



# Newsletter 4

14/11/2025

## Dates for your diary!

### AUTUMN TERM 2025

- 21<sup>st</sup> Nov - Non School Uniform for bottle/choc donations
- 5<sup>th</sup> Dec - Downlands Family Christmas Quiz night
- 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Dec - KS1 Nativity
- 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. Welcome to our first newsletter of Autumn Term 2 sharing some of the highlights of the past two weeks.

### Remembrance

Members of Pupil Parliament were invited to the Field of Remembrance service at Blandford Parish Church. The children wrote thoughtful messages on wooden crosses before planting them in the fields next to the church. Local




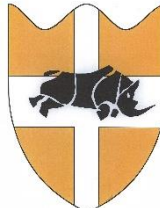


schools were represented at the service and we all observed a period of silence to remember the services and sacrifices which the Armed Forces make on our behalf. We were grateful for the support of family members who accompanied us.



### Attendance

It's great to see attendance in all houses improve over the last month and congratulations to Jaguar house for their continued high standards overall.

			
95.4% ↑	96.9% ↑	94.5% ↑	95.2% ↑

After 10 weeks of school and in accordance with our school policy, we will issue letters to all parents of children whose attendance is already below 90% (this includes absence authorised by the school). The aim of the letter is to offer support, invite parents to start a conversation with the school and as a reference point so that we hopefully celebrate improvement in attendance rates over the next few weeks. A copy of our [attendance policy can be found here.](#)

## **Y5/6 Football Festival**

Mrs Pipe and Mr Snelling took 10 of the year 5/6 pupils to ABW for a football tournament this week and what a show they gave. Winning 2 matches and drawing the 3rd they came top out of 6 competing schools scoring an impressive 13 points out of 15! This took them into the final where they battled hard but the score was 0-0 at full time.

A hard fought penalty shootout took place where Downlands were pipped at the post with 3 goals to 2. Myra put in a spectacular effort in goal and the Downlands team would not have reached the finals if it wasn't for her incredible saves. She is the coaches POTM! But every single player was worth their weight in gold. From the goal scorers, to the brilliant midfielders and the unbeatable defence.

We hope they are very proud of themselves.



## **Author visit**

Year 3 & 4 enjoyed being visited by Christine Aziz, the Author of 'The Kingdom of Broken Magic', this morning, as a part of the Blandford Literacy Festival. She worked with the children to inspire their imagination, creating imaginary characters; shared her book and answered many of their brilliant questions about life as an Author. Two lucky children even won a copy of her book!



## **Playground refurbishment**

A reminder that the work on replacing our playground apparatus starts next week. We are asking the contractors to use the car park by the double gates nearest to the bicycle racks to store equipment and materials. Therefore, these gates will remain locked at the beginning and end of the day. Nevertheless, I will try and maintain safe routes from the single gate near the caretaker's flat and those leading to the steps so that parents and children do not have to walk all the way to the tennis courts.

## **General School Notices**

A reminder for parents to regularly check Seesaw as important messages, medical notes and wow moments are posted on this platform. If you have any problems logging in to your account please contact the office.

The hot school dinners menu for this term can be [found here](#). If you wish to make any changes or order an alternative choice for your child please log in to your Local Food Links account giving 7 days' notice. If you need help accessing your account please contact the school office.

KS1 would be extremely grateful for donations of junk modelling i.e. tubs, cereal boxes, cardboard tubes, yoghurt pots. Donations can be sent in with your child or dropped off at the office.

Tickets are available for the Downlands Family Christmas Quiz Night. We will still have our extremely popular chocolate and bottle tombola's on the night along with lots of other festivities, including a visit from Santa. We hope that many of you are able to join us. Tickets available from the office (cash only please).

Have a lovely weekend.

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/>