

12 February 2026

Dear parent/carer,

We at Downlands are looking forward to our celebration of World Book Day on 5th March. We're writing to you so you have time to prepare a costume with your child should they wish to participate and to inform you of some of the events we will be running.

On Thursday 5th March, Downlands will be celebrating World Book Day with a variety of activities on the day, including quizzes and competitions, which students will learn about in tutor time after half term. If students would like to participate in the costume competition, they can come to school on 5th March in costume inspired by a book character. Any student dressing up must be in obvious costume; this is not a non-uniform day. Therefore, no "muggle"-like costumes will be permitted. If students do dress up, we ask that they give a donation of £1 on Scopay which will be donated to Book Aid International, a charity that donates books for children in developing countries.

As part of both our celebration of World Book Day and our commitment to fostering a love of reading amongst our pupils, Downlands Community School is again participating in the Read For Good Readathon. The Readathon provides children with the opportunity to raise money for charity, earn ROCKS Community Points and foster a love of reading. Money raised in the Readathon goes to providing books and storytellers to children in hospital across the UK. If you would like more information on the charity, it can be found here: readforgood.org

There are two components to our participation in the Readathon. The first is a sponsored silent read in school during period 5 on Thursday 5th March for years 7, 8 and 9. All Key Stage 3 classes will read in silence for the whole hour during the lesson they would normally have. Where possible, we ask that students donate £1 on Scopay for this hour of silent reading.

The second component is the opportunity for students to extend their reading at home. Students may choose any reading material they like, set their own goal (a number of pages read, books read or time read) and ask to be sponsored by their friends and family. For example, a student might ask a relative to give them 50p for every hour they spend reading. Students then collect all moneys and send them to the school via Scopay and hand in their sponsorship card to Ms Quick in the library. Alternatively, sponsors can donate money directly on Read for Good's webpage: <https://readforgood.org/sponsor-a-pupil-taking-part-in-readathon/>. This will be handed out at the start of March and the deadline is the 27th March. This aspect of the Readathon is voluntary, but we would like to encourage all students to take part however they are able. There will be prizes for those pupils who have played a significant role in the Readathon.

Downlands Community School is proud of supporting its local community and we are excited to be able to again support such a worthy cause and embrace one of our core ROCKS values of Community Mindedness. Last year we raised an incredible £905, which not only went to supporting Read for Good's work in hospitals, but also into book vouchers used to enrich the Downlands library. You can help support our efforts by ensuring that your child has their DEAR time reading book for Thursday 5th March and to talk about books you have enjoyed with your child at home. Your child's tutor and English teacher will give your child further information and answer any questions they might have.

Thank you in advance for your support. We look forward to dedicating Thursday 5th March period 5 to Read for Good and to celebrating World Book Day!

Kind regards,

Ms S Quick
Library Teacher