

# The Downs News—2nd February 2024

## **Big Battery Hunt**

The BIG BATTERY HUNT is a nationwide recycling challenge, inspiring pupils to power change across their schools and wider communities. Now in its fifth year, the BIG BATTERY HUNT is bigger and better than ever!

We have decided we would like to participate this year.

Children can bring old batteries to the main office to be recycled, we will be recording how many batteries we collect as a school for the chance to win prizes. For more information please click the link below.

[www.bigbatteryhunt.co.uk/?utm\\_source=nsp&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=dur6&utm\\_content=dur6-107&dm\\_i=4C7I,1LLNW,47MXFV,7I32M,1](http://www.bigbatteryhunt.co.uk/?utm_source=nsp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dur6&utm_content=dur6-107&dm_i=4C7I,1LLNW,47MXFV,7I32M,1)

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Library Visits**

Over the Spring Term, children from all year groups will be visiting the Harlow Town Library. The children will have the opportunity to choose a Library book. If your child requires a library card please collect a membership join up form from the school office. These must be returned by Thursday 8th February. Please see the dates on the final page.

### **Year 1 Phonics Launch**

On Wednesday 7th February, we are excited to invite Year 1 parents to our Year 1 Phonics Launch. The event will begin at 9am. Once you have dropped your child off to their class, please make your way round to the library. We will begin with a brief introduction to the session in the KS1 Hall, before heading to your child's class. Once in class, you will be able to see how your child learns phonics in our school.

After the short lesson, parents will be invited into the hall for refreshments. Mr Doyles will then explain: the approaches the teacher takes; how you can help at home; and how we are changing the way children read, both in and outside of school.

It would be wonderful to see a big turnout for this as it is a perfect opportunity to see how your child is taught to read in school.

### **RSE Meeting in Feb**

Since September 2020, it has been a statutory requirement for all schools to teach Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) as part of the curriculum. We sent a letter this week regarding the upcoming RSE Meeting for parents on Thursday 29th February.

If you could please fill in the online Google form to let us know if you will be attending.

<https://forms.gle/Atk48fRybEt9bmR36>

**Children are unable to attend these meetings including pre-school children.**

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## **Parental Engagement within School**

### **Year 6 Assemblies**

It was lovely to see so many parents at the Year 6 assemblies this week.

We are very proud of the children who stood up and shared what they have been learning this year. We look forward to inviting parents in for more assemblies in the future. Year 5 assemblies will be taking place next week and more information will follow regarding the other year groups assemblies.

### **Parent Reading—EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2**

It has been lovely seeing lots of parents in school reading with their children. This year we are focusing on encouraging children to read both at school and home. Having parents participate in reading sessions with their child will help to encourage children to continue reading at home, either by themselves or with an adult.

Year 1 sessions take place on Friday mornings at 8:40am—9:05am

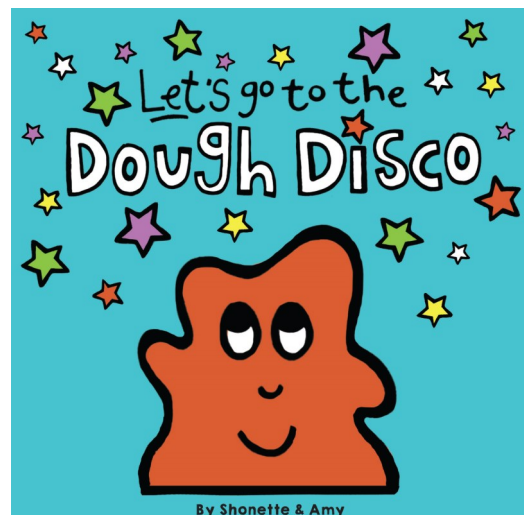
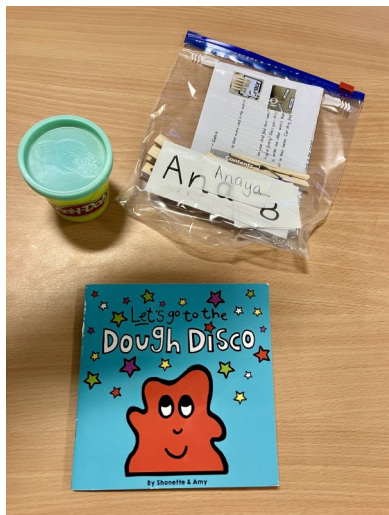
Reception sessions take place on Tuesday afternoons 2:55pm—3:15pm

### **Nursery Stay and Play**

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the Nursery Stay and Play sessions. During these sessions parents covered the following prime areas and how to be able to help children at home:

- Language and Communication
- Physical (with fine and gross motor skills)
- Being independent with toileting and allowing children to dress themselves
- The importance of name recognition

Parents also took part in a Dough Disco session with their child, each family was sent home with a bag of name games and PlayDoh to be able to continue the support at home. Thank you for any feedback provided from these sessions.



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## **Year 6 SATS**

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the Year 6 SATS Meeting. We have now sent the information out to parents. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any further questions.

## **Year 4 Multiplication**

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the Year 4 Multiplication Check Meeting. We will shortly be sending information out to parents following this meeting. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any further questions.

## **Governor**

I am writing to all parents to inform you of a vacancy for the role of a parent governor on our local governing body. For further information and how to apply, please complete the form on the link below no later than Tuesday 13th February.

## **[Parent Governor Application](#)**

## **Parking**

Please can we remind parents to be mindful of parking when dropping off and collecting children from school. We have had a number of complaints recently from local residents about parents parking over their driveways. Please be considerate at drop off and pick up times.

