13th March 2026 Newsletter

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

February	
March	
Tuesday 17th	**Themed Lunch Menu – Around the World Brazil –** further information below
Friday 20th	• **Comic Relief –** The School Council have decided that the children can come dressed in their own clothes • **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	• **Year 2 School Trip to Rare Breeds Centre** • **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)
April	
Wednesday 1st	**2.15pm - irock concert -** parents/carers of children who attend these sessions are welcome to attend.
Thursday 2nd	**Last Day of Term**
Wednesday 8th	**9am-3pm Opal Working Party Day -** please see further information below. Please come along to help if you can, if you can only spare an hour we would appreciate your help.
Monday 20th	**Children return to school start of Term 5**

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.

Thank you to the Friends of Downs View for arranging the Mother's Day gift sale this week which was a great success. The money raised will help to provide resources/experiences to enhance your child's learning. I hope that you all have some lovely family time this weekend and that the sun shines for you all.

Mrs Collins

Special Achievements

We are pleased to celebrate with you special achievements made this week. Two children from each class have been recognised for doing something that has demonstrated one or more than one of our school values.

Class	Awarded to	Recognition
Bee	**Kiavash**	Being respectful to his teachers and friends. Being ready to learn and choosing to continue this on himself in ID.
Bee	**Willow**	Being ready for learning at all times. Willow has worked particularly hard in Phonics so far this term.
Ladybird	**Dennis**	Demonstrating readiness to learn and making amazing contributions during our science lesson on animals and what they need to survive.
Ladybird	**Scarlett**	Always being respectful and being a positive role model to all of her peers
Turtle	**Rares**	Being respectful when playing and sharing with others.
Turtle	**Arthur**	Being ready to share his cricket skills in our PE lesson.
Dolphin	**Michael**	Being ready to learn and writing some brilliant facts about different animal groups in Science this week. Well done Michael!
Dolphin	**Amber**	Being safe in PE this week by making sure she was holding the cricket bat properly. Well done Amber!
Starfish	**Denas**	Being ready to learn during Reading Practice, and answering comprehension questions brilliantly.
Starfish	**Valma**	Keeping the classroom safe by always tucking the chairs in
Snow Leopard	**Daisy**	Well done for being ready to learn by working hard on writing cohesive sentences.

Snow Leopard	**Ruhey**	Well done for being ready to learn by reading over your work and editing to add improvements.
Penguin	**Harry**	For his kind and respectful playtimes.
Penguin	**Sofia**	For working so hard on her creative writing.

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

This term in our science lessons we are looking at what environments different animals need. We started last week by exploring jungle animals. The children were amazing at identifying that a polar bear would not survive in the jungle as it would be too hot and it would not have the right foods to eat. This week we are thinking about animals that live on a farm. Ask us at home if we can recall why an octopus would not be found on a farm and perhaps challenge us by asking why a pig would not live under the sea to support next week's learning!

Year 1

Wow! Another great week in Year 1. We have had so much fun this week creating our own maps in Geography. We created a key and then used this to design a map of a zoo. In Science, we have continued our learning of different animal groups and can now identify if an animal is a vertebrate or invertebrate. In Maths, we have used our knowledge of number bonds to 10 to find number bonds to 20 (for example, 7+3=10 so 17+3=20). In English, we have enjoyed reading more of our text 'The Curious Case of the Missing Mammoth' and created a lost poster for the missing mammoth, describing key features of his appearance and personality. Can you take some inspiration from our Science lesson this week and draw an animal of your choosing and label which animal group it belongs to and why (for example, a flamingo is a bird because it has wings and feathers. It is a vertebrate because it has a backbone).

Year 2

What a busy week! This week, in Maths we have begun to look at multiplication by recognising equal and unequal groups.

School Uniform Reminder

We would like to remind all parents/carers that children should be wearing school uniform and sensible black school-style shoes – no shoes with sports logos, heels or sandals/clogs. Trainers or plimsolls to be worn on your child's PE day.

