



Newsletter

Spring 1 2026

Kind | Respectful | Safe

January / February
2026

Special points of interest:

Visits

- Fire engine
- Rainbow Theatre
- Magnet man
- O2
- Sporting success

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Headteacher Update



This half-term seems to have gone by very quickly and it is hard to believe that when the children return to school on 24th February it will be for the final half of the school year!

The Spring Term is always a lovely time of the year with signs of spring appearing all around us, despite it being a very wet January. We are very grateful to Southern Water who kindly resolved the flooding issue at the entrance of the school just before Christmas.

I am sure that you will all agree that the timing of the improvements was good considering the rainfall that we have had.

We have combined the highlights from January and February into one newsletter and moving forward there will be one newsletter per half term.

The half term has been a very busy one and it has been great to see the range of events and activities that have taken place in school, with the children starting new and exciting topics for the half term.

I hope that you enjoy reading about them and looking at the photos in this newsletter. I hope that you all have a lovely half-term when we get there.

Mrs Purkis.



Attendance

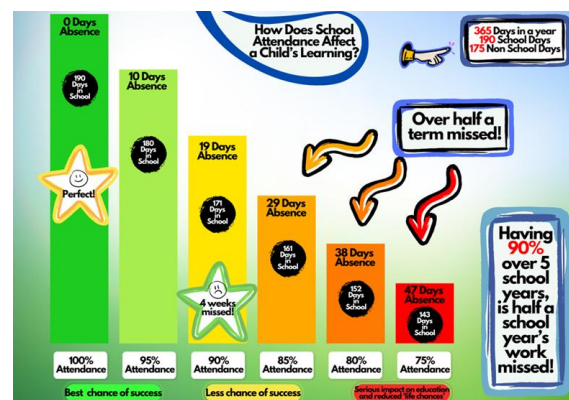
This visual shows how repeated absence from school could affect your child's learning.

I am very aware that many pupils were affected by a nasty virus before Christmas but as the warmer weather approaches, staff at Downview are happy to work together with parents and carers to encourage children to attend school regularly.

Whole School attendance is currently: **93.5%** with the government target for Downview being: **94.6%** by the end of the Summer Term.

Well done to **Cherry** class and **Apple** class who are both on 98.0% attendance this term.

Thank you for your ongoing support with this important area of school life.



We have been very lucky to have so many real life Super Heroes come and talk to our Early Years children

Reception - Meet our local Superheroes!

To enhance our Superheroes topic this half-term, Reception have been lucky enough to have some amazing visits from very special local superheroes!

The RNLI have been into school to share how they help others in the community within Bognor and West Sussex. We learnt all about how to keep safe in the water and loved watching clips of the lifeboats in action!

We have also had an amazing time with East

Coast Ambulance Service who were kind enough to pop in with their exciting emergency vehicle. We spent the morning exploring the ambulance, learning about how they help people in need or who are hurt, and we even got to have a go turning the emergency lights on and off!

We learnt so much about how these amazing people support us in our everyday life and we send many thanks to all those who gave up their precious time to visit us.

Unfortunately, the West Sussex Fire Service were unable to attend their visit to EYFS as they were undertaking 'real life' superhero rescues on a call out, but luckily they were able to visit Year 2.

Fingers crossed they will be joining us in the next few weeks to help us learn about fire safety and how they help others.



Thank you to the amazing East Coast Ambulance Service and RNLI!

Superheroes in our Woodland!

Reception have become Superheroes in our latest Woodland adventure! We used natural materials to make obstacle courses with 'lava logs' and bridges, and then challenged each other to a 'Superhero Training Course'!

We then used our skills to rescue some lost toys...

What super team work we shared and were so proud of ourselves.

Delicious DT in Year One

This half term our DT lessons have focused on cooking and nutrition. The children have been looking at where food comes from, have learnt about the five different food groups and have discussed what it means to have a balanced diet.

We were then sent a challenge by Leo from our book 'Leo and the Octopus', to design and make our very own pizzas! The children had a great afternoon chopping

(using the bridge and claw method), grating and assembling their delicious pizza treats.



