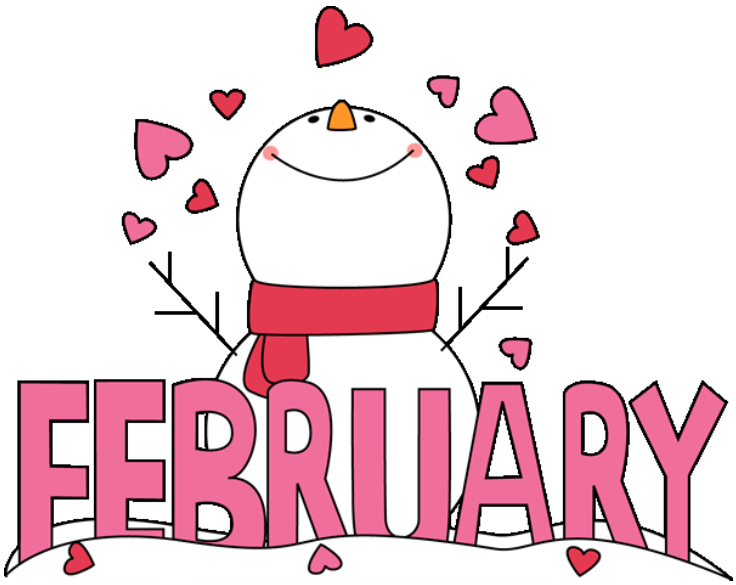


13th February 2026 Newsletter

***Please find us on instagram and facebook:* @downsviewinfantschool and https://www.facebook.com/DownsViewInfantSchool/**

February	
Friday 13th	**£26 for 2026 Sponsored Challenge –** further information below – sponsor forms were sent home this week. **Last Day of Term**
Monday 23rd	**Children return to school start of Term 4**
Thursday 26th	• **Themed Lunch Menu – Around the World USA –** further information below • **Mid-Year Reports will be given out to parents/carers**
March	
Monday 2nd	**3.30-6pm - Parent Consultation Meetings (not Starfish Class –** a separate parentmail has been sent to Starfish Class about this**) –** Booking system via parentmail is now available
Thursday 5th	• **World Book Day –** children can dress up as their favourite book character or wear their pyjamas to school. **We do have a number of costumes in school that you are welcome to borrow. These will be available in the foyer in the entrance hall from Monday 23 February 26.** • **3.30-6pm - Parent Consultation Meetings (not Starfish Class –** a separate parentmail has been sent to Starfish Class about this**) –** Booking system via parentmail is now available.
Wednesday 11th	**Mother's Day Sale –** further information from the Friends to follow
Tuesday 17th	**Themed Lunch Menu – Around the World Brazil –** further information below
Friday 20th	• **Comic Relief -** further information to follow • **World Storytelling Day**
Monday 23rd	• **Book Fair -** in School Hall after school – there will be lots of different books that you can purchase (we can only accept cash payment for the books) • **World Maths Day**

Tuesday 24th	• **Book Fair -** in School Hall after school – there will be lots of different books that you can purchase (we can only accept cash payment for the books)
Wednesday 25th	• **Book Fair -** in School Hall after school - there will be lots of different books that you can purchase (we can only accept cash payment for the books)

Your views, compliments or suggestions…….

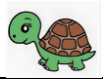
We welcome any feedback from you which can be completed formally via parent view (www.parenview.ofsted.gov.uk) or via email (office@downs-view.kent.sch) or via the box in the front Reception area.

Children's Mental Health Week theme this year is all about belonging and helping children find their place in the world. This week and last week the children have completed activities to support their mental health and learnt about how to keep our minds healthy. Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday the children completed activities to help them know how to stay safe when using the Internet. I hope you all have a lovely half term and the rain stays away so you can have some fun outdoors. We look forward to welcoming you all back after the half term break.