School Uniform
Black/Navy Tracksuit Bottoms (Reception children)
Grey Trousers (Year 1&2)
Grey skirt/dress (Year 1&2)
White Polo Shirt
Red Sweatshirt or Cardigan (School Logo Optional)

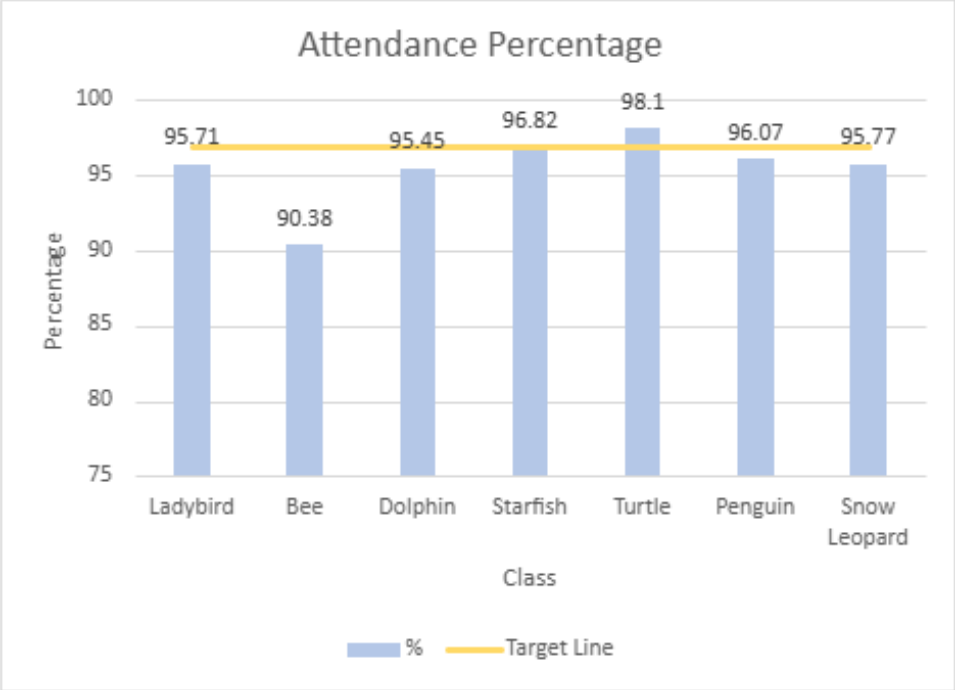
Summer Uniform (optional)
Red and White Summer Dress
Grey Short

PE Kit
Navy Tracksuit Bottoms or Leggings
White T-Shirt
Navy Tracksuit Jumper/Hoodie or School Jumper
Navy Shorts (Optional in Summer)
Trainers or Plimsolls

Jewellery – No jewellery is allowed to be worn in school except stud earrings. Earrings need to be removed on a PE day and long-haired tied back (Please see our PE Policy on our website for further information.)

Book Fair Information on Monday 23rd until Wednesday 25th March.
There will be the opportunity to purchase books from £2.99 (cash only) in the hall straight after school. All children received a £1 World Book Token, this token can be used at the book fair. The school receives commission for every book purchased which will be used to purchase more books for class libraries and share together books for home. We will only be able to accept cash payments at the book fair

Attendance



Our school attendance for this week is **95.35%**, which is **1%** higher than week.

This week's attendance has been significantly affected by illness.

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 **80 minutes** of learning has been lost, this is a huge reduction to recent weeks and is great to see more children ready to start the school day on time.

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.

Term Dates 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

INDEPENDENT CATERING | EDUCATER LIMITED

THIS MONTH, IT'S ALL ABOUT BROCCOLI

Simple, Seasonal, Sensational!

Did you know?
One cup of broccoli provides more vitamin C than an orange - helping to boost your immune system, promote healthy skin, and speed up wound healing

Why we love it
Broccoli is incredibly versatile - you can steam it, roast it, stir-fry it, or enjoy it raw in salads or as a crunchy snack

Fun fact
Broccoli is actually a flower! If left unharvested, those green florets will bloom into small yellow flowers

TAKE THE FLAVOUR HOME - TRY SOME OF OUR CHEFS' FAVOURITE TASTY BROCCOLI RECIPES!

