10th October 2025 Newsletter

Please find us on instagram and facebook:

@downsviewinfantschool and https://www.facebook.com/DownsViewInfantSchool/

October	
Monday 13th	**3.30-6pm - Parent Consultation Meeting** – the booking system is open on parentmail to book a 10 minutes appointment with your child's class teacher, please contact the school office if you need further assistance.
Tuesday 14th	**9.15am** – **Prospective EYFS Parent Tours** – please see information below
Thursday 16th	**3.30-6pm Parent Consultation Meeting** – the booking system is open on parentmail to book a 10 minutes appointment with your child's class teacher, please contact the school office if you need further assistance.
Friday 17th	**Last day of Term 1**
Half Term Monday 20th October to Friday 24th October	
Monday 27th	**1st Day of Term 2**
Friday 31st	**Friends of Downs View Sponsored Danceathon –** this event will be held in school further information will be sent out on 17th October.
November	
Monday 3rd	**Childhood Flu Nasal Spray Vaccination –** A parentmail has been sent with information on opting in or out of this. Please see information leaflet below.
Tuesday 11th	**Remembrance Day** Children who belong to any uniformed youth group, for example: Brownies, Rainbows, Cubs, Beavers, may wear their uniform to school on this day. The School Council and children from these groups will join Kennington Academy to lay a poppy wreath at the memorial at 11am and a 2 minutes silence will be held across the school. Any parents are welcome to join this ceremony if they would like to.
Wednesday 12th	**9.15am** – **Prospective EYFS Parent Tours** – please see information below
Thursday 13th	**David Tricks Road Safety Magic Show –** in school all day

	Funded by a grant from Boughton Lees Parish Council applied for by the Friends
Friday 14th	**Children in Need -** further information to follow
Tuesday 25th	**6pm – Prospective EYFS Parent Tours** – please see information below
Friday 28th	**Non-school uniform day in exchange for donation for Christmas fayre –** details to follow.

Your views, compliments or suggestions…….

We welcome any feedback from you which can be completed formally via parent view (www.parenview.ofsted.gov.uk) or via email (office@downs-view.kent.sch) or via the box in the front Reception area.

To celebrate World Mental Health Day the children and staff have enjoyed 'non-school uniform day' and completed mindfulness activities during the school day. The children have learnt about what mental health is and healthy habits for good mental health such as the importance of sleep and exercise.

We look forward to seeing you next week at the parent/teacher consultation meetings, this year the meetings will be taken place in the school hall. Please come in through the main school entrance and go to the hall where seating will be available whilst you wait for your appointment.
Mrs Collins

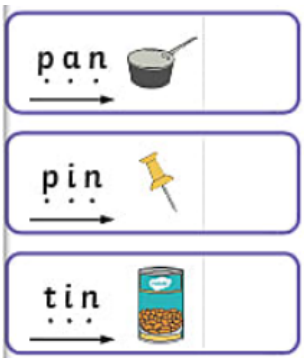
Class Recognition

We are pleased to celebrate with you special achievements made by each class this week. All the children have been recognised for doing something that has demonstrated one or more than one of our school values. The table below informs you of each class's special achievement.

Class	Recognition
Bee	Bee class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful'. They have been taught by different adults this week and have demonstrated good manners, welcoming them and working together.
Ladybird	Ladybird class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by remembering their manners i.e. please and thank you.
Turtle	Turtle class have been working hard on the value of being 'respectful' by not talking over each other when sharing ideas.
Dolphin	Dolphins class have been working hard on the school value of being 'ready' by using the manipulatives in Maths to help them write number sentences.
Starfish	Starfish class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by discussing what we can do when we have friendship issues.
Snow Leopard	Snow Leopard Class have been working hard on the school value of 'ready' by lining up quietly and sensibly for assembly.
Penguin	Penguins class have been working hard on the school value of being 'ready' by showing enormous enthusiasm for writing this week!

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS



This week in EYFS we have been trying really hard to identify initial sounds for given objects and blend to read unknown words with the letter sounds we have already learnt. At home have a try at a new game! Place a variety of objects (up to 5) in front of your child. Sound talk one of the objects in front of them i.e. c-a-t. Can they give you the object that they think you have sound talked? Then swap roles so that your child is now doing the sound talking!

Year 1

This week we have been celebrating World Mental Health Day. We have discussed strategies for coping with emotions such as anger and sadness. Can you talk about how our bodies feel when we are angry and sad? Can you talk about what we can do when we are feeling these emotions?

