
















18th September 2020 Newsletter

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September | |
| Monday 21st | Reception children start full days |
| Friday 25th | Birthday assembly for children who have a birthday in September. This will be a virtual assembly in school led by Mrs Kent. |
| October | |
| Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd | Training days – school closed to children |
| Half Term Monday 26th October –Friday 25th October | |

| | <i>Weekly school attendance</i> | <i>Days missed across the school this week</i> | <i>Best class attendance for the week</i> | <i>Overall attendance for the year</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
|  | 96.36 | 45.5 | Starfish 98.81 | 97.05 |

We are so pleased that our overall attendance is outstanding. We appreciate that it is difficult to know whether to send your child into school or not and hope that the guidance below and recent poster with a flow chart will give you some advice to help you make a decision.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| |  |  |  |
| | Reading Champion | Star of the week | Active Award |
|  | Harry S | Rocky | Felix Jessica |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
|  | Theo | Archie | Chloey Miko |
|  | Alex | Lili T | Rowan Kamile |
|  | Bella | Tia | Louie-Joe Smera |
|  | Zayyan | Joseph | Eva Pola |
|  | Reece | Kelsie | Ava P-G Henry |
|  | Harley | Logan | Eddison Rosie |
|  | Elizabeth B | Bella | Isaac Alana |
|  | Grace | Adrian | James Layla |

Bonus Coin Winner of the Week – Snow Leopard

What we have been learning.....

EYFS



This week in EYFS we have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the other half of our class and spending time with them whilst eating our lunch. Not long now until we are altogether all day! We have also been very creative this week

making our own peg labels with either paint or by cutting and sticking. Everyone is very unique so we hope this will help them find their own pegs every morning! We have also created our own work mats so that when we are working in a group or using the creative table we have something special to show to others where we are sitting and working! We have also been both recalling and learning a variety of number rhymes. We have added lots of actions to help us remember them so please ask your child to share some of these at home. A good website to help you brush up on these rhymes is <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-songs-index/zhwdgwx>. As you can see we have been super busy whilst having lots of fun!

We would also like to thank you all for your continued support when dropping and collecting your child. They are becoming so independent.

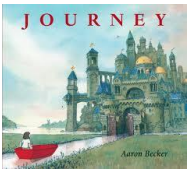
A challenge.... Please encourage your child to put on and take off their own school shoes every day. This will help them when having to do this when transferring into welly boots when using the outdoor area when it is wet!

Year 1



We've had a lovely time in year one this week. We've really appreciated the sunny weather and the children are enjoying making full use of the outdoor area. Sorry for the muddy clothes but many of the children are really enjoying the mud kitchen and digging area at the moment! The children have impressed us with their learning in class this week. In Maths we have been practising counting accurately using objects such as counters or cubes and then recording our answers, remembering to write our numbers the correct way round. In English we have been writing simple sentences about our class animal, remembering to use our sound mats to support our blending of words and not forgetting our capital letters and full stops. We also had a super fun morning on Wednesday where we turned water bottles into sea creatures for DT. The children loved this and were able to give some great explanations to how they made them, what they liked about them and how they could improve them. We hope they are all coming home happy and excited about all the new things they are doing in Year 1. Please remember to contact us either by phone or email if you have any concerns or would like us to explain or clarify anything further. Have a lovely weekend!

Year 2



We've had such a great week in year 2. We were shocked to come in to school and find paint splats on the floor that lead to our outdoor area. We found a painting on the side of the mobile which sparked our imagination. We read the story 'Journey' and used various skills to embed the storyline including drama and retelling the story. In Maths we have been recapping year 1 learning by showing the place value in numbers to 20 and then to 50. We have explored our understanding using various manipulatives such as cubes, Dienes and tens frames. This week we have discussed what it means to be a good friend and have demonstrated that we can be a good friend. We have explored what Muslims believe about Allah and discussed our own understanding of God. Please can you remember to take out your child's earrings before their PE day for health and safety reasons. Also please ensure your child has a full PE kit in school.