Bee-Bots

In Computing this half term, the children have had the chance to explore our Bee-Bot robots. Using the Bee-Bots has given the children an opportunity to create their own simple programs. They have learnt the importance of sequences of accurate instructions and have been encouraged to debug their program if any errors arise.



Post box in Entrance Foyer

Just a reminder that there is a new post box in the entrance foyer that can be used to post letters and forms for the office so that parents and carers don't have to wait to hand them in to the office staff.

We hope that you find this useful.



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Year 2

Fire of London Fun!

What a great experience you had Year 2.

I have enjoyed hearing you talk about The Great Fire of London so knowledgeably

In Year 2 we have had a wonderful time learning about The Great Fire of London. The Rainbow Theatre came to visit us to bring our learning to life and we all dressed up for the occasion! We had Londoners, maids, kings, mayors and even the odd cat and dog! We acted out the events and made a bucket line to put the fire out and save the day!



London Life!

In our Literacy lessons we have been learning about London in 1666 and about London today. We have had fun exploring the city and have been using adjectives to help us describe the different landmarks. Your children could now take you on guided tour of London for free!

Hot and cold Colours!

We have been creating our own Fire of London pictures using our sketching skills and colour mixing to create hot colours for the fire and cold colours for the River Thames.

Fire Engine Visit

We were lucky to have the Fire Service come and visit us with one of their shiny Fire Engines. We learnt about how they put fires out now and discovered it is much easier than it was in 1666!

We have also learnt how to cook food over a fire—just like they did in 1666. We found a stick in the woodland, popped our bread on and patiently waited until it became toast! Delicious!



Magnet Man!

Year 3 have been learning about magnets in science.

A very special visitor came to answer our questions and put what we have learned to the test....



We started off by re-visiting our current understanding of magnets. We were already experts in using scientific language such as 'poles', 'attract', 'repel' and 'magnetism'. Next we were divided into teams and set a challenge of building a car...



With a lot of teamwork and a sprinkling of perseverance, the completed cars were put to the test, fuelled only by the power of magnetism! We capitalised on 2 like poles creating a repelling force, and used this to 'push' our cars along the racetrack without even touching them!



Finally, we learnt that magnets are capable of much more than powering toy cars. We had the opportunity to look at a voice-activated robot, whose motors are powered by magnets. It was even able to do a forward roll!

We were totally captivated throughout this brilliant afternoon, and now have a collection of mini scientists motivated to take the STEM world by storm in the future!



Cooking Club

Do you love pizza?

Try this great recipe to make pizza with a twist. Cooking Club worked hard to make these pizza puffs!!!



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Pizza Pastry Puffs

1/2 packet puff pastry

Tomato puree

Sliced pepperoni

Shredded mozzarella cheese

Italian seasoning

1. Heat the oven to 200c/ gas mark 6.
2. Line baking tray with parchment paper.
3. Unfold pastry sheets. Cut each sheet into squares.
4. Spread tomato puree over the puff pastry. Arrange cheese and pepperoni down the center of the pastry squares.
5. Sprinkle Italian seasoning.
6. Fold two opposite corners of each square over the filling and press edges to seal. Place on baking sheet.
7. Place on a baking tray and bake in the oven 15-18 minutes until they are golden brown.
8. Serve warm or leave to cool.



January in Year 4!

Maths

In Maths we have been working on multiplication and division. We have been looking at related facts and fact families.

MTCs are in June!!

To prepare the children we have started practising on the iPad and laptops.

Children are given six seconds to answer the calculation so to ease the panic please support your child by encouraging them to go onto 'soundcheck' on TT Rockstars.



Good luck with practising your times tables Year 4.

Remember these can be practised anywhere like when you are in the car or walking to school

Art

In our Art we explored drawing noticing areas of light and dark on objects and experimenting with shading to create different tones. How better than to draw a shiny Quality Street sweet!



Swimming

All the children have enjoyed returning to swimming.

Each week the children are getting quicker at getting dressed and we are having less and less left over clothes! If your child has lost any clothes we have either returned if named or put in lost property.



Year 5

The children have enjoyed their unit of Art this half-term. We have learned about gestural mark making, showing emotion and depth and finally printing. The culmination of the unit was creating a print of a happy memory. We were amazed at how well the children drew, traced and printed their work.