Mrs Collins

Class Recognition

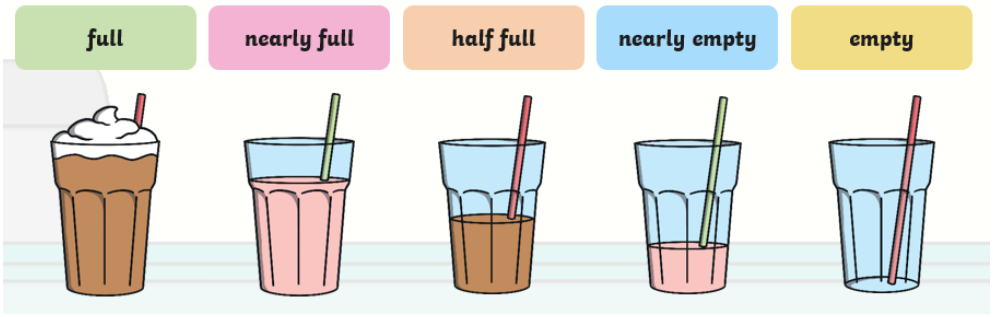
We are pleased to celebrate with you special achievements made by each class this week. All the children have been recognised for doing something that has demonstrated one or more than one of our school values. The table below informs you of each class's special achievement.

Class	Recognition
Bee	This week Bee class have been amazing at being 'ready' after lunch by getting their shoes back on quickly and being sat on the carpet for teacher time.
Ladybird	Ladybird class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by remembering to respect others personal space, particularly not popping anyone else's bubbles when sitting on the carpet.
Turtle 	Turtle Class have been working hard on the school value of being ready when writing their adventure stories this week.
Dolphin	Dolphin Class have been working hard on being respectful by always listening intently to the teachers and giving purposeful attention.
Starfish	Starfish Class have been working hard on the school value of being respectful ensuring their shoes have been neatly stored on the wellie rack at break and lunch times.
Snow Leopard	This week in Snow Leopard class, we have been working hard on the key value of being respectful by listening to and celebrating each other's work.
Penguin	Penguins class recognition award: Penguins class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by taking care of classroom equipment and tidying up after themselves.

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

This week we have been exploring capacity. We have been using the vocabulary full, empty, half full, half empty, nearly full and nearly empty. Whilst playing in the bath or when your child is having a drink encourage them to use the vocabulary that we have been using within school.



Also, over half term please keep consolidating the diagraphs, trigraphs and tricky words as all the extra practice will help!

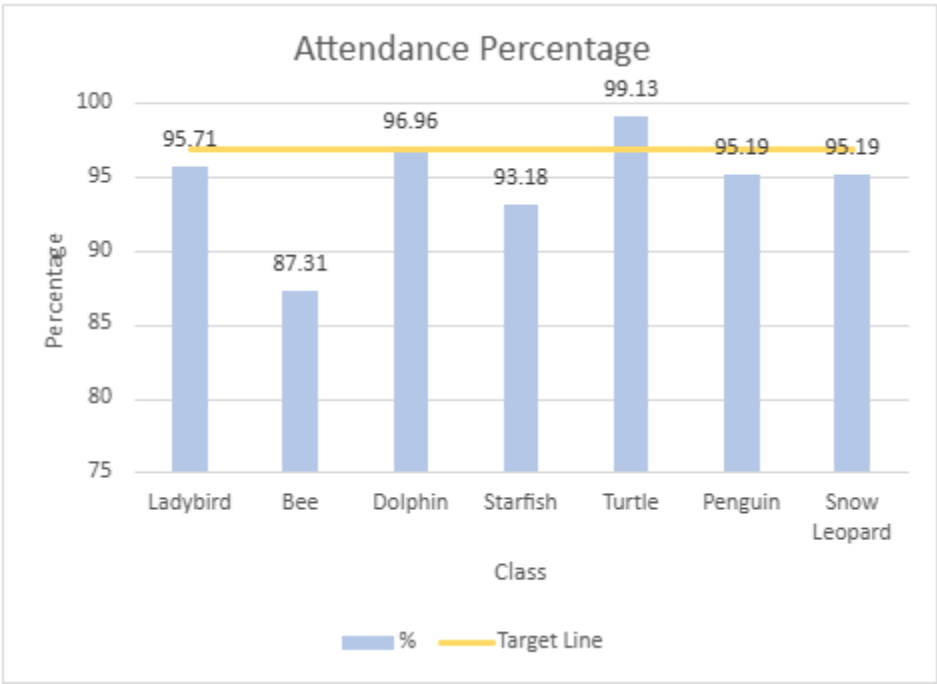
Year 1

In Year 1 this week we have read the story of the 'Lost Sheep' in RE. We have been discussing the parable that Jesus told and the moral he was trying to teach his followers. Can you watch this story on BBC bitesize retold as a modern day story. [Treasure Champs. 11: Perseverance - 'The Parable of the Lost Sheep' - BBC Teach]
Can you discuss the meaning of this story, according to Christians?