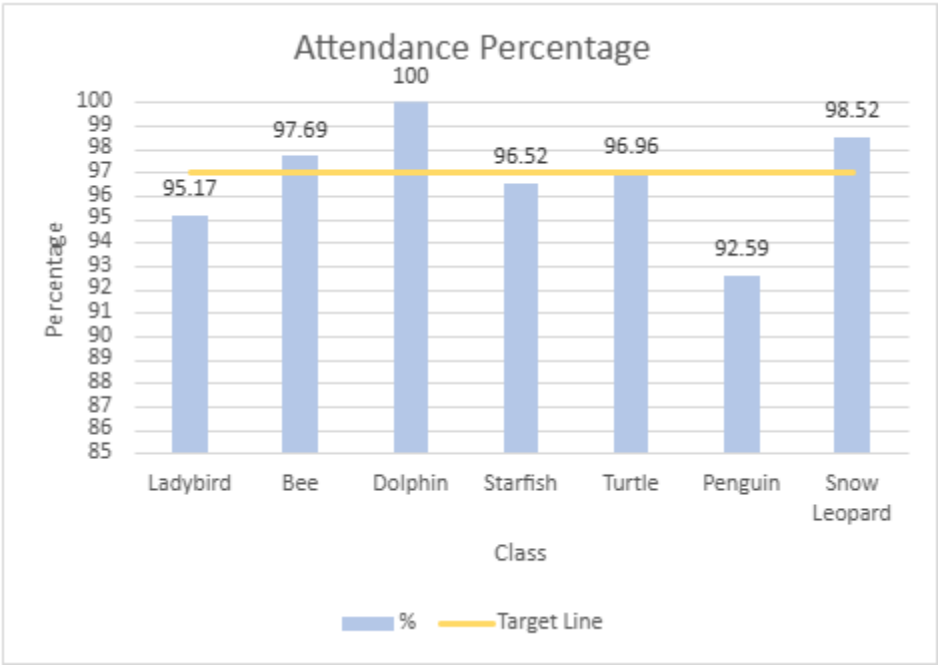
Year 2

This week, Year 2 have had fun tasting different breads and sandwich fillings. We have planned our own healthy, balanced sandwich and look forward to making it next week! Ask us what food group our choices belong to.

After School Club – The Downs View Superstars

The highlight of the week which the children have recognised this week is their colouring and practicing staying in the lines as well as sharing the pens and creating amazing pictures.

Attendance



Our school attendance for this week is **96.69%**, which is an improvement on last week. This week Dolphin Class has **100%** attendance and others getting close to or above **97%**; well-done to them!

Every day really does make a difference. When children miss school, they miss important learning, fun activities, and valuable time with their friends. This week was full of exciting opportunities to enjoy and learn from, and we don't want anyone to miss out.

This also includes arriving on time each morning, as it helps children start the day calmly, join in with their friends, and be ready for learning right from the first lesson, lateness this week has meant that **135** minutes of learning has been lost.
Thank you for your continued support in helping us improve attendance. If you would like any help or have any questions, please feel free to reach out, we are here to support you.

Kind Donation
We have a received a much-welcomed paper and card donation from Kallkwik Business Design and Print company. They are a local Ashford business, offering a variety of services – find out more via their website www.ashfordkallwik.co.uk

Nasal Flu Vaccination
The Immunisation Team will be visiting Downs View Infant School on Wednesday 3 November 2025 to administer the Flu Nasal Spray Vaccinations to children in Year R, Year 1 and Year 2. Information has been sent via parentmail regarding logging on to the e-consent portal to either accept or decline this for your son/daughter. The e-consent portal will close on **31 October 2025**. Please see the information leaflet below.

Prospective EYFS Parent/children Tours
We will be holding tours of the school during October, November, December and the beginning of January for prospective parents/carers, dates are listed below. If you would like to book a tour please contact the school office via email: office@downs-view.kent.sch.uk or telephone 01233 632339.

KCC on line applications for children starting school in September 2026 for both reception year and year 3 (junior school) will open on 7 November 2025, and will close 15 January 2026. More details will follow on this process.

