14th November 2025 Newsletter

Please find us on instagram and facebook:

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

November	
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.
Saturday 29th	**10am-2pm - The Friends of Downs View Christmas Fair –** please see poster below for further information
December	
Monday 1st & Tuesday 2nd	**Lantern Decorating Sessions After School –** the lanterns can be brought to the community sleigh evening on Sunday 7th – information regarding booking a space on this activity will be sent out from the Friends
Wednesday 3rd	**5pm – Community Sleigh Walk –** the Friends are looking for volunteers to join them on this event to help with the collection buckets **– Please note the change of date for this event**
Monday 8th	**Year 1 Christmas Performances** 9:10am – Dolphin Class 10:15am – Turtle Class 2.30pm – Starfish Class Parents/carers are welcome to attend – 2 spaces per family have been allocated.
Wednesday 10th	**Year R (EYFS) Christmas Performances –** 9:10am -Ladybird Class 10:15am -Bee Class Parents/carers are welcome to attend – 2 spaces per family have been allocated.
Thursday 11th	**Year 2 Christmas Performances –** 9:10am – Year 2 joint class performance – Penguin Class parents

	2.15pm – Year 2 joint class performance- Snow Leopard Class parents Parents/carers are welcome to attend – 2 spaces per family have been allocated. **Year R Trip to Gulbenkian Theatre-** a letter has been sent home regarding this trip
Tuesday 16th	**Christmas PJ day & Christmas Movie after school**
Wednesday 17th	**Christmas Lunch –** please see menu below - Please email the school office if your child would like the vegetarian option or is bringing their own packed lunch

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.

The children have had a busy week, marking Remembrance Day on Monday, BBC Children in Need today and David Tricks roadshow on Thursday – please see below for more information on these events. We also had a fundraising cake sale in the playground on Wednesday organised by one of our reception child's parents. This was to raise money for their London Marathon charity MacMillian Cancer Support.

The Friends are very busy getting ready for the next big event…. Christmas!
If you can help in any way, setting up or helping at the Christmas fair or helping with the collection on Community Sleigh Walk that would be greatly appreciated, further information has been sent out via parentmail on how you can contact the Friends to volunteer.

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 'ready' by practising putting their jumpers and cardigans in their bags.
Ladybird	Ladybird class have been working hard on the school value of being 'safe' by remembering to think about the heights of equipment when creating obstacle courses so that all can join in safely.
Turtle	Turtle class have been working hard on the value of being 'safe' by lining up sensibly.
Dolphin	Dolphin class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by working as a team to tidy up the classroom after ID.
Starfish	Starfish class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by using kind words with our friends.

Snow Leopard	Snow Leopard class have been working hard on the key value of 'being respectful' by helping an adult and working well as a team to tidy up the playground.
Penguin	Penguins class have been working hard on the value of being 'respectful' by using kind words with their friends in the playground.

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

This week in our Maths lessons we have been exploring the concept of 'wholes' and 'parts'. We investigated our own bodies and familiar toys to understand that whole things are often made up of smaller parts and that a whole is, therefore, bigger than its parts. During this week see if you can complete some puzzles that you may have at home or enjoy playing with toys that have parts that allow deconstructing and constructing e.g. building blocks

Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have been learning about materials in Science, can you explore some everyday materials in your house and discuss their properties. E.g. Metal spoons are hard.

Year 2

This week, Year 2 have been beginning to learn about Neil Armstrong and why he is a significant person. Why don't you ask us to tell you about him?

Downs View Superstars

The highlight of the week at After School Club was the children making clay poppies for Remembrance Day. The children moulded the clay and once they had dried they were painted. Everyone worked hard and are really proud of their work.

Remembrance Day

The children made us very proud in representing the school at a Remembrance Service on Tuesday when they joined with Kennington Academy. All children had 2 minutes silence at 11am to mark this and remember all those serving soldiers and those who sadly lost their lives but who always put others first. Thank you for your support in buying the British Legion merchandise. We will let you know how much money was raised, once we hear.

Please can we remind you to stop children playing around the memorial or climbing on the memorial to show respect, especially as wreaths are laid around the memorial at this time.

