23rd January 2026 Newsletter

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

January	
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**
Thursday 26th	**Mid-Year Reports will be given out to parents/carers**

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 was lovely to see so many parents and carers in school this week to experience with the children the learning that takes place during the children's ID time.

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.

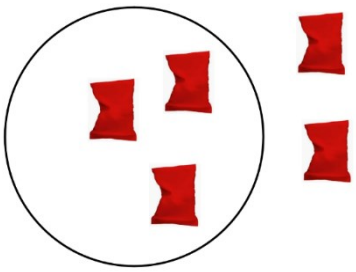
Class	Recognition
Bee	Bee Class have been working hard on the school value of being 'safe' by tidying up after themselves inside and outside.
Ladybird	Ladybird class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by listening carefully to a story and then using it's moral to consistently remember to use their manners towards both adults and peers.
Turtle	Turtle class have been working hard on the value of being 'respectful' by sharing the craft area resources.
Dolphin	Dolphin class have been working hard on the school value of being 'ready' by keeping our welly rack tidy, making it easier for us to change our shoes for playtime.
Starfish	Starfish class we have been working hard on the value of ready by learning a new routine with our wellies. We have noticed how much tidier the corridors look.
Snow Leopard	Snow Leopard Class have been working on the key value of keeping safe and have been learning about online safety in computing
Penguin	Penguins class have been working hard on the school value of being 'safe' by learning about our digital footprint and keeping safe online.

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

This week we have been really busy in our math's lessons finding out about the composition of the number 5. We used the song '5 little speckled frogs' to understand that the number 5 is not just a single digit, but is made up of smaller numbers combined, i.e. 5 is made up of 4 (as there were still 4 frogs on the log) and 1 (there was one frog in the pond).

The children also explored this by having 5 bean bags and a hoop. They threw the bean bags one at and time and recorded how many landed in the hoop and how many landed out of the hoop to give them their number sentence
i.e. 5 is made up of 3 (3 beanbags landed in the hoop) and 2 (2 beanbags landed outside of the hoop).

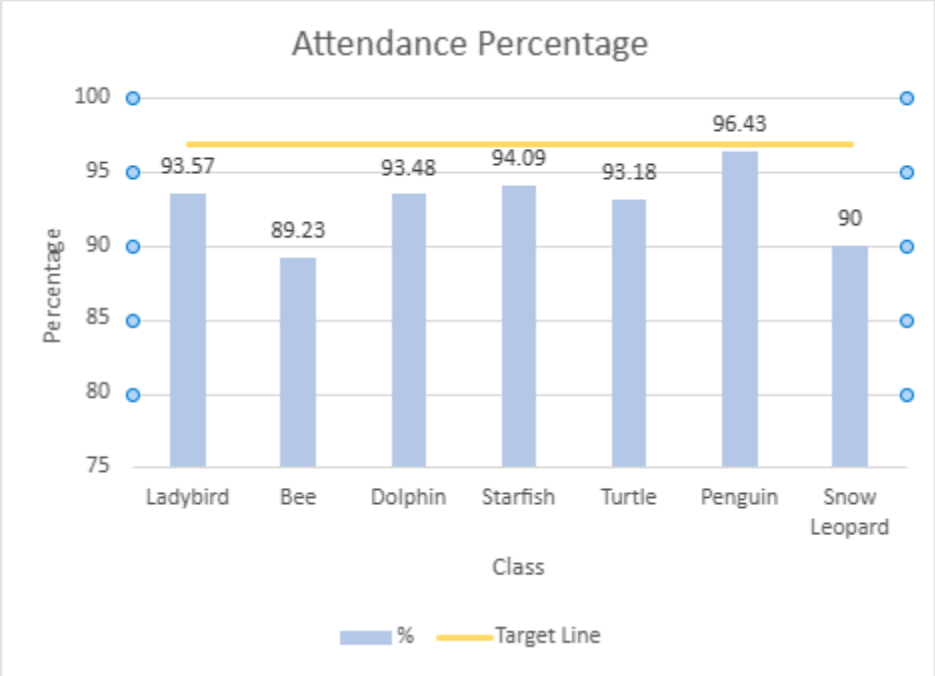


At home see if your child can recall the different ways that we made 5!

Year 1
This week in Year 1 we have been learning more about materials and what objects are made of. We have been discussing what teapots are made out of and why. Can you discuss what properties a teapot needs to have?

Year 2
This week, Year 2 were excited to be able to finally make their clay dragon eye. We thought carefully about how to join our clay parts and what decoration to add. They are all so wonderfully unique!

Attendance



Our school attendance for this week is **92.8%**, which is over **1%** lower than last week.
This week's 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 **486** minutes of learning has been lost, this is significantly higher than last 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.

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

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.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.

Source: https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

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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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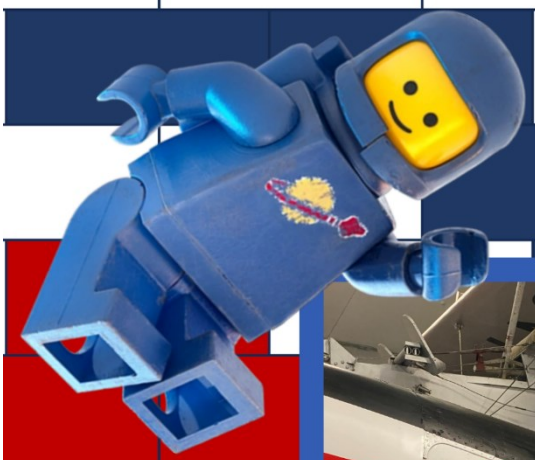
freshingredients freshfood

BRICKS AT THE MUSEUM

RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM

DATES: 14TH TO 22ND FEBRUARY 2026 (HALF TERM)
LOCATED: RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM
TIMES: 10 AM – 4PM DAILY (3.30PM LAST ENTRY)



ARE YOU A LEGO ENTHUSIAST? IF SO THEN POP ON DOWN AND ENJOY THE FUN WITH LIKE-MINDED LEGO LOVERS AT OUR ULTIMATE FAMILY FRIENDLY EXHIBITION WEEK! (NORMAL MUSEUM ENTRANCE FEES APPLY) NO NEED TO BOOK!

OPTIONAL PRE-BOOKING AVAILABLE

BOOK HERE

LEGO FIGURE HUNT
SEARCH AROUND THE MUSEUM, FIND THE HIDDEN LEGO FIGURES & WIN A PRIZE...ONLY £1.50

INTERESTED IN DISPLAYING YOUR LEGO MOC? EMAIL INFO@RAFMANSTON.CO.UK FOR DETAILS

PLEASE CONTACT US ON: INFO@RAFMANSTON.CO.UK OR WWW.RAFMANSTON.CO.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION!

*SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: WEATHER CONDITIONS, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWNS AND SHORTAGE OF VOLUNTEERS AND/OR EXHIBITORS,

RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM

BRICKS AT THE MUSEUM

LEGO RAFFLE

Enter for a chance to win a Lego set valued at £300

£5pt
PAYMENT TO BE MADE IN STORE OR ONLINE

RAFFLE DRAWN 22ND FEBRUARY @ 3PM

SCAN QR CODE TO BUY TICKETS

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL :
INFO@RAFMANSTON.CO.UK

RAFFLE SUBJECT TO A RESERVE, IF £300 IS NOT MADE IN TICKET SALES THE RAFFLE WILL NOT BE DRAWN

www.studysmartuk.online

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Understanding Challenging Behaviours
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