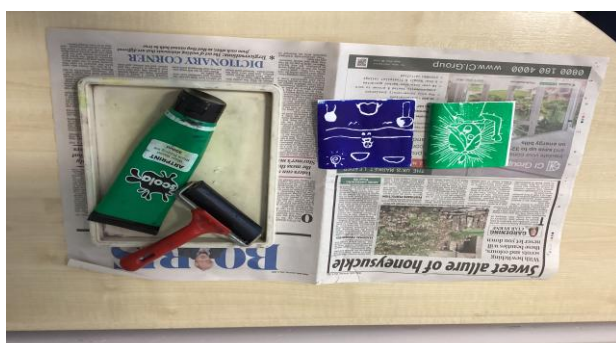
In Geography we have learned about the Alps and are now looking forward to seeing some of the 'Winter Olympics' to see if we can recognise some of the features we have studied.

Finally there has been some great glockenspiel playing in music for our Jazz unit.

Ask the children about Woody Herman the saxophonist or the 5-note swing!

What an exciting half-term you have had learning new things through the Foundation Subjects Year 5.

Keep up the hard work!



Year 6 Art—Photography Unit

Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed their photography unit in art this term, developing both their creative and technical skills. One of the highlights of the unit was a lesson focused on understanding abstract art through photography, which really captured the pupils' interest.

The children began by studying the work of the photographer Edward Weston, exploring how he used close-up images of everyday objects to create

abstract compositions. They learned about macro photography and how careful framing, light and perspective can transform familiar objects into striking pieces of art.

Pupils then had the opportunity to apply these techniques themselves, experimenting with close-up shots and thinking carefully about composition and detail. To further enhance their work, the children edited their photographs, including desaturating images to change

mood and impact.

The quality of the final photographs was excellent, and the children showed great enthusiasm and creativity throughout the unit. Year 6 had a fantastic time and should be very proud of the skills and understanding they have developed.



Playtime update

The children have been enjoying having the different zones to play in during breaktimes and we are very grateful for all of the donations that we received for the boxes, as well as the items that Friends of Downview donated.

The children now have a much greater choice of things to do during breaktimes, which includes using the Indoor classroom for those pupils who prefer a quieter breaktime.

We have also been impressed by how innovative some of the children have been creating new games and sharing ideas and resources. It really is lovely to see and means that there is much more for the children to get involved in. Thank you to everyone who donated Lego, train track, dolls and cars.

Newsletter If you have any further donations please feel free to drop them into the office as they **January / February 26** will be used to replace any items that have broken or been misplaced.



Wow what a day and what fantastic memories the children and parents have of such an amazing experience.

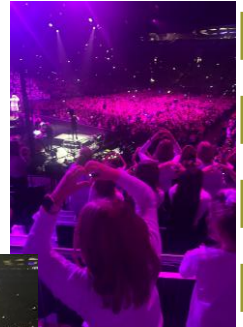
Downview Choir at the O2!

We had an absolutely brilliant time taking our school choir to the O2 Arena to sing alongside choirs from other schools. Performing in such a famous venue was an unforgettable experience, and our pupils rose to the occasion beautifully.

singing, and a real buzz of excitement from start to finish. The children came back tired but smiling, full of stories and pride in what they had achieved. We are incredibly proud of them and how they represented our school.

The choir represented the school so well throughout the day. They were enthusiastic, supportive of one another and were great representatives of Downview school.

There was lots of laughter, plenty of



School Council Initiative

The entries are coming in thick and fast – once again it is going to be difficult to choose the winners – well done to everyone who is taking part.



Favourite Book Character Competition!!!!



School Council would like to invite you to enter our competition to show us your favourite book character.

Create a representation of your favourite character by either: **drawing, painting, using collage, using clay or recycled materials.**

All entries need to be in school by Tuesday 10th February. Please put your name and year group on your creation. They will be judged and prizes awarded in assemblies that week.



Book Fair will be in school: 25th-27th February

In each year group:

1st prize: £5.00 voucher to spend at the book fair.

Runner Up: Book token for the vending machine.

Year 4 Boys' Football Success!

