

Newsletter

Spring 2 2026

Kind | Respectful | Safe

27th March 2026

Special points of interest:

- World Book Day
- Science Week
- Reptylers visit to Year 1
- Sports updates
- The Big Sing
- Jess Breach Award Ceremony
- World Book Day
- School Council

Inside this issue:

2	EYFS
3	Year 1
4	Year 4
5	Year 5
6	Year 6
7	The Big Sing
8 - 10	Sports pages
11	World Book Day
12	Jess Breach
14-15	School Council
16	Dates for Diaries

Headteacher update

Another busy half term has flown by and it has been lovely to see so many different events and activities taking place in school. It is hard to believe that we are at the end of another term already. There has been a real buzz amongst the children about their learning this term and many pupils really enjoyed talking to the Governors during their recent Open Morning and sharing their work with them. World Book Day was a day filled with fun and staff and children enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book characters. We were visited by husband and wife authors, Alan and Caroline Guillan, and their workshops inspired many pupils to want to read their novels, write their own stories or draw what they can see above their eyes.

The Silent Discos that the Friends of Downview held proved to be very popular and we are very grateful to them for all of their hardwork. So many of the children told me that they had a fantastic time. Thank you to everyone who made an appointment for parents evening. The children really enjoy sharing their work with you and looking back on how much they have achieved this year.

We hope that you all have a lovely Easter and look forward to welcoming everyone back on 13th April ready for the Summer Term.



Mrs. Purkis



Attendance continues to be a focus area. Whole school attendance is currently at 93.3 % which is below the target that the Government has set for the school which is 94.8%. Please remember that absence from school for holidays for 5 days or longer (10 + sessions) during the term, will result in a fine from the Local Authority.

On a positive note attendance during the second half of the Spring Term for the following classes needs to be celebrated as they all achieved over 96.0% attendance :

In Key Stage 1 **Apple** class attended school - 96.4%.

In Key Stage 2

Elm class attended school 96.5%

Laurel class attended school 96.3%

Well done everyone in these classes and all of those children

who attend school regularly – **congratulations!**

Attendance Matters



What a lot of exciting learning you have all been doing.

RECEPTION

World Book Day was celebrated in style! We shared so many wonderful stories and enjoyed the chance to show off our costumes in our very own World Book Day Catwalk Show. Can you guess which characters we decided to dress up as?

We spent time re-telling our favourite stories, making role play props and created our own self-portraits and character labels.



SCIENCE WEEK

We enjoy any chance to get hands on in practical experiments and investigations, and Science week was no exception!

We looked at lots of different science-based activities, including how magnets attract and repel each other, how to make the best bubbles and how air can be a force to move things.

Our favourite bit of the week was our Science Day, where we rotated around each others classrooms taking part in different investigations. We were exploring minibeasts and their habitat, investigating how people can impact on river habitats and experimenting with floating and sinking.



It was lovely to see you all having so much fun investigating and learning about different scientific facts.

COOKERY

Thank you to everyone who made our Cookery sessions possible! We really enjoyed going down to the Cookery Room and making the most delicious Easter Nest Treats! We looked carefully at how the chocolate changed when heated in a bowl and then cooled in the fridge. What an amazing process! We had such fun trying out our mixing and mashing skills as we made our nest shaped treats.



SPRING SING-A-LONG

During our final week in Spring Term, we have been celebrating the long awaited arrival of Spring with a special Sing-a-long at St Mary's church in Felpham. Thank you to all our amazing parent helpers and Father John who made this trip possible.



The RepTylers visit Year One

As part of our 'Amazing Animals' Science unit we were lucky enough to have the RepTylers come and visit and give the children a hands-on experience with a variety of reptiles and other animals. The children had the opportunity to meet some remarkable reptiles like Mr Slinky the blue-tongued skink, Scarlett the 9ft Burmese python and Freckles and Stump the Crested Geckos! They also got to meet a tarantula called Oriee and an Albino Skunk named Pee Bear.



“Did you know that crested geckos drop off their tails if a predator is trying to attack?”



Art this half term

In our Art lessons this half term, the children have been working individually, in pairs and in groups to create examples of 3D sculpture art. They have practised different folding and rolling techniques to create tube towers, 3D drawings, tree structures and are working towards creating a giant 3D spider!

Thank you to all the families who have donated newspapers for us to use- we really appreciate all your help with this!



“I worked with my partner to create our colourful tube towers. They looked like skyscrapers”.



'I like my collage because I managed to create a bright, vibrant piece of Art'.

Year 4 Art – The finished masterpieces!!

Children carefully selected and arranged wrappers in an interesting way.

