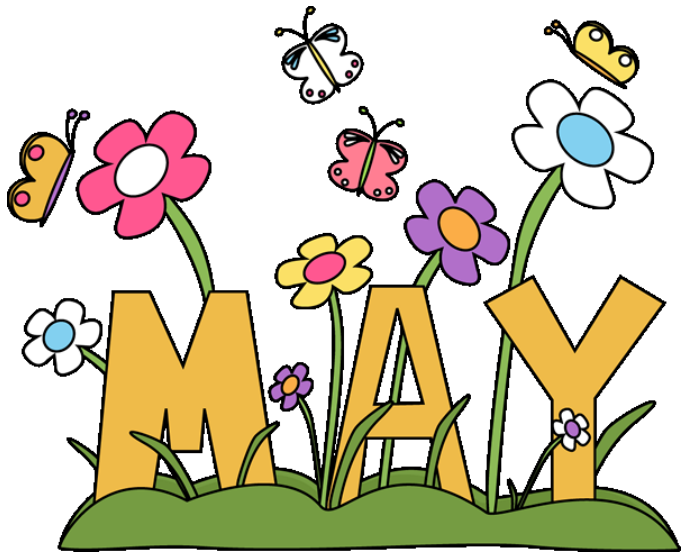


1st May 2026 Newsletter

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

May	
Monday 4th	**Bank Holiday – School Closed**
Wednesday 6th	**Year 2 Celebration Assemblies** – parents/carers are invited to attend • **1.45-2.15pm – Penguin Class** • **2.30p-3pm – Snow Leopard Class**
Thursday 7th	**Year R Vision Screening – School Nursing Team will be in school to conduct these –** further information was sent out earlier in the year.
Saturday 9th	**10am-1pm - Nearly New Kids & Baby Event – School Hall –** please see information below – this is a fundraising event organised by the Friends of Downs View
Wednesday 13th	**Year 1 Celebration Assemblies** – parents/carers are invited to attend • **1.45-2.15pm – Dolphin Class** • **2.30-3pm – Turtle Class**
Thursday 14th	**Year 1 Celebration Assemblies** – parents/carers are invited to attend • **2.30-3pm – Starfish Class**
Tuesday 19th	**Special Lunch Menu Ghana –** Please see information below
Thursday 21st	**Year R Celebration Assemblies** – parents/carers are invited to attend • **1.45-2.15pm – Ladybird Class** • **2.30p-3pm – Bee Class**
Friday 22nd	**Last Day of Term 5**
June	
Monday 1st	**Children return to school Term 6**
Tuesday 9th	**6-7pm – Welcome Evening for Parents/Carers whose children are starting in Reception in September 2026**
Friday 12th	**Sports Day 9am (this will last approx. 1.5-2 hours)** Parent/Carers invited on field – weather permitting (choice 1)

Friday 19th July	**Sports Day 9am (**choice 2 if choice 1 is cancelled**)**
Friday 17th	**Last Day of Term 6**

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 been very busy and active this week taking part in the mini-marathon today, skip2bfit workshop and some children took part in the Friends planting workshop earlier this week. Thank you to Miss Caldwell and the Friends for organising the events! A huge thank you to all of you, your families and friends for the generous sponsorship donations. The funds raised will be counted and we will let you know the grand total and how the money is going to benefit your children.
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.

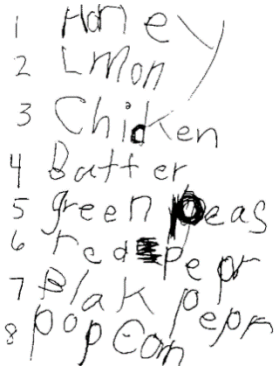
Class	Awarded to	Recognition
Bee	**Evie**	For being respectful to her friends when playing together.
Bee	**Ryan**	For being ready whenever it is time to work within a group.
Ladybird	**Freddie**	Showing great respect for his friends this week and supporting them to hold the racket correctly and get into the ready position during our PE lesson on tennis.
Ladybird	**Oluwasegun**	Using amazing imagination this week during ID and creating an amazing story about the new dinosaur characters that have joined us within the classroom.
Turtle	**Rose**	Being ready to help Mrs Newton get the water area ready for playtime.
Turtle	**Myla**	Being ready for playtime in the water area by wearing the correct clothes.
Dolphin	**Eleyna**	Being ready to learn. Eleyna has shown excellent participation in phonics lessons all week. Well done Eleyna!
Dolphin	**Azura**	Being respectful by helping to tidy up the classroom after child-initiated. Azura helped to tidy messy areas she did not play in. Well done Azura!