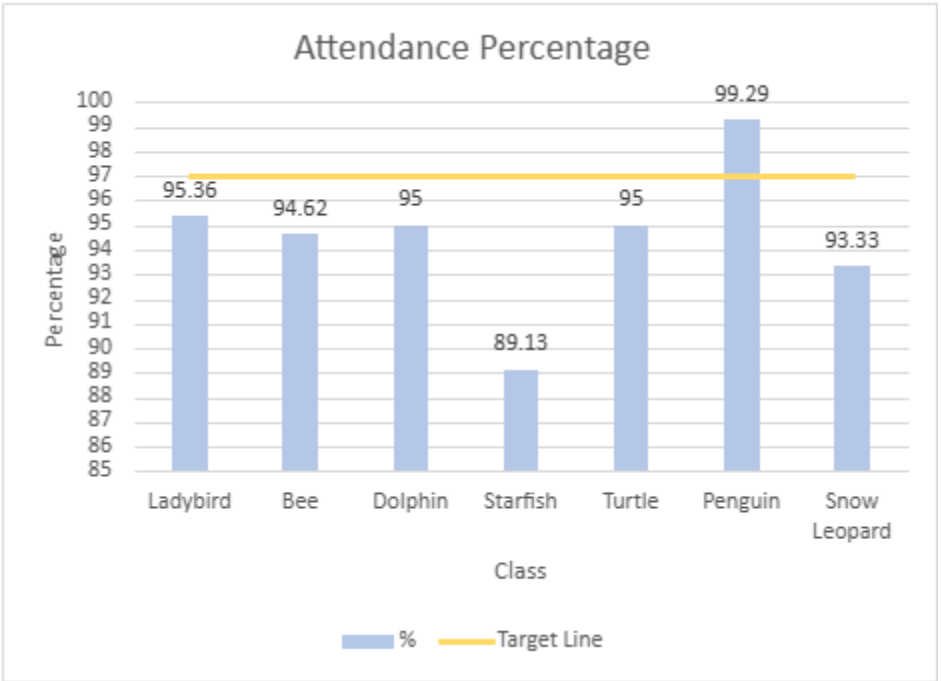
David Tricks Road Safety Magic Show

Thank you to the Friends applying for the grant which funded the Road Safety roadshow led by David Tricks. He brought to life some important messages about road safety which we hope the children will remember when crossing the road.

Children in Need

Today we marked Children in Need with children wearing their pyjamas, something spotty or non-school uniform with a spotty accessory. The children learnt about the importance of the charity and national Pudsey day. They were very excited to see the 'Dance Dash' presented by Lenham School pupils which help to raise money for children in Need. Thank you to everyone who donated some money to the dancers.

Attendance



Our school attendance for this week is **94.63%**.

This week we have seen a quite a few term time holidays and illnesses that has affected each class as you can see in the chart above, with only one class getting above **97%** attendance and they were extremely close to getting **100%** which is fantastic.

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 343 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.

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. Please see information below on how to apply

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

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

Term Dates 2025-2026

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)

Admission to

Junior school in Kent 2026

Apply online at *kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions*

Opens Friday 7 November 2025 and closes at midnight on Thursday 15 January 2026

For children born between **1 September 2018** and 31 August 2019, Transferring to Junior school in September 2026

What to do

Choose a school

It's important to find out more about the schools you are interested in before you decide to name then on the application form.

Read the guide to Primary admissions at *www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions.*

You can name up to three Junior schools, inside or outside of Kent. You are unable to name Primary schools on this application.

Apply for a school place

A simple, fast, convenient process which opens Friday 7 November 2025 and closes at midnight on Thursday 15 January 2026.

You will first need to set up an online account. The applicant is you, the parent/carer; you will then need to add your child's details before starting an application. You will receive an email confirmation that your application has been submitted correctly.

You can log back in at any time to view the information submitted.

Receiving your offer

On offer day (Thursday 16 April 2026) an email will be sent after 4pm informing you of your offer.
You must accept or decline the school place you have been offered by Thursday 30 April 2026.

A link to a guide with information you will need to provide the school with will be in your offer email.

If it has not been possible to offer your child a place in your preferred school, you have the right to appeal. You can also add their name to the school's waiting list.

Moving house during the application window will likely complicate your application and we therefore advise you to pay special attention to key dates in the admissions process. KCC has no discretionary authority to vary the process for parents who cannot complete address moves in time to make use of them for admissions purposes. If you have queries relating to this, please email the team on one of the email addresses below.

Key dates

Friday 7 November 2025	Online application process opens. Go to *www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions* to register and apply.
Thursday 15 January 2026	Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to *kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk*
Thursday 16 April 2026	Offers of school places sent to parents via email after 4pm.
Thursday 30 April 2026	Parents should contact the school to accept/refuse the place that has been offered and can use the link in the offer email to ask for their child to be added to the waiting list of schools named on the original application.
Wednesday 13 May 2026	Appeals need to be lodged by this date to be heard before September – appeals information can be found at *www.kent.gov.uk/schoolappeals*. You can only appeal for schools that were named on the application form.

