



# Newsletter 10

09/02/2024

## Dates for your diary!

### SPRING TERM 2024

HALF TERM 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> Feb

Learn to Ride Bikeability - 26<sup>th</sup> Feb

Yr3/4 Leeson House Residential -  
28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> Feb

Oak Class Assembly - 29<sup>th</sup> Feb  
0900hrs

Parent Consultations - 4<sup>th</sup> Mar &  
14<sup>th</sup> Mar

World Book Day - 7<sup>th</sup> Mar

Science Fair - 8<sup>th</sup> Mar

National Science Week - 8<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>  
Mar

FS2 Chestnuts Assembly - 14<sup>th</sup> Mar  
0900hrs

Fraser Portraits - Class Photos -  
19<sup>th</sup> Mar

Last day of term - Thu 28<sup>th</sup> Mar

### SUMMER TERM 2024

Summer terms starts Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Apr

SATs week - 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May

## Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your families are well. The first half term of Spring has flown by and we have reached the halfway point of the school academic year. It has been a busy time at Downlands Community School and we are also looking forward to several important events after the short holiday (see side calendar dates section).

### Children's Mental Health Week

We have had several moments to mark Children's Mental Health Week. Dorset Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) led sessions with our infant children on Monday and children listened to a reading of the wonderful book 'The River' by Tom Percival in assembly.

On Wednesday, the MHST also led a parent workshop on 'Supporting your child's behaviour' and they will return on April (23/4) where the theme will be 'Supporting your child with symptoms of anxiety'. Please do attend the school at 1400hrs if you are interested.



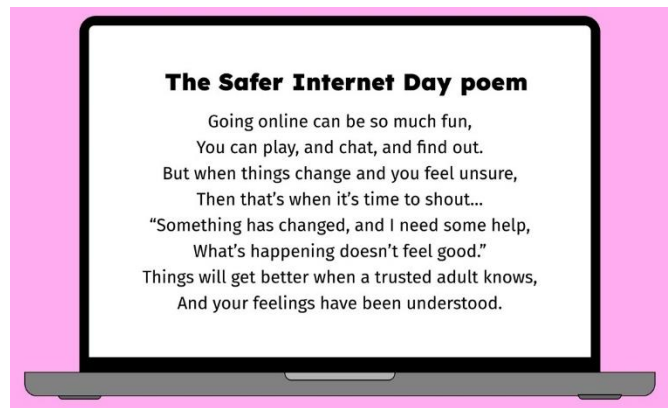
On Thursday, Ash class led the whole school on the theme of mental health, sharing some breathing exercises and talking about the importance of talking about how you are feeling. They also read from a brilliant book called 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas which described the main emotions we all feel from time-to-time.

On Friday, all children took part in Samba percussion workshops led by Dorset Music service.

Mrs Goodall completed her adult mental health first aid course this week and assumes this role for staff and parents within Downlands Community. Mrs Waters is already our children's mental health first aider.

### Safer Internet Day

Our E-safety champions led a brilliant information assembly on Wednesday to highlight the importance of staying safe online. Most of the children present suggested that they use the internet at some point and they listened carefully to the messages, some of which are presented below:



**Fundraising by pupils**

Hannah (Y5) raised £36.75 for MacMillan Cancer support, following her loom band sale. She has earned a Brownie badge for her efforts. Well done and Hannah and thanks to the parents and children who supported.



Following on from this success, Amelie (Y6) and Amelia (Y5) will be selling loom bands and aqua bead products (20p) each on the first Monday after half term, raising funds for SSAFA. If you would like your child to take part, please put one or two 20ps in a named envelope for your child to use.



## Forest School

Miss Burch has recently joined Mrs Loveless as a fully qualified L3 Forest School Leader. As such, she now leads sessions with KS1 children and invited pupil groups in KS2. We are always looking to develop our outdoor education, enabling learning within our beautiful grounds.



## Parent Coffee afternoon

Downlands would like to invite parents to 'Coffee & Chat' once a term. This will be on a Friday afternoon from 2pm till 3pm so still time to see your child in the Gold book assembly if needs be. It will be held in our relaxed staff room with tea and coffee provided and Rachel Waters (HLTA/ELSA) and Julie Palmer (Dandelions Child Care Lead) will be hosting. Babies and toddlers are very welcome.

This will be held every half term, alternating between EYFS/KS1 parents and KS2 parents. We hope to see as many of you as possible - it will be a great way to meet other parents and also ask us any queries you may have regarding the school. More details to follow after February half term.



## Life Skills

Our life skills group continues to offer enjoyable and meaningful opportunities for children to build confidence and forge new friendships.



## Attendance

The school works closely with Dorset Local Authority in support of families and to enable sensible conversations about school attendance. For more details about the support on offer from Dorset Council, please use the QR code below.

“Talk to us if you're worried about getting your child to school.”

In this together

School Attendance

Dorset Council

Struggling to get your child to school?  
Help is available – find out more:  
[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/school-attendance](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/school-attendance)

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr J Rielly  
Headteacher