



Newsletter 5

28/11/2025

Dates for your diary!

AUTUMN TERM 2025

- 5th Dec - Downlands Family Christmas Quiz night
- 9th/10th Dec - KS1 Nativity
- 10th Dec - EYFS Christmas concert and craft afternoon
- 11th Dec - Downlands Christmas Disco
- 17th Dec - Foodlinks Christmas meal
- 18th Dec - Downlands Christmas Party
- 18th Dec - Last day of term
- 19th Dec - TEACHER TRAINING DAY




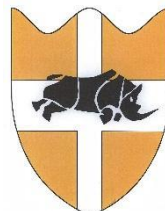
SPRING TERM 2026

- 5th Jan - Term starts

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your family are well.

Attendance

			
95.1% ↓	96.3% ↓	95.0% ↑	95.6% ↑

The NHS offer [guidance here](#) about when it is ok to send your child to school.

I hope to see our overall attendance improving towards our target of 97%. Remember that you can really turn around school attendance over the course of the year as the table below shows:

Attendance after 10 weeks	Attendance at the end of the year if 100% attendance is maintained from this point
100%	100%
95%	99%
85%	96%
75%	94%
70%	92%

Stay safe online

Our E-safety warriors recently met with Mrs Legg to think about what should be our **star expectations** for staying safe online. They came up with the following:

You can also find our monthly newsletter on the website [here](#).



COMMUNITY



Stay safe
Don't share personal information



Think
Check links and messages before opening






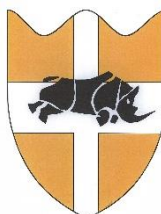
Always be kind
Treat others with respect online



Report worries
Tell an adult if something feels wrong

House points

It is very close in our House Point Competition and we are only just warming up!

			
34	40	42	40

Forest School Snaps



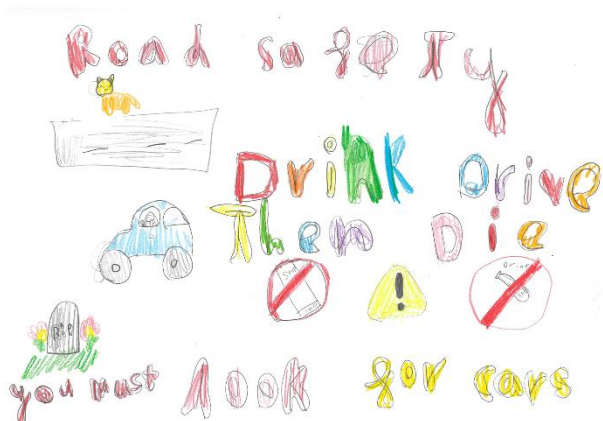
In the news

Congratulations to Mrs Hannah Pipe who is now fully trained as the school's **Designated Allergy Lead**. This means that Downlands Community School is at the forefront of the government's campaign to improve safety and inclusion for pupils with allergies. We will be inviting parents, pupils and staff to join us once a term at a forum where we can ensure voices are heard, and pupils feel encouraged and supported. Further details will follow soon.

Today, we appointed Miss C Longworth to our teaching team for the New Year. Miss Longworth will partner up with Mrs H House in covering for Mrs Robinson during her maternity leave. Miss Longworth already knows some children and families through her leadership role within the Beavers organisation in Blandford Town.

Road safety awareness poster competition

The following children were winners in our road safety competition.



Olivia – Oak



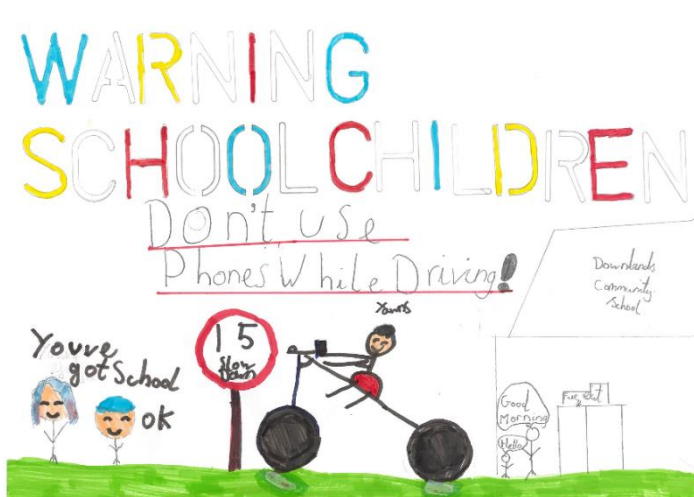
Olivia – Fir



Ivy – Beech



Harper - Cedar



Evelyn - Willow

I was very grateful to Cpl Steven Scarborough and LCpl Milan Thapa for leading an assembly to the children about staying safe near roads during the dark winter evenings.

And finally... out new playground has arrived



Thanks to Governor Keith Dawson for securing the NAAFI fund which enabled the development and liaising with contractors.

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/>