17th October 2025 Newsletter

Please find us on instagram and facebook:

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

October	
Friday 17th	**Last day of Term 1**
Half Term Monday 20th October to Friday 24th October	
Monday 27th	**1st Day of Term 2** **New Lunch Menu –** Please see below for further information.
Tuesday 28th	**Year 2 – Owl Visit –** a separate parentmail has been sent about this – if you would like a photograph please talk to your child's class team.
Friday 31st	**Friends of Downs View Sponsored Danceathon –** this event will be held in school, a sponsor form has been sent home today – children can wear their own clothes and/or spooky accessories/costumes (if they wish).
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.

It has been great to see many of you come in to school this week to hear about your child's learning. We hope you beamed with pride as you left! If you were unable to attend, please speak to your child's class teacher via the office or at collection at the end of the day to arrange an appointment. These appointments give you a snapshot of your child's learning but if you have any questions or would like to know more, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to speak to your child's class teacher.

I would like to wish you all a happy half term break, thank you for your support and engagement during the past term. We all look forward to welcoming you al back next term when there will be exciting Christmas festivities ahead.

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 managing to get into a circle quickly for learning.
Ladybird	Ladybird class have been working hard on the school value of being 'safe' by remembering how to carry tools and equipment both in the classroom and outdoor area.
Turtle	Turtle Class have been working hard on the value of being 'safe' by making sure coats and bags are on their pegs.
Dolphin	Dolphins class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by sharing the ID resources with their friends and letting different peers join in with their ID activities.
Starfish	Starfish class have been working hard towards the school value of 'ready' by discussing and practicing different strategies to support our happiness and wellbeing.
Snow Leopard	This week Snow Leopard class have been working hard on the value of being "ready" by following our morning routines.
Penguin	Penguins class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by tidying up effectively and looking after items in the classroom.

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

Can't quite believe we have completed one term already! This week we have been trying hard to give and follow concise instructions. We soon realised that to make a lovely jam sandwich for Mr. Bear we would have to wash our hands and get all the ingredients ready first and not just say to butter it! Over the holidays work with your child to follow a set of two instructions i.e. First get your shoes on and then your coat.

Thank you for your continued support and we hope you all have a great half term!

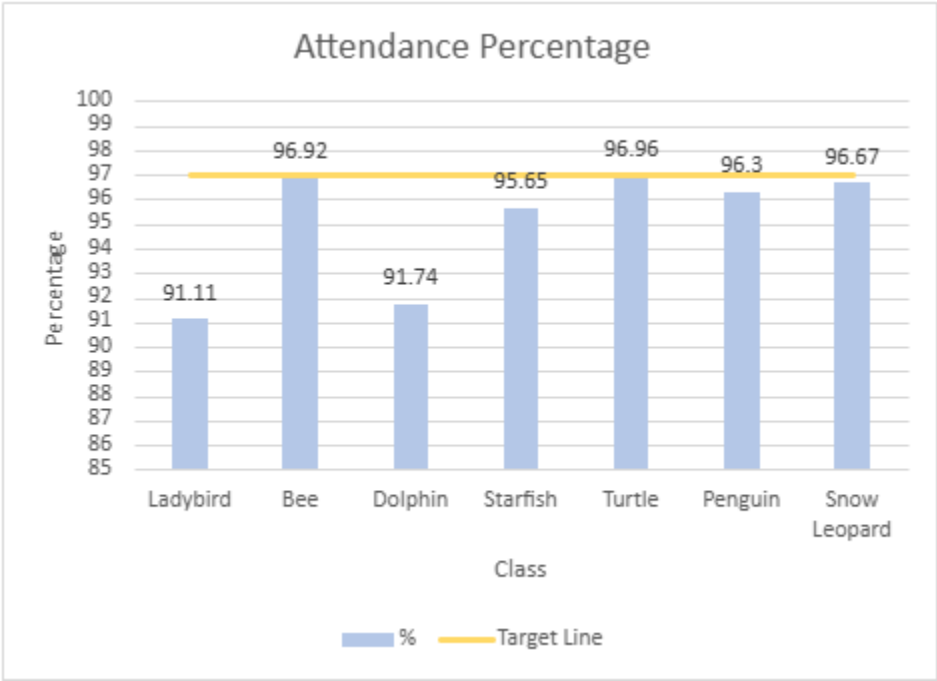
Year 1

This week in Maths we have been starting to think about number bonds within 10. We have been showing the pairs of numbers that make other numbers e.g. 0 + 4 =4, 1+3 =4, 2+2=4. Can you discuss the pairs of numbers to make other numbers within 10? Can you show them using household objects? E.g pasta, Cheerios or grapes.