They used an effective use of space considering the proportion and placement. The children then added various elements to enhance the texture and overall appearance of the collage.



Year 4 – History – Learning about the Maya Civilisation

Maya Civilisation built huge temples to honour their Gods. We built temples using many different building material.



Maya were expert writers. They invented their own writing system that used hieroglyphs on paper made from the bark of wild fig trees. We tea stained our own paper and wrote our names using their writing system.



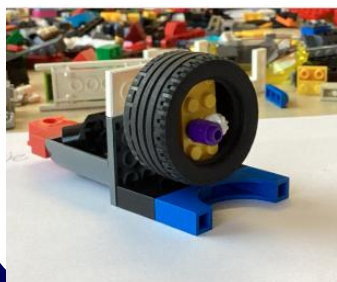
A ball game called pitz was an important part of their culture. They could only use their knees, hips and elbows to pass it between them. We played this game.



Year 5 Science Week – Curiosity

Year 5 had a wonderful science week and as the focus of this year's science week was Curiosity, we re-visited an earlier topic of ours, The Mars Rover.

We completed a variety of activities including building a Mars Rover out of Lego, drawing Curiosity as a teamwork activity with 4 clothes pegs held on one pen and a computer activity where children had to input the correct instructions for the Mars Rover to explore and dig.



"I love building robots with Lego"

"It was really fun trying to draw something in a four – I think our group did really well."

The art work that you have produced together looks wonderful Year 5.

Year 5 – World Book Day – The Skies Above my Eyes

On World Book Day, Year 5 came together to create a special class picture, all drawing at the same time to capture what we imagined and could see in the sky. Inspired by the visiting authors Charlotte and Adam Guillain of *The Skies Above My Eyes*, we filled our page with swirling clouds, glowing stars, soaring birds, and even constellations and rockets. Everyone had a different idea, but as our drawings joined together, they formed one big, colourful scene that showed our creativity and teamwork.



Year 6 Science week

Year 6 enjoyed an exciting and engaging Science Week, where the children spent part of week off timetable taking part in a range of practical investigations. Throughout the week, pupils planned, carried out and evaluated a variety of investigations.

One challenge involved designing and testing paper aeroplanes to find out which design would travel the furthest. During this activity, children explored ideas linked to aerodynamics, air resistance, symmetry and forces, making predictions and improving their models based on results, just as scientists and engineers do.

In another investigation, pupils became “birds for the day” and attempted to build a nest using pegs to represent a beak. This activity helped the children to understand how the shape and strength of a bird’s beak is linked to its function, linking to the Year 6 topic of evolution and inheritance and how living things have adapted over time to suit their environment.



The children also designed and built boats using foil before testing how much weight each boat could hold before sinking. This investigation focused on water displacement, buoyancy and forces, allowing pupils to apply their understanding of scientific concepts while carefully measuring and recording results.

The week provided a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop their enquiry skills by asking questions, making predictions, carrying out fair tests and analysing their findings.

It was a highly enjoyable and productive week, and the children showed great enthusiasm, teamwork and curiosity throughout.

Downview Choir at The Big Sing

Children from the school choir in Years 5 & 6 represented our school at 'The Big Sing' at the Bognor Arena.

This is a joyous singing event where all the local schools from Felpham and Bognor come together to sing songs of their own and some groups songs.

The children were a credit to the school with their good behaviour, support for other schools and most importantly their outstanding singing.

This was the culmination of weeks of hard work and Mrs Luckin and Mr Norris were truly proud of the choir!

"I loved singing with other schools and seeing my friends from a different school"

"This was one of my best ever days at Downview, thanks for taking us!"



Netball A and B Team FAB Tournament

On Saturday 7th March, Downview netballers took part in the annual Felpham and Bognor Tournament.

The A Team showed brilliant passing skills throughout their matches, working hard to move the ball confidently down the court and support each other at every opportunity. Their shooting accuracy improved with every game and so did their confidence to just give a shot a go!

The B Team impressed everyone with their resilience and commitment- especially as this was some of the girls' first tournament. They consistently created great space to receive the ball and their defensive pressure was outstanding; with players intercepting passes and working hard to regain possession. The team communicated clearly and kept their energy high from start to finish, which was reflected in their amazing result of winning the B Team tournament! A massive well done to the girls for this fantastic result- a well-deserved win!

The determination, resilience and skill shown by all the children was outstanding and we are incredibly proud of all the netballers who took part.

We would also like to thank all of the families that came down to support the teams.



