21st November 2025 Newsletter

Please find us on instagram and facebook:

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

November	
Week Beginning Monday 24th	**All Year groups will be visiting St Mary's Church this week to take part in the Christmas Story Workshop** – please speak to your child's class team if you have any questions regarding this workshop
Tuesday 25th	**6pm** – **Prospective EYFS Parent Tours** – please see information below
Friday 28th	**Non-school uniform day in exchange for donation for Christmas fayre –** please see information below
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
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.
Tuesday 9th	**2.30pm – Single Equality Meeting** – please see further information below we are looking for a couple of parents/carers to attend this meeting
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.

Thank you to the Friends and parent volunteers who have been busy preparing for the Christmas Fair and a special visitor who is coming in December.

How can you help?

- **Support by buying raffle tickets- see poster below**
- **Help at the Christmas fair, even if just for an hour or**
- **Come along with your children and enjoy the range of fun activities or do some Christmas shopping!**

Every penny raised is used for resources for your children.

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.

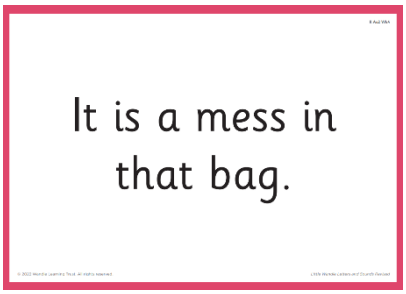
Class	Recognition
Bee	Bee Class have been working hard on the school value of being 'ready' by practising putting their folders in their bags themselves.
Ladybird	Ladybird class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by thinking about the comments that they made to others after drawing portraits.
Turtle	Turtle Class have been working hard on the value of being 'safe' by waiting their turn to go into the cloakroom area.

Dolphin	Dolphin Class have been working very hard at being 'respectful' to their friends during guided reading time. They have used their whisper voices to make sure everyone can practise their reading in a quiet environment.
Starfish	Starfish class have been working hard on the school value of being 'ready' by practising strategies to manage our emotions.
Snow Leopard	This week we have been practising the key skill of being ready by showing we are 'ready' to learn in phonics and challenging ourselves to learn graphemes and spelling rules.
Penguin	Penguin class have been 'ready' to learn this week by choosing which resources they need to help them add and subtract in maths.

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

In EYFS this week we have had great fun in math's decomposing (the process of breaking a larger number, often represented by blocks, into smaller, easier-to-manage parts) the numbers 3, 4 and 5 with the help of the Number Blocks.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqN32fNlEQY



During our Phonics lessons this week and last, we have been looking at the structure of a sentence and where a full stop, capital letter and finger spaces go. When reading with your child this week encourage them to point these out to you to consolidate their understanding.

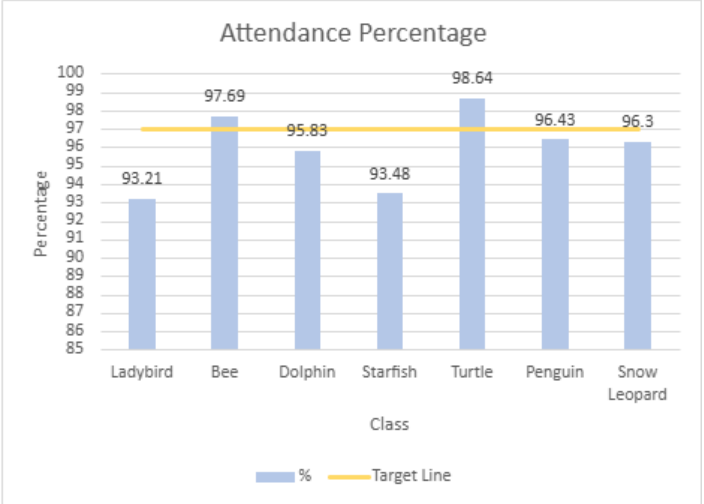
Year 1

In Science this week we have explored materials that float and sink. Can you find out which objects float and sink at home?

Year 2

We have been learning about deciduous and evergreen trees in Science. This week we created some fantastic leaf rubbings. Maybe we could go on a leaf hunt at home and create some more?

Attendance



Our school attendance for this week is **95.93**%, which is higher than last week.

This week's attendance has been mainly affected by illnesses and lates after registration closes. Well done to the two classes who are above **97%** attendance.

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 **492** 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.

