

Newsletter

Summer 2 2026

Kind | Respectful | Safe

17th July 2026

Special points of interest:

Visits to

- Staunton Country Farm
- Arundel Castle
- Marwell Zoo
- Marchant's Hill
- Design projects in Year 2 and 5
- Sporting updates
- Mini medics
- Downview Live
- School Council

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End of the year - Headteacher update

I cannot believe that the summer term is coming to an end – what a busy and eventful year it has been. I hope that you enjoy reading the last newsletter of the year, so much has happened this term. Thank you to everyone who has supported the staff and pupils as we have re-arranged sports days and made adjustments to timetables due to the hot weather – we really do appreciate your support and hope that you enjoyed these events. Transition days have all been very positive and whilst there is sadness at leaving their current classes, pupils and staff are looking forward to seeing what the next year holds for everyone. Before you read about the events of the past half term I would like to update you as to some changes that will be taking place ahead of September.

Staff car park – increased security

During the summer break we will be continuing with the plan to ensure that the school site is as secure and safe as possible. New electric gates will be installed and as a result the car park will be solely for the use of school staff and authorised visitors only. Parents will NOT be permitted to use the car park - instead cars will need to be parked outside of the school site NOT in the drive in the lead up to the school. Please ensure that when you park your car that you do not park on the double yellow lines; zig zags and that you park with consideration for our neighbours. The car park will no longer be accessible for parents who use Blackbirds or for other clubs.

If you have a blue badge **for your child** please contact the office who will advise you as to the next steps.

I am confident that if we continue to work together we will ensure that our school site is a safe and secure place for all of our pupils.

Felpham Community College – please do not use the school as a thoroughfare

I have also been asked to remind parents of pupils at Downview that walking through the Felpham Community College site is not permitted. Signage has been installed indicating this and I am asking that pupils and parents respect this.

Smartphone free school

Following on from the recent communication to parents I would like to remind you that from September, in line with DfE guidance, we will be a Smartphone free school for pupils and I am very grateful for the positive responses that we have received to this initiative.

I hope that that you all have a fantastic summer break and I wish our Year 6 pupils the very best for the future. I look forward to welcoming staff and pupils back to school in September.

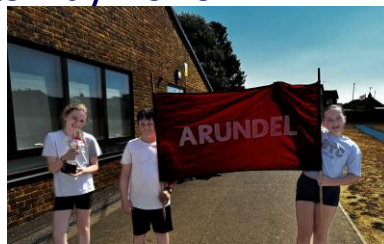
Take care, stay safe and have a lovely summer everyone. Mrs Purkis

Congratulations to **Arundel** who were the overall winners for Sports Day 2026

Arundel won EYFS and KS1

Petworth won Yrs 3/4

Goodwood won Yrs 5/6





Downview Staffing Update

At the end of another busy year we have some sad farewells to say to these lovely staff members. Mrs Bell leaves Downview to begin her retirement and spend more time with her family and doing the things she loves such as playing tennis and gardening. She will be missed by staff and pupils alike and we wish her all the best for the future.

Mrs Brown is leaving to begin a new job that enables her to use a different skill set. We wish her all the best in her new role. Mrs Brown has worked across many year groups and always has a smile on her face - she will also be missed here at Downview.

Sadly Gin is also leaving her many roles here at Downview. We will miss her in her role as School Crossing Patrol Warden where she works hard to keep our children safe as they enter and exit school. She will also be missed in her roles as Mid Day Meals Supervisor and cleaner and we wish her well as she takes time for herself - I am sure many of you will still see her around the village.



Mrs
Bell



Mrs
Brown



Gin

Good luck for the next adventures ladies – you will be greatly missed at Downview.

West Sussex are currently recruiting for the School Crossing patrol role and we are hopeful that this important role will continue at Downview.

We are looking forward to welcoming Miss Warrington onto the teaching team

We wish Miss Webb and her family all the best for the future– we can't wait to meet her new baby.

