Newsletter Autumn 1 - 2026

Kind | Respectful | Safe

October 2026

Special points of interest:

- Year group highlights
- School Council
- Harvest
- Bounce Day
- Book Fair
- Play Leaders
- House Captains
- Safer Steps
- Harvest

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Headteacher Update

What a fantastic half-term this has been. It has been wonderful welcoming our new reception children into school – they have settled in so well. A particularly warm welcome goes to all the new families who have joined us across the school. We are delighted to have you as part of our school community. So much has happened already in school and it is lovely to see so many children enjoying their learning as well as playing happily with their friends.

A few friendly reminders

It is lovely to see so many pupils using bikes and scooters to come to school. Please can I remind you that in order to keep everyone safe we ask that children dismount and stop scootering when they get to the school gates.

After School Arrangements

We kindly ask that parents and carers leave the school site promptly once the children have been collected as the end of the school day. Our school field and adventure play trail are used by school-run after-school clubs, as well as external providers such as Blackbirds and South Coast Sports. To help us maintain effective safeguarding and welfare arrangements for the children attending these activities and to prevent injury , access to these area is restricted to club participants and supervising staff during this time.

Safe and responsible Parking

A huge thank you to those of you who are parking slightly away from the school and showing consideration for our neighbours by not parking across their driveways. We kindly remind you that drivers do not park on the yellow zig-zag road markings or on the double yellow lines. The roads around the school are very busy and as West Sussex have still not been able to provide us with a School Crossing patrol person, it is important that we all work together to keep our pupils safe.

Attendance

Attendance is currently 95.8% and this is very close to the 96% that the government expects. I would like to thank all of you who are arranging appointments and holiday outside of school days and times. We have new signage around the school as a reminder of the importance of at school attendance. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

Classes above 96% are:
Cedar
Sycamore
Hazel
Laurel
Cherry
Apricot
Peach
Blueberry
Blackberry
Strawberry

Reception Autumn 2026

Thank you to all our parents and carers for helping the children to settle so well into Downview in their first half term. We have been so impressed with their confidence and their enjoyment in their learning. The children have already learnt new routines and are creating new friendships.

We have been learning about ourselves, our homes and our families this half term. We made homes for the three bears and drew our families.

The children have begun to learn their initial sounds and have started to blend these to read.

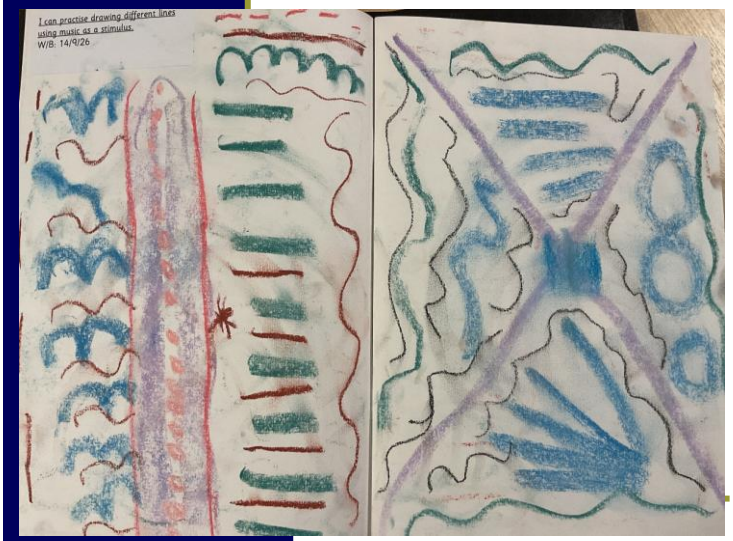
After half term we will begin to use the Tapestry Platform to share your children's learning. Thank you if you have already activated your account. Please do let your child's teacher know if you have any questions about this.

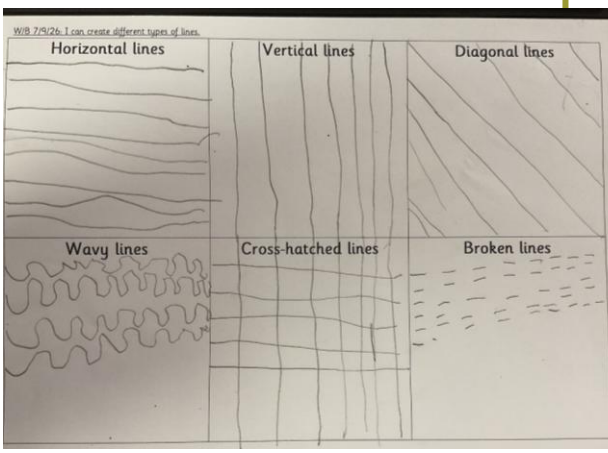
Wow- what a fantastic start to the year you have had.

