

The Downs News—10th November 2023



We are offering Christmas lunch to children in Reception to Year 6 on Wednesday 13th December.

If your child would like a Christmas lunch, please make sure you pre-order online via SchoolGateway by Monday 11th December.

Children in Reception & Years 1 & 2 are all entitled to Universal Free School Meals, so payment is not needed, nor is it needed if your child is in KS2 and entitled to Free School Meals, but you do still need to pre-order your child's meal via SchoolGateway.

For KS2 children there is a cost of £3 per child. Payment for the meal should be made via SchoolGateway', by Monday 11th December.

Please remember to pre-order your child's meal.

We will not be able to provide a Christmas lunch if it has not been pre-ordered..

Children will be allowed to wear non-school uniform on the day. Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper. We would like to ask parents for small donation of £1. The funds will be used to improve our playground equipment and other resources the school requires.

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Pudsey Day

Friday 17th November 2023

On the day children can come to school dressed in their favourite clothes, Pyjamas or they can wear Pudsey inspired clothing.

Pudsey merchandise will be available to purchase in school from Monday 13th November. Please look out for this on School Gateway.



Pudsey Day Special Menu

Friday 17th November 2023

Main meal - Hot dog with a side of fries

Halal - Hot dog with a side of fries

Vegetarian - Vegan sausage in a roll with a side of fries

Menu B- Jacket potato with cheese and beans

Dessert- Pudsey cookie

All dietary requirements will be met



If you would like to make a donation to Children in Need, this can be done via the following link or cash to the school office.

[Donate to BBC Children in Need](#)

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Friends of The Downs needs you!

The PTA are in need of volunteers to help with the organisation of events. Over the years the PTA have been able to host Christmas Fayres, Halloween Discos, Summer events etc. However they are unable to do this without the support of our wonderful parents. This is a volunteer position, for more information please email

friendsofthedowns@downs.essex.sch.uk

Year 6 parents

With your child being in their final year we would like to be able to offer as many memorable events as possible. The PTA are offering an incentive to Year 6 parents, the more events you are able to help to plan the PTA will contribute towards the end of year celebrations for Year 6.

Please contact Miss G Ramanauskaite on the email address above for more information.



Armistice Day

Today, children who attend a Youth Organisation outside of school (such as Rainbows, Scouts, Girl Guides etc) were invited to wear their uniform to school. This was to show their support for all service personnel, animals and families who have lost a loved one.



Team Spirit—3rd November

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> Layla in Chestnut	<u>Griffin</u> Paige in Maple	<u>Lion</u> Reece in Oak	<u>Unicorn</u> Rubi in Cedar
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Team Spirit—10th November

<u>Dragon</u>	<u>Griffin</u> Damarae in Mulberry Celina in Elm Izzah in Sycamore	<u>Lion</u> Raducu in Maple Layla in Cedar Juan in Chestnut Aleigha in Birch Alwin in Hazel Malachi in Oak	<u>Unicorn</u> Anamika in Holly Esther in Larch Logan in Aspen James in Willow
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Stars of the Week—3rd November

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


Poppie in Maple
Richard in Cedar
Ekene in Chestnut
Christian in Oak



Stars of the Week—10th November

Tahama in Acorn	Florilda in Maple	Olivia in Chestnut
Adona in Mulberry	Sahej in Sycamore	CJ in Birch
Tanha in Holly	Seyifunmi in Aspen	Pearl in Willow
Aubree in Elm	Luca in Cedar	Jack in Oak
Joan in Larch	in Rowan	Alfie in Hazel



<u>House Points</u>	
<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>10th November</u>
<u>Dragon</u>	341
<u>Griffin</u>	457
<u>Lion</u>	308
<u>Unicorn</u>	425
	Well Done Griffin!
	

Who will be this year's winner?

<u>Total House Points for 2023—2024</u>	
<u>Dragon</u>	3498
<u>Griffin</u>	3622
<u>Lion</u>	3418
<u>Unicorn</u>	3475



Diary Dates for Autumn Term	
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—Please see the Pudsey Day posters
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—Deadline Friday 23rd November
Friday 8th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 15th December	Year 2 Trip—Sculpture Trail
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.

