



Newsletter 12

08/05/2026

Dates for your diary!

SUMMER TERM 2026

11th May - KS2 SATs week

19th May - KS2 Orchestra trip

25 - 29th May - HALF TERM

16th Jun - Sports Day & Community Picnic

24th Jun - EYFS Circus Workshop

26th Jun - Armed Forces afternoon

6th Jul - Level 2 Bikeability

7th Jul - Transition day/Move up morning

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




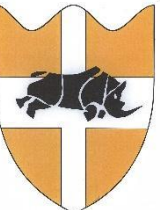
21st Jul - Last day of school term

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your family are well.

Attendance




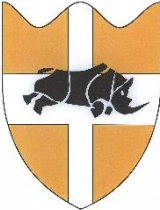
With 1/5 of the school year remaining, there is still plenty of time to improve individual attendance records. Well done to Rhino House who are charging into the lead. School attendance levels continue to be well above average compared to national statistics for primary schools, but it would be great to get closer to our whole school target of 97% attendance.

			
95.9% + 0.3	95.1% - 0.1	96.4% =	96.7% +0.2

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

House points

Still Kiwi House are out in front in the House Point Competition, but Falcon are certainly showing the kind of improvements needed to topple them.

			
205 +27	220 +16	256 +17	166 +11

Improvements to our Forest School

Downlands staff took the initiative to improve our Forest School by installing a canopy. Well done, team!



Supertato – Dandelions competition linked to a book

Dandelions were very fortunate to have Supertato fly in to judge their Supertato making competition. All the models were brilliant so thank you to parents for helping children to bring the story to life in this way.

Science experiments in The Butterfly Hub

Children in The Butterfly Hub have been experimenting with water in different forms.



Gardening Club

Our clubs have restarted again this term and these keen gardeners are enjoying the new 'raised beds' and recent top soil delivery.



SATS next week

All Year 6 have worked incredibly hard to be prepared for next week's SATS tests as follows:

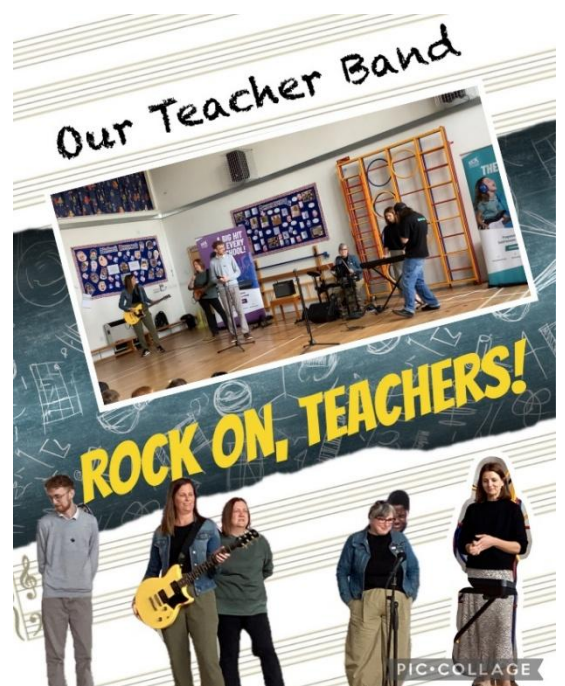
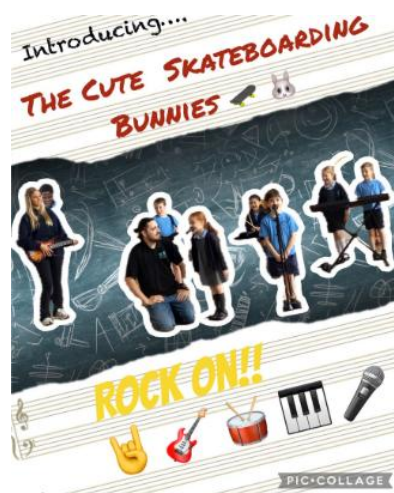
- Monday 11 May – English grammar, punctuation and spelling
- Tuesday 12 May – English reading
- Wednesday 13 May – Mathematics (arithmetic and reasoning)
- Thursday 14 May – Mathematics (reasoning)

Schools will receive results in early July. Before the end of the summer term, we will send you a report including their test results and teacher assessment judgements.

Results are given as a scaled score – a score of 100 or above means your child is working at or above the expected standard for their age. For more information on the tests and what the results mean, the Standards and Testing Agency has published [leaflets for parents](#) which will provide additional details about the tests and results process – these are available on Gov.UK.

Rocksteady

Attached to this communication is a poster with details of how parents are able to digitally sign up to Rocksteady music clubs which were launched with the whole school this week.



Miss Longworth completed the London Marathon

Thanks to all those who may have already sponsored Miss Longworth in completing the 2026 London Marathon. She became a joint Guinness World Record Holder as being one of a record number of finishers for a marathon (59,830).

You still have time to donate to her worthy cause which is raising money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society ([see this link](#))



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/>