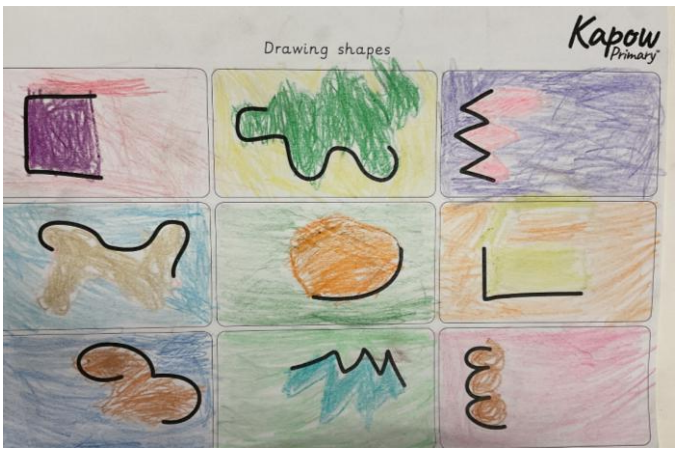
We are so proud of how well you have all settled into Downview School.

Amazing Art in Year 1!

In Art this half term, the children have been exploring line and shape.





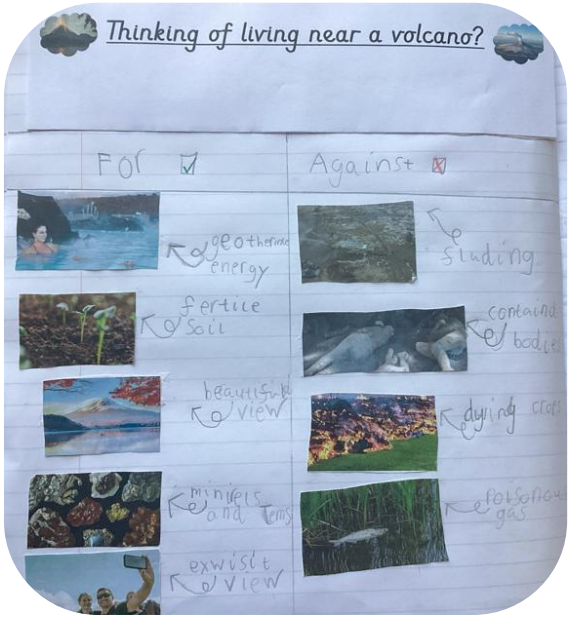


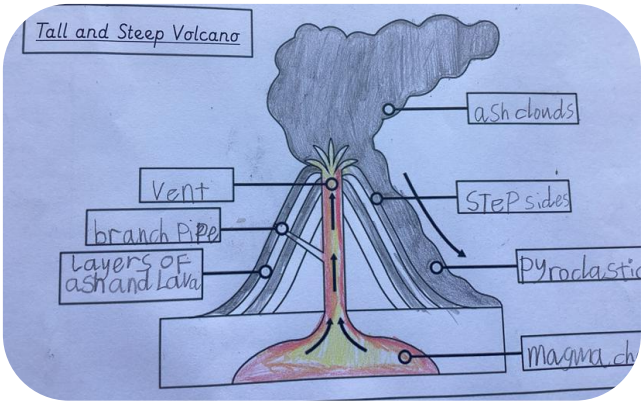
They have learnt about the different types of lines we can use in our artwork and have practised drawing these using music as a stimulus.

The children particularly enjoyed drawing to Flight of the Bumblebee by Rimsky-Korsakov!

Year 3 – What don't we Volca-know?!

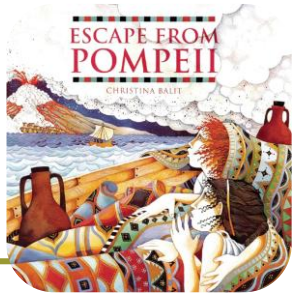
Year 3 have been busy becoming volcano experts! It has been our favourite topic so far this year, exploring it in both Geography and Literacy.





We have explored how they are formed, their key features and discussed whether or not we would live near one...

We have also devised beautiful sentences exploring our key text.



You might say it has been an EXPLOSION of fun!

Year 4 – What a lovely start to the year!

In Art, we have been looking at pictures of the rainforest for inspiration in our designs. We have used oil crayons to draw parts of animals and practised tracing techniques. We have created a 'mood' board. This work has been linked to our study of William Morris.

It has been lovely seeing you learn new skills and gain new knowledge. Your artwork is looking fantastic year 4.

In Science, we have been learning about living things and their habitats. We created our own classification keys and then visited the local woodland to investigate what we could find in their natural habitats. We had great fun exploring the local area and working as scientists!