WE ONLY USE

fresh ingredients fresh food

INDEPENDENTCATERING | EDUCATER LIMITED

Around the World

BRAZIL

TUESDAY 17 MARCH

MENU

Lemon Chicken and Steamed White Rice (8, 11)
(Frango Grelhado com Limão with Arroz Branco)

Brazilian Vegetable Stew
(Moqueca de Legumes Vegan)

Tomato Pasta (1)
(Maccarronada)

Jacket Potato with Choice of Topping

Sautéed Greens with Carrot
(Couve Refogada)

Banana Sponge Cake (1,7)
(Bolo de Banana)

WE ONLY USE

FRESH UK BEEF · FRESH UK PORK · FREE RANGE EGGS · LOCAL FRUIT & VEG · WHOLEMEAL PASTA

freshingredients freshfood

Downs View Infant School

OPAL Working Party Day

Wednesday 8th April • 9am-3pm

Below is what we want to achieve on this day:

- Creating a digging area
- Enhancing the mud kitchen area
- Creating a water play area
- Refilling sand areas
- Creating a music area
- Removal of scrap and rubbish
- Sorting and clearing sheds
- General tidy and clean up

Please bring gloves and tools if you have them and wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty!

Please let the office or your child's class teacher know if you can attend!

If you are not able to help but have any resources that you can donate that would also be greatly appreciated!

Friends of Downs View - £26 for 2026 – Sponsored Activity/Challenge – Just a reminder that sponsored forms are due back in by 27 March.

£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!

Football Camp for 4 – 12 year-olds this Easter break

Here's an opportunity to sign your child up for a few days of active fun during the Easter break with Premier Football School. PFS are running a football camp for boys and girls aged 4 - 12 and welcomes all abilities. This activity camp will run from Monday 13th – Wednesday 15th April at Ashford Independent School. Parents simply drop-off at 10.00am and pick up at 3.30pm. The fee is just £13 per day and children receive a trophy to take home! Children play in groups according to their age and ability in a fun and safe environment. To reserve a place or find out more, visit www.premierfootballschool.co.uk or contact 07821 573837 / premierfootballschool@gmail.com.

Now showing, CONFIDENCE!

Drama, dance & singing classes
designed to help 4–12 year olds shine

❝ My son has adored his first term at Perform. He has blossomed and I've seen his confidence grow every week.❞
Pippa Wotton

PERFORM
WATCH YOUR CHILD SHINE

Play is a POWERFUL THING

Perform classes help boost children's **confidence, concentration, coordination** and **communication** skills, as well as being lots of fun.

Our expertly designed drama, dance and singing sessions for 4-7s and 7-12s are run by experienced teachers, hand-picked for their warmth and approachability. They'll be with your child every step of the way – inspiring and encouraging them to develop vital life skills as they discover the joy of performing.

What does Perform offer?

- Performing arts-based games and exercises
- Focus on a different social skill each week
- Small classes and feedback on your child's progress
- Specially created scripts, videos and apps
- End of term presentation for family and friends

❝ Perform helps develop all key areas of a child in a fun, supportive and engaging way. It gives my daughter a brilliant sense of fun, community, purpose and pride in her achievements.❞
Begum Bari

Ready to try for free?

Your child's first class is free, so why not give it a go? Classes take place all over, have a look online or call us:

perform.org.uk/try 020 7255 9120

Your Space
THERAPIES
Secure attachments
Robust learners • Building futures

www.yourspacetherapies.org

Easter Holiday Mindfulness Pony Day for Kids!

Dates: Thursday 2nd April and Friday 10th April
Time: 9.30am- 2pm
Location: Hill Crest Farm, Horsham

Join us for a magical day of ponies, riding, art, friendship, and mindfulness!

What to Expect:

Mindfulness Time with Ponies

Pony Care

Riding and Mounted Games

Connect with Arts and Nature

Make New Friends

Click the links or scan the QR code to book the day of your choice:

Thursday 2nd April- Mindfulness Pony Day- Book Now!

Friday 10th April- Mindfulness Pony Day- Book Now!

Cost: £140 per child

BY PURCHASING A TICKET VIA EVENTBRITE, YOU ARE PAYING £40 DEPOSIT. YOU WILL BE INVOICED VIA EMAIL FOR THE OUTSTANDING AMOUNT ON 27th MARCH.

Spaces limited to 10 children per day

We are an inclusive team and warmly welcome children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We celebrate diversity and are committed to providing a supportive environment where every child can thrive.