Be the best you can be, every

Newsletter

Respect, Compassion, Responsibility, Courage

Term: Autumn 2026	Issue No: 4	Date: 6th November

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

I hope you all had a wonderful half-term break. Having enjoyed a two-week holiday this year, it has felt a little strange returning after such a long time away, but it has been lovely to see the school buzzing with energy again and the children settling straight back into their routines.

Before the break, our Year 4 children had an incredible time on their residential visit to High Ashurst. They threw themselves into every challenge, supported one another brilliantly and represented North Downs exceptionally well throughout the week. The staff who accompanied them were hugely proud of everything they achieved, and I know many of the memories made will stay with them for years to come.

We have also had the pleasure of welcoming prospective families to our Brockham and Betchworth Open Mornings. It is always rewarding to share what makes North Downs such a special place, and I was particularly proud to hear visitors commenting on our wonderful Year 6 pupils. Acting as guides and ambassadors, they welcomed families with confidence, enthusiasm and maturity, giving a genuine insight into life at our school. They were a real credit to us all.

We have one final Open Morning taking place on **Saturday 14th November**, with sessions at **11.30am in Betchworth** and **1.30pm in Brockham**. If you know of any families who may be considering North Downs, please do encourage them to come along. We would be delighted to welcome them.

As we begin another busy half term, thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you enjoy reading about all the exciting learning and experiences already taking place across our school.

Dress Like Mr Berwick Day!

Next Friday, 13th November, we invite all children to come to school dressed as **Mr Berwick** to celebrate his last official day with us. For many years, Mr Berwick has been a familiar and much-loved part of North Downs School, and we'd love to show him just how much he has been appreciated by our school community.

If you'd like to join in, think **dark trousers and a plain dark T-shirt, sweatshirt or fleece**. A **tool belt is optional**, but very much in keeping with the look!

Although this is Mr Berwick's last official day, we're pleased that he may still be popping in from time to time during the term, so next Friday is a wonderful opportunity for us all to say thank you and celebrate everything he has done for our school.

We look forward to seeing lots of mini Mr Berwicks around the school! 🔧☺

Attendance Matters

We've seen some fantastic attendance this term, with several classes achieving excellent figures. Thank you to all families for supporting regular attendance and punctuality.

We know that illness and other circumstances can sometimes make attendance more difficult, but every day in school counts. Attending regularly helps children make the most of their learning, friendships and wider school experiences.

As we head towards the end of term, let's work together to make every school day count and see if we can improve attendance across all classes and year groups. Every day matters, every lesson matters, and every child matters.

Year R - 95.7%
Year 1 - 96.2%
Year 2 - 91.1%
Year 3 - 95.9%
Year 4 - 97%
Year 5 - 95.2%
Year 6 - 96.5%

Sports Update from Mr Crosbie and Mrs Fraser

Dorking Schools Cross Country

On a slightly damp and cold afternoon just before half term, the Dorking Schools held their first Cross Country competition of the season at Dorking Rugby Club in Brockham.



North Downs had 44 pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 competing. It was a really exciting event and our teams had great fun and performed extremely well. We had many outstanding performances in the individual competition with the following in the top 5 finishers for their age group:

Year 3/4 Girls: Ella 2nd, Rosie 4th and Ella 5th
Year 3/4 Boys: Freddie 4th and Harry 5th
Year 5/6 Girls: Daisy 5th
Year 5/6 Boys: Elliot 1st, George 2nd and Seb 3rd

In the team event our Year 3 and 4 Girls and Boys teams both came 1st. Our Year 5 and 6 Girls finished 4th overall and the Year 5 and 6 Boys finished in 1st place.

A huge congratulations to all of our cross country runners. Thank you to all the children for their hard work in training and pushing through to the finish line. The event was a massive success and we can't wait for the next one…congratulations to all our amazing runners!

Poppies will be on sale on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th November in support of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Children are welcome to bring in a cash donation on either day to purchase a poppy. Please ensure that any money is brought into school on these dates if your child would like to take part.

Diary Dates

Thursday 12th & Friday 13th November – Feet First
Friday 13th November – Year 5& 6 Sports Crew Training
Monday 16th November – National Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 17th November – Year 5 Football Tournament - St Martins
Friday 27th November – Gymnastics Competition
Monday 7th December – Last week of swimming
Tuesday 8th December– Year 2 Nativity
Wednesday 9th December – Junior Christmas Carol Evening
Thursday 10th December – Year 1 Nativity
Friday 11th December – Year R Nativity
Tuesday 15th December – School Christmas Lunch
Friday 18th December – Break up for Christmas
Friday 18th December – FONDS Christmas Fair
Monday 4th January - INSET Day
Tuesday 5th January – Children return to school
Tuesday 9th & Thursday 11th February - Parent Teacher Consultations
Friday 12th February – Break up for Half Term
Monday 22nd February – Children return to school
Thursday 25th March – Children break up for Easter

Betchworth Crib Service Christmas Eve 5.00pm

A search is on for a baby to star in the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

If there are any mums or mums to be that might be interested they would love to hear from you. Ideally the baby would be six weeks or less - only because at that age they are still
blissfully unaware of what's happening and once they are fed and wrapped up warm they just sleep. They have been holding the service for 47 years now and have managed to find a baby each time.

If you might be interested PLEASE contact the school office so we can give you full details or who to contact etc.



Wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

JWDouglass