



Newsletter 3

25/10/2024

Dates for your diary!

AUTUMN TERM 2024

28th Oct - 1st Nov - HALF TERM

4th Nov - TEACHER TRAINING DAY

11th Nov - 15th Nov - Anti-Bullying Week

5th Dec - KS2 Christingle Service

6th Dec - Downlands Christmas Fair

11/12th Dec - KS1 Nativity

17/18th Dec - EYFS Nativity

18th Dec - Foodlinks Christmas Meal

19th Dec - Downlands Christmas Party
(More details will follow regarding the above Christmas events.)

20th Dec - Last day of term

SPRING TERM 2025





6th Jan - Term starts

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your family are well. This mega (8 week term) has finally come to an end and I will present some highlights of the past two weeks and share some important information for after the half term holidays.





Attendance

Good school attendance improves your child's chances of success in life. There is clear evidence of the link between good attendance at school and high levels of achievement. Pupils who did not achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in 2019 had an overall absence rate of 4.7% over the key stage, compared with 3.5% among pupils who achieved the expected standard and 2.7% among those who achieved the higher standard.

			
97.1% ↓0.9	96.4% =	96.4% ↓1.6	97.0% ↑0.7

House points for Values Awards

It's still early days, but Falcon have made a strong start. Remember that house points are awarded for all school based achievements given at Gold Book Assembly this year, so those numbers will rise quickly.

			
74 ↑22	60 ↑19	57 ↑19	39 ↑14

Road safety poster competition

Thank you to those children who have already submitted entries to the Road Safety Poster Competition run by the Garrison. The deadline for this home-based project is Monday 18th November.

House Singing

Our main House competition for the Autumn Term is the annual singing competition. Please do encourage your child to get familiar with their chosen House Song (see below).



Rhino's song choice is 'Count on me' by Bruno Mars



Kiwi's song choice is 'Roar' by Katy Perry



Falcon's song choice is also 'Roar' by Katy Perry. (Who will Roar the loudest?)



We are still waiting for Jaguar's photo – *they must be shy*. However, their song choice is 'The Climb' by Miley Cyrus.

Parent Consultations

Our Autumn Parent Consultations will be on Monday 11th and Thursday 14th November between 1530 and 1830hrs. Following feedback from parents, we have chosen to make these consultations more structured so that teachers can talk about details which have, in the past, been presented on baseline reports. We will not send baseline reports this year - we received feedback that they were a bit confusing and provided more questions than answers – but all children will receive a detailed end-of-year report. However, I have asked all teachers to cover set themes (see below) about your child's learning at this early stage in the school year. Therefore, these parent consultations may feel different as there will be more specific information shared via this face-to-face method. We will send out more information about how to book appointments for these consultations on Monday 4th November.

Themes to be covered:

Current attendance	Learning behaviours
SEND support	Peer relations
Progress in reading, writing and maths	Wow moments and rewards
Recent test scores	Any questions or concerns

New Anti-Bullying Policy – Get involved

School staff will be reviewing the first draft of a new anti-bullying policy before it is ratified with Governors on Tuesday 3rd December. I would welcome your feedback on the first draft. Please get in touch with the school office if you would like to be receive a draft copy for you to read and provide feedback on.

Poppy Appeal and Remembrance

We have just received a delivery of poppies, reflector poppies, wrist bands and slap bands for this year's poppy appeal from the Royal British Legion.

We are asking for a suggested donation of £1 for the wrist bands, slap bands and reflector poppies. If you would like to send your child with a donation, they are in the school office. Supplies are limited this year so it will be first come first served.

Members of the Pupil Parliament will represent the school at the Field of Remembrance service on Friday 8th November. Also, I will lead a special assembly on Armistice Day itself and all Y6s will visit The Blandford School on Wednesday 13th for a Remembrance Talk and special curry lunch, along with services children from all Blandford Primary Schools.

Coffee afternoon and opportunity to get specialist advice from Family Welfare Support

Please do join us for a coffee on **Tuesday 5th November at 1400hrs** for an opportunity to talk with Zoe Wood. Zoe is the Family Welfare Support Officer (FWSO), part of Dorset Healthcare NHS Trust's Armed Forces Community Health and Welfare Team. This Dorset Healthcare Service acts as a single point of contact for the Dorset Armed Forces Community. Zoe supports Armed Forces Families (whether they are currently serving/veterans or reservists' families) to ensure they receive appropriate advice and guidance when navigating the NHS systems, liaising with local authority departments such as housing, finance, education, or other support agencies along with assisting those transitioning and leaving the service. To access support, you can contact the FWSO on 01202 584428/07787 287581 or by emailing dhc.dorset.veterans@nhs.net or via a referral from a health, social care or third sector team."

Forest school activities for Reception Children

Our Reception children (FS2) have been enjoying some seasonal activities as part of their Forest School work. Don't forget that you can keep up-to-date on what is planned in the curriculum for each phase by referring to special curriculum newsletters which are available [here](#).



Dashain and Tihar

It was a privilege for Miss Hoare and I to attend the Dashain Party on camp last weekend and see so many of our pupils performing as part of the cultural entertainment. I would like to wish all our Nepalese Community a Happy Tihar over the coming days.



Have a lovely half term and see you all again on **Tuesday 5th November**.

Mr J Rielly
Headteacher