



Newsletter 3

24/10/2025

Dates for your diary!

AUTUMN TERM 2025

27th – 31st Oct – HALF TERM

4th Nov – Garrison Halloween & Bonfire event

10th & 13th Nov – Parent consultations

5th Dec – Downlands Family Christmas Quiz night

10th Dec – EYFS Christmas concert and craft afternoon

11th Dec – Downlands Christmas Disco

17th Dec – Foodlinks Christmas meal

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

18th Dec – Last day of term

19th Dec – TEACHER TRAINING DAY

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your family are well. This first half term seems to have gone by in the blink of an eye and I can't quite believe that our next Newsletter will be in November. Life in school moves fast and the rhythms of the Autumn Term are well and truly under way. Here are some photos of recent learning:



Y 3/4 investigating seeds on the school grounds



Diwali, investigating pumpkins and fancy dress day in



Forest school for KS1



KS2 children have been exploring about The Amrit Ceremony and the Khalsa. They made bracelets to represent the union of being part of the class and how they support and care for each other.



Parents leading story time for Chestnuts

Children took part in a 10 minute mini disco to raise funds for the BFBS 'Big Salute'. DJ Jason provided a mega mix of the children's favourites and we raised £211 for a great cause. (Sorry – best photo I had!)



Coffee & Chat



Each half-term on a Friday at 2.15pm, we will hold our “Coffee and Chat” afternoons. This is a whole school parent invite where Julie (FS1) and Rachel Waters (ELSA) will be hosting. It’s a great opportunity to meet other families and also ask Rachel and Julie anything!! Please meet in the school foyer at 2.15pm. Younger children are welcome, there will be hot drinks so please be mindful. The next date is 12th December.

Pre-Loved School Uniform

Thanks to your generous donations we now have a rail of pre-loved school uniform in the school foyer available to all families. We have most sizes on offer but if you can’t see what you need please let the office know as we do have more stock. Where possible we are asking for a small donation for any item you take, with all funds raised going back to FODs.

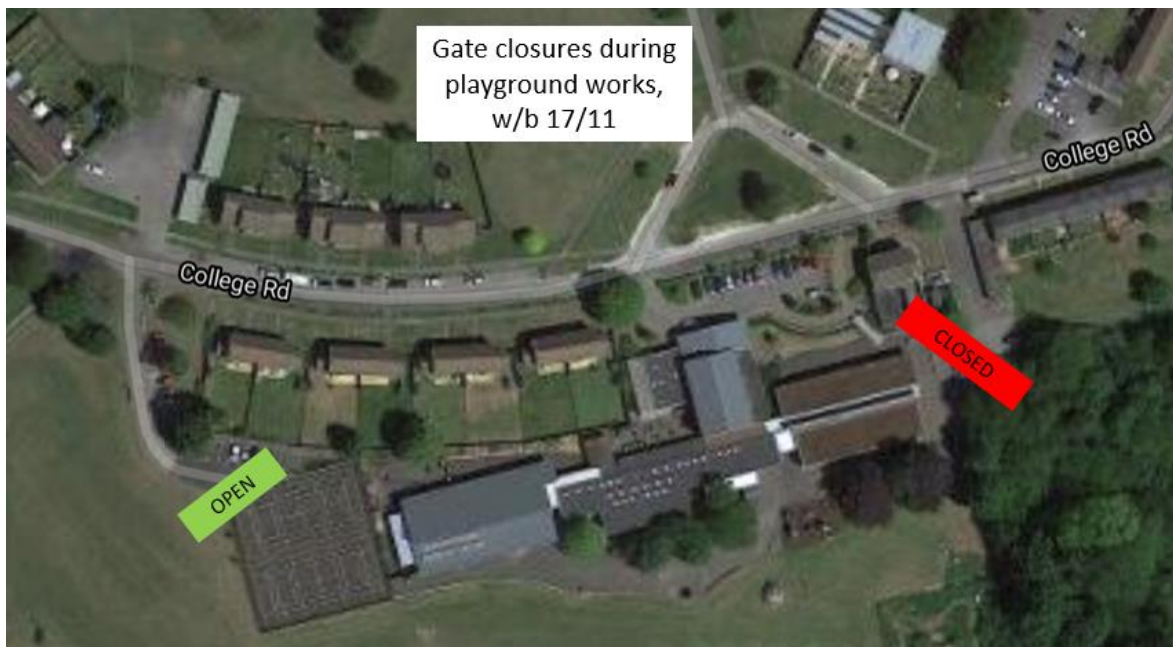


IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

In the week beginning 17th November, our new playground development work begins.



Gates at this end of the school (see map) will be closed to children and parents for at least 3 days to allow works access. Please use the tennis courts gates indicated.



Have a great half term break.

Mr Rielly
Headteacher

Supporting you and your child

The school is ready and able to support your family and help every child do well in school, build confidence, and have the skills they need for a bright and successful future. We understand that from time to time, families face challenges which might require the support of other agencies. The school has strong links with **Family Help** which is a new way that Dorset Council is offering support to families who need more intensive help and support. It brings together different types of help into one service, so families don't have to keep repeating their story to several workers. You can find out more [here](#).

All staff in school are trained on matters relating to safeguarding and child protection, but the following members of the team have more specialist training and are here to listen and help if needed:

Mrs C Goodall (Designated Safeguarding Lead - DSL)

Mr J Rielly, Mrs J Loveless, Mrs Y le May, Mrs A Robinson (Deputy DSLs)

Alternatively, you can contact the Family Support and Advice Line on 01305 228558. A friendly team member will listen to your concerns and help you decide what kind of support is right for you.

Lines are open:

- Monday to Friday: 8am to 10pm
- Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays: 9am to 10pm

Speak to a practitioner today if you have any worries or concerns about a child or young person.

Details on all of our policies, including attendance, complaints and uniform, can be found at
<https://downlandsschool.org/policies/>