Year 2

This week we had such good fun meeting Obi and learning what he needs to survive, stay healthy and happy. Ask us what we enjoyed about meeting him.

Attendance



Our school attendance for the last week of term one is **95.03%**, which is a lower than last week. This week we have seen a quite a few term time holidays and illnesses that have had an impact on each class. In the **absence** section of this week's newsletter there is a link to the DfE and NHS **'Is my child too ill for school'** information, please give this a read as it can help you to determine if school attendance is still possible.

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 **442** minutes of learning has been lost.

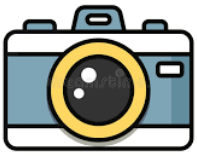
Thank you for your continued support in helping us improve attendance. If you would like any help or have any questions, please feel free to reach out, we are here to support you.

Reduce the spread of illnesses this winter: Is my child too ill for school? - NHS

Access to the school
The school gates open at 8.20am, we request that parents/carers and children wait on the main playground until 8.30am before going to the classroom door/ outside areas. This ensures safeguarding of children who are already in school and allows staff time to set up their classrooms and outside areas before registration. Registers are completed at 8.40am, when the playground gates are closed. If you arrive after this time please access the school via the school office.

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.

Photographs
Your School Photograph is Ready!



Vancols Photographers are pleased to confirm that the School Photographs are ready to view using the QR code on your proof card. If you have already scanned the QR code on the Proof and registered you will receive an auto email notification. If you have not done it yet, don't panic, you can still view by scanning the QR code on your Proof and following the instructions.

If by chance you have not received your Proof or it has been lost you can call Vancols Parent Line on 01206 273711, for class photos you will need the school number. For individual photographs you will need the pupil's admission number from the school database.

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

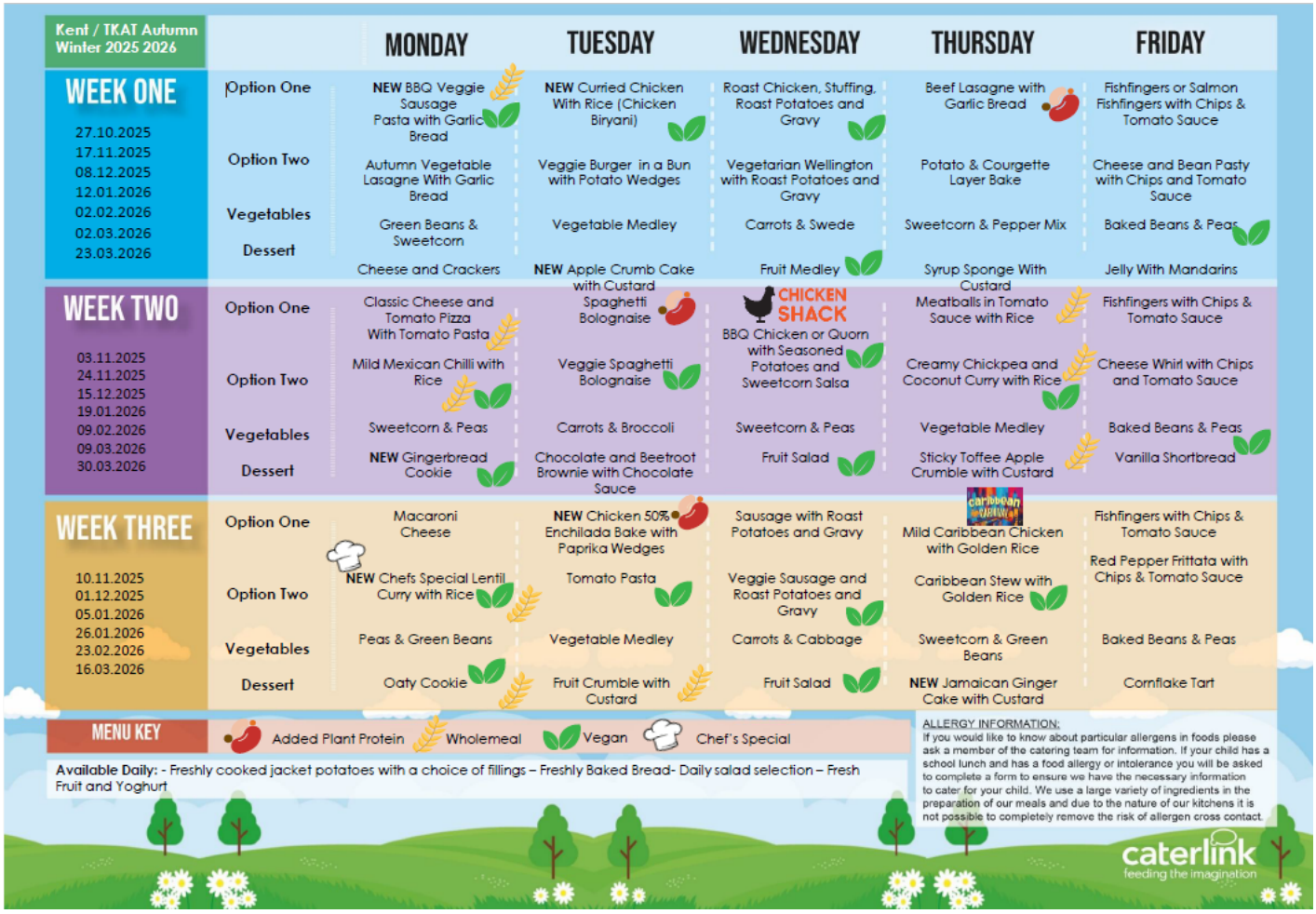
Prospective Year 3 Parent/children Tours