Starfish	**Jaden**	Being ready with his own unique ideas in English and writing amazing sentences.
Starfish	**Lyra**	Being always ready to help other children and grown-ups.
Snow Leopard	**Lili**	For showing that she is ready to learn by starting morning work straight away every day.
Snow Leopard	**Evan**	For showing that he is ready to learn by making amazing progress in phonics.
Penguin	**Gabriel**	His incredible writing! Gabriel has been using ambitious vocabulary to describe the deep, dark woods in our class story, *Little Red*.
Penguin	**Lileana B**	Working so hard in maths to order numbers and identify odds and evens. She is a superstar!

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

This week we have continued with our story Gigantosaurus. The children got to find out that Gigantosuarus was hungry and was searching through the forest for food. We decided to make a list of foods that we thought he might like to eat. We added an adjective to our writing to make the food on our lists even more appealing to Gigantosaurus! This week encourage your child to have a try at writing a shopping list for you and then see if you can find all of



Year 1

This week we have been really active with the Skip2BFit workshop and the mini marathon. We have been talking a lot about trying to learn a new skill and not giving up when it becomes difficult. Can you practise learning a new active skill? Some possible ideas are learning to ride a bike, to skip, ride a scooter, to swim or to play a new sport.

Year 2

Year 2 had a great time on Tuesday during our Skip 2 B Fit workshops. We all worked hard to beat our personal best and got some blueberries afterwards as a treat!

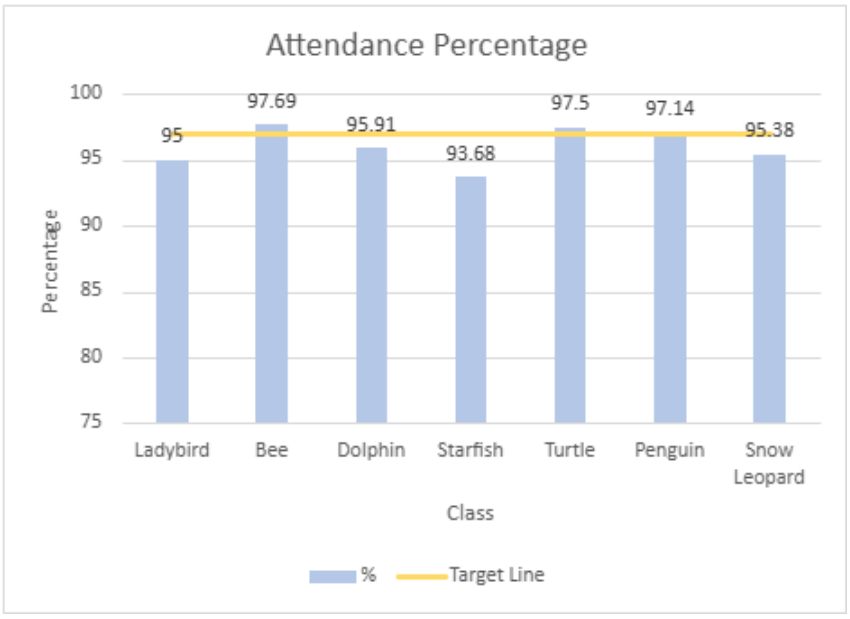
Attendance

Our school attendance for this week is 96.07%, which is similar to last week. This week has been significantly affected by term time holidays and illness. We have three classes who got above 97% attendance this is wonderful, let's see if we can increase this next week.

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 179 minutes of learning has been lost. This is much lower than last week. Let's try and reduce this even more next 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.



Skip2BFit Workshop & Mini-Marathon

Wow! What an exciting active week we have had this week. On Tuesday Mr. John came in to deliver a skipping workshop to each class. We had so much fun learning how to skip and completing the 2-minute challenge whereby we had to see how many skips we could complete in 2 minutes. Some of us managed over 100 skips! Then on Friday we had so much fun completing the Mini-Marathon on the school field. We ran 2.6 miles and had a chance to complete some fun activities along the way. Please look for photos on our social media to see us enjoying the fun-filled active week!

