16th January 2026 Newsletter

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

January	
Monday 19th	**2.30pm - ID Play and Stay sessions (except Penguin & Bee Class) –** parents/carers are welcome to attend to find out more about what happens during ID lessons in your child's class
Tuesday 20th	**7pm – Friends of Downs View – Monthly meeting at The Old Mill** – parents/carers are invited to come along and join the Friends for a drink and help with ideas for their next fundraising events.
Wednesday 21st	**2.30pm - ID Play and Stay sessions –** parents/carers are welcome to attend to find out more about what happens during ID lessons in your child's class
Monday 26th	**2.30pm - ID Play and Stay sessions for Penguin Class –** parents/carers are welcome to attend to find out more about what happens during ID lessons in your child's class **–** Please email or phone office if you would like to attend this session
Tuesday 27th	**Special Lunch Menu – Around the World China –** please see special menu below
Wednesday 28th	**School Nursing to conduct Year R Hearing Screening –** a parentmail has been sent regarding opting out
February	
Thursday 5th	**Year 1 School Trip to Dover Museum**
Tuesday 10th	**Safer Internet Day**
Friday 13th	**Last Day of Term**
Monday 23rd	**Children return to school start of Term 4**

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.

In my assemblies over the past two weeks the children have been learning about perseverance and trying to achieve a goal. This week they listened to a story about a snowdrop and how it persevered in the cold winter to grow and is the sign of winter ending and spring coming. I have set the children a challenge of looking out for snowdrops when out with their grown-ups and to let me know if they see any. We are holding two ID Play and Stay Sessions in school next week and look forward to seeing parents/carers. The session gives you an opportunity to come into the classroom and see what learning the children do during their ID lessons. Information on how to book is detailed above.

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 focusing on the school value of being 'respectful' by working hard to tidy up the classroom.
Ladybird	Ladybird class have been working hard on the school value of being 'safe' by remembering to hang all of their belongings on their pegs and storing hats, gloves and scarves appropriately so that others do not slip on them when walking past.
Turtle	Turtle 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 new teachers and working together.
Dolphin	Dolphin class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by waiting our turn when playing with our friends.
Starfish	Starfish class have been working hard on the school value of being 'ready' by discussing the story of the 'Invisible String' to help us when we feel sad about missing our grown-ups.
Snow Leopard	Snow Leopard class have been working hard on the value of 'respect' by looking after Mrs Little's fossils that she brought into class.
Penguin	Penguins class have been working hard on the school value of being 'ready' by challenging themselves in maths!

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

This week we have been looking closely at our new text 'Let's all creep through crocodile creek'. In the story, each of the animals move in different ways, i.e. Hopping, jumping and swinging. We decided to write what we had found out using the sentence starter I can...
This week encourage your child to think of their own I can sentence. Orally rehearse it first by saying the sentence, i.e. I can skip and then see if your child can write this as a sentence. They should remember that a sentence always starts with a capital letter and ends with a full stop!

Year 1

In Year 1 this week we have been practising counting in teen numbers. We have discussed how many 10s and 1s there are in each number. Can you use household objects to show how many 10s and 1s are in a teen number?

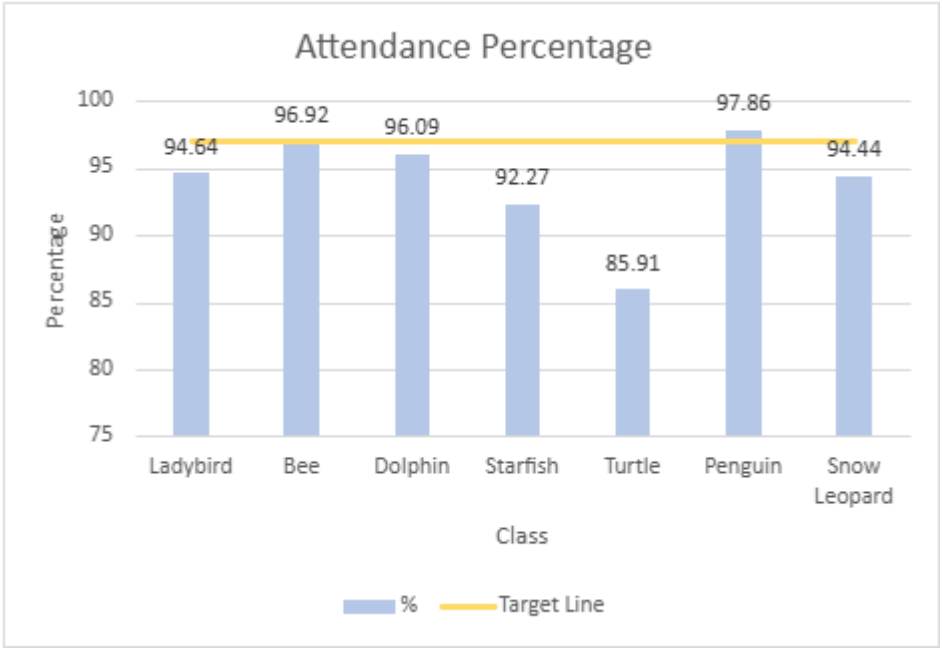
For Example:
One stick represents one 10
One pebble represents each 1

This represents the number 16

Year 2

This week Year 2 have had great fun in science categorising living, non-living and never been alive objects. We saw a real snake skin and fossils.

