



# Newsletter 14

10/05/2024

## Dates for your diary!

### SUMMER TERM 2024

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

Nepal Day - 24<sup>th</sup> May

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

FS2 New Parent meeting - 2.15pm 17<sup>th</sup> Jun

Home clothes for Royal Signals Charity - 19<sup>th</sup> Jun

Sports Day (timings tbc) - 25<sup>th</sup> Jun

Downlands Family Picnic - 25<sup>th</sup> Jun

Cedar class assembly - 27<sup>th</sup> Jun

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

Transfer day/Move up morning - 9<sup>th</sup> Jul

Summer Fayre (timings tbc) - 11<sup>th</sup> Jul

KS2 production (timings tbc) - 16<sup>th</sup> Jul

Downlands Dance Festival (timings tbc) - 18<sup>th</sup> Jul

Year 6 Leavers Speeches & BBQ - 17<sup>th</sup> Jul (new date)

Last day of term - 19<sup>th</sup> Jul

### AUTUMN TERM 2024

Inset days - 3-4<sup>th</sup> Sept

Autumn term starts - 5<sup>th</sup> Sept (phased start for FS2 pupils)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your family are well. No doubt you will have been enjoying the beautiful weather we have had recently. Our children have also been benefitting from many **outdoor experiences** to enrich their learning at school:



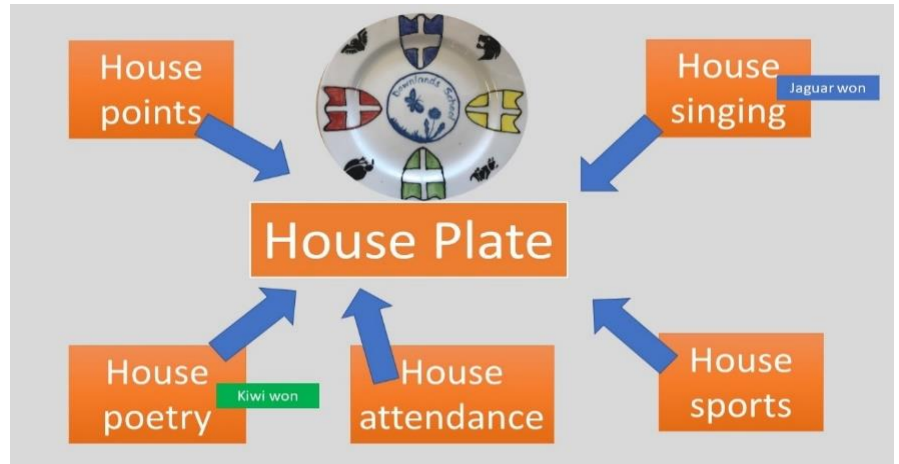
### Our outdoor classroom has arrived

After many years of fundraising, Friends of Downlands School (FODS – our Parents and Teachers Association) were able to use approximately £12,000 to support the construction of our new outdoor classroom. This facility is fully weather proof and comes with built in seating for 30 children, allowing for entire groups to learn outside, whatever the weather. Your children will be able to use the outdoor classroom as part of lessons and learning activities with their teachers. We will also use it for special events. If you would like to join FODS, please get in touch with the school office. We would love to have your support as FODS are already moving on to their next long-term project.

## House Cup

At the end of the year, we will award the House Plate to the overall winners based on four competitions:

- House points
- House singing
- House poetry
- House attendance
- House sports



Please save the date of Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June as our Sports Day (weather permitting). We are trying to organise a one-day event where all age groups will be involved, earning points

for their House. Children will be asked to wear sports clothes in house colours or with suitable sashes, so please plan ahead. Families will be able to enjoy a picnic on our school field in the middle of the day and there will be parent and staff events too. I hope you can join us.

## House points for Values Awards

<b>224 House points (+19)</b>	<b>155 House points (+12)</b>	<b>227 House points (+15)</b>	<b>191 House points (+20)</b>

## Attendance

<b>96.0% (-0.3%)</b>	<b>94.6% (-1.4%)</b>	<b>94.5% (-0.9%)</b>	<b>93.8% (-1.5%)</b>

With 9 weeks of the school term left (almost  $\frac{1}{4}$ ), I am confident that these percentages can improve if everyone plays their part in reinforcing the importance of attending school.

What does the attendance percentage really mean?		
Attendance %	Days Lost	Lessons Missed
100%	0 Days	0 lessons
97%	1 Week	20 lessons
94%	2 Weeks	40 lessons
90%	4 weeks	80 lessons
85%	6 Weeks	120 lessons
80%	8 Weeks	160 lessons

In accordance with our policy, we will notify parents when their child's attendance falls below 90%, offering support where we can. We will also celebrate where children have managed to improve their attendance over a period of time. We understand that there are often legitimate reasons that can affect your child's ability to attend school and we encourage open and honest dialogue.

As regards term time holidays taken by families, it is important to notify the school if it is your intention to take your child for a holiday during term time. It is unlikely that this will be authorised [though there are rare exceptions and the school adheres to MoD guidance which relates to serving personnel who may be prevented from taking holidays outside of term time]. If a term time holiday is unauthorised and your child's attendance is below 90% then the school will apply for a fixed term penalty notice as explained in our policy, following the Dorset Council protocols available [here](#). Failure to disclose a family holiday taken in term time can also lead to an application for a penalty notice, regardless of a child's attendance record.

### **Y6 SATs next week**

Y6 pupils and teachers have been working really hard all year to prepare for the annual Key Stage 2 SATs which take place across the country next week. This is the outline schedule which all schools follow:

Test	Date
Monday 13 May	English grammar, punctuation and spelling: - Paper 1: questions - Paper 2: spelling
Tuesday 14 May	English reading
Wednesday 15 May	Mathematics: - Paper 1: arithmetic - Paper 2: reasoning
Thursday 16 May	Mathematics Paper 3: reasoning

Please ensure that your child arrives on time having had a good night's sleep. Good luck to all the Y6 children.

### **FREE course for military families – starting 5<sup>th</sup> June**

**Bounce Forward** with support from **The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust** is running a series of Anxiety Unravelling course for military parents and carers. The skills covered in Anxiety Unravelling will help parents to deal with their own anxiety and help them to help their children manage theirs. First course starts in June, which is open for bookings.

[Register here](#)

### **Parking and movement around school site**

In the interests of safety please could all parents ensure that they and their children use the pavements/pathways, when coming into school. Also, that bikes, trikes, scooters are not ridden anywhere on the school site.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr J Rielly

Headteacher