Year 5 – Visit from 'All Rise'

Year 5 had a fantastic time welcoming All Rise Workshops to school! The children took part in an engaging and interactive session, learning about the law through a range of fun activities and challenges.

We also roleplayed a courtroom scene with some excellent performances from future barristers and judges.

What a great start to year 5 you have all had with so many new experiences. I enjoyed listening to your recount of the Trial – poor Goldilocks !

Science – Forces!

In Science, we have been learning about forces. We had a great afternoon testing our theories on Air Resistance by throwing our parachutes out of the window and seeing which design was best.

Year 6 Playleaders

This term, Rowan Class had the exciting opportunity to take part in Playleader training. During the session, the children learned a range of traditional playground games and even had the chance to create some of their own. At lunchtimes, the children have been putting their new skills into practice by leading games and activities for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils. It has been fantastic to see them grow in confidence and independence as they take charge of organising and running the games. Most importantly, the younger children have really benefited from these active and inclusive playground activities. Rowan Class should be incredibly proud of the responsibility, enthusiasm and leadership they have shown, helping to make lunchtimes enjoyable for everyone.

Sports Captains

At the start of the year, a group of Year 6 pupils successfully applied to become our Sports Leaders. This is an important role within the school, involving responsibilities such as setting out playground equipment, leading playground games, supporting sporting events and helping to run Sports Day activities. The Sports Leaders have made a fantastic start to the year, enthusiastically organising and leading activities including cricket, pickleball, basketball, corn throw and spikeball. They have shown great responsibility, communication and leadership skills while encouraging younger pupils to get involved and stay active. It has been wonderful to see children from across the school enjoying the structured games and activities at break and lunchtime. The Sports Leaders have helped to create a positive and inclusive environment where everyone can take part, learn new skills and have fun. We are incredibly proud of the maturity, commitment and enthusiasm they have shown in carrying out their role. Well done, Year 6 Sports Leaders!

New Playground Equipment!

Thank you to everyone who supported our School Council Initiative ,during the Summer Term, in which ice pops were sold at sports days. With the money raised we were able to purchase new basket ball, bats, balls and skippets which are being used at playtime.

We are so lucky to have so much new playground equipment – thank you School Council and parents for supporting us with this.

School Council

Mrs Holloway is very excited to introduce to you our new School Council. Each class in Key Stage Two has a school Councillor and a Vice- Councillor who were voted in by other members. Speeches were written and shared with the class and these children will now represent their classes in regular meetings.

National Teaching Assistant Day

On Friday 25th September it was National Teaching Assistant Day – here at Downview, we would like to **thank** our amazing TAs for all their hard work, care and support.

We are so lucky to have such an amazing team of staff and pupils and we are very grateful for everything they do to make Downview School a fantastic school to learn and grow at – thank you .

House Captains

Congratulations to our newly elected House Captains, who were successfully voted into their roles by their fellow pupils. Throughout the year, they will proudly represent their respective houses, acting as role models and helping to lead a range of school events and activities. We are excited to see them develop their leadership skills and make a positive contribution to our school community. Well done to all of our House Captains on this fantastic achievement!

Harvest Time

Once again we were blown away by the support for the is worthwhile cause – thank you so much to everyone who contributed – UK Harvest are very grateful.

A huge thank you to everyone for your incredible generosity in supporting our Harvest collection. We were overwhelmed by the number of donations received, and we are grateful for the kindness shown by our school community. All of the donated food items will be given to the Bognor Food Bank, helping to support local families in need. As part of our Harvest celebrations, we were delighted to welcome a representative from the food bank into school to lead an assembly. The children learned about the important work the food bank does within the community and how their donations can make a real difference to the lives of others. Thank you once again for your support and generosity.

Bognor Regis
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Amazing Harvest!

Downview Primary School

For your incredible fundraising efforts in support of Bognor Regis Foodbank.

Your dedication and support have made a huge difference to the lives of people living in poverty. You donated **246.75kg** of food.

Liddy Blunden
Operations Manager

Back to School Bounce Day September 2026

The children had a brilliant time on the bouncy castles – we were so grateful that this could go ahead!

Thank you to our amazing Friends of Downview for organising the Back to School Bounce Day postponed from our Spring Fair. Every child was given the chance to bounce during the day and several children remarked that it was 'the best day of their life!' The sun shone (at last), the wind was calm (at last) and we were finally able to hold this event after it being postponed twice! The event raised £1076 for resources for the children.

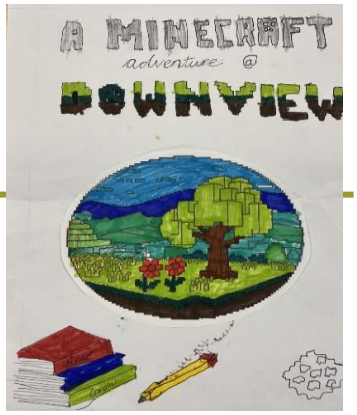
Thank you so much to you all for supporting this event - the children really did have the most amazing time!!