Our curriculum

Since starting school the children have been involved in lots of activities which have focused on getting used to school rules, getting to know each other and personal and social skills. We have slowed the pace of the day to allow children time to recover and reconnect with learning. This time is an important time for the adults in each class to get to know your child and to explore how they learn as well as find out about their interests. Observations are being used to assess your child's learning skills and the curriculum is being shaped around what they need. The home learning grids sent home last Friday give lots of ideas of what you can do at home to support your child. Reading with your child regularly is important as well as practising the sounds and words which are sent home. On our website are a wealth of other resources to support you and your child with learning at home.

Communication with your child's class teacher

We realise it is hard to adjust to not speaking to your child's teacher daily at the class door. This is a measure to keep you and staff safe. We still want to ensure that you know we are here to listen and support you as required. Mrs Kent, Mrs Collins and Sam are found on the gates daily if you need to seek advice or pass on a message. You can also contact the school office via telephone or email- 01233 632339 and office@downs-view.kent.sch.uk. In addition we will be setting up an email address for each class so that you can contact your child's teacher directly. These details will be shared soon.

Absence – reminder



If your child is poorly and unable to come to school, please ensure that you inform the office via telephone on our attendance line or via Parentmail. This should be done before school on the first day of absence. Please be aware that we will call you if we haven't heard from you or may even come to your home as we have a duty of care to ensure that all children who are absent from school are safe and accounted for. If you have taken your child to the doctors it is useful to get an appointment card as proof of this. Remember we can administer prescribed medication so if your child is feeling better but needs medicine, this can be brought to the office and administered as necessary. If you are unsure whether your child can come to school, please call the office and somebody will be able to advise you. Our attendance leaflet has been sent out for further information. Thank you for your support.

In accordance with the government guidelines, we would ask that parents are vigilant/alert and if their child or anyone in their households develops any of the following symptoms they should not come into school and arrangements should be made for a COVID-19 test to be taken.

The Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **A high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do now need to measure your temperature)
- **A new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal


Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you have symptoms


1. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.
3. Keep the school informed of your situation

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.
safer.

Walk on Wednesday and Feet on Friday

 We will be introducing walk on Wednesday and Feet on Friday again from week beginning 21st September where all children who walk on these days will be put into a raffle and a name pulled out each week for each class for a prize. If you live too far to drive the whole way you can drive for some of the way and walk the rest to still take part. This is good exercise and will also reduce congestion on the roads around the school.

iRock

 Further to the parent mail sent out last week, iRock School of Music are hoping to provide music lessons in school on a Monday afternoon for Year 1 and 2. Please find below a link for their information video. To book your child's place please register your interest by visiting www.irockschool.com/parents-form, email us on info@irockschool.com or call us on 0800 634 9310.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cL_mjIMzfdg

Safe Travel To and From School

We have received a report from a member of the public that unfortunately some older children who are cycling to and from school have been using the pavement and travelling at quite high speeds. Please be extra vigilant when travelling to and from school.



Pupil Premium



We want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support we can. Some of our families who receive the following benefits may be entitled to free school meals/pupil premium. Please see below the criteria for you to be eligible for Free School Meals/Pupil Premium.

If you feel you may qualify, you can apply online here <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

Your child might be able to get pupil premium/free school meals if you get any of the following: Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

If you require any further help or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us by email, office@downs-view.kent.sch.uk

You may not be aware but as well as families who are in receipt of benefits, schools are given a pupil premium money for:

- Children who have qualified for free school meals at any point in the past six years.
- Children who are or have been looked after under local authority care for more than one day.
- Children from service families who receive a child pension from the Ministry of Defence.

Please contact the office if you think you may fit any of the criteria above.

Keeping your children safe on devices at home

This week's advice:

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

A GUIDE ON HOW NOT TO BE A SCREEN ZOMBIE

It's not always easy to tell if you've been spending too much time on your device. Mobiles phones, tablets, games consoles, TVs; the list of devices you might have access to seems never-ending and switching between them can be seamless. However, too much time on your device could lead to certain problems and could be an indicator of an addictive habit. It's important therefore that you try and manage your screen time as much as possible and avoid becoming a 'screen zombie.'

