



# Newsletter 9

10/03/2026

## Dates for your diary!

### SPRING TERM 2026

9 & 12<sup>th</sup> Mar - Parent Consultations  
6<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> Mar - British Science Week  
23<sup>rd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Mar - Y3/4 Parent Consultations  
24<sup>th</sup> Mar - Y3/4 Performance (more details to follow)  
27<sup>th</sup> Mar - Last day of term (12noon finish at Garrison Church)

### SUMMER TERM 2026

13<sup>th</sup> Apr - Terms starts  
23<sup>rd</sup> Apr - Fraser Portraits (Class photos)  
11<sup>th</sup> May - KS2 SATs week  
25 - 29<sup>th</sup> May - HALF TERM

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your family well. After an incredibly busy 2 weeks of school, it is a good time to reflect on recent events.

### World Book Day



Science Fair



**Commonwealth – raising the flag ceremony**

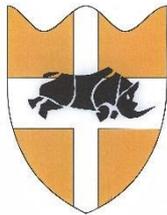


Thank you to the Pupil Parliament and Mrs Watson for representing the school at the Commonwealth Day – Raising the flag ceremony at the corn exchange. Children heard the Major and Padre Carl talk about the commonwealth before taking part in a quiz and having squash and biscuits.



**Attendance**

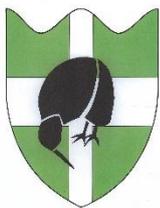
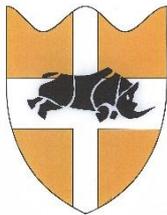
Our house attendance competition might be the closest ever all groups make gains on our overall school attendance target of 97%. With over 2/5 of the year still to go, there is plenty of time to improve individual attendance.

			
<b>95.8% ↑</b>	<b>95.6% ↑</b>	<b>96.1% ↑</b>	<b>96.0% =</b>

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

**House points**

Jaguar have had a real surge in house points, overtaking the previous leaders Kiwi. Remember that every house point counts!

			
<b>138</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>131</b>

## Red Nose Day

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, we will be raising funds for Comic Relief on the annual Red Nose Day. Children will be able to wear home clothes or fancy dress for a donation of at least £1. We will also be having a Joke Competition throughout the week – with finalists sharing jokes in Gold Book Assembly.



## Y5/6 DT Project

**CALLING ALL PARENTS**

PLEASE COME AND HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR D&T PROJECT (MAKING A WIND POWERED VEHICLE).



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
from 1.20 pm

## Message from Julie in Dandelions

Please can parents not send their child back into school unattended after they have been collected. We have had a few instances where parents have sent their child in after collection to use the toilet. This is not appropriate as the setting may not be supervised at this time. If your child needs the toilet please alert a member of staff or come to the main school office.

## Easter in Dorset – Free Holiday Activities for Families

Dorset Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme has opened bookings for their Easter in Dorset activities.

Children who receive **benefit-related Free School Meals (FSM)** can access **free activity places and a hot meal** during the Easter holidays using a unique HAF passcode. These sessions book up quickly, so families are encouraged to book early.

To receive a HAF code, parents/carers can email [holidayactivities@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:holidayactivities@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) with their child's name, date of birth and school, or call 01305 221157. Families who registered previously do not need to register again.

Activities are also open to fee-paying families, and most sessions are accessible to children of all abilities. Please do reach out if you need any help with the registration process by emailing [holidayactivities@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:holidayactivities@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk).

Thank you for reading.

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/>