



Newsletter 6

20/12/2024

Dates for your diary!

SPRING TERM 2025

6th Jan - Term starts

17th - 21st Feb - HALF TERM

24th Feb - TEACHER TRAINING DAY

4th Apr - Last day of term

SUMMER TERM 2025

22nd Apr - Term starts

26th - 30th May - HALF TERM

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's the most wonderful time of the year or so the song goes... and it certainly is a very special and busy period for Downlands Primary School.

Christmas Fair

Thank you to all parents who have donated gifts in the build-up, bought raffle tickets or who attended on the day. It was a

splendid event with usual favourites like the bottle tombola and raffle draw but also a new arrival in the form of Santa's Grotto. FODS raised over £800 which will immediately be used to repair the rope bridge on the children's climbing frame.



Den Building

Thanks to all those parents of Y5/6 pupils who visited the school to assist their child in designing and making a shelter as part of a D&T project. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the activity and the shelters lasted several days thanks to good weather and designs.



Y5/6 Shelter building

Nativities

Thanks to family members for visiting and supporting our traditional Christmas performances in KS1 and EYFS. Thanks too, to my colleagues for guiding children through their singing and speaking parts.



Christmas Party

Thanks to all the parents who kindly donated food to be shared amongst all of the children during our annual Christmas Party. My colleagues and I enjoyed serving the children and seeing the smiles on their faces as they wore their self-made party hats.



CHRISTMAS PARTY




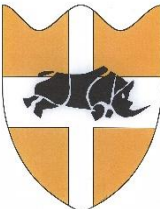
House Matters

After several weeks of practice, our House Singing competition reached its conclusion this week. All children were involved and it was a lovely event for allowing all age groups to get-to-know one another and come together with a unity of purpose. The winners on the day were Jaguar House who gave a rendition of Miley Cyrus's 'The Climb', but well done to all who took part.







Attendance

Whole school attendance has suffered from several nasty winter bugs in recent weeks, which has also affected staff. Please refer to [this guidance](#) when deciding if your child is well enough to attend school.

			
95.7% (-1.1)	94.0% (-1.5)	94.7% (-1.1)	96.1% (-0.8)

House Points

With 1/3 of the year gone, Falcon are pulling away in the House Points competition. Can anyone stop them? Still plenty of time left.

			
195 (+15)	142 (+6)	134 (+9)	98 (+13)

House Christmas Tree Competition

In one of several planned 'pop-up' House Competitions, those visiting the Christmas Fair had the chance to vote for the House Christmas Trees with homemade decorations. The results were as follows.

1st. Jaguar (58 votes)

2nd Falcon (52 votes)

3rd Kiwi (16 votes)

4th Rhino (15 votes)



Blandford Church Christmas Tree Competition

Thanks to all those who voted, we have once again won first prize in this Blandford Town competition. We will look after the impressive lantern trophy for another year.



Have a happy and healthy Christmas holiday. We look forward to seeing you and your family in 2025.

Mr J Rielly
Headteacher

Support for inter-parental communication

Are you and your partner or co-parent experiencing relationship problems?

The festive season can bring extra pressure on families, with added responsibilities, financial worries, and heightened emotions. If you're finding that these challenges are creating or worsening conflicts in your relationship, you're not alone.

The SIPCo (Support for Inter-Parental Communication) project is offering FREE relationship therapy to selected parents in Dorset with children aged 8–14. Funded through the Youth Endowment Fund and delivered by Tavistock Therapy, the project uses therapeutic approaches to help parents reduce conflict.

There are some explainer videos which you can watch at:

[SIPCO Part 1 – Introduction](#)

[SIPCO Part 2 – The Programme](#)