



Newsletter 10

27/03/2026

Dates for your diary!

SUMMER TERM 2026

13th Apr - Terms starts

21st Apr - School nurse parent drop-in

23rd Apr - Fraser Portraits (Class photos)

11th May - KS2 SATs week

25 - 29th May - HALF TERM




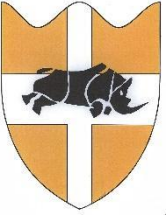
8th - 10th Jul - Yr 5/6 Residential trip

21st Jul - Last day of school term

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your family are well. As we reach the end of the Spring Term, it is a good opportunity to reflect on the last 2 weeks of school.




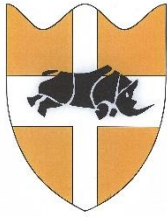
Attendance

			
95.8% =	95.5% ↓	96.3% ↑	96.5% ↑

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

With so many special events in the run up to Easter, there has been a real increase in house point totals, with Kiwi taking back their lead. Remember that every house point counts!

			
172	195	226	156

Easter Egg Hunt

On Thursday, the whole school came together for our annual Easter Egg Hunt whereby children look for pieces of sugar paper of a certain colour which they can then exchange for a chocolate egg (kindly donated by FODS).



House poetry recital competition



After several weeks of practice, all Houses gave a great account of themselves in the House Poetry Recital. House Captains had prepared bespoke poems reflecting our school values and children performed them from memory with actions. It was a really entertaining way to spend our last morning. Overall, the competition results were as follows:

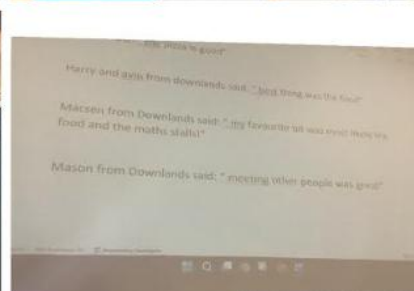
1st Falcon

2nd Jaguar

3rd Rhino and Kiwi

Maths matters

We were really proud of our Y6 pupils as they took part in the annual Maths Matters event at The Blandford School: children from across all primary school in the Blandford area present maths puzzles and activities for others to try out. It is a great activity to demonstrate the fun and relevance of mathematics and to prepare children for life in a secondary setting.



Y6 SATs Information

Save the date – the Y6 SATs are w/b 11th May. Parents can find out more about the Y6 SATs [here](#).

Moving on – information needed

The Governing Body of Downlands are urging parents to share information with the school office about impending moves so that we can have accurate information about pupil numbers for September. Thanks in advance for your assistance with this.

And finally... here is a picture of Dandelions receiving an egg-cellent story from Julie. Have a lovely Easter everyone and see you all after the break.

Mr Rielly
Headteacher



Information from Dorset Council

Helping Families Understand the Government's Education White Paper and SEND Reform Consultation

The government has recently published its Education White Paper, Every Child Achieving and Thriving. It's important that anyone who may be affected by these proposals or who has an interest in education and SEND, can find clear information and have an opportunity to share their views.

The Department for Education has produced a series of easy read documents explaining these proposed changes. You find those here: [Every child achieving and thriving and SEND consultation supporting information – GOV.UK](#)

Parents and families can respond to the consultation and share their [thoughts on the White Paper Online](#), or by emailing SENDreform.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk.

We encourage anyone interested to join the next [Let's Talk SEND online sessions](#), where senior leaders will discuss the proposed reforms and answer as many of your questions as possible during the Q&A section.

To ensure as many can join us for this conversation we will be running two sessions on **Tuesday 24 March**:

Afternoon session: 1 - 2pm, [Sign up here](#)

Evening session: 6:30 - 7:30pm, [Sign up here](#)

To help us get through as many questions as possible, we suggest people pre-submit their questions using our [online form](#).

More details and useful links are available on the Dorset Council website: [Every Child Achieving and Thriving – Schools 'White Paper' – Dorset Council](#)

We have also published a news article outlining our response [to the Government's Education White Paper and the SEND Reform consultation](#).

[Message from the UK Health Security Agency](#)

We understand that recent news reports about the meningitis outbreak in Kent may be concerning for parents and staff working with children and young people. We are reaching out to share information and the correct guidance.

We would like to reassure you that **there is no baseline increased risk outside of the specific outbreak in Kent at this time. Currently there is no need for your setting to take any additional actions beyond routine good practice.**

There is **no new or additional national guidance** issued following the Kent outbreak. The existing national guidance already provides the framework you need. [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK](#)

Routine prevention

Please remind parents, carers and staff of the importance of keeping **routine vaccinations up to date**, including the MenACWY vaccine where applicable. The full UK routine schedule is available here: [Complete routine immunisation schedule from 1 January 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

Recognise the signs and symptoms

You can find out about the signs and symptoms of meningitis here:

[Meningitis and sepsis symptoms - Meningitis Research Foundation](#)

[What is meningitis? Symptoms, risks and how to protect yourself – UK Health Security Agency](#)

If a suspected case of meningitis were ever identified in your setting, the Health Protection Team would advise you directly on immediate steps, communication, and any required risk assessment.

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.