

# Newsletter

## October 2025

Kind | Respectful | Safe

Friday 24th  
October

### Special points of interest:

- Year group learning
- Crumble Club
- Cricket Success
- Year 5 workshop with a judge
- Meet the new House Captains

### Inside this issue:

Reception & phonics	2
Year 1 & 4	3
Year 5	4
Year 6	5
Crumble club and cricket	6
Remembrance Day & Children in Need	7
Music lessons	8
Diary Dates	9

## Happy Half term everyone

What a great start to the year we have had and what a busy half term this has been.

It has been lovely to see the children engaging so well with their learning and working so hard.

So many pupils have really enjoyed the texts that they have been reading in literacy lessons and I have enjoyed dropping into lessons and reading their writing.

Thank you to all of you who attended parents evening. It was lovely to see so many of you looking at your child's work and the children showing such obvious pride in their work. It is amazing to see how much they have achieved already.

As part of Anti-bullying week the

### Attendance

Overall attendance for the whole school is 94.5% which is only slightly below the government target of 96%. Well done!

Well done to Oak class whose attendance is a fantastic 98%

Cherry and Maple classes are both just behind at 97% and Plum class is on 96%.

Thank you to all of you who are arranging appointments outside of school hours. I do appreciate that this is hard to do but it does make a difference to the pupils learning.

children can wear odd socks to school on Wednesday 12th November.

Poppies and other merchandise will be on sale from 4th November so remember to send your child in with money in a named and sealed envelope.

As the cold weather is approaching remember to send your child in with a warm/waterproof coat.

With the evenings getting darker please remember to continue to park with consideration for others and that the car park is for staff cars only. Have a lovely half term, stay safe and I look forward to seeing you on the 4th November.

Mrs Purkis



Attendance Matters



# Reception

Reception have had a wonderful few weeks exploring and celebrating Harvest time!

We have been learning about the Autumn season and made Autumn crowns! The children have also been learning new songs and thinking about where different foods come from. Ask me about my favourite Harvest foods.



Thank you again to everyone who contributed to our Harvest food donations.

We came together at the end of our Harvest activities to join in with a fun sing-a-long with some of our favourite new songs—Big Red Combine Harvester and Falling Leaves.

All of the grown-ups were so impressed by our singing!



What a lot of fun you are having in Reception

Keep up the hard work practising your Song of Sounds



## Phonics Workshop

Thank you to all those who gave up their time to come and join us for our Phonics Workshop.

We looked at how our phonics programme, Song of Sounds, teaches each sound, and practised saying and blending sounds in green words.

Don't worry if you were unable to attend this meeting—we will add the information to our Reception page on the website. If you have any questions, We are also always happy for you to come and ask us questions about phonics and reading.

### Top tips:

- Children learn initial, end and then medial sounds so listen carefully to how your child is starting to blend.
- Praise every effort to read independently.
- Correct and model the sounds as much as you need to—this ensures the children learn the correct pronunciation and formation of letters and sounds from the beginning.
- Record each of your reads in your diary
- It is very common for children to muddle 'l' and 'igh' when starting to read—don't worry and correct as needed!



# Year 1 — Woodland

The children have had their second session in the woodland classroom and were incredibly sensible following our 'green, orange and red dragon rules' when staying safe around fire.

The children explored their sense of smell and taste and even toasted their own marshmallows!



## Autumnal Observational Drawings

As part of our Art lessons this half term, the children have worked hard to complete observational drawings. The children experimented with different mediums and different types of lines to add texture to their drawings of pumpkins that were very

kindly donated to us by Mrs Luckin from her pumpkin patch!



## Year 4

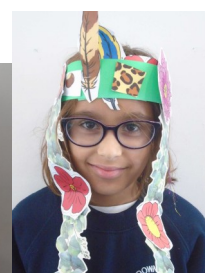
In Year 4 we have been reading 'The Crown' by Emily Kapff. The text is a message from a girl in the future who has a crown of rubbish and is on a hill of landfill.

We have created a crown to give to the girl and are currently making a 'book of wonder' about the amazing creatures around us and how to look after our environment.

In our Art we have been considering proportion

and composition when planning a still life painting.

We have applied knowledge of colour mixing and painting techniques to create a finished piece.



## Year 5— All Rise Workshop

Year 5 had the pleasure of 'All Rise' coming in to school which is a legal education workshop founded by solicitor James Stewart. The day involved lots of fun activities helping the children learn about the law, culminating in a mock law court based on the Trial of Goldilocks.

James praised the children across both days for participation, behaviour and how much they learned and remembered across the day.



What a fantastic start you are having to Year 5 !

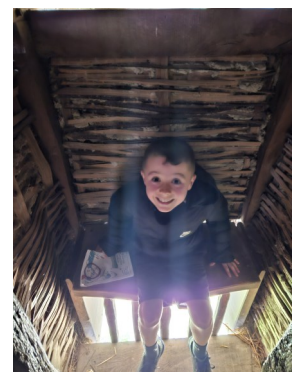
## Weald and Downland

It was a busy October for Year 5 as we visited the Weald and Downland open air museum for our history topic. We learned about the Anglo-Saxon way of life including how herbs and other plants were used to make medicines and how to build a fence using a maul and wattling.