Single Equality Meetings
Miss Stanley and Mrs Carter will be holding a termly Single Equality meeting and are looking for a couple of parents/carers to join this working party. The first meeting is on **Tuesday 9th December at 2.30pm** and will finish in time for pick up. If anyone is interested please can they contact the school office. This will be a meeting to discuss ways to ensure Downs View is as inclusive as possible to all.

Cold Weather Clothing

Please ensure your child is wrapped up with appropriate clothing for the cold weather. The children do still go outside at lunch time and play time and although are kept active they do need to be wrapped up. This should include a **warm** coat, with a hat, scarf and gloves if possible too. Please continue to encourage your child to do up their own coat as many children are finding this tricky to do independently.

Christmas Performances

The children are busy rehearsing their Christmas productions. The class teams have sent home information about the children's characters and costumes. We have a number of donated costumes in the school office that children are welcome to borrow. Just pop in and check with us to see if there is a suitable one for your child. We hope families can make use of the costumes that have been donated. Re-use, reduce, recycle, pre-loved costumes, helping the school to be eco-friendly. Save on money and waste.

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

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 SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

School avoidance refers to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. In 2022-23, more than one in five children in England were found to be absent from school over 10% of the time. This guide focuses on school avoidance with an emotional basis, offering expert mental health advice. However, it's important to remember that school avoidance is a hugely subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

REASONS FOR ABSENCE

School avoidance is sometimes underpinned by several factors rather than one single cause. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the family or at school. A child may have caring responsibilities at home, for instance, or a change in family dynamics; bullying and friendship difficulties at school; pressure to achieve in schoolwork and exams; or moving from primary school to secondary school.

PATTERNS OF ABSENCE

You may notice patterns in regular absences or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly being reluctant to leave home on school days). If a child or young person is neurodiverse, there is some evidence to suggest there are more aspects of school life which can cause distress – such as changes in the environment, changes of routine and sensory stimuli.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include tummy aches, headaches, or saying they feel ill when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes or illness.

IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

School refusal can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Attending school on a regular basis not only supports academic attainment but is also important for the development of key life skills and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be far reaching and may have a negative impact on long-term outcomes. It may, for example, lead to reduced future aspirations, poor emotional regulation, mental health difficulties, limited academic progress and restricted employment opportunities.

CYCLE OF ABSENCE

Consistent absences may contribute to sustained school avoidance over time. Further to this, the longer a pupil is out of education, the more likely it is that there is a rise in their ongoing need to avoid the activity making them anxious – increasing their desire to stay at home.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WORK TOGETHER

If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a plan of support or reintegration. This ensures a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

MANAGE OVERWHELMING FEELINGS

Acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss coping strategies together to help them manage difficulties. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk. This helps them understand that you are working together towards a common goal, and that these strategies can be used when bigger feelings arise.

FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES

Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, from waking up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine which is calm and spent away from screens can also give children much needed predictability and familiarity. Schools can help create a timetabled routine for the child's school day, if required.

RECOGNISE POSITIVE STEPS

Drawing attention to a child's successes - be they big or small - can help to give them some much-needed confidence and motivation. Celebrate these daily victories - such as getting out of bed on time or completing school work - and don't hesitate to let the child know when you're impressed or proud of them. Such an approach can go a long way.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/school-avoidance

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.05.2024

The Friends of Downs View

Christmas

DONATION REQUEST

There will be a non-uniform day on **Friday 28th November** and the Friends are asking for the following donations...

RECEPTION

Cakes

YEAR 1

Tombola prizes

YEAR 2

Bottles: Wine or soft drinks

Thank you! And we look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Fair on 29th Nov from 10am-2pm

The Friends of Downs View

Christmas FAIR

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

10AM – 2PM

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

The Friends of Downs View

Christmas RAFFLE

So many great prizes!

Spa days, Karate Lessons,
Toys, Meals Out & MORE!

Tickets £1 each

Buy online from friendsofdownsview.co.uk
Find us in the playground or
fill out the form below

Please return the form below to the school with payment before **Wednesday Nov 26th**

PARENT/CARER NAME.....

CHILDS NAME..... CLASS.....

I ENCLOSE £..... for ..... tickets at £1 EACH

Ashford SEND Roadshow

Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Information, Advice and Guidance Event

Calling all Ashford families whose child or young person has or may have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Do you want to meet with services that are available in your area? Our SEND roadshow is a place to do just that. We will have a wide range of services in attendance suitable for ages 0 - 25 and their families. No need to book just come along anytime between 9am and 12pm, refreshments will be available.