Year 2

This week in Year 2, we have been visited by Obi the dog. We have used MRS GREN to categorise him and a cuddly toy dog into living or non-living. Ask us about MRS GREN at home!

Attendance



Our school attendance for this week is **94.34%**, which is **1%** higher than last week, it is also amazing to see one class nearly having **100%** attendance.

This week's attendance has been significantly affected by illness and lateness after registration has closed. 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 **322** minutes of learning has been lost, this is double the lost learning time of last week.

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.

PE Days Term 4
Reception- Thursday
Year 1- Tuesday
Year 2- Friday

The children need to wear their PE kits to school on this day. Thank you

Term Dates 2026
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)

Term Dates 2026/27
Term 1 – Thursday 3rd September – Thursday 22nd October 2026
(Training Days – Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September and Friday 23rd October 2026 – school closed to children)
Term 2 – Tuesday 3rd November – Friday 18th December 2026
(Training Day – Monday 2nd November 2026 – school closed to children)
Term 3 – Monday 4th January – Friday 12th February 2027
Term 4 – Monday 22nd February – Thursday 25th March 2027
(Friday 26th March 2027 – Bank Holiday – school closed)
Term 5 – Monday 12th April – Friday 28th May 2027
(Monday 3rd May 2027 – Bank Holiday – school closed)
Term 6 – Monday 7th June – Tuesday 20th July 2027
(Training Day – Wednesday 21st July 2027 – school closed to children

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Emojis are more than playful expressions — they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this 'secret code' is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (🧍) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍂 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🥀 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥🥴💊 (fire + 'woozy' face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🧃 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to — not just someone who's watching them.

EMOJI CHEAT SHEET -

The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

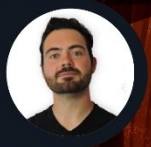
COMMON EMOJIS:

- (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around
- (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping'
- (Cold face) Cool, stylish or ruthless
- (Eyes) Watching drama unfold
- (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement
- (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
- (Moai) Stone-faced, unbothered
- (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
- (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great
- (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone's behaviour

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

- (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)
- (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
- (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine
- (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced'
- (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use
- (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
- (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis
- (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
- (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse
- (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles)

Meet Our Expert



Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.

#WakeUpWednesday®

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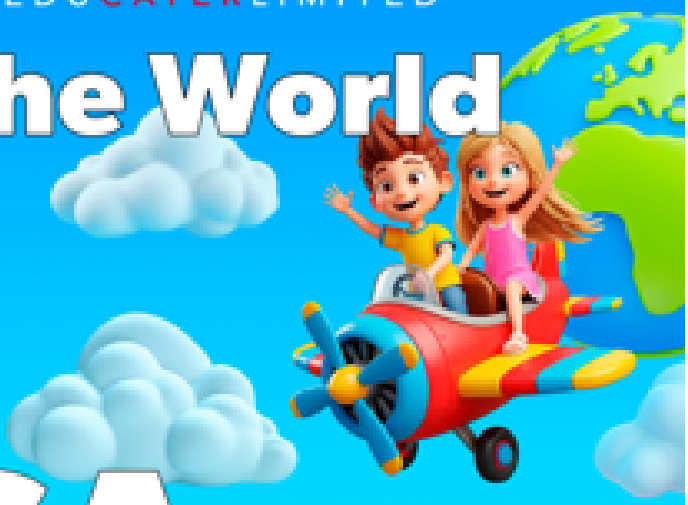
Around the World



USA

THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY

MENU

Chicken and Vegetable Jambalaya (1)

Mardi Gras Bean Gumbo with Crusty Bread (1) VEGAN

Mac n' Cheese (1, 9, 11)

Jacket Potato with Choice of Topping

Mini Corn on the Cob

Banana Foster Cheesecake (1, 9)

WE ONLY USE

freshingredients freshfood

New Wells church as running a Free Half term holiday club this February, there will be a bouncy castle, soft play bus, 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

£26 for 2026

Sponsored Challenge!

Every pupil is invited to join in with this sponsored activity. The idea is simple: children aim to raise up to £26 by asking friends and family to sponsor them – parents, carers, grandparents, aunties, uncles, neighbours... anyone who'll cheer them on!