Congratulations to Mrs Polhill – we are so pleased for you and Mr Langley.

Baby news and welcome

Miss Webb will be returning to school in September however, she will be beginning her maternity leave shortly afterwards as she looks forward to welcoming her new baby into the world – this is very exciting news for both her and the rest of her family – we wish her well for the future.

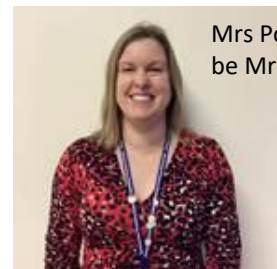
We are also delighted to be welcoming Miss Ruby Warrington onto the team and she will be joining the Year 5 team teaching Maple class. Miss Warrington recently completed her training here at Downview and has spent time with the team getting to know the pupils and staff. We are very excited to be welcoming her into the team.



Miss
Webb



Miss
Warrington



Mrs Polhill soon to
be Mrs Langley

COMING
S  N

WELCOME
TO THE TEAM

Congratulations!

Year R visit to Staunton Farm



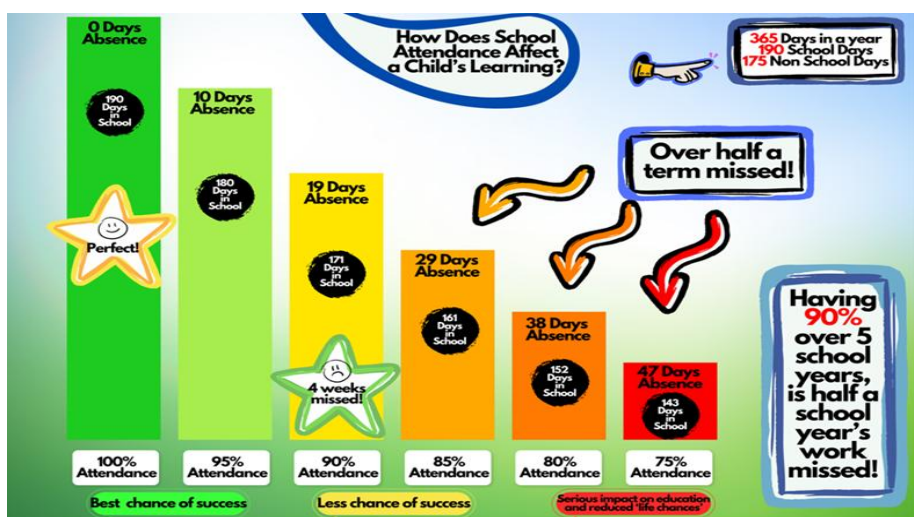
What an interesting first trip you had to the farm – we are so proud of you all for your enthusiasm and fantastic behaviour.

What a fantastic day our Reception children had on their visit to the farm! The children were excited from the moment we arrived and enjoyed a wonderful day of hands-on learning and exploration. During our visit, the children had the opportunity to meet a variety of farm animals, including cows, sheep, goats, pigs, chickens and rabbits. They learned about how the animals are cared for and what they need to stay healthy and happy. Many of the children were brave enough to feed and stroke some of the animals, creating memories that they were eager to share when they returned to school. The visit also helped to bring our learning to life. The children explored the farm environment, talked about where food comes from and discovered the important role that farmers play in caring for animals and producing food for our communities. The children listened carefully, asked questions and represented our school brilliantly. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and kindness made the visit a great success.

A huge thank you to all the staff and parent helpers who helped make the trip possible.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be an ongoing focus for Downview Primary School. At the beginning of the year the DfE set us a target of 94.5% by the end of the year. Unfortunately we are finishing the year on 93.1% which is approx. 2% below the national average for Primary Schools. We will continue the drive to improve attendance in September and would like to remind you that holidays cannot be authorised and that if over 10 sessions are missed due to unauthorised holiday then a Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued. I am hopeful that if we continue to work together on promoting good attendance that we will see an improvement next year. As you can see from this graphic, attendance at school has been proven to have a direct correlation on attainment. Thank you for your support with this important area.