Netball Chocco Tournament



The annual Chocco tournament was a fantastic mix of fun, energy, and a friendly competition as both children and teachers took to the court. All four teams brought brilliant enthusiasm and the atmosphere was full of laughter, encouragement and team spirit. Each team demonstrated quick passing, confident movement and excellent team work.

A big congratulations to Team C who were victorious! Thank you to all the children and teachers who took part; the tournament was a great celebration of our school community and fantastic end to the netball season.

FAB Football Tournament Success – Downview Crowned Champions Again!

On Saturday 7th March, Downview took part in the annual FAB Football A and B Team Tournament, the final competition of the year and always the biggest event in the football calendar. Two separate tournaments took place, each made up of a pool of five teams who all played each other. The top two teams from each group progressed to the semi-finals, with the winners going through to the final. With the standard always very high, both Downview teams knew they would need to be at their very best.

The A team started their campaign against Southway, dominating possession but finding it difficult to break down a stubborn defence. Eventually the breakthrough came and the boys secured a 1–0 win. From there, the team really found their rhythm, winning the remaining group games 6–0, 6–1 and beating Bishop Tuffnell 4–0. In the semi-final, Downview faced St Mary's and produced another strong performance to win 3–1, with some excellent saves from Kyle and great defending from Ollie and Oscar.

In the final, Downview met Southway once again. It was another close game, but a stunning free kick from Albie sealed a 1–0 victory, meaning the Downview A team were crowned champions for the third year in a row — a fantastic achievement built on brilliant teamwork and determination.



The B team also produced an excellent tournament performance. They played some fantastic football in the group stage, winning two of their games and narrowly losing 2–0 to South Bersted, which was still enough to secure a place in the semi-final. After some smart tactical changes, Downview won the semi-final to set up a rematch against South Bersted in the final. The boys showed great confidence and character, winning the game 2–0 thanks to two well-taken goals from Bertie. This meant the Downview B team were champions for the second year in a row, another superb achievement.

Congratulations to both the A and B teams for winning their tournaments — an outstanding result which means Downview are once again the reigning champions in the FAB locality. A brilliant effort from all players involved!

Football Choco Tournament

To celebrate a fantastic season of football at Downview, we rounded things off with the traditional annual Choco Tournament.

Five teams competed against each other in a round-robin format, with the top two teams progressing to the final. All of the children showed excellent attitude, determination and sportsmanship throughout the competition, making it a pleasure to watch.

The tournament was a brilliant way to finish the season, and it was great to see everyone enjoying themselves while showing the values we have focused on all year. Well done to all players who took part!



Nathan Taylor fundraising (again) for Downview School

In 2024, I completed the Sea to Summit rat race- ultra marathon conquering Snowdonia 29 miles +6300ft elevation. This entailed facing sheer drops, winds, hail and rain on the ascent. This year I am taking on Scafell Pike. Which is 31 miles +5600ft elevation. Once again, I will be looking at raising essential funds for Downview Primary School. Please help me smash my target.

You can donate to their JustGiving page by clicking here

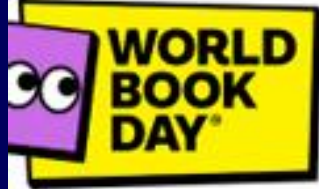
https://www.justgiving.com/page/nathan-taylor-5?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM&utm_campaign=020



JustGiving sends your donation straight to Friends of Downview Primary School and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more.

Nathan Taylor





March 2026

We were delighted to welcome award winning authors Charlotte and Adam Guillain to help us celebrate World Book Day and create a buzz around books! They worked with every year group and finished their day with a wonderful assembly for everyone. The children worked on book projects over two days and created some amazing work whilst learning from our famous authors about how to write books. Congratulations also to all our competition winners who won a token to spend at the Book Fair. The Fair helped to raise over £500 towards books for our library, thank you to everyone who supported this.

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for helping to create so many wonderful costumes and outfits to help us celebrate World Book Day on our Downview Cat Walk!



Jess Breach Freedom of the City Award

On Friday 20th March a group of Downview students were invited to go to Chichester Festival Theatre and witness Jess Breach, former Downview student and England ladies Rugby player, be awarded the Freedom of the City Award.

Jess attended Downview Primary School and has gone onto play rugby for Saracens and England. She was the top try scorer for England when they won the 2025 World Cup. She has 50 caps for England and was the only player to play in every England match during the World Cup. The last local person to have been awarded the Freedom of the City award was the astronaut Tim Peake.



