20th March 2026 Newsletter

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

March	
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.

We've been making the most of the recent sunshine, with the children thoroughly enjoying their time outdoors—exploring, playing, and learning in the fresh air. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and energy in the warmer weather. We're also looking forward to our upcoming Book Fair next week, which is always an exciting opportunity to inspire a love of reading. We hope you'll be able to come along and support this special event!

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	**Jasper**	For being ready for learning by showing great engagement and then independently continuing his learning journey in ID.
Bee	**Genevieve**	Genevieve - for being ready and respectful during learning, particularly phonics.
Ladybird	**Harry**	Showing amazing readiness to learn when writing his own sentences to describe what he could see under the sea.
Ladybird	**Ava**	Showing an amazing awareness of safety when undertaking ball skills within the hall. Ava was able to remember the ready position for catching and caught the ball each time with ease.
Turtle	**Oliver M**	Always tucking chairs in to keep the classroom safe.
Turtle	**Sylvie**	Being ready to share her ideas in maths lessons.
Dolphin	**Tess**	Being safe by making sure her wellies boots are always neatly placed on the welly rack.
Dolphin	**Antoni**	His fantastic attitude towards his English learning all week. He has been ready to learn and wrote the beginning of his story inspired by 'The Curious Case of the Missing Mammoth'
Starfish	**Harry**	Focusing really hard in Maths and showing that he was ready to learn.
Starfish	**Theo**	Joining in during PE and using tennis equipment safely.
Snow Leopard	**Jasmine**	For always showing the key value of being ready by having excellent learning behaviours in all subjects.
Snow Leopard	**Daisy**	For working hard on the key value of being ready by growing in resilience and independence in her learning.

Penguin	**Maddie**	Being ready for learning at all times. Maddie has been working particularly hard in English to use impressive adjectives and powerful verbs.
Penguin	**Harry**	Being ready for learning in English by writing a brilliant description of toy soldiers from the book 'Major Glad, Major Dizzy.

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

This week in our Literacy learning we have been on an adventure under the sea. We thought carefully about the things we might be able to see, i.e. jellyfish, sharks, coral and even a shipwreck! The children then used their ideas to create their own sentences using the sentence starter I can see a..... This week at home have a try at writing some simple sentences of things they can see around the home using the sentence starter I can see a ... We would love to see some of these posted on Tapestry!

Year 1

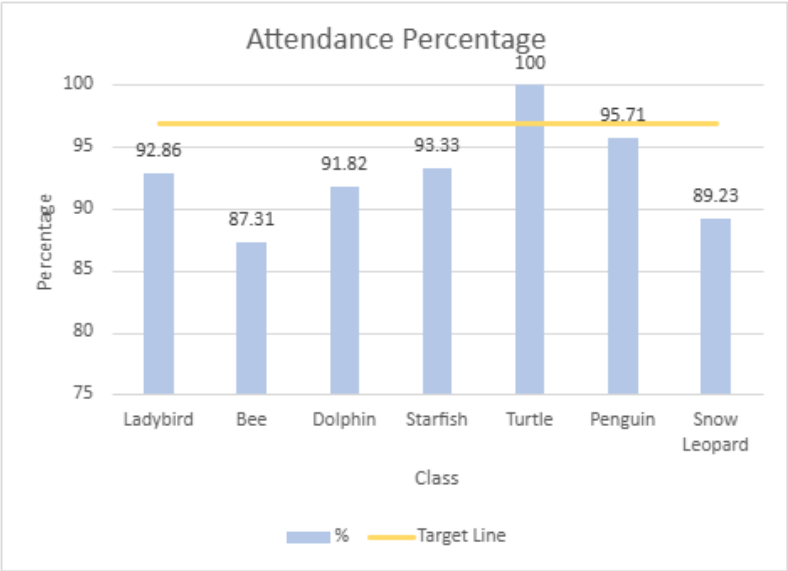
Another fun-packed week in Year One this week! In English, we have started writing our own stories inspired by the story 'The Curious Case of the Missing Mammoth'. We chose a new animal character and we are excited to continue writing our stories next week and see where it takes us! In Maths, we have continued to develop our knowledge of addition and subtraction with numbers to 20 and learnt about how we can use our knowledge of doubles to help solve addition problems (for example, double 3 is the same as 3+3). In Geography, we learnt how to use a compass to navigate a map. In RE, we learnt about the religion Judaism and what it looks like in a synagogue. We also looked at images of special objects such as the star of David. To further your learning this week at home can you navigate your grown-up around an area using compass directions? (for example, move 3 steps North then turn to face East and take another 3 steps North).

