

Newsletter | Thursday 27th November 2025

Reception.

A message from Mrs.Stoyanova;

What an exciting few weeks we have had in Reception! I am thrilled to share some wonderful happenings in our classroom. The children have already begun writing CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words, and they are doing so with remarkable confidence. It's fantastic to see their enthusiasm for writing blossoming at such an early stage.

In preparation for Remembrance Day, we created beautiful poppies, allowing the children to express their creativity while also learning the importance of this significant day. The poppies turned out splendidly, and each child took great pride in their work; it was heartwarming to see their faces light up with joy.



Additionally, we have started exploring the tale of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The children have been busy painting the characters from the story and crafting their own captions to go along with their artwork. This engaging activity not only enhances their artistic skills but also reinforces their understanding of storytelling and narrative structure.

Thank you for your continued support. I can't wait to share more exciting updates as we progress through this term!



Night Owls

Our students recently had the wonderful opportunity to experience a visit from the Night Owls. This exciting event allowed the children to engage with and learn about a variety of beautiful birds. The joy on their faces was unmistakable as many of them had their photographs taken alongside these magnificent creatures.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all families who have returned their photo payment. For those who wish to purchase their child's picture, please ensure that the sealed envelope is brought back to the school office by Wednesday, 26th November. This is a fantastic opportunity to own a lovely keepsake from this memorable experience.

Thank you for your continued support in enhancing our students' learning adventures. We look forward to more enriching events in the future.



Read Around the Bonfire

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the parents and Year 5 children who joined us for the enchanting evening of reading around the bonfire. It was a truly delightful night, filled with warmth, laughter, and the joy of storytelling, which brought our community together in such a special way. A special mention goes to the PTA for their generous contributions of marshmallows and hotdogs, which added to the festive atmosphere. Your support and participation made this event unforgettable, and we look forward to more such wonderful occasions in the future. Thank you all for being part of this memorable experience.



Lunchtime Reminder

We kindly advise parents to cut grapes and olives in half before including them in lunchboxes. Whole fruits can pose a choking hazard for young children, and this simple precaution can significantly reduce risks. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated and contributes to a safer eating environment for all students.

Bikes and Scooters

We kindly ask all children to walk with their bikes and scooters while on the premises. The playground and pathways can get quite busy, and it's crucial that we ensure everyone's safety. Thank you for your support!

Attendance Request.

As part of our commitment to providing the best educational experience for your child, we would like to remind you about the importance of accurately reporting absences. **When notifying the school that your child will be absent, we kindly ask that you provide a specific reason. Vague descriptions, such as "poorly" or "unwell," will be marked as unauthorised and may negatively affect your child's attendance record.** We believe that clear communication regarding absences is crucial for the overall well-being of our students and their academic success. Our goal is to support each child in achieving their full potential, and consistent attendance plays a vital role in this. If your child is unwell, please do your best to specify the illness. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain accurate attendance records and fostering a positive learning environment.

📱 Scan our QR code below to follow us on Instagram:
➡ @thedownsprimaryandnursery



Basketball tournament

Pupils from Yrs 5&6 visited Stewards Academy for a Basketball tournament. They played 3 matches winning 1, drawing 1 and losing 1. They played really well and there were positive comments about our players from the officials and opposition teachers. Mr Esteves was proud of them.



School Meals and Breakfast Club Payments

We'd like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of keeping your child's meal and Breakfast Club accounts topped up on Arbor. Wherever possible, accounts should remain in credit or with no outstanding balance.

Keeping accounts up to date helps us ensure that all children can continue to enjoy their meals and Breakfast Club places without disruption.

If a balance becomes over £10 in arrears for Breakfast Club, your child's place will unfortunately be suspended until payment is made. For school lunches, if the balance reaches over £10, you will be contacted by email and asked to provide a packed lunch until the debt has been cleared.

Mrs Randall will be in touch with families where payments are outstanding.

If you need any help using Arbor or making a payment, please don't hesitate to visit the school office, where a member of staff will be happy to assist you.

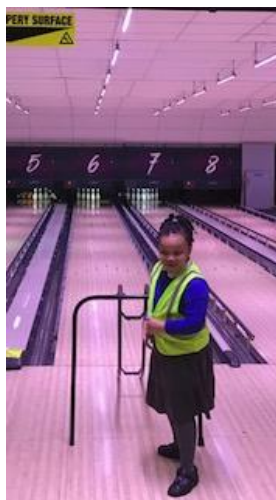
Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping accounts up to date.

On Wednesday 19th November, we were fortunate enough to take part in a Panathlon challenge activity. We had the opportunity to take two groups of children, one key stage 1 and one key stage 2 group, Ten Pin Bowling in Harlow.



The children had a fantastic morning, with our key stage 1 children placing 6th and our key stage 2 children placing 2nd out of a total of 12 school groups and gaining a silver medal.

