

The Downs News—20th October 2023

Message from Livewire

Thank you for having us at your school for our Sing and Play Workshop! We hope your students in Years 5 and 6 enjoyed themselves as much as we did.

Livewire are offering free weekly workshops and would look like to invite children from The Downs to join.

Please find a link to a video which explains where and when the sessions are.

https://youtu.be/9THII53XyLU?si=-UmQ_12AUQAJMnkk

This project has been funded by The Essex Community Foundation.



Parents' Evening

Thank you to all parents that booked and attended Parents' Evening this week.

We offered parents the opportunity to give feedback on the school, of the feedback completed we have received a very positive response and would like to thank parents who took the opportunity to complete this. Please find some of the feedback below:

- ♦ *It is an amazing experience being a parent of children at The Downs thanks to the support and communication we have received so far.*
- ♦ *Communication is always clear and the teachers are lovely and supportive!*
- ♦ *Being a parent at The Downs has been easy, stress free and quite rewarding.*
- ♦ *Very friendly and welcoming in the main reception, always there to help if needed.*
- ♦ *Well informed though Class Dojo and Newsletters.*
- ♦ *Proud, Pleased and Satisfied*
- ♦ *As a parent, I have been very happy with the work put in to help my child (even when it has been hard).*

We also have been given some suggestions about how we can improve further. We will be taking these onboard in the near future.

Sports Events

Over the last two weeks, many children have taken part in Sports Competitions across the town.

Our Year 5/6 Boys team made it to the quarter finals of their football competition. We are very proud of what they have achieved. The team came joint 2nd in their group and just missed out on a place in the semi final. The Year 4 Girls' Football team took part in the Harlow Football festival where the main theme was fun and enjoyment, they certainly had a thoroughly enjoyable experience! We will update you on the Year 2 and Year 4 Boys' Football results after half term, but the children enjoyed themselves today.

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Non-Uniform Day

Thank you to all families that donated to the Non-Uniform Day today. We raised a total of £282 towards the school playground equipment.

Smoking/Vaping

Can we please remind parents/carers that we are a no smoking/vaping site. Please do not vape or smoke whilst on our school site.

Parent Reading Sessions—EYFS and Year 1 and 2

Thank you to the parents who have been attending the Parent Reading Sessions this half term. We will be continuing this for the rest of the school year. We look forward to seeing more parents participating. We are looking at ways we can facilitate this for KS2.

Leavers

This half term we said goodbye to Miss Mansfield from Nursery and Miss Searle who worked with us at lunchtimes. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

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Dug Up Dave

By Mr Turner

In the haunted garden, of a haunted house
Lives 'Dug up Dave' the Zombie Mouse.
When darkness calls to envelop the sun
Up comes Dave for some Halloween fun.

As he roams around town covered in cobwebs and dust
People passing by, give him looks of disgust.
For with undead rodents, folk can seem weary?
Apparently, maggots for hair can be a little bit scary.

But if you can get past the smell and the absence of skin,
Dave is great fun and my favourite vermin.
A gruesome façade but he would do you no harm,
And he has a great party trick where he takes off his arm.

So this Halloween, when the lights go out
Monsters and ghosts and ghouls are about.
Don't be worries if you hear a noise in your house,
It might just be Dave the Zombie Mouse.



Team Spirit—13th October

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> |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Troy in Mulberry | Sharon in Aspen | Siyana in Holly | Harley in Elm |
| Ava in Maple | Nyla in Willow | Sienna in Larch | Shane in Birch |
| Andrew in Chestnut | | Skylah in Sycamore | |
| | | Layla I Cedar | |
| | | Robert in Rowan | |
| | | Amelia in Oak | |

Team Spirit—20th October

| <u>Dragon</u> | <u>Griffin</u> | <u>Lion</u> | <u>Unicorn</u> |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Mia-Rose in Elm | Michael in Holly | Bertie in Aspen | Tommy in Mulberry |
| Henry in Maple | Ilyas in Hazel | Tommy in Cedar | Mihai in Larch |
| Nandi in Willo | | De-Andre in Rowan | Freddie in Sycamore |
| Poppy in Oak | | | Hayden in Chestnut |
| | | | Simirta in Birch |

Stars of the Week—13th October

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



| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Everleigh in Acorn | Darasimi in Maple | Mia in Chestnut |
| Noah in Mulberry | Victor in Sycamore | Layla in Birch |
| Roman in Holly | Nikita in Aspen | Eli in Willow |
| Dolly in Elm | Callie in Cedar | Poppy in Oak |
| Magid in Larch | Clarissa in Rowan | Alanna in Hazel |



Stars of the Week—20th October

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Poppy in Acorn | Eylul in Maple | Newton in Chestnut |
| Madeline in Mulberry | Kye in Sycamore | Shane in Birch |
| Siyana in Holly | Seun in Aspen | George in Willow |
| Dolly in Elm | Amelia in Cedar | Sienna in Oak |
| Isobel in Larch | Coco in Rowan | Isla in Hazel |



| <u>House Points</u> | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| <u>Week Ending</u> | <u>13th October</u> | <u>20th October</u> |
| <u>Dragon</u> | 614 | 290 |
| <u>Griffin</u> | 642 | 211 |
| <u>Lion</u> | 650 | 274 |
| <u>Unicorn</u> | 597 | 270 |
| | Well Done Lion!  | Well Done Dragon!  |

You will be this year's winner?

| <u>Total House Points for 2023—2024</u> | |
|---|------|
| <u>Dragon</u> | 3157 |
| <u>Griffin</u> | 3165 |
| <u>Lion</u> | 3110 |
| <u>Unicorn</u> | 3050 |



Diary Dates for Autumn Term

| | |
|--|--|
| Monday 23rd October— Tuesday 31st October | Half Term |
| Wednesday 1st November | Children return to school |
| Wednesday 8th November | Year 6 Trip—Imperial War Museum |
| Wednesday 15th November | Year 1 Trip—Sea Life |
| Thursday 16th November | Years 5 and 6 Cinema Trip |
| Friday 17th November | Years 1– 4 Cinema Trip |
| Friday 17th November | Children in Need |
| Monday 20th November | Year 5 Workshop—Portals to the Past |
| Thursday 23rd November | World Café Day—More information to follow |
| Friday 24th November | INSET Day—School closed to children |
| Monday 27th November | Reception Workshop—Little City |
| Friday 1st December | Flu Immunisations—Whole School |
| Friday 8th December | Christmas Jumper Day |
| Wednesday 20th December | Nursery Last Day |
| Thursday 21st December | Non-Uniform Day |
| 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.