Year 2

This week in English, we have been thinking about what makes someone a hero and written to our own personal heroes using subordination to give examples. As us who our heroes are.

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 92.32%, which is 3% lower than week.

This week's attendance has been significantly affected by illness, particularly minor illness where children are able to attend school. If you are unclear as to whether your child is well enough for school, please see the below link for further guidance.
https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

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 133 minutes of learning has been lost, this is higher than last week so let's see if we reduce this by being in school and ready to learn on time 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.

School Bags and Personal Items
Just a reminder that children should not bring in teddies/toys from home. We have lots of items in school for the children to access through the day. When children bringing in personal items from home we cannot guarantee that these will not be lost, damaged or used by their peers. We would also like to request that key chains on school bags are kept to a minimum quantity and size, quite a few children have large fully toy key chains that unfortunately are getting broken in the cloakroom/corridor areas where their bags are stored through the day.

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)

BRIGHTEN SOMEONE'S DAY ONLINE
Tiny actions can have a huge impact! Here are our suggestions for making someone smile online!
VIDEO CALL A RELATIVE
SHARE UPBEAT PLAYLISTS
SHARE A FUNNY POST
SEND A KIND MESSAGE
SHARE THROWBACK PHOTOS
BE KIND IN THE COMMENTS
SEND HAPPY VOICE NOTES
PLAY GAMES WITH MATES
Share GOOD NEWS
Share posts FROM YOUR FAVOURITE CHARITIES
COMIC RELIEF
RED NOSE DAY
NOS
National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Five Nights at Freddy's is a series of indie point-and-click horror games whose word-of-mouth success and widespread spin-off content on YouTube have helped each of the nine instalments so far to sell almost five million copies on Steam (the PC gaming platform) alone. Set in various deserted locations at night, with creepy animatronic characters suddenly coming to life, the games are rated PEGI 12 for disturbing/violent content, mild profanity and horror themes.

FRIGHTENING THEMES

Five Nights at Freddy's (FNaF for short) doesn't feature bloodshed like many horror games – but it does build tension and use jump scares, which may be too intense for young players. The sinister animatronic characters and the sensation of being trapped and defenceless could be particularly unsettling, as could the inclusion of disturbing elements such as murder or possession by evil spirits.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

18

As a result of FNaF's popularity, a sizeable YouTube community based on fan-made content has developed around the game. While the majority of this material is still child friendly, there are a number of channels which are geared more towards mature audiences. They contain adult and disturbing themes, for example, and (in some cases) age-inappropriate language.

STRESSFUL SITUATIONS

Due to FNaF's suspenseful atmosphere, it can be extremely stressful for players. Constantly checking that one's surroundings are safe is a crucial part of the gameplay and could create residual stress or even obsessive-compulsive behaviours. Several media reports have suggested that some younger children have experienced severe nightmares or sleep anxiety after playing games from the series.

PLAYING IN ISOLATION

Many parents will be relieved to learn that Five Nights at Freddy's is a single-player game which doesn't include any online chat functionality. Conversely, however, this could also make playing FNaF quite an isolating experience – especially if your child is spending a lot of time investigating the game's spooky, shadowy environments alone in their room, for example.

IN-GAME SPENDING

FNaF doesn't foreground in-game purchasing as strongly as many other well-known games, but some titles in the series do offer additional content that promises to enhance the experience. Five Nights at Freddy's: Help Wanted, for instance, is complemented by a Halloween-themed expansion pack called 'Curse of Dreadbear' (costing £8.99), which unlocks new levels and mini-games.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Five Nights at Freddy's doesn't have comprehensive parental controls. However, if you're concerned about the potential impacts of the game's themes and content, you can simply choose not to let your child play it. If they use an Android or iOS device for gaming, you can adjust Apple and Google's built-in parental controls to restrict your child's access to certain content.

TRY IT YOURSELF

Every child is different, of course, so it could be worth playing Five Nights at Freddy's yourself for a while to gauge how your young gamer might cope with the series' more frightening and disturbing aspects. If they're old enough, you could spend some time playing it together – after all, it usually only takes between two and ten minutes to complete a level.