The Year 4 boys' football team took part in the next round of their football tournament this week, with the overall winner earning the exciting opportunity to play at Chelsea's training ground in a further competition.

The boys faced some of the strongest teams from the local area and got off

to a fantastic start, winning their first match 1–0 after dominating possession throughout. They followed this with an impressive 4–0 victory in their second game, scoring some outstanding goals and showing great confidence on the ball.

Downview then played an extremely strong Fishbourne team in their final match. Despite a determined performance, the boys narrowly lost 3–

2, finishing second overall in the tournament.

This is an outstanding achievement and the team should be incredibly proud. They showed excellent teamwork, passion, and sportsmanship throughout the competition. Well done to all involved!



Year 5 & 6 into the 3rd Round of the County Cup!

The Year 5 and 6 boys' football team have progressed through to the third round of the

County Cup following a convincing win against Hawthorns Primary School.

Despite playing in pouring rain on a pitch that was rapidly deteriorating, the boys produced some of their best football of the season.

Their determination, teamwork and positive attitude shone through as they controlled the game from start to finish, securing an impressive 10–0 victory.



Year 5 & 6 B and C Team Football Tournament

It was an absolute pleasure to see Downview take part in a Year 5 and 6 B and C team friendly football tournament. The focus of the event was on enjoyment, participation and fun rather than winning, and this was clear throughout the afternoon.

For many of the boys, this was their first experience of playing football outside of school. The joy on their faces as they ran onto the pitch, wearing the Downview colours and badge with pride, was wonderful to see. They represented the school impeccably, showing excellent sportsmanship, teamwork and respect at all times.

There were also some fantastic team goals scored, adding to an already memorable event.

All involved had a brilliant time and should be very proud of their efforts!



You should be very proud of the success that you have achieved boys – you really are a credit to your parents and the school - well done!



Sporting Achievements

Year 5 & 6 Boys Compete in the Area Finals

The Year 5 and 6 boys' football team took part in the next round of the Area Finals, competing against the very best teams from across Sussex, including schools from as far afield as Hastings and Crawley. The standard of football throughout the competition was incredibly high.

The boys worked exceptionally hard and rose to the challenge, lifting their game when it mattered most. Showing great character, teamwork and communication, the team won two matches, drew one and narrowly lost their final game. Unfortunately, due to other results in the group, Downview missed out on a place in the semi-finals by a single goal difference.

Although the boys were understandably disappointed, they should be extremely proud of what they achieved. This tournament marked the end of an incredible three-year unbeaten run of 55 games – a truly monumental record. Well done to all involved.



Cross Country Success

We are so proud of each and everyone who takes part in these sporting events. Everyone displays great resilience and positive attitude and above all pupils return to school telling us how much they enjoy these events .

Our fantastic team of cross country runners travelled to Bishop Luffa School in January to compete in the school's cross country championship.

The children all showed amazing team spirit and performed superbly in very muddy conditions!

Congratulations to all the runners who showed great resilience to complete the

course. A special well done to the Year 6 boys for winning the team event and to Amelia Twine, Georgia Batho, Albie Cooper and Sidney Forden who qualified for the finals. We wish you the best of luck!



Netball Stinger Tournament

A group of Downview netballers took to the Arena on one of the only dry days we have seen this half term, to compete against other local schools at the FAB Netball Stinger Tournament. The team worked incredibly hard and displayed fantastic development of the skills they have been working on this year.

The girls showed a particularly strong performance against Yapton; who they beat 3-0. They were able to get into great space, defend against Yapton's attack and made successful passes to the shooters who used aim and power to score 3 amazing goals.

They demonstrated great teamwork and resilience and were a real credit to the school. We are so incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication the netballers have shown and cannot wait to see how they perform at the next tournament in March.





The Phoenix Centre
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Community Hub @ The Phoenix Centre

Tuesday 10th February 2026
2pm-3:30pm



Phoenix Food Hub -
Donation of £5 per bag welcomed.
Please bring your own bags

Pre-Loved Uniform Sale
Blazers £2
All other items £1



Book Exchange

Bring a book you have finished reading and then
take 1-2 books home. Small donation required if not
swapping books.