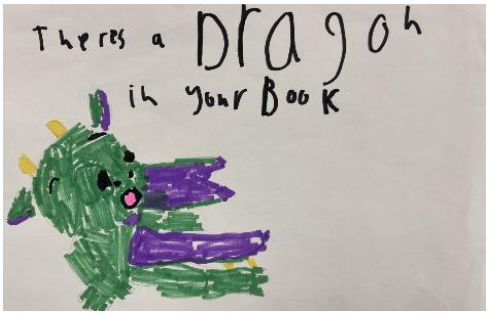
Travelling Book Fair October 2026

What fantastic posters you have all drawn – it was very hard to judge this competition.

Congratulations to: Bethany ,Georgie, Oliver, Mollie, Ezra, Olivia, Jackson, Sienna, Noah, Seb and Grace the winners of our book poster competition. They all received a £5 book token to spend at the Fair . The school received over £500 of reward books. These books will be added to the school library.

Thank you everyone who supported this hugely successful event.



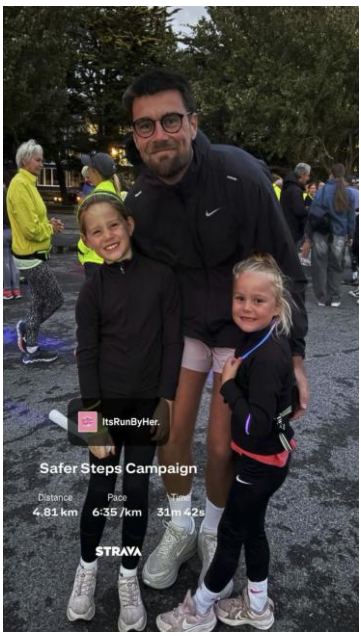


Safer Steps 2026

Well done Sophie and her team for tackling important issues in the community.

Over 600 people gathered in Bognor Regis for a community run, walk or jog event as part of the Safer Steps campaign. This annual event is run by a parent here at Downview and the aim of the event is to raise awareness of women exercising safely. Sophie and her local running group 'It's Run By Her' have managed to secure new lights on the promenade making the streets feel safer.

Many of our parents and staff were involved in this initiative and we also had some of our very own marshals and supporters who are pictured here. Well done Sophie and team – you are making such important changes to the community!



Open Mornings

If you have a child that will be starting school in September 2027, (born between 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023) you are warmly invited to come and visit Downview Primary School on one of our Open Mornings.

We will be holding two Open Mornings where you can find out more about Downview Primary School and the exciting learning experiences we offer. There will be a short presentation in the main hall and you will then be given a tour of the school by our Year 6 children.

Our Open Mornings are on the following dates:

Thursday 5th November 9.30am to 10.30am

Saturday 14th November 9.30am to 11.00am

Please call or email the School Office to book your appointment: 01243 820511 or office@downviewprimary.co.uk

We look forward to meeting you.

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

Diary Dates

Date/ Month	Time	Activity
23rd October	**All day**	**INSET Day**
2nd November	All day	Closure Day
3rd November		Yr 6 Evacuee Day and Rainbow Theatre Visit
5th November	9.30am – 11am	Open Morning
9th – 11th November		Oakey Bear Hedgehog Making (KS1 and Yr3)
10th November	1pm – 3pm	Dodgeball Festival
11th November	12.45pm – 3pm	Yr 3–4 Girls Football Tournament
11th November	Club uniform to be worn	Remembrance Day
13th November	Non-uniform	Children In Need
13th November	1.15pm – 3.30pm	Yr 5-6 Girls Football Tournament
14th November	9.30am – 11am	Open Morning
18th November	1pm – 3.30pm	Yr 5-6 Boys Football Tournament
30th November	Club uniform to be worn	St Andrew's Day
30th November		Yr 6 Bikeability Week 1
1st December	9:30am	Reception nativity
2nd December	5pm	Carols by Candlelight
3rd December	2:30pm	Reception nativity
4th December	3:45pm- 5pm	Village Tree Lights for choir
7th December		Yr 6 Bikeability Week 2

Downview Primary School

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

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Diary Dates

Date/ Month	Time	Activity
11th December		Yr 5 Last Day of Swimming
11th December	9:10am	Rock Steady Concert
14th December		EYFS Balance Bikes
14th December		EYFS Christmas Party
15th December		Year 1 Christmas Party
16th December		Year 3 Christmas Party
17th December		Year 2 Christmas Party
17th December		Christmas lunch & wear something sparkly/festive
18th December	2:30pm	End of Term

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