We are hosting open sessions at Downs View Infant School on:

Date	Times
Tuesday 14th October 25	9:15am
Wednesday 12th November 25	9:15am
Tuesday 25th November 25	6:00pm
Thursday 4th December 25	9:15am
Thursday 8th January 26	9:15am

Prospective Year 3 Parent/children Tours
Kennington CE Academy are holding tours for our current Year 2 children on the following days, children are welcome to attend and can be collected from Downs View before the tour. This gives you an opportunity to view the school and ask any questions before you apply for your Junior School place. If you would like to book a tour please contact Kennington's school office via email: office@kennington.school or telephone 01233 623744:

Date	Times
Tuesday 28th October 25	9:30am
Tuesday 28th October 25	11am
Thursday 30th October 25	9.30am
Thursday 30th October 25	11am

Term Dates 2025-2026
Term 1 – Wednesday 3rd September – Friday 17th October 2025
(Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd September – Training Days – school closed to children)
Term 2 – Monday 27th October – Thursday 18th December 2025
(Friday 19th December – Training day – school closed to children)
Term 3 – Monday 5th January – Friday 13th February 2026
Term 4 – Monday 23rd February – Thursday 2nd April 2026
(Friday 3rd April – Bank Holiday – school closed)
Term 5 – Monday 20th April – Friday 22nd May 2026
(Monday 4th May 2026 – Bank Holiday – school closed)
Term 6 – Monday 1st June – Friday 17th July 2026(Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st July 2026 – Training Days – school closed to children)

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

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From climate change to military conflicts around the globe, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS

There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they've seen.

2 RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.

3 KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what's happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.

4 EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.

5 MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.

6 CONSIDER YOUR OWN EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process: adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.

7 SET LIMITS

Managing screen-time and content can be difficult even in normal circumstances, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example). It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try to limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screen-time limits.

8 TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once: instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.

9 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.

10 FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.

11 BUILD RESILIENCE

News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.

12 IDENTIFY HELP

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and companies to fight bullying around the world. FaceUp helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.

Sources: https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/10417906 | https://www.childnet.com/blog/supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/ | https://www.unicef.org/parenting/how-talk-your-children-about-conflict-and-war

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.10.2023

Book your FREE workshops now

PARENT SEND INFORMATION DAY

- Get help and advice
- Learn ways to support your child
- Talk to people from schools, health, and charities

Book here

forms.office.com/e/veetxmvsSq

16th October 2025 10am - 4pm

Kent Showground, Detling, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3JF

KENT PACT

NHS Kent and Medway

Kent and Medway Integrated Care System

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

New Wells church is running a Free Half term holiday club this October, there will be a bouncy castle, games, crafts, sports and much more. If your child is in Primary school, they are invited! You can sign up here using this link: https://forms.gle/GNqvK2mRyw2zBZdn6

Free Dental Check-Ups for Children

Ensuring healthy smiles for every child

We believe in the importance of accessible healthcare. Every child should have access to high quality, essential dental care, no matter their circumstances.

Early dental care is critical in shaping a child's long-term health, and regular check-ups – ideally every 6 months – are key to preventing issues (such as tooth decay and cavities) and creating positive habits that last a lifetime.

We're aware that not all children have access to this care, which is why we've partnered with **'Give Kids a Smile'** to offer **100 free check-up appointments** on **20th Oct 2025** to children at the **Welldene Dental Clinic.**

On the day, you can expect:

- **FREE dental check-ups** for children
- **FREE gifts & resources** for every child
- **Helpful oral health advice** to parents and guardians - to help to understand how to support your child's dental health at home.

Colosseum Dental

By focusing on prevention and education, our Give Kids a Smile Day on 20th Oct 2025 at our practice on Canterbury Road is designed to support and equip local families with the knowledge and resources needed to help children maintain healthy smiles for life.

Those early dental visits with a friendly-faced dentist will help children to become familiar with dental care, reducing anxiety in future visits and making it easier to maintain regular check-ups into adulthood.

Use the QR code provided to register your interest. Or contact us by emailing: **reception.welldene@colosseumdental.co.uk** providing your name and a contact phone number, quoting **'GKAS'** in the email.

Address

Welldene Dental Clinic,
25 Canterbury Rd,
Ashford,
TN24 8JY

Email

reception.welldene@
colosseumdental.co.uk

Colosseum Dental

Give Kids A Smile!

HENRY SCHEIN® DENTAL

NHS

flu: 5 reasons
to vaccinate your child

1. **Protect your child**
   The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia
2. **Protect you, your family and friends**
   Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family
3. **No injection needed**
   The nasal spray is painless and easy to have
4. **It's better than having flu**
   The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record
5. **Avoid costs**
   If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Flu immunisation
Helping to protect children, every winter

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If you want to order more copies of this poster, please visit: healthpublications.gov.uk/Home.html or call 0300 123 1002.

Chess

Folkestone Junior Chess Club is the only dedicated junior chess club in the area. The benefits of chess are well known. Further details about the club can be found on their website or you can email the club direct.