Wow what an interesting time you had learning about life in the past at Arundel Castle.

Medieval Madness in Year One!

Arundel Castle

As part of our History learning this half term, the children visited the nearly 1,000 year old Arundel Castle. The children were very excited to get on board the coach and were looking out for the castle the whole way there!

When we arrived the children had the opportunity to dress up as knights and noble people and re-enact the Battle of Hastings and our guides were very impressed with the children's knowledge on this!

We had a great time climbing the steep steps to the top of the keep, peeking into the dungeons and oubliette and exploring the grounds and beautiful gardens. Some of us even spotted Thomas the terrapin in the pond!



We are so incredibly proud of the children's behaviour and how they represented Downview. Thank you again to all our grown up volunteers- the trip would not have been possible without your support!

What a lot of fun experiences you have had in Year 1 learning about life in the past.

Medieval Madness in Year One!

Medieval Day

Following our visit to Arundel Castle we had our Medieval Day! During the day the children had the opportunity to learn about the different jobs you might do if you lived in a castle and try our activities linked to each of these jobs.

After baking bread, jousting, gong farming and dancing the children had to decide at the end of the day which job they would like to have had and why.

We had lots of knights and cooks by the end of the day and even some children who would have chosen to be a gong farmer because they were paid so well!



Year 2's Wheely Good Cars!

In Design and Technology this term we have been exploring how wheels work. We have designed, made, tested and evaluated our very own car designs. We have attached axles to our cars and added the wheels to them. We had great fun making them and even more fun testing them out!

Check out some of our designs!

Rolls Royce here we come!



Spring Fayre update

So the weather really hasn't been on our side this year however, the Spring Fayre went ahead in 2 stages and we are very grateful for the hardwork that the Friends of Downview put into making it such a success. There will be an update regarding the monies raised and the Friends of Downview in the new term.

We are so glad that you were able to enjoy the trip to the Zoo Year 3, despite the heavy rain!

Marvellous Marwell!

We LOVE animals in year 3. Ahead of starting our new book, A Cautionary Tale of Jim, we visited Marwell Zoo, to gain a better understanding of the setting of the book, ready to write our own tales in the coming weeks.

We were fascinated by the penguins and huge giraffes, and some of us even managed to catch a glimpse of the tiger who was hiding from the rain. Luckily, we were very sensible and did not share the 'dreadful fate' of Jim- our story's main character who got eaten by a lion!

One of the most memorable parts, according to the children, was the torrential rain on the walk back to the bus - of course!



How many cheeky monkeys can you spot?!



The highlights of the day, according to the children!



Summer Term in Year 4

Design and Technology

In Design and Technology this term, we learnt about different types of fastenings. We have been using a range of equipment to join textiles using running stitch and poppers. We embellished our felt pouches using iron-on appliques. We have planned and designed our own book sleeves and can't wait to put our learnt skills to test!



A thoughtful gift

This half term's literacy text has been *The Baker by the Sea*. The children enjoyed learning about the different jobs carried out by people in the village. Mia was so inspired by the baker's recipe that she went home and baked some delicious biscuits for her teachers. Thank you, Mia, for your thoughtful and generous gift – we thoroughly enjoyed them! 😊



Excellent Electricity

In Science, we have been learning about electrical circuits and different power sources. Over half term, the children completed a home investigation, identifying and recording appliances that are powered by batteries and those that use mains electricity. The children enjoyed exploring how electricity is used in everyday life and sharing their findings with the class. Mason worked particularly hard on this amazing homework.

