

Downe Primary



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2024

MESSAGE FROM MR FERGUSON

As we approach the end of what has been a truly remarkable term, I want to take a moment to reflect on our collective achievements and express my heartfelt gratitude to the entire school community.

This term has been filled with inspiring learning, exceptional teamwork, and a sense of joy that resonates throughout our school.

One of the true highlights of the term was our incredible Christmas Fair. It was heart-warming to see our community come together in such a special way, with parents, staff, and pupils working hand-in-hand to create an event that truly captured the spirit of togetherness. The festive stalls, joyful music, and delicious treats brought smiles to faces of all ages, while the generous contributions made by so many will go a long way to supporting school projects and initiatives in the new year. Moments like these remind us that our school is not just a place of learning but a vibrant community where we support, celebrate, and uplift one another.

Academically and creatively, our students continue to shine. From impressive performances in classrooms to outstanding contributions in lessons, their dedication and enthusiasm never fail to amaze me. None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our dedicated staff and families. It is your partnership that enables us to nurture every child's potential and celebrate their successes.

As we look ahead to the holidays, I hope you take the time to relax, recharge, and enjoy the magic of the season with loved ones. I am immensely proud of all that we have achieved together this term, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in January for what I am sure will be another inspiring chapter.

Finally, as promised, here's a little Christmas joke to brighten your day: Why was the snowman looking through the carrots? Because he was picking his nose!

Wishing you all a joyful, peaceful, and merry Christmas.

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New Staff Members

A wonderful warm welcome to our new staff Mrs. Townsend, Miss Baxter and Ms. Dickson who have been working with our new SEN provision - Maple Class.

Have a read about some fun facts about our new staff below.

Mrs. Townsend

Favourite subject: Arts and Crafts
Hobbies: Candle making
Favourite football team: Arsenal
Pets: 1 German Shephard called Maia
Favourite book: Squirrels who squabbled.
Favourite film: The Holiday

Miss Baxter

Favourite subject: Art and Music
Hobbies: Reading, Running
Favourite football team: Chelsea
Pets: 1 cat called Hector
Favourite book: Little darlings by Jacqueline Wilson
Favourite film: Love Actually

Ms. Dickson

Favourite subject: Forest School
Hobbies: Whittling, making things from wood
Favourite football team: Chelsea
Pets: 4 cats, 3 house rabbits
Favourite book: Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery
Favourite film: Frozen

Press Release

We are thrilled to share that Downe Primary School has recently been featured in the press! The article highlighted our commitment to excellence in education, our vibrant community spirit, and some of the fantastic initiatives our students and staff have been working on. This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone in our school community. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to make strides and celebrate our achievements together!

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Downe Primary School marks Remembrance Day together with local community

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Bromley primary school celebrates National Fitness Day with fun-filled event

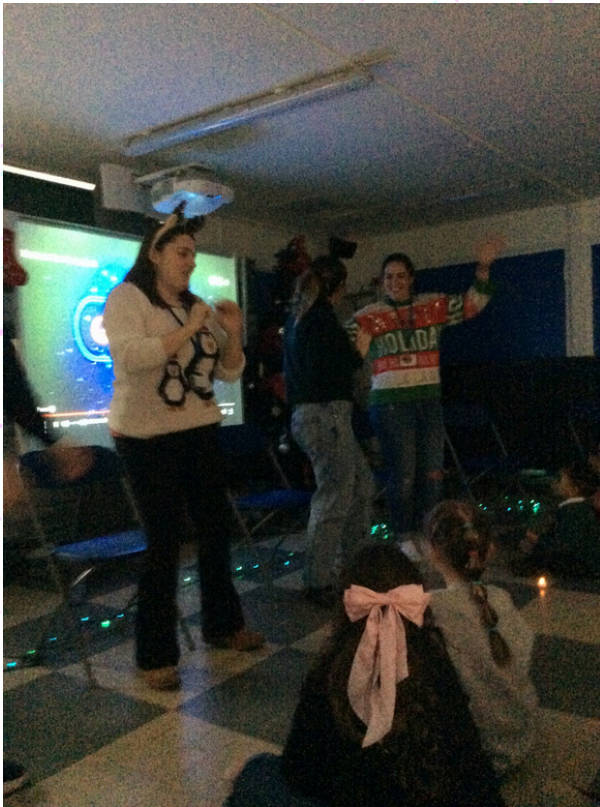
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School Council

The school was buzzing with excitement as staff members got ready for the annual display contest, judged by the ever-watchful school council. Teachers, administrators, and support staff turned ordinary spaces into amazing showcases, with themes ranging from historical events to futuristic ideas. Bright colors, creative designs, and interactive elements brought each display to life. The school council, made up of student representatives, walked around with clipboards, taking notes and scoring everything on creativity, originality, and overall presentation. It was a fun mix of teamwork and friendly competition that left everyone feeling inspired by the creativity around them. Congratulations to Miss Townsend, whose RE display wowed all of the children!





