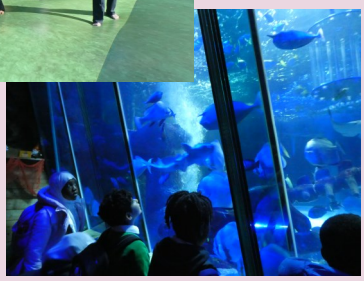
Germander Park, Southwood and Downs Barn Schools' Newsletter November 2026

Sharing excellent educational visits









We've had some fantastic educational visits already this term. The Specialist Base children at Germander Park had a fantastic trip to Thrift Farm, Year 2 from Downs Barn and Germander Park had an incredible trip down the River Thames. Year 3 and Year 4 had a super day at Bradwell Abbey and the Imperial War Museum and of course, Southwood pupils went to Hunstanton Beach for the day, with a mesmerising trip to the Aquarium.

Mental health support is now one message away:

If you're feeling anxious, overwhelmed, stressed or low, a new service can help. The new East of England Mental Health Crisis Text Service offers free, confidential support from trained mental health professionals, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

You can message about anything that's on your mind. You don't need a referral, and you don't need to give your name to start. The service is open to people of all ages across Milton Keynes.

How to get support: Text SOS to **80899**

WhatsApp **0800 884 0655** Webchat:

NXG Thrive Crisis Text Service

Safeguarding Update: Black Friday: the biggest scam fest of the year

This year 'Black Friday' falls on 27th November, with 'Cyber Monday' on 30th November 2026. For fraudsters it is the busiest stretch of the year, The most recent NCSC and Action Fraud figures show over £11.5 million lost to online shopping scams between November 2023 and January 2024, an average of £695 per victim.

Social media featured in 43% of reports, which is where many pupils spend their time. Fake giveaways, in-game currency scams and "too good to be true" resale offers are some examples.

Not every scam involves a bargain. Report Fraud has just warned that criminals posing as Amazon stole £86,837 in nine days in October. They phone out of the blue about "suspicious activity" on an account, then talk victims into sharing their screen, installing remote access software or handing over ID. People aged 50 to 79 made up 60% of reports, **so make sure grandparents are informed.**

Suspicious emails can be sent to: report@phishing.gov.uk

Further information: Black Friday warning (NCSC)



Attendance so far!

Southwood:	95.7%
Germander Park:	93.9%
Downs Barn:	95%

To get up to date information about term dates and other key information, please visit our school website:

www.boulevardprimarypartnership.org.uk



Facebook

We share regular news about upcoming events on our Facebook page. This is the link if you'd like to follow us too: https://www.facebook.com/Boulevard-Primary-Partnership-114657664463501

Children in Need

Thank you so much to everyone who brought in money to support Children in Need. Across the three Boulevard Schools, we raised:

£297.30

Well done!



Upcoming Downs Barn Dates:

Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performance:	2.30pm on Tuesday 15th December
Nursery and Reception Christmas Songs	9.15am Tuesday 15th December
Christmas Lunch:	Wednesday 16th December
End of Autumn Term:	Friday 18th December 2026
Start of Spring Term:	Tuesday 5th January 2027 (Nursery—Wednesday 6th January)

Upcoming Germander Park Dates:

Nursery Christmas songs:	TBC
Year 1 and 2 Christmas performance:	2.30pm Wednesday 16th December
Reception Christmas performance:	2.30pm Thursday 17th December
Christmas Lunch:	Wednesday 16th December
End of Autumn Term:	Friday 18th December 2026
Start of Spring Term:	Tuesday 5th January 2027 (Nursery—Wednesday 6th January)

Upcoming Southwood Dates:

Christmas Singalong:	2.45pm on Monday 14th December
Christmas Lunch:	Wednesday 16th December
End of Term Disco:	Wednesday 16th December (details to follow)
End of Autumn Term:	Friday 18th December 2026
Start of Spring Term:	Tuesday 5th January 2027

Being a Parent/Carer Governor at BPP

Becoming a Parent/Carer Governor is a great way to support your child's education, and that of other children, along their journey through their Primary education.

There are three meetings a term (all at 5pm on Monday evenings) – so nine meetings in a school year and all the Governors on the board are committed to the development of BPP. You will also get the opportunity to visit the schools to support the monitoring and evaluation.

You don't need any previous experience, just a willingness to join our supportive team (there is also excellent training for new Parent/Carer Governors available from MK Council).

Standards and Progress

Standards and Progress meetings give the school an opportunity to share what the teachers and staff have been doing to support the children's academic development. You'll be given a Data Information Booklet, which shows you how the children are performing (not with names, just overall year group data) as well as an analysis of what the school is dong to improve school attendance and behaviour.







Resources

Resources meetings are where the school shares information on how the school budget is spent, for areas such as staffing and school equipment (both for improving the school grounds and for purchasing resources such as ICT equipment, paper and pens). We also discuss health and safety procedures and how we have completed financial documents that are required by Milton Keynes Council.

Full Governing Board

FGB meetings are an opportunity for the school to share all the areas of school development. This includes sharing the schools' School Development Plans and Self-Evaluations as well as a detailed report from the Headteacher covering all aspects of the schools' development. This can include areas such as safeguarding, staff training, events that have been held to widen pupils' experiences and how monitoring and evaluation of learning has been developing practice in the school.

Each meeting is approximately 2 hours long and although there are always a few documents to read through, it is a great chance to talk about school improvement and even to learn some new skills – something we all enjoy!

Parent Governor Role

We are looking for a Parent/Carer Governor to join our lovely team of Governors. Please pop into school to talk to me (Mrs Mathews!) if you'd like some more details.