Website:
https://folkestonejnrchess.wixsite.com/juniors
Email:
folkestonejuniorchessclub@gmail.com

EAT WELL, SPEND LESS & WELLBEING ROADSHOW

PROVIDING YOU WITH RESOURCES, SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES TO THRIVE IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIVING

NEXT ROADSHOW

Singleton Village Hall

Hoxton Close, Singleton, Ashford, TN23 5LB

Thursday 23rd October 2025

10am – 2pm

- **FREE** NHS health checks
- **FREE** fresh fruit & veg, food and hygiene items
- **FREE** financial, housing, benefits, health and safeguarding advice from Ashford Borough Council and local organisations

www.ashford.gov.uk/ewslwr

EAT WELL SPEND LESS & WELLBEING ROADSHOW

Funded by UK Government

NHS Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

THE HYGIENE BANK

Ashford Borough Council

FareShare

NHS

PREMIER FOODS

MODELFEST

RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM

Charity No. 1179982

AT THE MUSEUM 10am - 4pm

18TH-26TH OCTOBER 2025

Planes, Trains & Automobiles

A series of model displays including;

WARHAMMER 40,000

World War II Wargames Rules

BOLT ACTION

SCALEXTRIC

& much more!

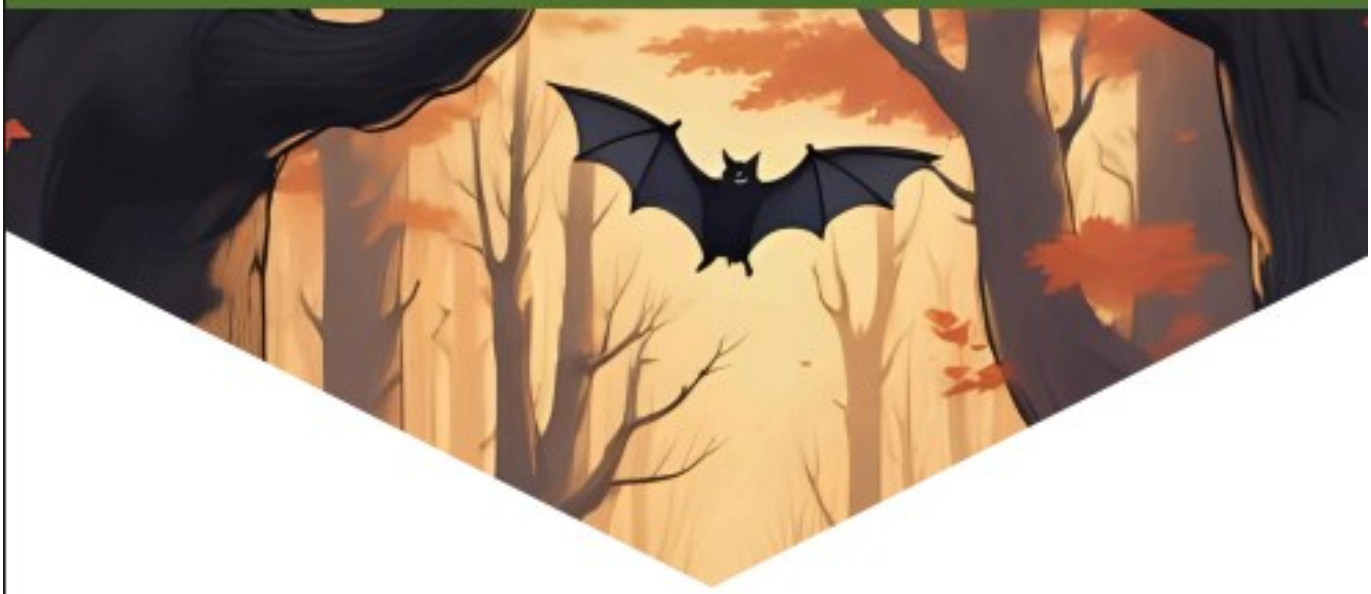
Usual Museum entrance prices apply, see webpage for more information

@RAF Manston History Museum

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@rafmanston.co.uk

Subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to, weather conditions, mechanical breakdowns and shortage of volunteers and/or exhibitors.

GODINTON HOUSE AND GARDENS



HALF TERM WORKSHOPS
GETTING BATTY AT GODINTON!
THURSDAY 23RD OCTOBER

Start with a bat-tastic trail around the gardens, discovering amazing bat facts. Then warm up inside with a hot drink and make your own bat mobile using natural materials.

Workshop times:
10am - 12pm
1pm - 3pm

TICKET PRICE: £3 PER CHILD

Under 4s are free. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information and to purchase tickets please visit www.godintonhouse.co.uk

The Godinton House Preservation Trust - Charity No. 1002278

GODINTON HOUSE, GODINTON LANE,
ASHFORD, KENT TN23 3BP