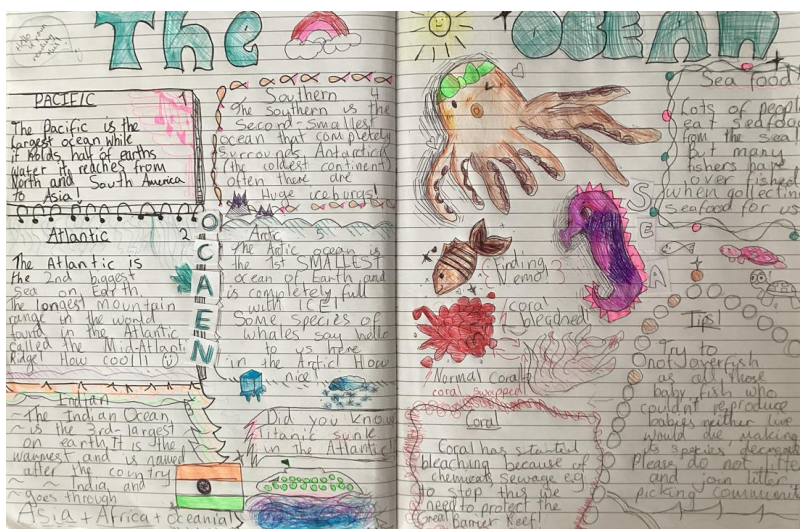
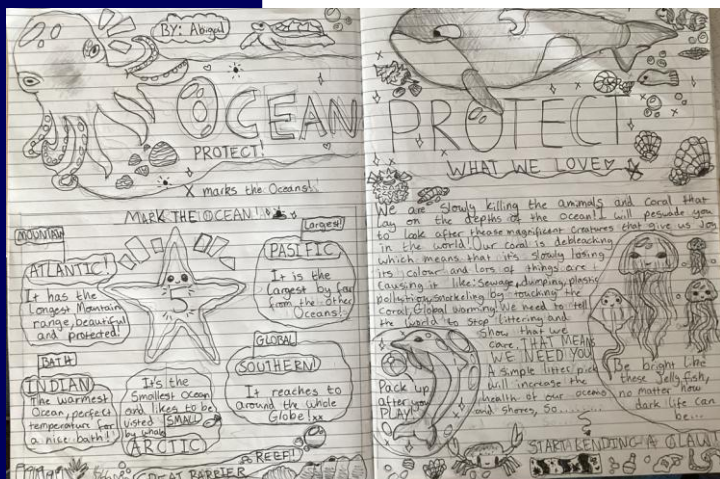


Year 5 Summer Term

Cleaning up the beach

The children have enjoyed our Oceans topic and had a great time on our Geography field trip collecting data about how much litter was on the beach and the different types of litter. There was much eagerness when cleaning up the beach and we ended up taking 5 bin bags back to school! The children were shocked but also pleased that they had contributed to keeping the marine environment clean.

We were also very proud at the multiple comments from members of the public commenting on how well-behaved the children were and what a credit to the school they are to be cleaning up the beach with such enthusiasm. Well done Year 5.





"It was an amazing experience, once in a lifetime. I will never forget it!"



"The trip pushed me to face my fears and try things I wouldn't normally do".



Year 6 Residential at Marchant Hill

Year 6 enjoyed a memorable and action-packed residential trip to Marchant Hill, filled with excitement, challenge, and plenty of laughter.

Although the weather was wet at times, it didn't dampen spirits, and the children made the most of every moment.

They took part in a range of adventurous activities, including the zip wire, tunneling, and the giant swing, all of which tested their courage, resilience, and determination. Despite some initial nerves, the children showed great bravery, supported one another, and celebrated each other's achievements.



The trip also provided valuable opportunities to develop teamwork, communication, and leadership skills, helping the children grow in confidence and independence.

This residential was a fantastic way to celebrate the end of SATs and marks the beginning of Year 6's final term at Downview. Most importantly, it created lasting memories that the children will treasure. Well done, Year 6—we are very proud of you!



Mini Medics Day

Year 6 recently had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a **Mini Medics Day**, where they learned a range of important first aid and life-saving skills. The children were taught how to apply bandages, learnt about water safety and potential dangers, and gained an understanding of what to do in an emergency situation.

