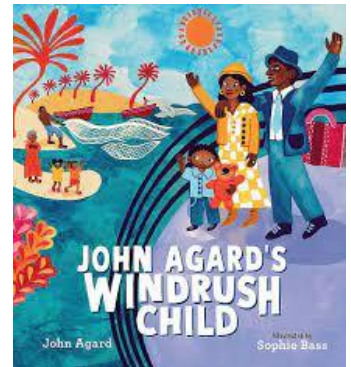
As children move up into KS2, if they wish to have a break time snack, they can bring in something from home. Below are guidelines from the NHS and Change4life on healthy snacks. We ask for your support to help us adhere to these guidelines:

- Chopped up raw vegetables– e.g. carrots, cucumber or peppers
- Chopped up fruit/Whole fruit – e.g. apple, Satsuma, strawberries, halved grapes, melon slices
- Dried fruit
- Breadsticks, rice cakes and wholemeal crackers
- Sliced or cubed cheese

Black History Month

During our Monday Assembly, the children read Windrush Child by John Agard, where they imagined what it would feel like to be a child travelling to the UK from The Caribbean on the Empire Windrush.

On Thursday's assembly, our Bold Voices pupil leadership group spoke to the school about Mary Seacole and her support for soldiers in WWI.



Blood Bike Charity



Thank you so much for your support for the Blood Bike Charity. It was amazing that Jack and Steve, who are volunteers for this worthy organisation, managed to fit their bikes in to the hall last week. Thanks to the donations of parents, we raised over £160 on our 'wear something red' day.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing your children next week.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Rielly



Pupil Leadership Feedback

Our 7 leadership groups are now meeting regularly and really getting involved in their roles:

Pupil Parliament; "Please use the suggestion box in your class to tell us about your ideas for improving the school."

Bold Voices; "Watch out for your Bold Voices reps telling you all about Black History Month in Assembly."

Learning Champions; "Please remember our STAR learning expectations."

Values Champions; "We can show we care by donating to our harvest festival."

Eco Warriors; "Please make sure the right things go into the green bin in the classrooms."

E-Safety Reps; "Keep an eye out for our e-safety tips coming soon."

Play Leaders; "We have spent lunchtimes with Reception and KS1 organising games and encouraging new friendships."



Attendance

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school or preschool when they're unwell.

The Department for Education have recently shared a helpful webpage from the NHS to help parents and schools in this regard:

[Is my child too ill for school?](#)



Values

With our focus this month being WE CARE, our Values Champions will be helping sort, package and deliver all the harvest festival donations to the Blandford Food Bank.

MIDDAY SUPERVISOR

Midday Supervisor XS2.4

Dorset Grade 1 – £10.60 per hr

7 hours 30 mins per week, term-time only. Monday-Friday 12-1.30pm. 39 weeks per year

We are seeking to appoint a Midday Supervisor for our busy, friendly Rights Respecting school

Duties will include providing supervision and assistance to our children across lunchtime to ensure their health and safety at all times. Lunchtime is considered to be a key point in the school day in successfully setting the children up for the afternoon's learning.

Previous experience in school is essential along with a commitment towards the wellbeing of children and implementation of safeguarding and behaviour policies

Downlands Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people; this is a commitment which we all expect staff and volunteers to share. The successful candidate will be required to have a Disclosure and Barring Service check in line with the Governments Safer Recruitment Guidelines.

Downlands Primary School values the diversity of our workforce and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.

Application forms and Job description available from office@downlandsschool.org

Closing date: **Tuesday 17th October 2023**