Attendance



Our school attendance for this week is 94.34%, which is lower than last week. This weeks' 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 232 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.

Current Vacancies
We are looking to recruit a **temporary cleaner** to cover staff absence Monday to Friday. This position will be fixed term until 2nd April 2026 however this will be reviewed and the contract may be extended.

The hours of work are 3.30-5.30pm or 4-6pm Monday to Friday, term time only.
This is an opportunity to be part of a small, friendly cleaning team who play a key role within the school. The aim of the role is to provide a good cleaning service that is responsive to the needs of the school, resulting in a clean and healthy environment for pupils and staff.

Duties include all aspects of cleaning within a school including the daily cleaning of classrooms, office, corridors and washroom areas.

We are looking for someone who is:
Reliable
Responsible
A good time-keeper
Have some previous experience of cleaning preferably in a school (training will be provided)

If you would like to apply for this role please either phone the school office on 01233 632339 or email office@downs-view.kent.sch.uk .

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)

Friends of Downs View meeting
Tuesday Jan 20th, 7pm at the Old Mill, Kennington. Come along and join us for a drink and help with ideas for our next fundraising events.

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 MEMES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (79%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

SPREADING MISINFORMATION

While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared quickly, young people may not question their accuracy.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Memes are widely circulated, and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter explicit language, sexual content, or graphic imagery, even without searching for it. As memes spread fast on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, or WhatsApp, it's nearly impossible to filter them completely.

MASKED MESSAGES

Some memes are designed to be confusing or layered with hidden meanings, making them hard for parents, and, sometimes, other young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes conceal offensive, harmful, or misleading content.

HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY

When serious topics like violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become less sensitive to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or mock personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.

PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a trail. Created or shared memes can resurface later and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once online, memes may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control - digital actions can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world - discuss what they find funny about the memes, and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and teens think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.

TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY

Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable - developing media literacy skills prepares young people to understand and navigate through their future online lives. Show them how memes can sometimes exaggerate or misrepresent facts for laughs, and encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.

MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risks of overuse. By modelling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.

FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE

Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of promoting a safer, more supportive online culture.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Cristina Moreno-Almeida is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in memes, online networks, and youth culture, examining how digital spaces shape identity and everyday life.

See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

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INDEPENDENTCATERING | EDUCATERLIMITED

Around the World

CHINA

TUESDAY 27 JANUARY

MENU

Chicken Chow Mein with Vegetable Fried Rice (1, 7, 8, 9)

Vegetable Spring Roll with Sweet Chilli Sauce with Vegetable Rice (1, 8) VEGAN

Chinese Spaghetti (1, 8)

Jacket Potato with Choice of Toppings

Stir Fry Vegetables

Chinese Sponge Cake (1, 7, 9)

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✉ trevor@smartadhd.uk

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  Lived experience that supports your wellbeing
- **CLARITY ABOUT YOUR ADHD**
  More than you've ever guessed

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SCHOOL YEARS R & 1
THURSDAY EVENINGS- 17:30-18:30
STARTING DATE TBC

. QUALIFIED COACH WITH 15+ YEARS EXPERIENCE
. FULLY SPONSORED KIT (AFTER MEMBERSHIP IS PAYED)
. OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS
. NO EXORBITANT FEES

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SEND Coffee Mornings

Join is for this terms face-to-face SEND coffee morning for a cuppa, friendly catch up and a chance to chat with members of the includes us Too team

Wednesday 21st January 2026
Dover big local, Charlton Centre,
41 High Street, Dover CT16 1TT

Wednesday 28st January 2026
Castle Hill Family Hub, Denmark Street,
Folkestone, CT19 6EQ

Wednesday 4th February 2026
Rainbow centre, Great Chart bypass,
Ashford TN23 4RR

9:30am - 11:30am

Children welcome but must be supervisered by a parent/carer at all times

INCLUDES US TOO

IU2 - Empowering families of children with disabilities

www.studysmartuk.online

STUDY SMART

Free Online Courses

Starting Monday 2nd February

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6 Week Course
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Support Session 4.00 - 4.30

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Safeguarding & Prevent
Occupational Studies
Understanding Challenging Behaviours
Principles of SEN

Aspire Education

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EAT WELL, SPEND LESS & WELLBEING ROADSHOW

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

NEXT ROADSHOW

SWAN Community Centre & Waterside Family Hub

Turner Close, Ashford, TN24 0PQ

Wednesday 21st January 2026

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 West Community Health

Ashford Borough Council

FareShare

NHS

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£7 per adult £3 per child

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studio 5, Little Burton,

kennington, ashford

come join us for

Dance multi skills

stage1 age 4 to 7
stage 2 age 8 to 13

stage 1 THURS 4:30pm -6pm
stage 2 THURS 5:15pm - 6:30pm

Includes musical theatre, street, cheer, gymnastics, hoop and ribbons

£10 per week

FUTURE DANCE

Future Dance, Little Burton, Kennington

HIGH FLYERS

CHEER TEAM

Weds – Stour Centre 6:10pm

Fri - Towers School 4:45

age 4 to 13

Contact Us

www..futuredance.info

whatsapp 07896198442