TAKE CARE OF YOUR BRAIN

Spending too much time on social media, watching YouTube or playing games online can result in you becoming a screen zombie. This can affect your mood, how much sleep you get, how you perform at school and how you behave around others. Limiting your screen time will keep you alert, limiting your screen time will keep you alert, keep your mind focused and help to look after your own mental health and wellbeing.



BE PRESENT, NOT A ZOMBIE

Screen zombies often find that they spend a lot of time alone in front of their tablet or their mobile phone and reduce the time they spend with their friends or talk with their family. Zombies often lack communication skills. Always try to limit your screen time as much as possible – there's so much fun you can have with others!



SCREEN-FREE BEDROOMS

Keeping your phone in your bedroom means that it can be tempting to check every notification you get. Your phone could be the last thing you see at night and the first thing you see in the morning. This can contribute towards poor sleep and a lack of focus the next day. Try to keep your phone out of your bedroom or turn off all notifications before bedtime. This will mean you'll get a good night's rest and be ready for the next day.



DON'T GET TRAPPED INSIDE

Screen zombies usually find that they spend a lot of time inside as they lose interest in other things that don't include their device. It might seem obvious, but meeting your friends outside or doing outdoor activities like playing sports, trampolining, camping or just going for a walk are all healthy replacements for screen time and can help keep your mind fresh and active.



ZOMBIE-FREE MEALTIMES

Mealtimes can be seen as a good time to sit down, relax and switch on your tablet or phone as you eat your food. But it can also mean that you're not interacting with others, sharing jokes at the dinner table or just talking about your day. Keep mealtimes for family time. Eating your food and staring at a screen means you're turning into a zombie.



BEWARE OF OTHER DANGERS

Spending too much time on your device and online can increase your chances of potentially encountering other online dangers. This could range from viewing inappropriate or harmful content to online bullying, grooming or fake news. Controlling how much time you spend online will reduce your risk of exposure. If you do see anything that makes you upset or if you're concerned about contact with others, always report it to a trusted adult.



BEWARE OF SNEAKY TRICKS

A lot of apps and games use certain ways of keeping you online and using their platform for long periods of time. This can include simple things like unlimited scrolling on a newsfeed, 'streaks' or uncovering hidden levels. Be mindful of how much time you're online and try to remember you're in control. You decide when you've had enough, not your device.



SAVE YOUR PARENTS!

Even though your parents will often be the ones telling you to limit your screen time, turn off your tablet or switch off your phone, sometimes they will forget to take their own advice. So it's up to you to make sure you remind them of the dangers of becoming a screen zombie!



UN-ZOMBIFY YOURSELF

If you think that you've already become a screen zombie, then don't worry, it's never too late to get help and support from your friends and family. Talk to your parents if you feel you've become addicted to your device, try to understand why and work with them to help you limit your screen time so that you can leave your zombie character behind.



Meet our expert

Pete Badh is content specialist with over 10+ years in research and analysis. He has written various expert pieces around online safety for children and parents and previously worked in a specialist role for the police, contributing work which was pivotal in successfully winning high profile court cases and writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.





National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.06.2020

Confidence Building Fun

Try a **FREE** drama class

— My children have developed self-confidence, ease while speaking in public and a love of performing, which will be beneficial to them no matter what they choose to do for a career. Geraldine Zolynski



Reawaken your child's imagination



Perform's drama, dance and singing classes use the performing arts to

- ▶ Build confidence
- ▶ Boost concentration
- ▶ Enhance coordination
- ▶ Develop communication skills



Why try Perform?

- ▶ Unique performing arts-based games and exercises
- ▶ Focus on a different social skill each week
- ▶ Covid safe – full details at perform.org.uk/covid
- ▶ Small classes and feedback on your child's progress
- ▶ Specially created scripts, videos and apps to support your child's learning
- ▶ End of term presentation for family and friends



— I'm very impressed by the thoughtful way each session is run. It is great to know that Ethan is not just being 'entertained' for the hour but proactively being taught new life skills. Kate Whyley



Try Perform for FREE

Your child can come and try a class for FREE and there's no obligation to join afterwards. With almost 500 Perform schools, find your nearest and book online at

perform.org.uk/free