What families have said about the SEND Roadshows-

"I have more information to support my child's learning"

"all the information I needed in one place"

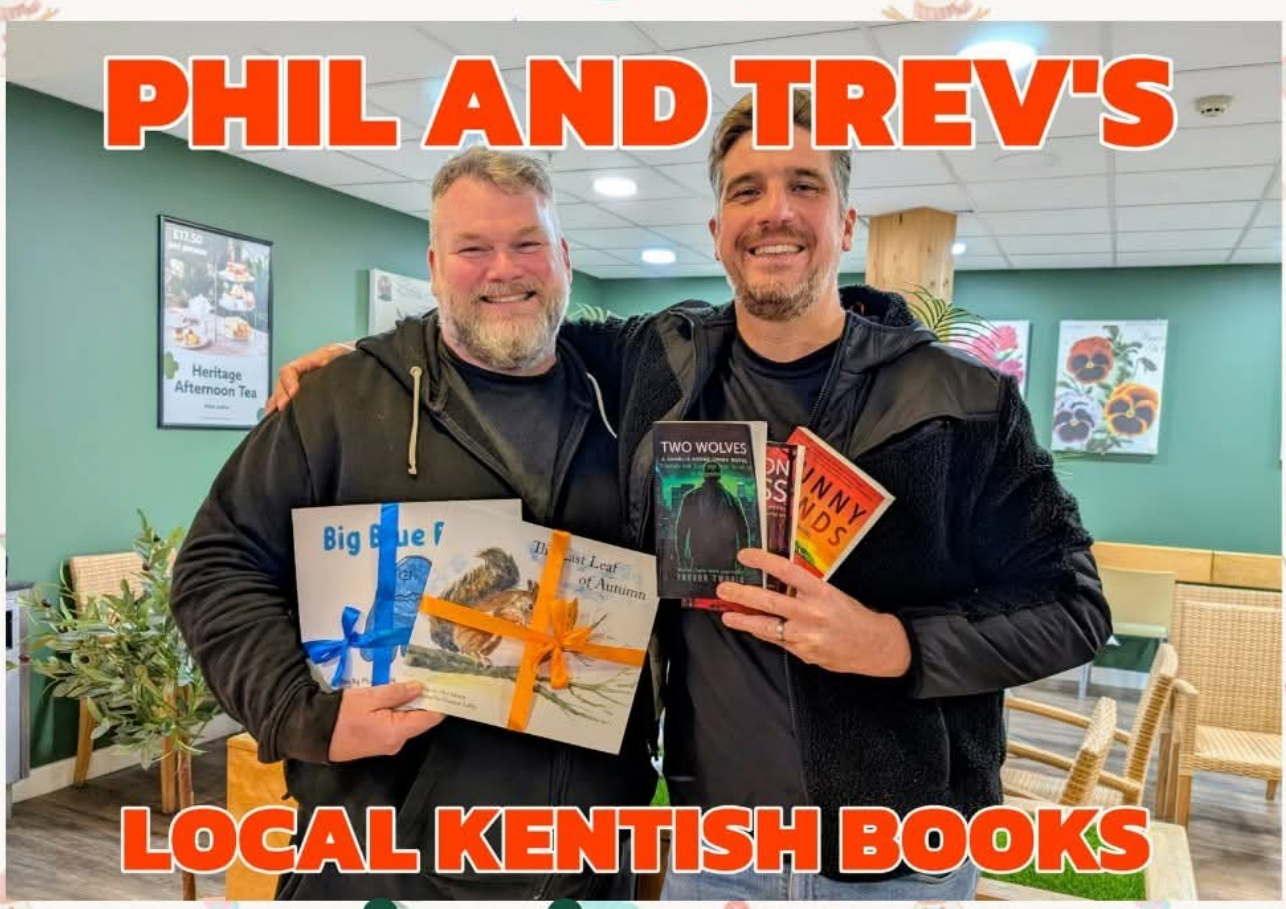
"what I've been looking for"

Stanhope Parish Hall,
Otterden Close,
Ashford,
TN23 5TG

1st December 2025

9:00am
-
12pm

LAKE HOUSE KENT
HOLISTIC CENTRE



Joining us!

Local author's Phil and Trev, will be joining us at our Mindful Christmas fair on Sunday 30th November

LAKEHOUSECIC@GMAIL.COM

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 DURING BOOKING PLEASE ASK BEFORE PAYMENT

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