Citizens Advice Bureau will be with us from 12-2:30pm in the cafe
We will be joined by our local PCSO's from 2:30pm



Supporting people through
the cost-of-living crisis



The Phoenix Centre
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Phoenix Food Hub Dates 2026

Phoenix Centre, Westloats Lane, Bognor Regis.
PO21 5JD

Wednesday 14th January 2026 - 2-3:30pm
Tuesday 10th February 2026 - 2-3:30pm
Tuesday 10th March 2026 - 2-3:30pm
Tuesday 14th April 2026 - 2-3:30pm
Tuesday 5th May 2026 - 2-3:30pm
Tuesday 9th June 2026 - 2-3:30pm
Tuesday 14th July 2026 - 2-3:30pm

£5 donation per bag. Bring your own bags



Feeding Support Group



Phoenix Centre, Westloats Lane,
Bognor Regis PO21 5JD

Starting Wednesday 25th February 2026
9:15-11am

Whether you are breastfeeding, bottle feeding, combination feeding or
pregnant and want some help and advice. Come along to our drop in sessions
for a cuppa and a chat



10 week Post-Natal Fitness Course with Tor

Includes a baby first aid session

After the course you can join the Arena Gym at a discounted price of £18.75
per month.

Starting Monday 2nd March 2026 @ 10:15am

£50 for the course

Contact Tor for more info:
tor.gates@hotmail.co.uk



The sensory room will be
open 9-10am
Discounted hot drinks
available from 9:30am



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14.03.2026 – PHOENIX CENTER BOGNOR REGIS – 10AM – 4PM

ARUN GAMES FEST



WHAT'S ON

- LEARNING EXPERIENCES FROM ROBLOX CREATORS •
- CHARACTER DESIGN WORKSHOPS • RETRO GAMES •
- IMMERSIVE VR EXPERIENCES AND DEMOS •
- HANDS ON CREATIVE ACTIVITIES • BOARD GAMES •
- CREATOR TALKS • PLAY TESTING •
- ESPORT TOURNAMENTS AND CASUAL PLAY •
- YOUTH VOICE DISCUSSION • AND SO MUCH MORE! •



DJs, musicians, drummers and podcasters, do you need a sound proof practice/recording space ?
Book our professional studios, practice rooms with hireable industry standard equipment.
visit <https://www.phoenixcentre.uk/facilities/recording-studio>



The Phoenix Centre
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

A celebration of games and creativity for young people

ARUN GAMES FEST

A welcoming space
for everyone
to explore games,
meet creators,
and build new skills.

Volunteer with us!

Build confidence
through real event experience.
Connect with local studios,
organisations, and fellow creators.
Gain experience for portfolios, CVs,
future education or job applications.
Earn recognition through digital badges.

We're on the look out for:

- Game creators to showcase their projects.
- Playtesters to give feedback on in-development games.
- Event assistants to support workshops.
- Tech support for streaming, esports and VR.

head to www.dabbble.app/dabbblezone to apply!



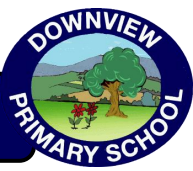
**Grab your
tickets here!**



Saturday 14th March – Phoenix Center, Bognor Regis



- At Downview School we grow and learn together every day -



Diary Dates

Date/ Month	Time	Activity
16th - 20th February		Half-term
23rd February		INSET Day
25th February	6pm	Corporate & Inter Schools road running challenge
26 th February	3:20pm	Book Fair
5th March		World Book Day
7th March	am	FAB Football and Netball Tournament
9th March		REPTYLERS in to visit Year 1
9th March	EYFS and Years 3 & 4	Silent Disco
9th March		Science week
10th March	Years 1 & 2 and Years 5 & 6	Silent Disco
11th March	6pm	Corporate and Interschools road running challenge
25th March	6pm	Corporate and Interschools road running challenge
25th March		Parents evenings
26th March		Parents evenings
27th March	2:30pm	End of term

Downview Primary School

	Website: https://www.downviewprimary.co.uk		Telephone: 01243-820511		Email: office@downviewprimary.co.uk
	https://twitter.com/Downviewprimary				facebook.com/downviewpta/