We were also lucky enough to see 'The Repair shop' being filmed and we received many positive comments about the children's behaviour from the museum staff and members of the public.



Such a great day out!



## Year 6 — Investigate like Charles Darwin

We are very proud of all the budding scientists in Year 6. They are all enjoying their first unit on Evolution and Inheritance. We have learnt all about Mary Anning and her incredible discoveries. Thank you to all the children who have shared fossils from home!

We have explored the difference between inherited and acquired characteristics that parents pass to their offspring. Everyone had a great lesson, using Mr Men and Little Miss, to create their own offspring focussing on

inherited characteristics. We definitely had some very creative-looking young!

Charles Darwin was our next scientist to learn all about and his theory of evolution. All of Year 6 were fascinated to learn of his journey of exploration. We then carried out an experiment with different tools (as beaks) for picking up different foods, as Darwin would have done when carrying out his research on Finches and their beak shape. We had a lot of fun trying to feed on seeds, worms (string), insects (raisins) and nectar with different shaped tools. Here we are carrying out our experiments:



## Introducing the new Year 6 House Captains

We are delighted to announce our new House Captains for this year. These children have been chosen for the way they consistently show themselves to be positive role models across the school. They are pupils that others look up to, and they are already setting a fantastic example through their commitment, enthusiasm and sense of responsibility.

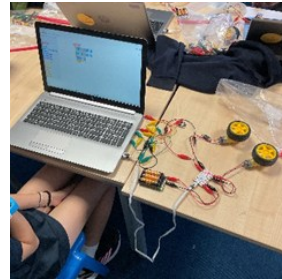
As House Captains, they will lead and encourage their teams, support whole-school events and inspire others to get involved. In doing so, they will echo our school values of creativity, independence, resilience and risk-taking—showing what it means to be leaders both in and out of the classroom. We are excited to see how they will rise to the challenge and make their mark this year.



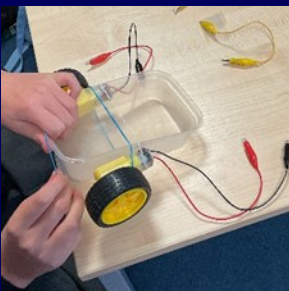
## Meet and Code Grant— Crumble Club

We are very lucky at Downview to have qualified for and received a £400 grant from the Meet and Code initiative, which is run by the digital charity in partnership with techsoupeurope, SAP, colt and amazon future >> engineer. We have been able to use this money to purchase a set of Crumble kits, which can be used for physical programming activities, where the code children build is sent to a device to make something happen.

We spent the first session learning how to connect our Crumble board to a power source and getting familiar with the block coding in the software. Then we were off!



Wow—this is such an amazing experience!



During the club we have learnt how to light up a sparkles to change colour, we have programmed buzzers to sound and added switches to control when we create sound and light.

We are now experimenting with using a motor to make wheels spin, and last week we started building a buggy, which can travel across the floor.

We have had lots of fun with these kits so far and I can't wait to see what the children will create next!



## Cricket success

We are incredibly proud of Toby Lovelock in Year 6, who has been chosen to play for the U11 Sussex cricket squad. He has dedicated many hours to training and matches, is a fair and kind sportsman and a very talented cricketer. He thoroughly deserves this recognition - we look forward to hearing updates from you.

Well done Toby!



# Remembrance Day— Tuesday 11th November

Pupils will have assemblies during the first week back to have an understanding of remembrance day. On Tuesday 11th the children will participate in a 2 minute silence to remember.

Children will have the opportunities to buy poppy merchandise in their year groups from Tuesday 4th November.



## Children in Need— Friday 14th November

We are pleased to advise that we will be supporting Children in Need on

Friday 14th November. The school council have liaised with the children in their classes and the whole school are invited to dress in non-uniform on this day, Pudsey merchandise, something spotty or pyjamas. Football kits may also be worn. Your child can also wear face paints and have coloured hair.

There is no obligation to donate, but if you are able to make a donation to Children in Need, please send this in with your child on the day.

School councillors will also have buckets at the beginning of the school day to collect any loose change.

As always, we thank you for your continued support.



## Music Lessons

At Downview we are currently offering music lessons in the following instruments:

Bass Guitar / Clarinet / Flute / Guitar /  
Keyboard / Piano / Recorder / Saxophone /  
Ukulele / Viola / Violin

\*Possibly drum lessons soon, I have asked West Sussex for a drum teacher.

If you are interested in learning any of these instruments please go to the West Sussex music website or speak to me and I can give you the music teacher's details directly.

Mr Norris

### Music lessons

Interested in learning to sing or play an instrument?

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## Diary Dates



Date/Month	Time	Activity
3rd November		CLOSURE day
4th November		School restarts for all pupils
11th November		Remembrance Day
12th November		Wear odd socks to school for all pupils
14th November		Children in Need
5th December		Choir singing in the village
9th December		Flu jabs
10th December		Carols by Candlelight at school
18th December		Christmas dinner day
12th December		Rock Steady Concert
19th December	2:30pm	End of Term
5th January		INSET Day
6th January		Spring Term begins
16th - 20th February		Half-term
23rd February		INSET Day
27th March	2:30pm	End of Term
13th April		Summer term begins
25th –29th May		Half-term
1st June		INSET Day
21st July	2:30pm	Last day of term

## Downview Primary School



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

