



Newsletter 14

19/06/2026

Dates for your diary!

SUMMER TERM 2026

24th Jun - EYFS Circus Workshop
 26th Jun - Armed Forces Day
 3rd Jul - Non-school uniform in exchange for bottles
 3rd Jul - Yr 3&4 Camp Out
 6th Jul - Level 2 Bikeability
 7th Jul - Transition day/Move up morning
 8th - 10th Jul - Yr 5/6 Residential trip
 17th Jul - Nepalese Celebration Assembly
 17th Jul - Summer Fayre (1515-1630hrs)
 20th Jul - Dance Festival (0930hrs)
 20th Jul - Yr 6 Leavers' Speeches (1400hrs)
 20th Jul - Yr 6 Leavers BBQ (1600hrs)
 21st Jul - Last day of school term

AUTUMN TERM 2026




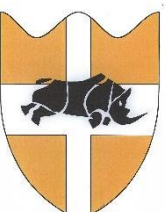
2nd Sept - Registration morning (0900-1200hrs)
 3rd Sept - First day of school

Dear Parents and Carers,

There is lots to share as we journey through one of the busiest terms of the school year.

Attendance




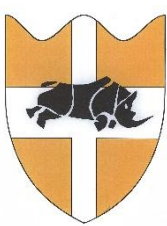
Well done to Rhino House who have extended their lead and have an attendance rate close to our overall school target of 97%. There is still time to affect those numbers with 4 weeks (10%) left of the school year.

			
95.7%	94.8%	96.1%	96.8%

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




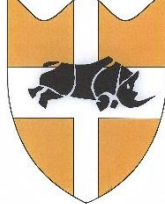
House points

Kiwi House are out in front in the House Point Competition, but Jaguar have pushed their way into 2nd place. It could be a close finish.

			
249	269	313	239

Sports Day Results

Congratulations to Jaguar who were the overall winners of this year's sports day.

			
3810	3662	2980	3193

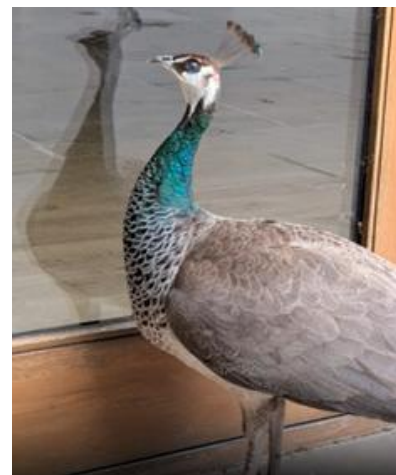
Thank you to everyone who contributed to such an excellent sports day and family picnic.



FS2 and KS1 trip to Monkey World



Y5 visit to The Larmer Tree Gardens



Y5s continued their involvement in the Larmer Tree Project which aims to enrich education and wellbeing through creative arts in the beautiful surroundings of the gardens.

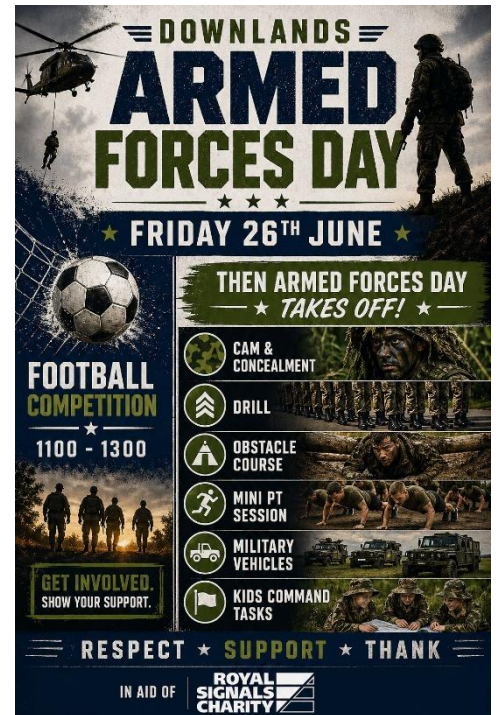
Armed Forces Day – Friday 26th June

We will be marking Armed Forces Day with a military themed activity day. This will start with a House football competition for KS2 and continue into the afternoon with activities for the whole school (see right).

Parents are welcome to come along and show their support during the football tournament from 1030 to 1130hrs.

Children may come to school in army/camo themed home clothes with donations being collected for the Royal Signals Charity.

Thanks to SSgt Hazel and Cpl Snelling for their hard work organising this event.



Member of staff raising money for SSAFA

On 28 June, Mrs Lewis and WO2 Vikki Hawtree, Chair of SSAFA Blandford, will be taking on the 13 Bridges Challenge in London to raise funds for SSAFA.

They are undertaking this challenge to help SSAFA continue its invaluable work supporting serving personnel, veterans and military families within our local community. Funds raised will directly benefit local people and initiatives, including support for children and families connected with Downlands School and the wider Armed Forces community.

They would be very grateful for any sponsorship, no matter how small. Every donation will help SSAFA provide practical, emotional and financial support to those who have served our country and their families.

Please donate via the link below. Thank you for your kindness and support.

<https://fundraise.ssafa.org.uk/s/1242/1347/w>

Messages from Dorset Council

Childcare Survey for Dorset Parents & Carers

We're asking schools to help us reach families by sharing the Dorset Council Childcare Survey with parents and carers.

The survey gathers feedback to help improve childcare availability and support across Dorset. Please circulate the link via your usual channels (newsletters, email, parent apps, etc):

Online Survey- [Childcare Survey for Dorset Parents and Carers - Dorset Council - Citizen Space](#)

The survey is quick to complete and feedback will directly inform future planning and services for families locally.

As a thank you for completing the survey parents and carers can be entered into a chance to win 1 of 5 £50 Amazon vouchers.



For full terms and conditions please see survey.

More Dorset Children Could Qualify for Free School Meals

Families across Dorset are being encouraged to check now whether their children will be eligible for free school meals from the September 2026 school term. This follows changes by central government.

From this autumn, all children whose parent/carer receives any level of Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of how much their household earns. This removes the current £7,400 annual income cap and means more children will be able to have free school meals.

Free school meals can save families up to around £495 on school lunches per child per year, while also ensuring children receive a healthy, filling meal during the school day.

To prepare for the change, parents or carers will need to apply or reapply from 1 June 2026, even if their child already receives free school meals this school year.

Please [click here](#) to check eligibility.

Job Vacancy at Downlands

School Cleaner XS1.6 (starting Sept 2026)

Dorset Grade 1 – £12.65 per hr (pay award pending)

10 hours per week. Monday-Friday 3.15-5.15pm. 44 weeks per year

We are seeking to appoint a School Cleaner to undertake general cleaning duties to provide a clean, hygienic and safe environment for our school.

No formal qualifications or previous experience is required. Initial training in basic cleaning methods and the use of associated materials and equipment will be provided within the induction period and further training provided thereafter, as required.

Downlands Community School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people; this is a commitment which we all expect staff and volunteers to share. The successful candidate will be required to have a Disclosure and Barring Service check in line with the Governments Safer Recruitment Guidelines.

Downlands Community School values the diversity of our workforce and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.

Application forms and Job description available from office@downlandsschool.org

Closing date:

Applications will be reviewed and considered as and when they are submitted.

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/>