Need help?

Email *primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk*
Full information booklet can also be viewed online at *kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions*

Only one application per pupil will be accepted. If you apply online, do not complete any other form of application. Keep your login details safe and use your registered email address for all communication with the team.

The confirmation email may go to your junk/spam folder of your email – please check here before contacting our team for confirmation.

Please note applications can only be made via Kent County Council if the child resides at a Kent address. If your child does not reside at a Kent address, you must make an application via your Local Authority.

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

Downs View

Superstars

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Our Menu & Theme

Week commencing 17th of November

Monday- Fish Finger Sandwiches and fruit

Tuesday- Sausage pasta and Fruit

Wednesday - Wraps, ham, chicken, cheese and Salad

Thursday - Wholemeal muffins and Fruit

Friday - Croissants and fruit

This week's theme is "Autumn and Leaf week"

21 Aug
24 Aug
30 Aug

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 issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for...
MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you *do* want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.

The National College®

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety @national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.01.2024

SANTA AT THE MUSEUM

6TH & 7TH DEC 2025

10AM - 4PM

BOOKING VIA WEBPAGE FOR SANTAS GROTTO

RAFMANSTON.CO.UK

HE'S ON HIS WAY

SANTA'S "HELI-GROTTO"

Santa's grotto and present included in normal Museum admissions fee (Event T&Cs apply)

TICKETS ARE AVAIABLE ON THE DAY*

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL

INFO@RAFMANSTON.CO.UK

RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM

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

* QUEUE TIMES MAY VARY. OPTIONAL BOOKING. PLEASE ASK BEFORE PAYMENT

Chopra & Associates
DENTAL SURGERIES

CHOPRA DENTAL SURGERIES ARE ACCEPTING UNDER 18s ON THE NHS

Dear Parents,
We want to make sure your child has the healthiest smile possible! A dental therapist can help keep your child's teeth clean, healthy, and strong – so they can keep smiling bright!

Why See a Dental Therapist?

- **Prevent Cavities** – Regular check-ups help catch any problems early.
- **Teach Healthy Habits** – Tips on brushing, flossing, and healthy eating.
- **Fun and Friendly** – Dental visits can be fun with a gentle dental therapist!
- **Healthy Teeth = Happy Kids** – A healthy smile boosts confidence and helps in their overall well-being.

What will happen during the visit?

- **A quick and easy check-up** of their teeth.
- **A gentle cleaning** to remove plaque if required.
- **Friendly advice** on how to keep their teeth clean and strong!

How to Book an Appointment:

Booking is easy! Simply call us at 01233 637018 to schedule a time that works best for you.
Don't wait! Early dental visits help set your child on the path to a lifetime of healthy smiles.

We're excited to help your child maintain a beautiful, healthy smile! Remember, a healthy mouth is a happy mouth!

Book now and keep your child's smile shining!

Call us at 01233 637018 today!
Visit www.chopradental.com to learn more!

info@chopradental.com
225 Faversham Road Kennington Ashford Kent TN24 9AF
Tel 01233 637018
www.chopradental.com

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
BDA goodpractice
Providing NHS Dentistry NHS

The Friends of Downs View

Christmas FAIR

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

10AM - 2PM

Santa's grotto, Crafts, Games,
Market stalls, Hot Food & Drink,
Raffle & MORE!

Christmas Wednesday 17 December 2025

Please email the school office if your child would like the vegetarian option or is bringing their own packed lunch. A Christmas lunch will be ordered for all children unless you have told us they are having a packed lunch.

Selected dates available in November & December for....

RH&DR

SANTA SPECIALS 2025

Santa Special Tickets include:

- Return steam train journey from New Romney to Hythe
- A visit to meet Santa in his grotto
- A quality, age related gift for each child aged 0 - 17 years*
- Seasonal refreshments
- Entrance to Model Railway Exhibition prior to departure
- Platform rides on our visiting engine 'Soony'
- Snowy scenes on return to New Romney

& much more!....

PRE-BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

QUIET TRAIN
2 dates available in Nov & Dec

*Under 1's go free without a gift

SCAN ME

RH&DR
ROMNEY, HYTHE & DYMCHURCH RAILWAY

Book online now: www.rhdr.org.uk
call 01797 362353 or email info@rhdr.org

Family fitness

DANCE AND CHEER

get fit and have fun

Thursday 6:30 pm - 7:15pm

£7 per adult £3 per child

FUTURE DANCE

studio 5, Little Burton,
kennington, ashford
07896198442