

The Downs News—6th October 2023

Library Visits

This week children from Years 3 to 6 attended the library. Thank you to any parents, grandparents or carers that attended the trip. Children and staff had a great time.



Pleasure of Reading

Each month this year, we are going to have a themed reading challenge. Until the end of October, we are having a Reading Bingo Challenge – this will encourage your child to read as many books as possible from a wide range of types of books. It will also encourage them to read in different ways. Your child should have come home with a Bingo card and a bookmark. They can tick off these Bingo Activities in school or at home. As they tick off what they have achieved, teachers will ask them to tell them about how they met that challenge. Feel free to adapt it for different age groups – it is just as important for children to hear adults, family and friends reading as it is for them to read themselves. If they complete the challenge the children will receive a certificate! Let's see who is up to the challenge! Happy reading everybody!



School Gateway

In July, we ceased using SIMs Pay and moved to a new payment system called **School Gateway**. We only currently have 32.6% of parents who have registered for the new app. **School Gateway** is used for payments such as Breakfast Club, School Dinners, After School Clubs, School Trips and other activities they may require a fee. If you are not signed up to **School Gateway** your child may miss out on fun opportunities the school have on offer. **School Gateway is only for activities that require a payment.**

Dojo

At The Downs we use a system call ClassDojo. This allows parents and staff direct contact with each other and to keep parents updated with what is happening in class currently as well as upcoming trips.

SchoolCloud

We have been using a system called **SchoolCloud** since last academic year. We have purchased this system to reduce the amount of paper we are using. **SchoolCloud** is a system we are using to gather consent for children for trips that do not require a fee, Parents' Evening and other activities we ay require consent for.

Please find the link for **SchoolCloud** below.

[SchoolCloud](#)

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening is now open on **SchoolCloud**. Parents' Evening will be on Tuesday 17th October and Wednesday 18th October, if you would like to meet with your child's class teacher(s) please book an appointment via SchoolCloud.

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PTA

The PTA have been reflecting on the events that have been organised over the years and the memories we have made with the children. There have been some funky moves at the disco; spooky treasure hunts; Bake off at The Downs, being covered in coloured powder at the Colour Run and Santa visiting.

All of those memories made were possible because of the dedicated PTA team.

It's a new school year and we want to create more memories because we know they are priceless.

If you would like to join or have any questions please

email friendsofthedowns@downs.essex.sch.uk

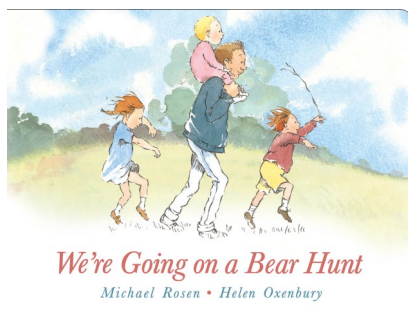
or see Miss Ramanauskaite (Cedar Class).

Photos

Your child should have brought home a slip today with their individual photos. If you have more than one child, the sibling photo will be attached to one of the children's slips.

We're Going On A Bear Hunt

This week Reception have been on a bear hunt and found a very friendly bear in the forest!



Funky Day

Thank you to everyone who took part in 'Get Funky Day'. The children looked amazing.

Thank you for anyone who had a school dinner, every meal goes towards funding for the school to improve the education of the children.

Team Spirit—15th September

Children are able to earn Team Points for their house by working together and showing a good team spirit. Children who have been awarded for Team Spirit are as follows.

<u>Dragon</u>	<u>Griffin</u>	<u>Lion</u>	<u>Unicorn</u>
Shongayi in Hazel	Poppy-May in Larch Elsie in Maple Jane in Sycamore Annika in Aspen Bernice in Willow	Cody in Elm Chimdindu in Cedar	Freya in Chesnut Hanah in Rowan Lacey in Birch Elyn in Oak

Team Spirit—22nd September

<u>Dragon</u>	<u>Griffin</u>	<u>Lion</u>	<u>Unicorn</u>
Bubacarr in Elm Bonnie in Birch Logan in Willow	Madeline in Mulberry Charlie in Sycamore Millie in Aspen Mila in Cedar Eric in Oak	Alex in Maple Flavia in Chestnut Isla in Rowan Maddison in Hazel	Zack in Holly Aiden in Larch