Eco Council



This term the Eco Council have been focussng on how we can recycle in school, particularly looking at our use of paper and how we can reduce that. All classes have been making use of their scrap paper draw to ensure all paper is used on both sides before it is recycled. There are recycling bins in all classes and around the school to help make sure paper gets to the right bin. Some of the children made posters to stick around the school to remind everyone of the importance of recycling. If you have any other ideas of how we can recycle more in school please do get in touch.

Mrs Slade, the Chief Operating Officer of The Pioneer Academy, came to visit Downe and met with the Eco Council. She was very impressed and emailed me to say “I found them very enthusiastic and articulate about what the schools was doing to help the planet and keep it clean!”. Well done Eco Council!



Uniform Expectations

We are very proud of our uniform as it represents our school and our values. We are adding this as a reminder to ensure that parents have plenty of time to make the necessary arrangements for all children to wear full uniform from January 2025. We appreciate your support with this on a daily basis.

Every Day Uniform

Item	Optional or required	Branding
White polo shirt	required	Non branded
Grey skirt or trousers	required	Non branded
Sensible, plain black shoes	optional	Non branded
Black trainers	optional	Non branded
Blue gingham dress (summer)	optional	Non branded
Blue jumper or cardigan	required	Branded

P.E Uniform (can be worn to school on PE/club days only)

Item	Optional or required	Branding
White polo shirt	required	Non branded
Plain navy or black tracksuit bottoms / shorts / leggings	required	Non branded
Plain white or black trainers	required	Non branded

Forest School

Willow and Sycamore class have thoroughly enjoyed their Forest School session this term. We are so lucky to have such a brilliant outdoor space to explore! We have had some creative challenges including building the tallest tower of sticks, making firework pictures using natural materials and making spiders webs. They have shown themselves to be excellent problem solvers and great at teamwork – skills that will help them with their learning in the classroom. They have loved hunting for bugs, an activity they come back to week after week.





Pantomime

On Tuesday 17th December, the staff and children from Cedar, Oak, Sycamore and Willow attended the Pantomime at Fairfield Halls and enjoyed watching 'Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs'.



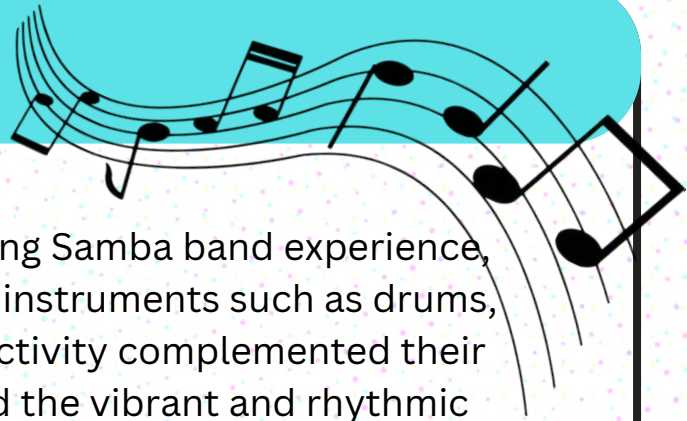
It's a Christmas tradition at Downe and we wanted to thank the FDS for organising and a paying for this treat.

We'd also like to thank teh parent helpers who made the trip possible!

The children loved the show and especially the icecream during the interval!



Music



Cedar Class recently took part in an exciting Samba band experience, incorporating various traditional Brazilian instruments such as drums, tambors, maracas, and go-go bells. This activity complemented their class music lessons, where they explored the vibrant and rhythmic genre of Samba. The children showcased their skills in a lively music battle, drawing inspiration from Samba's energetic beats and rhythms. To celebrate their hard work, parents were invited to watch a fantastic performance, where every child participated with enthusiasm and flair.