One of the highlights of the day was learning about **CPR** and how it can help save lives. The sessions were practical, engaging and informative, helping the children develop valuable life skills that they may one day need to use.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and found it both interesting and inspiring. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they learned skills that could make a real difference in the future.



Felpham Community College Transition Event

Some of our Year 6 children recently had the opportunity to take part in a Transition Kick Rounders Afternoon at Felpham Community College. This event gave them the chance to meet members of the PE department and spend time with children from other primary schools who will also be joining FCC in September.

The children had a fantastic afternoon playing kick rounders, developing their teamwork skills and getting to know their future classmates. It was wonderful to see them socialising and building new friendships while enjoying some healthy competition.

The event was a great opportunity to support the children's transition to secondary school, helping them to feel more confident and excited about the next stage of their education. Everyone represented the school brilliantly and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Well done
Year 6 – we
are going to
be very sad
saying good
bye to you all
but we know
that you have
very exciting
times ahead
of you. Good
luck to you all
– we will miss
you!

This is a photo of
Year 6 ending their
time at Downview
with a spectacular
production of
Oliver with a Twist
– they were
sensational!



School Council

Our focus during this half term has been caring for our school environment. Over a two-week period, we visited classrooms and cloakrooms across the school to look for the tidiest and most well-organised spaces. Congratulations to Rowan Class, who were the first winners of the Tidiest Classroom Trophy and earned an extra playtime as their reward.

School Council members and staff were also recognising children who were spotted helping to keep our school tidy by picking up litter, putting equipment away and taking pride in their surroundings. Each child who was noticed received a raffle ticket. During assembly, one lucky ticket was drawn, and we are delighted to congratulate Lettie, who was awarded an additional 10 house points.



“Our final initiative was selling ice pops to raise money for new sports equipment. Well done – you did a magnificent job and should be very proud of your efforts. Your enthusiasm and commitment helped make the fundraiser a great success.”



I would like to thank each School Councillor for representing our school so well this year. You have shown great initiative and have been highly productive in supporting all of our campaigns. Your enthusiasm, commitment and willingness to make a positive difference have been greatly appreciated. Well done, and thank you for all your hard work.

Mrs Holloway

We are so lucky to have so many talented musicians and singers here at Downview Primary School – what a fantastic evening.

Downview Live!

On Friday 3rd July, one night after our historic Area Athletics win, it was music in the spotlight as we hosted our annual concert, Downview Live!

It was a fantastic evening of live music, where children aged from Year 6 all the way down to Year 1 performed. There were a huge variety of instruments including piano, keyboard, flute, guitar, bass guitar, singing and drums as we are very lucky to have so many music teachers coming in to our school.

The event was greatly supported and it was so lovely to see children performing and receiving such great applause from the audience.

The Downview school choir also performed brilliantly and made Mrs Luckin and Mr Norris very proud.

We were lucky to have some guest performances as well from music teachers and ex-Downview pupils who kindly gave up their time to showcase what our current pupils can achieve if they keep up with the instrument practice beyond Downview school.

As Mr Norris mentioned on the night, it really is an incredible achievement to put on a full evening of pupil performances and this is down to the hard work of so many pupils and the support of parents.



Wow – what amazing athletes we have at Downview – we are so proud of you.
Well done!

4 years in a row
Area Athletics Championships-
go Downview!

Area Athletics Champions Again!

On 2nd July, Downview took part in the annual Felpham and Bognor Area Athletics Championships, competing against schools from across the local area. The children participated in a wide range of events, including long jump, vertical jump, basketball throw, vortex throw, shot put, sprints, long-distance races and, of course, the exciting relay races to finish.

The relay events were a fantastic success, with Downview winning 3 out of the 8 races and finishing second in 4 more. However, what stood out the most was not just the impressive results, but the way our children conducted themselves throughout the competition. They showed outstanding resilience, determination and sportsmanship, constantly encouraging one another while also demonstrating respect for competitors from other schools.

