

# The Downs News—1st December 2023

## Cinema Trip

On Thursday 16th November and Friday 17th November children from Year 1 to Year 6 were given the opportunity to attend Harlow Town Centre Cinema where the children watched Paddington (Years 5 and 6) and The Smeds, The Smoods and Superworm (Years 1 to 4).

The children enjoyed the morning.

## Portals to the Past

On Monday 20th November, Year 5 had a visit from the Portals to the Past team. The children experienced Ancient Greece in a fun and interactive manner. Some children took the opportunity to dress up in costume.

## Little City

On Monday 27th November, the Reception classes had the Little City Workshop in. We turned the hall into a 'Little City' full of different BLAH such as Vets, Hospitals, Hairdressers etc. The children were able to take on the roles and learn more about them. We hope the children came home and shared what they had been taught throughout the day.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023



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## School Lunches

Please can parents ensure they are checking the school menu before bringing children to school. More children are arriving to school and requesting a packed lunch to be brought to them via the school office.

## Parking and Surrounding Roads

This week we have had a few issues with regards to driving and parking in the areas surrounding the school. Can we please remind adults, if you are bringing your child to school in the car you must be courteous of our neighbours and children walking to school.

## Christmas Dinner Reminder

Thank you to anyone has already signed up for their child to have a Christmas Dinner, the deadline to pre-order your Christmas Dinner is Monday 11th December. You can pre-order your child's Christmas Dinner via the SchoolGateway app, please go to the school office if you have any issues logging in.

A festive graphic for the Christmas Dinner menu. It features a central illustration of Santa Claus standing next to a decorated Christmas tree, with a reindeer and several wrapped gifts at the base. The background is light blue with white snowflakes. The text is arranged around the illustration, with the title at the top and the menu items on the right. The entire graphic is framed by holly leaves and berries in the corners.

**CHRISTMAS DINNER**  
**13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

**MAIN MEAL** - Turkey breast with pigs in blankets

**VEGETARIAN** - Vegan buttermilk fillet

**HALAL** - Halal turkey with halal sausage

**SIDES** - Roast potatoes, stuffing balls, Yorkshire puddings<sup>(GF)(DF)</sup>, brussels, peas, carrots and gravy<sup>(GF)(DF)</sup>

**DESSERT** - Chocolate log cake slice<sup>(GF)(DF)</sup>

## **Attendance**

### **What time should my child arrive for school?**

- **Nursery** 8:30am, **Reception** 8:50am and **Years 1-6** 8:40am (gates close at 8:50am).

### **How do I inform the school that my child is not going to attend?**

- You need to call the school office before 9am on each day of absence. The school has an answer phone available for parents to leave a message if nobody is available to take your call.

### **Who should I inform of my child's absence?**

- The name and contact details of the school staff member pupils and parents should contact about attendance on a day-to-day basis is Miss J Pavlou 01279 445538

### **Do I need to provide medical evidence for my child's absence?**

- Our policy states that you will need to provide medical evidence for any time that exceeds 3 days. If you have received either an under 90% letter or warning letter, you will need to provide medical evidence for all absent days.

### **Will my child's absence be authorised?**

- An absence will be authorised if the reason given is for a genuine reason, such as illness. All absences that are supported with medical evidence will be authorised. (Please see our Attendance Policy for further information)

### **Does being late affect my child's attendance overall?**

- Yes, being late can have an impact on your child's overall attendance percentage. If your child arrives late but before the register closes at 9:10am, they will be marked with an 'L' code. If your child arrives after 9:10am, they will be marked with a 'U' code, which is

effectively a missed session mark; this will affect your child's overall attendance figure.

Unauthorised lateness could result in the school referring to the Local Authority for sanctions and/or legal proceedings. If your child has a persistent late record, you will be asked to meet with the Headteacher and/or Home School Liaison Officer.

### **Parents should not keep their children off school unnecessarily, some examples of unnecessary absences include:**

- Being up late.
  - Non-infectious illness or injury that does not prevent their ability to learn (see accompanying list).
  - Shopping trips
  - Medical appointments that can be booked out of school hours.
  - Accompanying siblings or parents to medical appointments.
  - For their own or family birthdays.
  - Holidays during term time.
  - Wedding of non-immediate family.
- We class immediate family as, parents, siblings or grandparents.
- Day trips.

If your child is absent, we will telephone or email you on the first and every subsequent day of absence if we have not heard from you. It is the parents' responsibility to call the school office to report their child's absence. If we are unable to make contact with parents by telephone, we will telephone emergency contact numbers, send letters home and a home visit may be made in the interests of safeguarding.

