

# Newsletter | Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## Year 4 and 5's festive morning at The Leah Manning Centre.



Our Year 4 and 5 pupils enjoyed a truly heart-warming visit to the Leah Manning Centre this week. Walking over in high spirits, the children were excited to spend time with the residents and spread some festive cheer. They proudly presented handmade Christmas cards and biscuits, which were received with big smiles and heartfelt thanks. The visit was topped off with the children singing beautiful festive songs, filling the centre with joy and Christmas spirit. We are incredibly proud of the kindness, enthusiasm and respect they showed throughout the visit. On the walk back, the children continued singing at the top of their lungs, bringing smiles to everyone they passed.



## Share The Warmth Christmas Drive.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all parents and carers for their incredibly kind and generous donations. We were truly blown away by the volume of gifts donated to support our families during this festive period. Miss Baker and Mrs Briscoe were delighted and immensely proud to deliver the hampers to our families across Harlow, spreading joy and Christmas cheer.

We are so proud of the compassion, generosity and strong sense of community shown by everyone involved. We have also received overwhelming feedback and gratitude from the families who received the hampers, which has been incredibly touching.

A very special thank you to Mrs Mombo for organising this amazing Christmas Drive and making it all possible.



## Year 1 trip to Southend Sealife.



Year 1 had a wonderful day visiting Southend Sea Life Centre as part of their learning this term. The children were excited to explore the underwater world and see a wide range of sea creatures, including sharks, rays, turtles and colourful tropical fish.

During the visit, the children learned about different marine animals and their habitats, helping to bring their classroom learning to life.

The trip also supported the children's personal development. Travelling together and exploring a new environment helped build independence, confidence and social skills, as well as encouraging good behaviour and teamwork.

The visit provided many opportunities for speaking and listening as the children shared their observations and experiences with their classmates and adults.

The trip to Southend Sea Life Centre was an enjoyable and valuable learning experience that inspired the children and created lasting memories. We would like to thank all staff and parent helpers who supported us on the day.

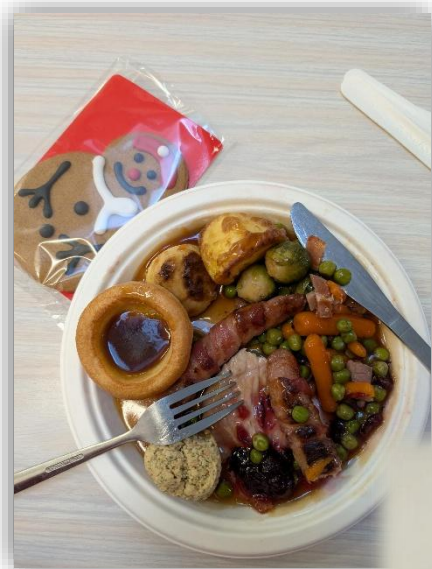
## Supporting Our Families This Holiday Season

We have been lucky enough to be able to provide gifts for over 40 families (over 100 children) through nominations from both the school and Harbour Counselling. Thank you to Kids Inspire for offering this opportunity to families within our community. Parents have shown great appreciation for the gifts they have been offered. Kids Inspire have also provided three food hampers for our families.



## Christmas Lunch

A huge thank you to our wonderful Catering Team for preparing our delicious Christmas lunches! Every year, so much care and effort go into ensuring the meal is festive, runs smoothly and allows everyone to enjoy a special lunch together. We would also like to thank the staff who helped serve the children and made the experience run so seamlessly. It was truly enjoyed by all! Here is a sneaky picture of the festive feast we all enjoyed.



## Reception Corner

What a wonderful final week we had! The children took part in a wide range of festive activities, filling the school with excitement and Christmas cheer. We enjoyed baking delicious Christmas biscuits, getting creative by making beautiful Christmas cards, and spending time together celebrating the season in a fun and meaningful way.



# **Reminders for January**

## **Collecting Children and Passwords**

For safeguarding purposes, Nursery and Reception children are asked to provide a collection password when they start school in September. If someone different is collecting your child, they will be asked to give this password so we can ensure your child is handed over to the correct adult.

Please do not be offended if we contact you to double-check collection arrangements, particularly if we have not received a message via the office. This is a safeguarding procedure that we take very seriously.

For children in all other year groups, a phone call to the school office must be made to inform us of any alternative collection arrangements. Even if the person collecting your child is listed as an emergency contact, we still need to be informed so we can be confident that children are going home with the correct adult.

If you know in advance that someone else will be collecting your child, please let the office know, preferably before lunchtime. We understand that plans can change at short notice; however, if changes are made at the end of the day and staff have not had time to inform teachers, your child may be brought to the office and the collector asked to meet them there so that we can verify the information.

As always, we ask that only people aged 16 or over collect children from school.