Term Dates 2026
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 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 www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so enthrals young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK ... and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

Algorithms rank content by user interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss who they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds: if alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across unsuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces: involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at. Be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound pings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practise mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area at home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert

Shazia Sarwar-Azim is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of The Rainbow Within, a book which supports children with SEMH needs.

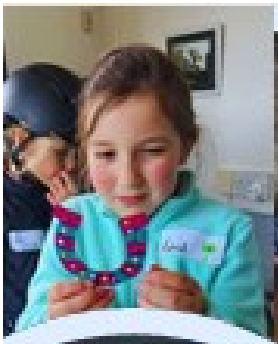
Sources: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-62204805
https://ipro.ussocial.com/insights/social-media-algorithms/

National Online Safety® #WakeUpWednesday

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 30.11.2022

Clear out the Clutter & Grab a Bargain!
The Kids & Baby nearly new event is fast approaching, so why not have a little declutter now the kids are back at school.
There are two ways to support this event:
1 - Donate your pre-loved items.
Donations of children's clothes and toys (sorry, no stuffed toys please) will be accepted at the school from the 4th-8th May.
2 - Have your own stall.
Simply email friendsofdownsview@gmail.com to book a stall in the hall for the event for just £10 and sell your items on the day.

The event is on May 9th 10am-1pm, £1 entry.
Open to the general public so please spread the word about the event.



Your Space
THERAPIES
Secure attachments
Robust learners • Building futures

yourspacetherapies.org

Mindfullness Pony Days For Kids

A magical day of ponies, riding, art ,friendship and mindfullness

May half term fun

What to expect :

- Mindfullness time with ponies
- Pony care
- Riding and Mounted games
- Connect with arts and nature
- Make new friends

Dates:

28th and 29th of May 2026

Time: 9:30 am -2:00pm

Hillcrest Farm Riding School, Horsham RH13 6NX

Book Now

spaces limited to 10 children per day

£115 per child per day

By purchasing a ticket via eventbrite you are paying a £40 deposit.You will then be invoiced for the outstanding amount on the 15th of May

Links for Booking

mindfullness pony day 28th of May

mindfullness pony day 29th of May

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 enviroment where every child can thrive.

07712 547901

We are hosting our annual **May Fayre** on **Saturday 9 May, 11am–3pm**, at our beautiful 22-acre site in West Farleigh

Harper's Cafe Mud Kitchen

Our Mud Kitchen is a fun outdoor play experience where children can get creative with mud, sand, water, leaves and natural materials.

Little chefs can mix, pour and stir to make potions and follow "recipes" to create their own muddy masterpieces, just like grown-ups in the kitchen!

All kids should wear clothes they can get messy!

Book here

£6 Per Child

Victoria Park

25th May

10.30am - 12pm
1pm - 2.30pm

Ashford Borough Council

St Mary's Church Kennington

SPRING FAIR

SATURDAY 16TH MAY

12 - 4 pm

CAKES

HEALTH FOODS

PLANTS

KIDS GAMES AND MUCH MORE

FEEL THE THRILL OF SPEED AT OUR RC RACE & DISPLAY! WATCH HIGH-PERFORMANCE RADIO-CONTROLLED VEHICLES IN ACTION, ENJOY STUNNING DISPLAYS, AND EVEN BRING YOUR OWN RC TO JOIN THE FUN. A GREAT WEEKEND OUT FOR ALL AGES!

RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM

RC RACE AND DISPLAY

10AM-4PM

ADULTS: £3
CHILDREN: £1.50
EVENT ENTRANCE ONLY

OPTIONAL ONLINE BOOKING AVAILABLE

30TH & 31ST MAY 2026

ANY QUESTIONS EMAIL 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

INDEPENDENTCATERING | EDUCATERLIMITED

Around the World

GHANA

TUESDAY 19th MAY

MENU

Chicken Jollof Rice (10)

Black Eyed Bean Curry with Rice

Jacket Potato Choice of Filling

Nkate Nkwan-Inspired Sweet Potato, Spinach & Peas (10)

Strawberry Fool (9)

WE ONLY USE

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

freshingredients freshfood