Some of the pupils from our school were chosen to go to an extraordinary experience. We got to go to an award ceremony to watch Jess Breach get the Freedom of the City award. We all had a great time and had lots of fun. The ceremony was about 2 hours long but when it finished we got her signature and got a group photo. We had a fantastic time at the JESS BREACH AWARD CEREMONY. Jess is a great role model because she is a female sports person. By Orla Riding and Poppy Jones Elm class



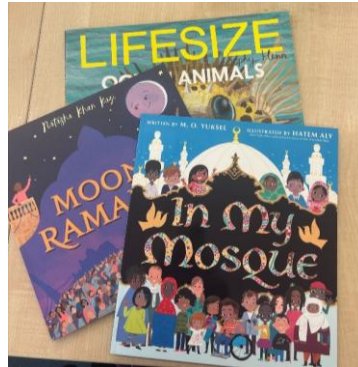
School Council – Recycle to Read Batteries

Recycle  Read

Please continue to collect batteries and bring them to school . We recently got these books for the library from our recycled batteries.



KEEP RECYCLING!!



Congratulations to the winners of the Co-op Easter colouring in competition. It was a tough competition for the staff at the Co-op to judge. Below are the lucky winners and some of the children were in school to collect their Easter eggs.

Age 4 – Jos
Age 5 – Theodore
Age 6 - Samiul
Age 7 - Tallulah
Age 8 - Florence
Age 9 - Mason
Age 10/11 - Darcey

Polite reminder

We are kindly asking all families who walk their dogs near the school grounds to please ensure that any dog mess is cleaned up and disposed of safely.

Keeping our pathways and surrounding areas clean is essential for several reasons:

- Health and safety:** Dog mess can carry harmful bacteria and parasites that pose risks to children, especially our younger pupils who play and walk close to the ground.
- Clean learning environment:** A tidy, hygienic school environment helps set a positive example for pupils and supports everyone's wellbeing.
- Respect for our community:** Clean paths and green spaces help ensure that all families, pupils, and staff can use the area safely and comfortably.

We truly appreciate your help in keeping the school environment safe and pleasant for everyone.

Please also remember that dogs are not permitted on the school premises.

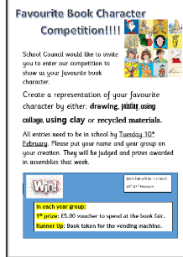
Thank you for your continued support and consideration.



School Council

A massive thank you to all the children that entered the reading competition.

The school council had a really hard job to pick winners in each year group as the entries were amazing.



In Reception:

The winner was..... Evie from Blueberry. The runner-up was ... Archer from Blueberry.



In Year One:

The winner was Millie from Peach.

The runner up was Ezra from Peach.



In Year Two:

The winner was Aria from Plum.

The runner up wasErin from Apricot.



In Year 3:

The winner wasFlorence from Holly. The runner up wasSienna from Holly.



In Year Four:

The winner was Willow from Beech. The runner up was Mia from Elm.



In Year Five:

The winner was Max from Maple. The runner up wasMikey from Redwood



In Year Six:

The winner wasEloise from Rowan. The runner up wasOllie from Rowan.



A big thankyou to Mrs Franklin who has displayed these outside the library.








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



Diary Dates

Date/ Month	Time	Activity
13th April		Summer Term begins
14 th April		Experience Magic @ FCC
14 th April		Year 4 Cobham Cup team training session
15 th April	1pm	Year 4- 6 girls cricket festival @ Bishop Luffa
16 th April	3.30pm	Marchants Hill @ SATS meeting in Lippitt Hall
17 th April	9am	Year 4 visit to the picturedrome
21 st April	3:30pm	County Cup finals, Downview Yr 5/6
22 nd April	7am pick up	Year 4 Sussex Cobham Cup Finals
24 th April	1.15pm	Future Flyers Session
22 nd May		Last day of term
1 st June		INSET DAY
2 nd June		First day of half term
3 rd June	11am	Year 6 to Marchants Hill
5 th June	4pm	Year 6 return from Marchants Hill
8 th June		Year 6 Bikeability (further details to follow)
10 th June		Class Photos
15 th June		Year 6 Bikeability (further details to follow)
22 nd June		Years 3,4,5 and 6 Sports Day Practice
23 rd June	1.15pm – 3.10pm	Year 3 & 4 Sports Day
26 th June	1.15pm – 3.10pm	Year 5 & 6 Sports Day
2 nd July	3:45pm	Area Athletics
6 th July	1.15pm – 3.10pm	Year R & KS1 Sports Day Practice
8 th July	1;15pm – 3pm	Year R & KS1 Sports Day
21 st July	2;30pm	Last day of Summer Term – finish at 2:30pm

Downview Primary School

	Website: https://www.downviewprimary.co.uk		Telephone: 01243-820511		Email: office@downviewprimary.co.uk
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