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 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)



Kent / TKAT Autumn Winter 2025 2026

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK ONE 27.10.2025 17.11.2025 08.12.2025 12.01.2026 02.02.2026 02.03.2026 23.03.2026	Option One	NEW BBQ Veggie Sausage Pasta with Garlic Bread	NEW Curried Chicken With Rice (Chicken Biryani)	Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Beef Lasagne with Garlic Bread	Fishfingers or Salmon Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option Two	Autumn Vegetable Lasagne With Garlic Bread	Veggie Burger in a Bun with Potato Wedges	Vegetarian Wellington with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Potato & Courgette Layer Bake	Cheese and Bean Pasty with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Vegetables	Green Beans & Sweetcorn	Vegetable Medley	Carrots & Swede	Sweetcorn & Pepper Mix	Baked Beans & Peas
	Dessert	Cheese and Crackers	NEW Apple Crumb Cake with Custard	Fruit Medley	Syrup Sponge With Custard	Jelly With Mandarins
WEEK TWO 03.11.2025 24.11.2025 15.12.2025 19.01.2026 09.02.2026 09.03.2026 30.03.2026	Option One	Classic Cheese and Tomato Pizza With Tomato Pasta	Spaghetti Bolognaise	CHICKEN SHACK BBQ Chicken or Quorn with Seasoned Potatoes and Sweetcorn Salsa	Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option Two	Mild Mexican Chilli with Rice	Veggie Spaghetti Bolognaise		Creamy Chickpea and Coconut Curry with Rice	Cheese Whirl with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Vegetables	Sweetcorn & Peas	Carrots & Broccoli	Sweetcorn & Peas	Vegetable Medley	Baked Beans & Peas
	Dessert	NEW Gingerbread Cookie	Chocolate and Beetroot Brownie with Chocolate Sauce	Fruit Salad	Sticky Toffee Apple Crumble with Custard	Vanilla Shortbread
WEEK THREE 10.11.2025 01.12.2025 05.01.2026 26.01.2026 23.02.2026 16.03.2026	Option One	Macaroni Cheese	NEW Chicken 50% Enchilada Bake with Paprika Wedges	Sausage with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Mild Caribbean Chicken with Golden Rice	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option Two	NEW Chefs Special Lentil Curry with Rice	Tomato Pasta	Veggie Sausage and Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Caribbean Stew with Golden Rice	Red Pepper Frittata with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Vegetables	Peas & Green Beans	Vegetable Medley	Carrots & Cabbage	Sweetcorn & Green Beans	Baked Beans & Peas
	Dessert	Oaty Cookie	Fruit Crumble with Custard	Fruit Salad	NEW Jamaican Ginger Cake with Custard	Cornflake Tart

MENU KEY: Added Plant Protein | Wholemeal | Vegan | Chef's Special

Available Daily: - Freshly cooked jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings – Freshly Baked Bread- Daily salad selection – Fresh Fruit and Yoghurt

ALLERGY INFORMATION:
If you would like to know about particular allergens in foods please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of allergen cross contact.

caterlink
feeding the imagination

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 YOUTUBE

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by "preschool" (4 and under), "younger" (ages 5 to 8) and "older" (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you'd like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Release date: 26.01.2023 Last reviewed: 31.05.2024

Design Ashford Borough Council's Christmas Card!

Children aged 4 to 11 can enter

Deadline: Sunday 9 November 2025

Submit entries to **christmascardcomp@ashford.gov.uk**

WIN £30 worth of Waterstones vouchers and 10 printed cards to send to family and friends.

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

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.