LIMIT SPENDING

Unlike many popular titles, Five Night's at Freddy's doesn't bombard players with tempting in-game purchase offers. It's worth noting, however, that some instalments in the series do provide the option for players to spend real-world money. With that in mind, it's important to either keep a close eye on your child's expenditure or limit their access to digital payment options.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on Five Night's at Freddy's, or you're worried that the game's scary themes are taking a toll, watch out for warning signs. Young people may start to prioritize gaming over everyday essentials like schoolwork or sleep, irritability or a lack of concentration could also indicate that their gaming sessions are going on too long.

TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

Before you allow your child to play Five Nights at Freddy's, it's wise to have a conversation about the game so that they're aware of the potential risks. Ensure that your child understands that the series is purposely designed to be tense and unsettling, and that they should stop or take a break if the intensity of the gameplay is making them feel uncomfortable or putting them on edge.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

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: 25.10.2023

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!

GODINTON HOUSE AND GARDENS

EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES 2026

GARDENS OPEN TUESDAY - SUNDAY*
*Plus Easter Monday (6th April)
12:30 PM - 5:30 PM

3 APRIL - 19 APRIL - FAIRY AND ELF TRAIL
8-10 APRIL - WOODLAND FAIRY AND ELF CRAFTS
15 & 16 APRIL - NATURE WORKSHOPS WITH KENTISH STOUR COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIP

For more information and to purchase tickets please visit our Events page at www.godintonhouse.co.uk

GODINTON HOUSE, GODINTON LANE,
ASHFORD, KENT TN23 3BP

Enter our FREE family competition
Enter at Prize Draws on our home page - good luck!
Quiz Trails
A great activity for the Easter Holidays!
We're a Mum and two daughters team creating educational, history based fun Kent Quiz Trails!
They liven up a healthy family walk!

FREE TO ENTER!
Quiz Trail
WHAT'S ON?
WIN
We've teamed up with What's On In Kent to give away a 'Best of Kent Explorer Adventure Pack'!
Top Prize: One lucky winner will win a wicker picnic hamper with plates, cutlery and glasses, one each of the Quiz Trails short stories books, 5 Quiz Trails of your choice and lots of sweet treats!
Three runner-up winners will each win 3 Quiz Trails of your choice!
Enter on our website www.QuizTrail.co.uk
WHAT'S ON?
Download the app to discover hundreds of activities and events going on in Kent!
Special offers too!
www.QuizTrail.co.uk
Quote Discount Code DISCOUNT10 at our checkout

Let the adventure begin with
Quiz Trails
We're a Mum and two daughters team creating educational, history based fun Kent Quiz Trails!
LOW - COST!
Clues for adults PLUS clues for juniors which are made for 5 to 11 year olds!
Quiz Trail
Trustpilot
Quiz Trail
Reviews • Excellent
A fun low-cost, healthy activity that entertains all!
Quiz Trails are written for adults and packed with local history. As well as adult leisure reading, Quiz Trails are a fabulous activity for adults and children to do together - with a set of fun clues for each.
You can take as long as you like to complete the trail, making it the perfect activity for a relaxed trip out.
At just £3.99 a copy for a group to share, Quiz Trails are the perfect way to spend time outdoors in the fresh air with loved ones - great to do with grandparents too! ALL trails are accessible.
www.QuizTrail.co.uk
Quote Discount Code DISCOUNT10 at our checkout
10% off
children's
Quiz Trails are an 'Approved Activity' for The Children's University

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.

www.tickettailor.com/events/trax

TRAX Presents

THE BIG RAILWAY ADVENTURE

Step into a giant indoor railway world where children can explore, play, and let their imagination run wild.

Session Highlights:

- A massive train layout
- Imaginative free play
- Calm, inclusive environment
- Safe, indoor setting
- Parent seating area
- Perfect for ages 3–11 years old

Sessions

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm
2:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Book Your Child's Spot Today
www.tickettailor.com/events/trax

Pre-booking required

Saturday 28 March

CMO Community Cabin
Unit 1 Chilmington Ave,
Chilmington Green, Ashford
TN23 8AU

Admission
£10 per child
(siblings £8 each)

Or scan the QR code to book

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.