



# Newsletter 11

01/03/2024

## Dates for your diary!

### SPRING TERM 2024

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

Red Nose Day - 15<sup>th</sup> Mar

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

HALF TERM 27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> May

Yr5/6 Cumulus Residential - 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Jul

## Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your families are well.

### Leeson House Residential Visit

Year 3 and 4 children spent a night on the Isle of Purbeck, staying at Leeson House Field Study Centre. They carried out activities such as night orienteering, map reading, historic walks and environmental science. We were really impressed with their behaviour in terms of team work, positivity and being helpful. I was also grateful for all the staff who gave up their time to accompany the children. There are still places on the Year 5/6 residential trip planned for the summer term, please ask the office for details.



### Special events next week

We have several special events next week:

**Parent Consultations** begin on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March**. The booking system is now closed but will re-open on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March for those who haven't already booked and require an appointment on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March. If you have any problems booking please let the office know.

**World Book Day** is on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March**. Children can wear something linked to a favourite book, though this is optional. Some children have signed up for the House Poetry Recital competition. The semi-finals are on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> with the finals themselves being on World Book Day. Please get practising. We also hope to give children the chance to have a story of their choice read to them as part of the Big Downlands Book Share on the same day.

Our **Science Fair** is on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March from 1345hrs**. There is still time to sign up for a presenting table. Please get in touch with the office for more details.

## Defibrillator

In the summer of 2023, most schools were gifted a defibrillator from the Department for Education. Here at Downlands, we very much wanted this to be accessible to the local community 24:7. We asked for the support of Blandford Camp and we were duly presented with a secure, external lock box. This has now been professionally fitted and is up-and-running for the community. In the event of an emergency, members of the public should phone the telephone number on the box which is for the guard room. They will then be on hand to provide the opening code.







## Piano

Thanks to the alertness of Sue the piano teacher, we came across a high quality piano which was being gifted to a good home. This has now been placed in the hall, replacing on of our older versions. Music to our ears!



## Attendance

Well done to everyone for the improvement in attendance. We are over half way through the school year so these figures are significant. Rhino House have the most improved attendance whereas Falcon have the highest attendance so far. However, it is really close!

			
96.2% (+1%)	95.9% (-0.9%)	95.6% (+1.1%)	95.7% (+1.2%)

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr J Rielly  
Headteacher