Team Spirit—29th September

<u>Dragon</u>	<u>Griffin</u>	<u>Lion</u>	<u>Unicorn</u>
Mia’Rose in Elm Alyna in Larch Gabe in Birch Laibah in Hazel	Joshua in Holly Charlie in Sycamore Leigh-Anna in Rowan Eric in Oak	Amazon in Mulberry Raducu in Maple Ruben in Aspen Olivia in Chestnut Miley in Willow	Callie in Cedar

Team Spirit—6th October

<u>Dragon</u>	<u>Griffin</u>	<u>Lion</u>	<u>Unicorn</u>
Sofia in Mulberry Mahadi in Holly Rocky in Aspen Lilya in Hazel Lena in Oak	Joahan in Cedar Zoe in Willow	Cody in Elm Denny in Larch Eylul in Maple Jamari in Sycamore Layla in Birch	Farhad in Chestnut

Stars of the Week—15th September

To children who have really shone in class and impressed a member of staff.

Casey in Elm	Nyrah in Cedar	Malachi in Oak
Amaal in Larch	Hajra in Rowan	Aleeza in Hazel
Ephraim in Maple	Hayden in Chestnut	
Steven in Sycamore	Ryan in Birch	
Charlie in Aspen	Zoe in Willow	



Stars of the Week—22nd September

	Kamil in Maple	Joshua in Chestnut
Logan in Mulberry	Angela in Sycamore	Aniya in Birch
Aya in Holly	Avhni in Aspen	Asmara in Willow
Nyla in Elm	Stefan in Cedar	Christian in Oak
Zayyan in Larch	Bright in Rowan	Noah in Hazel



Stars of the Week—29th September





Suzi-Ley in Acorn	Deborah in Maple	Bennett in Chestnut
Momid in Mulberry	Freddie in Sycamore	Simirta in Birch
Zack in Holly	Bertie in Aspen	Kadie in Willow
Daniils in Elm	Hanya in Cedar	Ninah in Oak
Maeve in Larch	Ellise in Rowan	Amalia in Hazel



Stars of the Week—6th October

Theo in Acorn	Ayden in Maple	Piotr in Chestnut
Maryam in Mulberry	Abdullah in Sycamore	Emine in Birch
Hannah in Holly	Lexi in Aspen	James in Willow
Daejaan in Elm	Mila in Cedar	Joseph in Oak
Humaira in Larch	Jude in Rowan	Stanley in Hazel



<u>House Points</u>				
<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>15th September</u>	<u>22nd September</u>	<u>29th September</u>	<u>6th October</u>
<u>Dragon</u>	594	408	570	235
<u>Griffin</u>	610	466	546	282
<u>Lion</u>	627	459	526	257
<u>Unicorn</u>	607	472	576	202
	Well Done Lion 	Well Done Unicorn 	Well Done Unicorn 	Well Done Griffin 

<u>Total House Points for 2023—2024</u>	
<u>Dragon</u>	2253
<u>Griffin</u>	2300
<u>Lion</u>	2186
<u>Unicorn</u>	2183

You will be this year's winner?



Diary Dates for Autumn Term	
Monday 9th October	World Mental Health Day
Tuesday 10th October	Year 1 Library Visit
Friday 13th October	Year 2 Library Visit
Tuesday 17th October	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 18th October	Parents' Evening
Friday 20th October	Non-Uniform Day
Monday 23rd October— Tuesday 31st October	Half Term
Wednesday 1st November	Children return to school
Thursday 21st December	Early closure—School finishes at 1:30pm
Friday 22nd December 2023—5th January 2024	Christmas Holidays
Monday 8th January 2024	Children return to school



RECEPTION OPEN DAYS

We are currently offering Open Day tours for new prospective parents to join our Reception cohort for 2024.

We have the following dates available for parents to view the school community:

- Wednesday 11th October 2023 – 9am
- Tuesday 7th November 2023 – 1:30pm
- Thursday 23rd November 2023 – 9am
- Wednesday 10th January 2024 – 9am and 1:30pm

For further questions or information please email admin@downs.essex.sch.uk

To secure your child's place at The Downs please complete your application via [Primary school places | Essex County Council](#).

Applications open on Monday 6th November 2023 and close on Monday 15th January 2024.





