



# Newsletter 2

10/10/2025

## Dates for your diary!

### AUTUMN TERM 2025

27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> Oct – HALF TERM

4<sup>th</sup> Nov – Garrison Halloween & Bonfire event

10<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Nov – Parent consultations

5<sup>th</sup> Dec – Downlands Family Christmas Quiz night

10<sup>th</sup> Dec – EYFS Christmas concert and craft afternoon

11<sup>th</sup> Dec – Downlands Christmas Disco

17<sup>th</sup> Dec – Foodlinks Christmas meal

18<sup>th</sup> Dec – Downlands Christmas Party  
(More details will follow regarding the above Christmas events.)




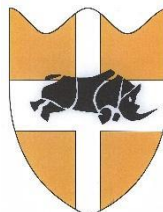
18<sup>th</sup> Dec – Last day of term

19<sup>th</sup> Dec – TEACHER TRAINING DAY

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your family are well. Here is some of the latest news and events from Downlands Community School

### Attendance

			
94.1%	94.6%	91.0%	90.0%

Well done to **Jaguar** who are leading the way with their attendance after 5 weeks of school. Attendance really matters and over a full year (39 school weeks), the following table illustrates how many days and lessons could be missed if good attendance is not maintained:

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

The NHS offer [guidance](#) about when it is ok to send your child to school. I hope to see our attendance improving towards our target of 97%.

## Harvest

We were very grateful for all the kind donations for our Harvest Festival – the proceeds of which have been given to Dorset Foodbank. Thanks also to Padre Carl for leading the service and to those parents who attended in person.



## Gardening Club

The gardening club have been planting an Oak tree that was given to Mis Hoare by Isaac when he left Oak class years ago. We didn't have one in our school grounds before but we do now!



## LKS2 clay sculpture



The clay models are sculptures in response to learning about a Stone Age carving made from mammoth ivory. The carving has been called Lion Man, as it has the head of a lion and body of a human, and was found in a cave in Germany.



### **Dorset Cricket**

Over the past few weeks, children in KS2 have been benefiting from PE lessons run by specialist coaches from Dorset Cricket. We applied for special funding to allow this to happen free of charge for your children and hope to extend it to KS1 children soon.



### **Black History Month**

We have been marking Black History Month in Monday assemblies, learning about Floella Benjamin's story in her book, 'Coming to England' and the achievements of Tenzing Norgay via the excellent Little People, Big Dreams book series. Every week, at least one of our assemblies are based on a rich and informative text which is shared with the children.

### **Fiji Independence Day - October 10th**

It was wonderful to welcome parents from our Fijian community who led a special assembly today as we marked Fijian Independence Day. Children learnt a lot about the culture of this beautiful nation as well enjoying some traditional dancing. Thanks to all those who volunteered their time.



We have a diverse school community representing many countries and we are keen to celebrate all our international connections as well as traditional British calendar events. If you would like to talk about highlighting a country or culture close to your family, please get in touch. I would love to hear from you.

### **BFBS Big Salute**

Jason from BFBS has been in touch to ask for our school community support for BFBS's annual fundraiser – The Big Salute, raising vital funds for armed forces charities, who can apply for grants to support specific projects for the serving military, families or veterans.

This year's theme is 'Big 10' and we have decided to do a 10 minute disco in the middle of a normal school day on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Oct. Final details to be arranged but DJ Jason from BFBS has agreed to put together a 10 minute mega mix of children's chosen songs and he says that the live broadcasting team may be sharing our efforts on air!



We would like children to wear home clothes for this event and donate as much as possible for this good cause, but £1 minimum is recommended.

### **Dashain Party**

We wish all our children and families a fantastic time at the Dashain Party happening on camp this weekend.

Have a great weekend one and all and we look forward to seeing you and your children next week.

Mr Rielly  
Headteacher