Their hard work and positive attitude paid off, as Downview were crowned overall champions, finishing an incredible 60 points ahead of second place. This remarkable achievement means that Downview has now won the Area Athletics Championships for four consecutive years – a truly outstanding accomplishment.

Well done to every child who took part. We are incredibly proud of the effort, teamwork and determination you showed throughout the day. You were fantastic ambassadors for our school!



Girl's Football Kit



With our ever-growing girls' football team, Poppy and Orla took the initiative to seek sponsorship for a new team kit to wear during matches.

We are delighted that Mr Holloway from Block Wealth Management Limited generously supported their efforts by providing the school with 22 football kits.

This kind donation will ensure that our players can represent the school with pride and a strong sense of team spirit. We are extremely grateful for the support shown by Block Wealth Management and for the determination and initiative demonstrated by Poppy and Orla throughout the process.



Quad Kids



Congratulations to our incredible Year 4 and 6 athletes who took part in the Quad Kids county Final in June. It was a tremendous achievement to qualify and they performed superbly against many schools from across the county. Their amazing efforts meant they finished third overall in each age group. Their performance was made even more impressive due to the very challenging weather conditions they competed in!

Every member of the team gave their absolute all and contributed to a superb team performance. We could not be more proud of them all!

Special mention to Orla Riding who finished the second highest scoring girl in the whole competition and Albie Matthews for finishing the third highest scoring boy.

Another photo from the
Year 6 performance of
Oliver with a Twist



KS1 Sports Festival



Year 2 children had a fantastic afternoon at the KS1 sports festival in June. They thoroughly enjoyed trying a range of sports including rugby, golf, tennis and even boxing! Well done to the children for participating so enthusiastically and behaving impeccably!



Pretty Muddy Race For Life

Congratulations to Sophia T, Lyla-Rose and Holly , 9 years old and in Beech Class, who all took part in Pretty Muddy Race for Life and raised nearly £600 between them! It was tough, very muddy but also great fun! They are really grateful to everyone who kindly donated and would like to say a huge 'thank you'.

Well done girls what a fantastic achievement and that's a huge sum of money to have raised .





READ to the BEAT

Join thousands of children taking part in the
Summer Reading Challenge
in all West Sussex Libraries from Saturday 4 July.

- Fill in the [online registration form](https://libraries.westsussex.gov.uk/src) at libraries.westsussex.gov.uk/src.
- Tell library staff the [secret code word](#).
- Pick up a book and start reading!
- **Collect rewards** for reading library books and completing 'Make the Challenge Your Own' goals!
- Read [any library books](#) you like - it's up to you!
- Look out for fun events and activities at your local library!



It's **FREE** to join the library and **FREE** to take part.

Let's get reading!





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



Diary Dates

Date/ Month	Time	Activity
21 st July	2:30pm	End of term
1 st September	All day	INSET DAY
2 nd September	All day	CLOSURE DAY
7 th September	3:30pm – 4pm	Meet the Year 6 Team
9 th September	3:30pm – 4pm	Meet the Year 5 Team
10 th September	3:30pm – 4pm	Meet the Year 3 Team
11 th September		Year 5 swimming starts
14 th September	3:30pm – 4pm	Meet the Year 2 Team
16 th September	3:30pm – 4pm	Meet the Year 4 Team
17 th September	3:30pm – 4pm	Meet the Year 1 Team
21 st October	3:30pm – 6:30pm	Parents evening
22 nd October	3:30pm – 6:30pm	Parents evening
22 nd October	3:20pm	End of half-term
23 rd October	All day	INSET DAY
2 nd November	All day	CLOSURE DAY
3 rd November		Children return to school
18 th December	2:30pm	End of Term

Downview Primary School

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	https://twitter.com/Downviewprimary				facebook.com/downviewpta/