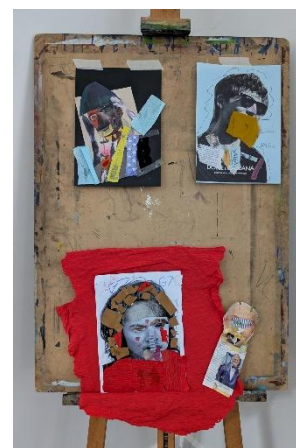
On 17th October 2025 we spent a fun morning taking part in a Sports Festival at a local school in Church Langly. The children enjoyed lots of different sporting activities like basketball, hockey, golf, football and dodgeball. The children had great fun whilst learning lots of new sporting skills.



Parndon Mill.

Year 5 had an amazing time at Parndon Mill on Friday, creating some wonderfully original collages. It was such an inspiring experience—right on our doorstep!

All images shown were created entirely by our own talented students during the workshop.



INTO Film Festival.

Children from Years 1–6 attended the INTO Film Festival at Cineworld in the town centre. Each year group watched a different film: Sonic, Dogman or Bad Guys 2. The screenings offered a valuable opportunity for pupils to experience a wide range of storytelling styles on the big screen.



The children were attentive and engaged throughout, responding thoughtfully to the characters and themes presented. For some, it was a first visit to the cinema, while others appreciated seeing familiar stories brought to life in a new way.

Overall, it was a positive and enjoyable experience for all year groups. We are already looking ahead to next year's festival and the chance to take part again.

SPORTS COOL! WEST ESSEX

WINTER HOLIDAY CLUB

9:00am - 3:00pm

BOOK HERE
From Just £20 per day
SEND INCLUSIVE!

Free places book here!

The Downs Primary School, Harlow, CM20 3RB
22nd, 23rd, 24th Dec & 2nd Jan

What to expect:
Multi-sports & fun activities such as:
Axe-Throwing, UV Dodgeball, SportsCool Inflatable, Laser Tag, Football, Gymnastics, Archery, Dance & much more!

Tel: 07935535292
westessex@sportscool.org

Instagram and Facebook: : sportscoolwestessex

Essex County Council
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Stars of the week

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



Acorn – Liylah, Alice, Bekk
Holly – Sara, Mya, Kayra
Elm – Harrison, ViennaRose, Everleigh
Larch – Gabriel, Rahael, Oakley
Maple – Alan, Ruha, Lucas, Ayaat
Sycamore – Renar, Millie-Rose, Lottie
Aspen – Conor, Isobel, Vaishnav
Cedar – Casey, Alex, Leonidas
Chestnut – Abel, Joshua, Lilly
Rowan – Florilda, poppie, Vincenzo
Birch – Seyifunmi, Seun, Mudabbir
Willow – Bryce, Stefan, Safa
Hazel – Ronnie, Jack, Hannah
Oak – Flavia, Newton, Darcie

Positive Behaviour Badge



Children are able to earn a positive behaviour badge by having exceptional behaviour. Children who have been awarded for behaviour are as follows.

Dragon	Griffin	Lion	Unicorn
Ezme – Cedar	Celina – Cedar	Mia – Birch	Mihai – Aspen
Gwen – Elm	Lilly – Chestnut	Oliver – Birch	Petry – Aspen
Harrison – Elm	Izzah – Chestnut	Chenay – Cedar	Kyran – Aspen
Mia – Holly	Lucas – Elm	Coco – Hazel	Aiden – Birch
Abdulmateen – Holly	Riley – Larch	Kaiden – Holly	Tofunmi – Cedar
Mia – Oak	Darcie – Oak	Freya – Larch	Scarlett – Chestnut
Ava – Rowan	Theo – Sycamore	Hannah – Maple	Laiba – Hazel
Luca – Willow		Flavia – Oak	Sandy-May – Hazel
		Deethya – Sycamore	Arham – Larch
		Aaron – Willow	Lucas – Maple
		Eshal – Willow	Ivory – Maple
			Ephraim – Rowan
			Jayonlee – Maple
			Gabriela – Rowan
			Shalomrain – Sycamore

All dates until the end of the school year can be found on Dojo.

Diary Dates for the Autumn Term



All events are subject to change

Thursday 27 th November	Reception 2026 Open Afternoon 2pm
Friday 28th November	INSET Day – School closed
Monday 1 st December	Reception 2026 Open Afternoon 2pm
Wednesday 10 th December	Rocksteady Christmas Concert
Tuesday 16 th December	Reception Nativity
Tuesday 16 th December	KS2 Christmas Carols in the playground
Wednesday 17 th December	Nursery last day
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Dinner Day
Wednesday 17 th December	KS2 Christmas Carols in the playground
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Parties
Friday 19 th December	Non School Uniform Day
Friday 19th December	School finishes at 13:30pm
Friday 19 th December – Monday 5 th January	Half Term
Monday 5th January 2026	INSET Day
Tuesday 6 th January 2026	Children return to school