The children did an amazing job, impressing everyone with their dedication and musical talent



Term Dates



Safe – Happy – Learning
www.thepioneeracademy.co.uk

The Pioneer Academy 2024/2025 TERM DATES

Autumn Term (72 days)

INSET day	Thursday 29 th August 2024
INSET day	Friday 30 th August 2024
Term starts	Monday 2 nd September 2024
Half Term	Monday 21 st October 2024 – Friday 1 st November 2024 (2 weeks)
Inset Day	Monday 4 th November 2024 (TPA Inset day)
Term ends	Friday 20 th December 2024

Christmas Break (2 weeks)

Spring Term (61 days)

INSET day	Friday 3 rd January 2025
Term starts	Monday 6 th January 2025
Half Term	Monday 17 th February 2025 – Friday 21 st February 2025 (1 week)
Term ends	Friday 4 th April 2025

Easter Break (2 weeks, 1 day)

Summer Term (63 days)

Term starts	Tuesday 22 nd April 2025
Half Term	Monday 26 th May 2025 – Friday 30 th May 2025 (1 week)
INSET day	Monday 2 nd June 2025
Term ends	Wednesday 23 rd July 2025

Summer Break (5 weeks)

Autumn Term 2025

INSET day	Thursday 28 th August 2025
INSET day	Friday 29 th August 2025
Term starts	Monday 1 st September 2025

COMMUNITY NEWS/ USEFUL INFO

News from the United Benefice of Cudham and Downe:

There's a warm invitation to join us at services over Christmas at the following:

Sunday 22nd December 4.00pm – Carols by Candlelight at St Mary's Church

Tuesday 24th December 4.00pm – Christmas Eve Pop-Up Children's Nativity Play – The Shiny Bright Sparkling Light (Note this is at Cudham Church)

Wednesday 25th December 9.30am – Christmas Day All-Age Communion Service at St Mary's

Friday 3rd January 10.30am – *Messy Church* for children and families – note this is at Cudham Church (see separate flyer attached)

With special thanks and a Happy Christmas and God's Blessings for the New Year to you all.

Kim Curle, Schools and Families Evangelist
Cudham Church and St Mary's, Downe



UNITED BENEFICE OF CUDHAM & DOWNE

**An invitation for children and families to
join us at our *Messy Church*,
10.30am- 12.00pm
at Cudham Church
on Friday 3rd January 2025
Followed by a light buffet lunch**



Come along and have great fun getting messy!

Enjoy free art and craft activities on the theme of
Epiphany: the visit of the three kings and New
Beginnings

Children - don't forget to bring an adult or carer to
supervise and to have fun too!

Contact Denise Angell on 07957 206901 or
denise.angell@virginmedia.com for more details or to
book.

COMMUNITY NEWS/ USEFUL INFO

ORPINGTON MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL

OPEN 8AM - 3:30PM WEEKDAYS
Funded sessions for 2, 3 and 4-year olds

-  8 TO 8:30AM | Breakfast Club
-  8:30 TO 11:30AM | Funded Morning Session
-  11:30AM TO 12:25PM | Lunch Club or Extended Montessori Activities
-  12:30 TO 3:30AM | Funded Afternoon Session

1 EXPERIENCED

We have been providing Montessori preschool education in Orpington for over 20 years. Most teachers have been with us for over 7 years, some for more than 15 years.

2 MONTESSORI

A time-proven method of introducing children to literacy and mathematics. The curriculum is delivered by our qualified Montessori teachers to help your child have a head start at Reception.

3 BLAST

BLAST: Boosting Language Auditory Skills and Talking
We offer BLAST sessions to enhance skills that underpin language, communication and literacy, delivered by trained practitioners.



Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Kent, BR6 9JH
www.orpingtonmontessori.co.uk
orpingtonmontessori@gmail.com
+44 (0)7308 884628



BOOK YOUR VISIT HERE

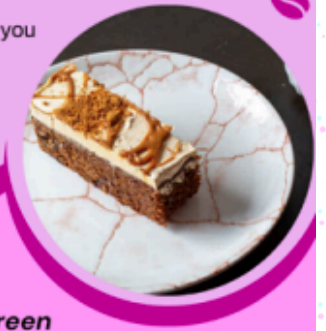



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www.readysteadygrowpreschool.co.uk

St Mary's Church
Worlds End Lane
Green Street Green
BR6 6AG



Term time only

Funding available

2-5 year olds

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



From all the staff at Downe, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a very happy new year