



Newsletter 1

16/09/2025

Dates for your diary!

AUTUMN TERM 2025

26th Sept - TEACHER TRAINING DAY

29th Sept - Flu vaccinations

1st Oct - Harvest Festival

8th Oct - Fraser Portraits (Individual photo's)

27th - 31st Oct - HALF TERM

18th Dec - Last day of term

19th Dec - TEACHER TRAINING DAY

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope the first 7 days of school have gone well for your child(ren) and that new routines have been established. It is a priority for us that your child feels a sense of belonging to our school and the Downlands Family is committed to making children feel happy and safe to come to school.

Our behaviour curriculum

In the first few days, the children were reminded about our expectations for behaviour. As well as referring back to our school values [We share. We care. We believe. We achieve], our behaviour rules are communicated through STAR expectations. Please ask your children about these at home and help us reinforce these messages:



WHOLE CLASS LEARNING



Sit up straight, arms folded.



Track the speaker.



Ask & Answer questions like an expert.



Ready & Respectful at all times.



INDEPENDENT LEARNING



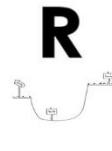
Staying focussed



Talking only about the learning



Asking for help when needed



being Resilient



PLAY TIMES



Speaking kindly



Taking turns



Avoiding conflict



Respecting the school environment



CORRIDOR



Single file walking



Talking quietly if necessary



Avoid damaging displays



never Running



DINING HALL



S
Sitting
sensibly



T
Talking
quietly



A
Acting with
care and
kindness

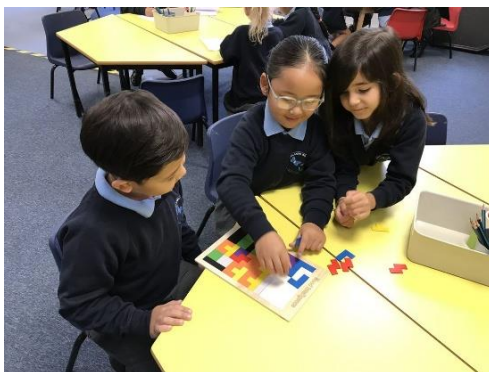


R
Respecting each
other and the
environment

Thank you to those families who have returned a signed copy of our home/school agreement. It is not too late to go over this document with your children (see website link) and returned a signed copy. If you would like to discuss any element of this agreement, please use the Headteacher Drop-in sessions on Friday mornings (0930 to 1015hrs). I will be happy to talk through any concerns you might have.

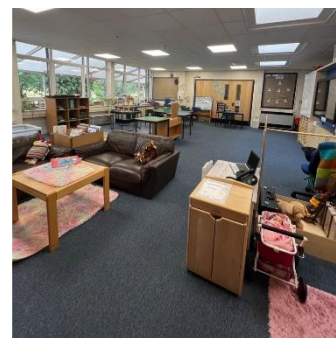
A return to learning

As we go through the year, it will be my pleasure to share photos of important events that are going on, in and out of school. Many of which are also shared on Seesaw. Most importantly at the moment, children are getting into routines and enjoying learning alongside their peers as these pictures demonstrate



The Butterfly Hub

We are really excited and proud of The Butterfly Hub which has been repurposed this year as setting for children with complex communication needs. Working alongside Dorset Council and other external agencies, we are working creatively to develop this provision to meet the needs of some children in school.



Pupil Leadership

Thanks to all the pupils who put themselves forward for one of our leadership groups. I am pleased to unveil the following names and roles for this year:

Pupil Parliament						
	Oak	Fir	Beech	Cedar	Sycamore	Willow
Children	Mangenna Freddie	Thomas Esmie	Bonnie Tommy	Laila Arabella	Clodagh Gracie	Finn T Jasper

Eco Warriors						
	Oak	Fir	Beech	Cedar	Sycamore	Willow
Children	Ashwi Frankie	Myla Luna	Logan Aahan	Robyn Henry	Kenzi Elsie	Skyla Jasmine

E-safety Reps						
	Oak	Fir	Beech	Cedar	Sycamore	Willow
Children	Kian Skylar	Anyia Toby	Ivy O Zachary H	Violet O Parker O-H	Leo B Elsie T	Cerys M

Pupil News Team						
	Oak	Fir	Beech	Cedar	Sycamore	Willow
Children	Bobby Savannah	Esmie Oliver	Ariah Garima	Azalea Atlas	Kenzi Elsie Gracie	Finn Holly Nasan

Play Leaders	
Gracie	Pixie
Leo	Isabella
Faye	Blake
Ivy	Jasper
Vidushi	
Elsie G	Kenzi

Bold Voices	
Sycamore	Willow
Luke A	Finn
Elsie	Sianna
Myra G	LJ LB

Attendance

At the start of the school year, I wanted to remind all families of how important regular school attendance is. Every day your child attends school supports their learning, friendships, and confidence. Research shows that even small amounts of missed time can add up to big gaps in learning. That's why we ask for your support in making attendance a priority.

I wrote to everyone this week setting out our approach in more detail and our attendance policy can be found on our website. Every 2 weeks, I will share the attendance rates of our Houses in order to motivate children to attend school even on days when they might be feeling under the weather or worried in some way. The NHS have helpful information presented [here](#) to help parents decide if their child is too ill to attend school. We

have support systems in place to support your child if they are experiencing any anxiety about attending school, including colleagues trained in Emotional Based School Avoidance – a nationwide programme.

School nurse drop in sessions

On Thursday 9th October at 0915hrs, the school nurse team will be in school for parent drop in sessions. They will be on hand to talk about common parental concerns such as sleep patterns, behaviour, toileting issues and head lice. Please do attend the school on this day in order to take advantage of this offer.

Harvest Festival – Wednesday 1st October, 0900hrs

Padre Stokes is leading our Harvest Assembly on Wednesday 1st October at 9am and you are very welcome to join us. Space in the hall is limited and we ask that only 1 adult per family attends.

Once again, we are supporting the Blandford Food Bank and would be grateful if food donations could be either given to your child for their teacher or alternatively dropped into the container in the School's Main Foyer prior to the Assembly on Monday or Tuesday of week commencing 29th September 2025.

The Food Bank is in need of the following items: Tinned meat, Tinned veg, Tinned potatoes, Pasta/curry sauces, Tinned puddings, Pasta, Rice, Biscuits, Cereals, UHT milk

Any food however with an expiry date of more than 6 months will I'm sure be very welcome.

Finally, I would remind all parents that we are already experiencing very changeable weather and we would like children to be outside for breaktimes as much as possible. Therefore, please ensure that your child(ren) have coats to wear during the Autumn/Winter terms.

Thank you for reading.

Mr Rielly
Headteacher