Any donation is very welcome (more than £26 is amazing too!), but there's absolutely no pressure – we know not everyone can reach £26, especially families with siblings in school, and that's totally fine.

All the money raised goes straight back into school to fund things that make pupils' school experience even better.

Activities could include things like baking, sponsored walk, scoring goals, chores at home, tidying gardens, or even a sponsored silence!
The fun part? Try to include 26 in the challenge – for example: 26 star jumps, 26 cakes baked, 26 keepy-uppies.

All sponsorship forms (sent home with pupils) and money needs to be in by 27th March 2026.

Thank you so much for joining in the fun – we really appreciate it!

ELITE COMMUNITY Coaching (UK) Limited

ELITE COMMUNITY Coaching (UK) Limited

email: elite_office@aol.co.uk

Tel: 07885 982 598

www.elite-coaching-uk.co.uk

FEBRUARY HALF TERM COURSES 2026

Ofsted Edenred HAF

ALL COURSES HAVE LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE, SO BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

We are excited to be running our Multi Sports Courses & Football at fantastic venues where we will provide various activities such as:

ATHLETICS CRICKET DANCE FOOTBALL TRI-GOLF BASKETBALL SCOOTERS DODGE BALL INFLATABLES OUTDOOR ADVENTURE BIKES

ALL COURSES ARE NOW BOOKED ON-LINE or USE QR LINK
www.elite-coaching-uk.co.uk/holiday-club-bookings

ALL COURSES START AT 9am until 4pm

All Courses are for Primary School Children (Year 1- Year 6)

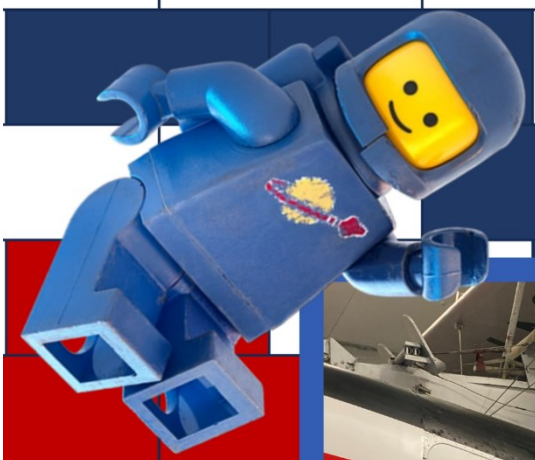
EACH CHILD WILL NEED TO BRING FOOTBALL BOOTS / SHINPADS (Football Only) AND APPROPRIATE CLOTHING, PACKED LUNCH AND AT LEAST 1 LITRE OF STILL DRINK (NO – FIZZY

LL OUR VENUES<<

BRICKS AT THE MUSEUM

RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM

DATES: 14TH TO 22ND FEBRUARY 2026 (HALF TERM)
LOCATED: RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM
TIMES: 10 AM – 4PM DAILY (3.30PM LAST ENTRY)



ARE YOU A LEGO ENTHUSIAST? IF SO THEN POP ON DOWN AND ENJOY THE FUN WITH LIKE-MINDED LEGO LOVERS AT OUR ULTIMATE FAMILY FRIENDLY EXHIBITION WEEK! (NORMAL MUSEUM ENTRANCE FEES APPLY) NO NEED TO BOOK!

OPTIONAL PRE-BOOKING AVAILABLE

BOOK HERE

LEGO FIGURE HUNT
SEARCH AROUND THE MUSEUM, FIND THE HIDDEN LEGO FIGURES & WIN A PRIZE...ONLY £1.50

INTERESTED IN DISPLAYING YOUR LEGO MOC? EMAIL INFO@RAFMANSTON.CO.UK FOR DETAILS

PLEASE CONTACT US ON: INFO@RAFMANSTON.CO.UK OR WWW.RAFMANSTON.CO.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION!

*SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: WEATHER CONDITIONS, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWNS AND SHORTAGE OF VOLUNTEERS AND/OR EXHIBITORS,

PARTY NIGHT

Come join us for a party evening
with music, food and a raffle.

IN AID OF

JOE

RUNNING THE

LONDON MARATHON

Join us at
Queens Head Kingsnorth ,
Ashford, TN23 3EN

Saturday 28th February
7pm- Midnight

£10 A Ticket, All Proceeds To Macmillan
Book via Zara or Joe
or donate using the qr code tickets as reference.