## **Raising Concerns and Resolving Issues**

If you have a concern or problem involving pupils, your first point of contact should always be your child's class teacher. They will do all they can to investigate the situation and support the children involved.

The quickest way to contact teachers is via the Dojo app. If you have not received a response within a few days, you are welcome to ask the school office to pass on a message requesting that the teacher contacts you.

We kindly ask parents and carers not to approach other parents or carers in the playground, or contact them via phone calls or social media, regarding pupil issues. Please allow the school to manage and resolve concerns internally so that matters can be handled calmly, fairly and appropriately.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

## **PE Kit Reminder**

When returning in January, please ensure that all children have their full PE kit in school every day. This includes appropriate clothing, black shoes, and no jewellery. Nail varnish should not be applied for school.

Having the correct kit ensures that all children can participate safely and comfortably in physical activities.

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



## A Christmas Poem by Mr Turner



### Merry Christmas to all

Merry Christmas to all,  
Came the jolly man's yell.  
As Christmas bells jingled,  
And festive flakes fell.  
He raced into town,  
On his gift laden sled.  
As excited young children,  
climbed into their beds.  
In his sack was a present,  
For every boy, every girl.  
Spaceships and scooters,  
And ribbons to twirl.  
A busy night was in store,  
For the big man in red.  
As excited young children,  
Lay asleep in their beds.  
Once the stockings were full,  
He headed back to his sleigh.  
His mission complete,  
On this magical day.  
And with a flick of his reigns,  
Off the reindeer sped.  
As excited young children,  
Arose from their beds.  
Happy young faces,  
With eyes all a twinkle.  
Enjoying the magic,  
That Santa had sprinkled.  
With plans for next Christmas,  
Filling his head.  
A tired Father Christmas,  
Climbs into his bed.



# WINTER HOLIDAY CLUB

9:00am - 3:00pm




**BOOK HERE**  
From Just £20 per day

**SEND INCLUSIVE!**

The Downs Primary School, Harlow, CM20 3RB

22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> Dec & 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan

Free places book here!



**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

  : sportscoolwestessex








# DANCE Fusion

# AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

- Explore dance styles under the Street Dance umbrella
- Learn foundations and technique
- Build confidence & improve overall fitness
- Opportunity to express, perform & create
- Make new friendships!

Please book your child's space using the following link:  
[www.bookwhen.com/dfafterschoolclubs](http://www.bookwhen.com/dfafterschoolclubs)

[www.dancefusionharlow.co.uk](http://www.dancefusionharlow.co.uk)



@Dance Fusion Harlow



## Stars of the week



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

<b>Acorn</b> – Hardin, Kuzey
<b>Holly</b> – Muntasir, Jayden, Katrina
<b>Elm</b> – Olivia, Evie-Mai, Tillie
<b>Larch</b> – Tahama
<b>Maple</b> – Huey, Cristal
<b>Sycamore</b> – Louise, Theo, Zackary
<b>Aspen</b> – Kiera, Kyran, Nazeer
<b>Cedar</b> – Ezme, Aiden
<b>Chestnut</b> – Chestnut, Victor
<b>Rowan</b> – Edem, Alex, Rayan
<b>Birch</b> – Mia, Millie, Seun
<b>Willow</b> – Luca, Rubi, Harper-Rose
<b>Hazel</b> – Leilani, Ellise, Hajra
<b>Oak</b> – Hayden, Piotr, Layla-Rose

## 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
Magid – Aspen	Sharon – Birch	Serah – Sycamore	Abir – Elm
Andrew - Oak	Kayra – Holly	Olivia – Oak	Callie – Willow
Pearl – Hazel	Katrina – Holly	De-Andre – Lion	Sophie – Chestnut
Nyrah – Willow	Humaira – Aspen	Isla – Hazel	Anamika – Maple
Zoe - Sycamore	Anaswara – Larch	Mamady – Willow	Aiden – Birch
Junior – Maple	Abel – Chestnut	Siyana – Sycamore	Petry – Aspen
Amos – Cedar	Piotr – Oak	Zayn – Holly	Alex – Cedar
	Paarthiv – Rowan		Ibrahim – Elm
			Perkins – Birch
			Ewaoluwa – Elm

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

### Diary Dates for the Autumn Term/Spring Term



All events are subject to change

Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Non School Uniform Day
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>School finishes at 1:30pm</b>
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December – Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Half Term
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	<b>INSET Day – school closed to pupils</b>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Children return to school
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Road safety Sessions – Year 5
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Census Day
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2026	Year 3 workshop -Stone Age Day
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026	Year 5 Livewire workshop
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2026	Reception Road Safety Session
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	<b>INSET Day – school closed to pupils</b>
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Non-school uniform day
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	School finishes for Half Term at 3:15pm
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Parents Evening
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Parents Evening