### Team Spirit—19th January

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>
Nyrah in Cedar	Aubree in Elm	Thanvi in Maple	Ivory in Mulberry
Martha in Chestnut	Evelin in Rowan	Aniya in Birch	Jayonlee in Holly
Bonnie in Birch		George in Willow	Aiden in Larch
		Alfie in Hazel	Naya in Sycamore
			Emma in Oak
			Seun in Aspen

### Team Spirit—25th January

<u>Dragon</u>	<u>Griffin</u>	<u>Lion</u>	<u>Unicorn</u>
Mahadi in Holly	Zoe in Willow	Robert in Rowan	Tofunmi in Mulberry
Harley in Elm	Isla in Hazel	Joshua in Birch	Donaldson in Maple
Alyna in Larch	Amelie in Cedar		Sophie in Sycamore
Haseeb in Aspen			Ninah in Oak
Mia in Chestnut			

### Team Spirit—2nd February

<u>Dragon</u>	<u>Griffin</u>	<u>Lion</u>	<u>Unicorn</u>
Harmony in Maple	Noah in Larch	Dolly in Elm	Zack in Holly
Rylee in Aspen	Evelin in Rowan	Eshal in Cedar	Adona in Mulberry
Bennett in Chestnut		Miley D in Willow	Sophie in Sycamore
Gabe in Birch		Aleeza in Hazel	
		Amelia in Oak	

### Stars of the Week—19th January

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

Isla in Acorn	Ann-Maria in Maple	Joshua in Chestnut
Emaan in Mulberry	Aaron in Sycamore	Karen in Birch
Parker in Holly	Ayla in Aspen	Nandi in Willow
Aiden in Elm	Aaron in Cedar	Maria in Oak
Kiera in Larch	Lucy in Rowan	Adam in Hazel



### Stars of the Week—25th January

Evie Mai in Acorn	Poppie in Maple	Christopher in Chestnut
Shalomrain in Mulberry	Codie-Mae in Sycamore	Matt in Birch
Joshua in Holly	Logan in Aspen	Pearl in Willow
Aina in Elm	Bryce in Cedar	Sini in Oak
Kaff in Larch	Anais in Rowan	Alwin in Hazel



### Stars of the Week—2nd February

Zuri in Acorn	Oliver in Maple	Freya in Chestnut
Alessandro in Mulberry	Fatima in Sycamore	Rene in Birch
Jeriah in Holly	Millie in Aspen	Harley in Willow
Alex in Elm	Lacey-Mai in Cedar	Nianh in Oak
Kiera in Larch	Clarissa in Rowan	Lacey in Hazel



<u>House Points</u>			
<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>19th January</u>	<u>25th January</u>	<u>2nd February</u>
<u>Dragon</u>	417	423	329
<u>Griffin</u>	356	404	330
<u>Lion</u>	374	424	333
<u>Unicorn</u>	518	404	329

<u>Total House Points for 2023—2024</u>	
<u>Dragon</u>	6649
<u>Griffin</u>	6819
<u>Lion</u>	6832
<u>Unicorn</u>	6764

<b>Diary Dates for Spring Term</b>	
<b>Tuesday 6th February</b>	<b>E-Safety Day</b>
<b>Wednesday 7th February</b>	<b>Year 1 Phonics Launch—9am</b>
<b>Wednesday 7th February</b>	<b>Birch Class Assembly—Parents invited—please see the letter</b> <b>Doors will open at 9am ready to start at 9:10am</b>
<b>Thursday 8th February</b>	<b>Willow Class Assembly—Parents invited—please see the letter</b> <b>Doors will open at 9am ready to start at 9:10am</b>
<b>Monday 12th February</b>	<b>Holly Class Library Visit Trip(AM)</b>
<b>Monday 12th February</b>	<b>Mulberry Class Library Visit Trip(PM)</b>
<b>Tuesday 13th February</b>	<b>Year 4 Library Visit Trip (AM)</b>
<b>Tuesday 13th February</b>	<b>Year 5 Library Visit Trip (PM)</b>
<b>Wednesday 14th February</b>	<b>Year 6 Library Visit Trip (PM)</b>
<b>Wednesday 14th February</b>	<b>Parents' Evening—3:30pm—7pm</b>
<b>Thursday 15th February</b>	<b>Parents' Evening—3:30pm—6pm</b>
<b>Thursday 15th February</b>	<b>Year 3 Library Visit Trip (PM)</b>
<b>Friday 16th February</b>	<b>Non-Uniform Day</b>
<b>Friday 16th February</b>	<b>Year 1 Library Visit Trip (AM)</b>
<b>Friday 16th February</b>	<b>Year 2 Library Visit Trip (PM)</b>
<b>Monday 19th February—Friday 23rd February</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>Monday 26th February</b>	<b>Children return to school</b>
<b>Thursday 29th February</b>	<b>RSE Parent Meeting—2:30pm</b>
<b>Monday 4th March</b>	<b>Nursery Library Visits</b> <b>Morning Visit (Morning Children)</b> <b>Afternoon Visit (Afternoon Children)</b>  Children who attend full time are welcome to attend either one of the sessions or are welcome to attend both should they wish to.
<b>Friday 8th March</b>	<b>INSET Day—School Closed to children</b>
<b>Wednesday 13th March</b>	<b>Year 6 Crucial Crew Trip</b>
<b>Thursday 28th March</b>	<b>Early School Closure—1:30pm</b> <b>Please collect children on time</b>
<b>Friday 29th March—Friday 12th April</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
<b>Monday 15th April</b>	<b>Children return to school</b>
<b>Wednesday 17th April</b>	<b>Year 1 Rye Meads Trip</b>
<b>Friday 10th May</b>	<b>Year 5 Greenwich Trip</b>