



Newsletter 5

06/12/2024

Dates for your diary!

AUTUMN TERM 2024

- 6th Dec - Downlands Christmas Fair
- 6th Dec - Blandford Yuletide Festival
6-8pm
- 11/12th Dec - KS1 Nativity
- 12th Dec - Yr5/6 Building Shelters
(more info to follow)
- 17/18th Dec - EYFS Nativity
- 18th Dec - Foodlinks Christmas Meal
- 19th Dec - Downlands Christmas Party
- 20th Dec - Last day of term

SPRING TERM 2025

- 6th Jan - Term starts

Dear Parents and Guardians,

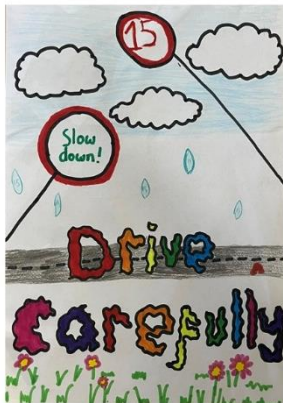
I hope you and your family are well. In the countdown to the holidays, it is always a busy time as this newsletter will demonstrate.

Road safety competition

Thanks to the soldiers from MT who spoke to all the children about road safety as part of their winter campaign. Congratulations to Mia, Phoenix, Layung, Sora, and Knettie who were the winners in the poster competition.



1ST PLACE



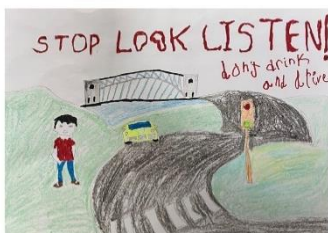
KNETTIE
Sycamore Class

2ND PLACE



SORA
Beech Class

3RD PLACE



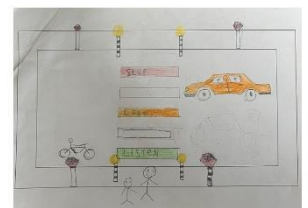
LAYUNG
Fir Class

4TH PLACE



PHOENIX
Dandelions

5TH PLACE



MIA
Ash Class

Our choir supports the BFBS radio competition

Jason from BFBS kindly asked our choir to sing carols which could be used in a morning 'guess the missing word' competition. Mr Denison prepared the choir to the usual high standard and our children 'laid down some tracks' like professionals. I hope you heard the results which were aired this week. The choir will also be performing these carols at a local residential home next week.



Arts Week 2024

Thank you to all the parents who accompanied their children during the Arts Week tour last Friday – it was so busy. We were really proud of the art work on display and it was another successful event with the main goal being for everyone to see themselves as artists.



Christmas Tree Competition

Downlands have entered a tree in the Blandford Christmas Tree Trail, beautifully decorated with ornaments made by your children. All the trees look wonderful set up in the town church.

Please find below a link to the voting form -




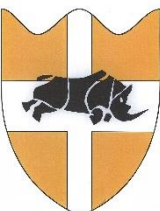
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qO51QcV7ufoHRvrhDaj4HqgRopp4hZ5qvIRM3WsaFE/viewform?edit_requested=true

We hope that families will go in to view the trees at the Yuletide Festival. They are also open daily 10am-12pm until voting closes on the 15th December.

Attendance



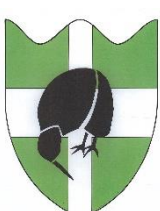
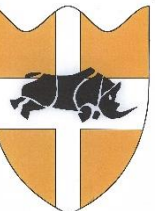
This month's figures are really affected by seasonal illnesses that have impacted school attendance. However, congratulations to Falcon for their improved attendance during this period and well done still to Rhino for keeping their tusks in front.

I recommend that all parents refer to this [NHS website](#) when deciding whether your child is well enough to attend school.

			
96.8% (↑0.3)	95.5% (↓0.5)	95.8% (↓0.2)	96.9% (↓0.3)

House points

House point totals have risen sharply with our recent House Christmas Tree competition, encouraging children to make a decoration for their House Tree. The second 'major' House Competition will be next week when the finals of the House Singing will take place.

			
180 (+83)	136 (+51)	126 (+51)	85 (+33)

Changes to our e-communication

The school first started using its Twitter (as it was then known) account for communicating school events and news items several years ago. In recent years, along with the rebrand to 'X', it seems the ideals and safeguards of this organisation have changed. As such, Downlands Community School has deleted all its accounts and removed any presence from our website. Nevertheless, we will continue to use Seesaw as our main e-communication tool and look for opportunities to use other social media platforms if the necessary safeguards are in place.

E-safety Newsletter

As a school, we have subscribed to Knowsley City Learning Centre's 'Internet Safety Newsletter' which is produced monthly. It includes useful articles, information and tips to help parents navigate the difficult subject of online safety at home. We will be sending out a copy of this newsletter each month, with the first one being December's which is attached.

We hope these newsletters will prove useful and we would love to hear any feedback you have on these. There is also a PowerPoint with further information, statistics and links related to online safety and keeping children safe which is also attached for your information.

Christingle Service 2024

Thank you to Padres Carl and Matt for welcoming us to All Saints Church on camp for our annual Christingle Service. KS2 children sang songs, read poems and explained the significance of the Christingle. Thanks to those parents who supported this event.



Have a lovely weekend.

Mr J Rielly
Headteacher