BABY TO BED

Newborn Sleep Sessions

Feeling confused by all the information available in regards to your newborn's sleep?
Come along to my friendly, informal parent group sessions covering FAQs and Top Tips for Sleep, inlcuding a take home pack with all you need to know

What a session includes:

- 2 hours in a beautiful calm setting, including drinks and snacks
- Discuss any questions or issues you have - bounce off other people's questions too
- Take home pack FULL of information (my Newborn package normally £99 1:1)
- Small group sizes so everyone can feel seen and heard, and not overwhelmed

DATES FOR 2025:

24 SEPT
22 OCT
26 NOV
17 DEC

9.30-11.30

- Certified Consultant
- In depth experience caring for babies/ children
- Autism Sleep Specialist
- Supporting families to get a full night's sleep again
- Sleep lover and foster carer

SPACES ARE LIMITED

BOOK NOW!

DM / EMAIL ME

£50

The Bump, Baby and Birth Hub
Unit 2 Evegate Business Park, Ashford, TN25 6SX

DEBS X

www.baby-to-bed.com info@baby-to-bed.com @baby.to.bed Debs Richardson: Baby to Bed

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

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!

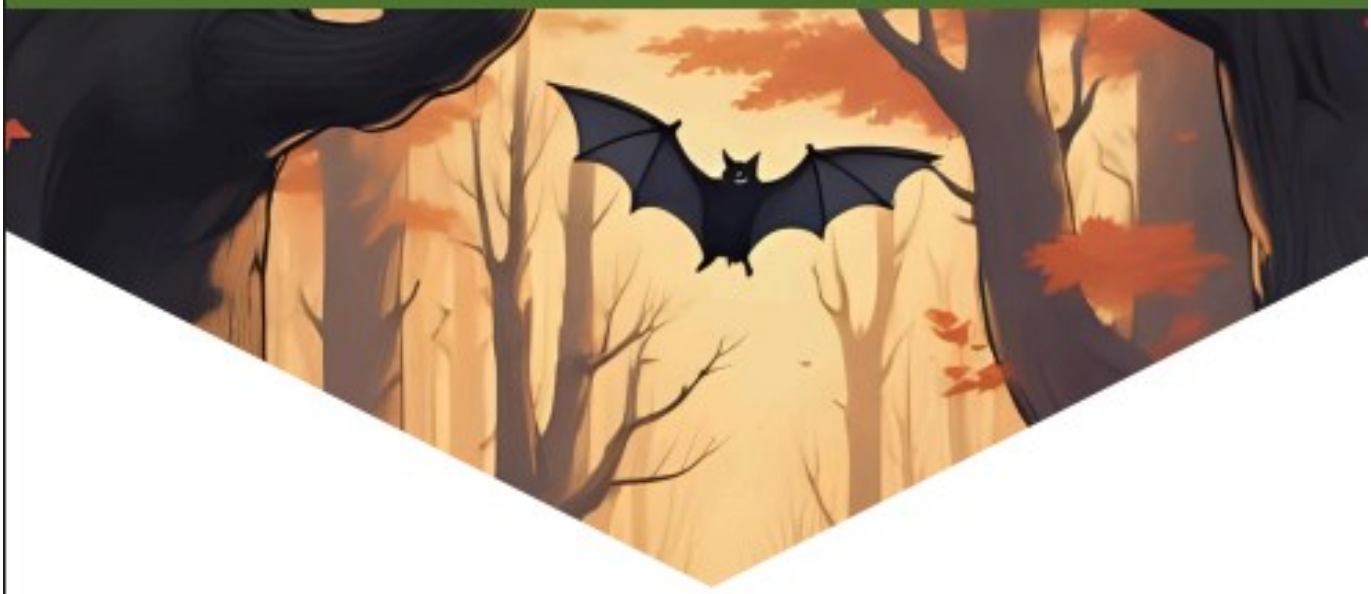
Usual Museum entrance prices apply, see webpage for more information

@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

ENROLLING NOW

ARTHURS MASON ♦ DANCE COMPANY

KENT | NEWCASTLE

IRISH DANCE CLASS

WILLESBOROUGH SCHOOLS

"AMDC is so much more than just a dance school for any child - and their parent! We went for a trial lesson and have never looked back."

ALL ABILITIES
catered for

TUESDAYS
5.00PM - 6.00PM

GIRLS & BOYS
aged 3 and above

Free Trial Event -
Tuesday 4th November 2025

SPACES ARE CAPPED AND ARE LIMITED

To book a free trial lesson, please contact us

ARTHURSMASONIRISHDANCECOMPANY@GMAIL.COM WWW.ARTHURSMASONIRISHDANCECOMPANY.COM @AMDCOFFICIAL_