A referral will be made to Local Authority if no contact has been made with parents by the 10th day of absence (or sooner if deemed appropriate), at which point your child will be considered to be "missing from education."

## **Attendance**

Is my child well enough for school?

High temperature	Keep them off school until it goes away.
Chickenpox	Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.
Cold sores	Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.
Conjunctivitis	You don't need to keep your child away from school. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.
COVID-19	If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school. Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have <a href="#">symptoms of COVID-19</a> and they either: have a high temperature, do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities
Ear infection	If your child has an <a href="#">ear infection</a> and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Hand, foot and mouth disease	If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.
Head lice and nits	There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. You can treat <a href="#">head lice and nits</a> without seeing a GP.
Impetigo	They'll need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.
Ringworm	See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.
Scarlet fever	They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise, they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.
Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)	You don't need to keep your child off school if they have <a href="#">slapped cheek syndrome</a> because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. But let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.
Sore throat	You can still send your child to school if they have a <a href="#">sore throat</a> . But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away. A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of <a href="#">tonsillitis</a> .
Threadworms	You don't need to keep your child off school if they have <a href="#">threadworms</a> . Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.
Vomiting and diarrhoea	Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for least 24 hours

### Team Spirit—17th 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>	<u>Griffin</u>	<u>Lion</u>	<u>Unicorn</u>
Amos in Elm	Shalomrain in Mulberry	Jesse in Holly	Ephraim in Maple
Uma in Hazel	Joanna in Chestnut	Kiera in Larch	Sophie in Sycamore
	Saurav in Birch	Oliver in Aspen	Anais in Rowan
	Poppy M in Oak	Chimdindu in Cedar	Max in Willow

### Team Spirit—23rd November

<u>Dragon</u>	<u>Griffin</u>	<u>Lion</u>	<u>Unicorn</u>
Henry in Maple	Ilyas in Hazel		

### Team Spirit—1st December

<u>Dragon</u>	<u>Griffin</u>	<u>Lion</u>	<u>Unicorn</u>

### **Stars of the Week— 17th November**

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

**Shreya in Acorn**

**Aaron in Maple**

**Ella in Chestnut**

**Tommy in Mulberry**

**Victor in Sycamore**

**Lacey in Birch**

**Deethya in Holly**

**Rocky in Aspen**

**Jewel in Willow**

**Aubree in Elm**

**Amelie in Cedar**

**Theo in Oak**

**Sienna in Larch**

**Ronnie in Rowan**

**Laibah in Hazel**



### **Stars of the Week—23rd November**

**Donaldson in Maple**

**Martin in Hazel**



### **Stars of the Week—1st December**

**in Acorn**

**in Maple**

**in Chestnut**

**in Mulberry**

**in Sycamore**

**in Birch**

**in Holly**

**in Aspen**

**in Willow**

**in Elm**

**in Cedar**

**in Oak**




**in Larch**

**in Rowan**

**in Hazel**





<u>House Points</u>			
<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>17th November</u>	<u>23rd November</u>	<u>1st December</u>
<u>Dragon</u>	729	23	
<u>Griffin</u>	779	29	
<u>Lion</u>	916	26	
<u>Unicorn</u>	775	29	
	Well Done Lion!	Well Done Griffin and Unicorn	
		 	

Who will be this year's winner?

<u>Total House Points for 2023—2024</u>	
<u>Dragon</u>	4250
<u>Griffin</u>	4430
<u>Lion</u>	4360
<u>Unicorn</u>	4279



Diary Dates for Autumn Term	
Monday 11th December	Christmas Dinner Pre-Order Deadline Please sign up on School Gateway
Wednesday 13th December	Young Carers Event at Saint Nicholas
Wednesday 13th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 13th December	Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 13th December	PTA Event
Friday 15th December	Year 2 Trip—Sculpture Trail
Friday 15th December	Nursery Christmas Stay and Play
Monday 18th December	Reception Performance AM
Tuesday 19th December	Reception Performance PM
Tuesday 19th December	Year 1 and 2 Singing and Craft Activity with Parents
Wednesday 20th December	Nursery Last Day
Wednesday 20th December	Nursery Class Parties AM and PM
Wednesday 20th December	Year 3 and 4 Christmas at St Pauls AM
Wednesday 20th December	Class Parties PM
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 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – 9am
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 1:30pm
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 – 9am
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – 9am and 1:30pm

For further questions or information please email [admin@downs.essex.sch.uk](mailto: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 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and close on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



