



Newsletter 2

02/10/2026

Dates for your diary!

AUTUMN TERM 2026

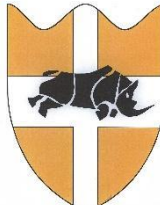
16th Oct - Flu Vaccinations
 22nd Oct - SSAFA Halloween Bake Off
 23rd Oct - Non-school uniform (details to follow)
 26th - 30th Oct - HALF TERM
 2nd Nov - TEACHER TRAINING DAY
 5th Nov - Garrison Halloween & Bonfire event
 9th & 12th Nov - Parent consultations
 16th-20th Nov - Anti-bullying week
 20th Nov - Non school uniform (details to follow)
 27th Nov - Downlands Christmas Family Quiz Night
 10th Dec - Downlands Christmas Disco
 15th Dec - Downlands Christmas Party
 16th Dec - Foodlinks Christmas Meal
 (More details will follow regarding the above Christmas events.)
 17th Dec - Last day of term
 18th Dec - TEACHER TRAINING DAY

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are well. Here is some of the latest news and events from Downlands Community School.

Attendance

Thank you to parents and carers for their support in reinforcing messages on attendance and punctuality. There has been a good start in this regard in the first 4 weeks of school.

			
97.5%	95.0%	97.3%	98.1%

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

Here is a [guide](#) for parents and carers on keeping kids healthy this school year.

I have also shared guidance with my colleagues about the importance of good health and hygiene routines and practices in school to help prevent the spread of infection.

House points

Well done to children whose achievements have been celebrated at our weekly Gold Book Assembly, resulting in the following house point totals. Needless to say, there is a long way to go, but we have a strong start from Rhino House in terms of attendance and achievement.

			
10	11	8	12

Fundraising

On Wednesday 30th September, the school hosted a special Harvest assembly to help children to empathise with those families in Nepal and Tibet who were affected by the floods of 26/8. Children paid money to wear home clothes in red, white and blue colours so that we could show solidarity



with the people of Nepal by creating the national flag. £208 was donated and will be passed on to the Gurkha Welfare Trust who are already supporting veterans affected by the flooding.

On Wednesday 7th October, children walked up and down 'Cardiac Hill' here on camp or climbed an apparatus mountain as part of the annual 'Big Salute' charity fundraising drive – this year the theme was 'Operation Summit'.

Thank you to all the children who took part and those who gained sponsorship to support this worthy cause which supports smaller charities working with services families. Thanks also to those parents who gave up their time to help out on the day.



THE BIG SALUTE, OPERATION SUMMIT



Multi-culturalism

We celebrated Fiji Day for the third year in a row, listening to members of the Fijian community here on camp speak about the history of the country and its friendship and links to Great Britain. Special attention was also drawn to the Cibi (pronounced thee-mbee) which is a Fijian dance performed by Fijian Warriors and now made famous by the Fiji international rugby team.



Dashain Party

We wish all our children and families a fantastic time at the Dashain Party happening on camp this weekend.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Mr J 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, Mr Jolliffe (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/>