24th April 2026 Newsletter

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

April	
Monday 27th	**3.10-4pm Grown your own veggies Friends workshop –** this will be held afterschool further information below on how you can book this workshop
Tuesday 28th	• **Skip2BFit workshops in school for all children –** children need to wear/bring trainers or plimsolls to school on this day. If this is normally your child's PE day they will still need to wear their PE kits to school. Further information has been sent out via parentmail & is below about the skipping rope sale afterschool in the playground. • **3.10-4pm Grown your own veggies Friends workshop –** this will be held afterschool further information below on how you can book this workshop
May	
Friday 1st	**Mini-Marathon –** information and sponsor form (this is optional) has been sent home this week. Children need to wear PE kits and trainers or plimsolls to school on this day.
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	**Sports Day 9am (**choice 2 if choice 1 is cancelled**)**
July	
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.

NEW RECEPTION PARENT/CARERS SEPTEMBER 2026

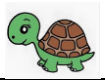
If your child is due to start Reception in September 2026 you should have received an email last week from Kent County Council detailing your child's school place. We are looking forward to welcoming all our new families in September. If you have been allocated a place for your child at our school please don't forget to let the school office know that you would like to accept this place, we have information packs in school that can be collected and further details about starting school and our timetable of events can be found on our website.

Mrs Collins

Special Achievements

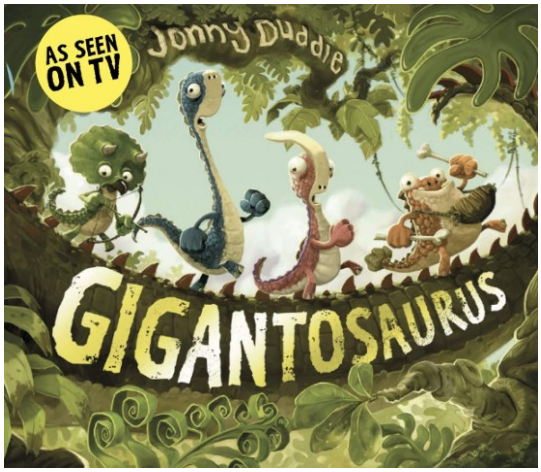
We are pleased to celebrate with you special achievements made this week. Two children from each class have been recognised for doing something that has demonstrated one or more than one of our school values.

Class	Awarded to	Recognition
Bee	**Alice**	For being ready for learning by coming to the carpet at teacher time.
Bee	**Lachlan**	For being ready and trying really hard in Phonics this week.
Ladybird	**Alice**	Showing readiness for learning during reading this week. Using her knowledge of sounds particularly digraphs and trigraphs to blend to read unknown longer words.
Ladybird	**Daisy T**	Her effort and enthusiasm within phonics this week and being able to write a sentence with all punctuation in the correct places. Wow!

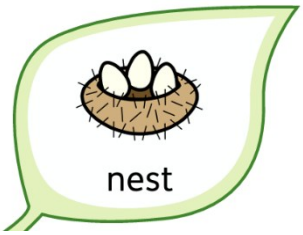
Turtle	**Theodora**	Being ready to share her imaginative ideas in English
Turtle 	**Oliver F**	Being respectful when working in pairs.
Dolphin	**Bluebell**	Being a caring friend to her peers all week, especially when she helped to look after a friend who had hurt themselves on the playground. Well done Bluebell!
Dolphin	**Rosie**	Being ready to learn in her Phonics lessons. She has listened intently all week and made amazing progress in learning new diagraphs. Well done Rosie!
Starfish	**Parker**	Being respectful by helping grown-ups to create an exciting corridor display
Starfish	**Bonnie-Fay**	Being ready in English and writing an amazing sentence using her sounds.
Snow Leopard	**Elsie**	For showing the key value of being ready by working hard on sentence structure and spelling rules.
Snow Leopard	**Izabella**	For showing the key value of being ready by working hard on expanded noun phrases
Penguin	**Dennis**	Always being kind, polite and respectful to others.
Penguin	**Lamar**	His entertaining and ambitious writing all about how to catch the Big, Bad Wolf!

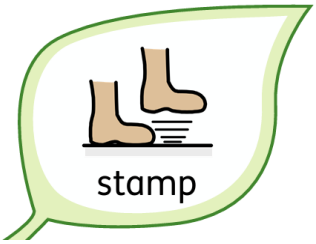
Weekly Class Achievements and updates

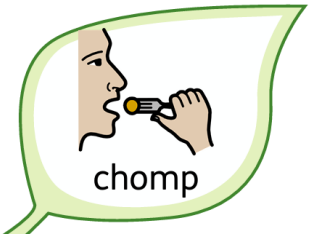
EYFS



This week we have started our new story book for the term 'Gigantosaurus by Jonny Duddle'. On Monday a strange box had been left in our classrooms with some eggs in them. We carefully helped the eggs to hatch and were left with a task to help look after the little dinosaurs that were inside. We learnt through a letter that was left for us and through reading the beginning of the book that the tiny dinosaurs like to play games such as hide and seek. This led us to playing a game of hide and seek for ourselves, looking for hidden leaves and when found reading the words that were written on them by using our blending skills. Maybe continue this game at home by hiding the tricky words that we gave to you around the house / garden and see if your child can find them and read them back to you.







Year 1

Welcome back to school! This week in Maths we have been learning to count to 50 and thinking about the place value of these numbers. Can you prcatise counting objects to 50? Can you group them into 10s and 1s?

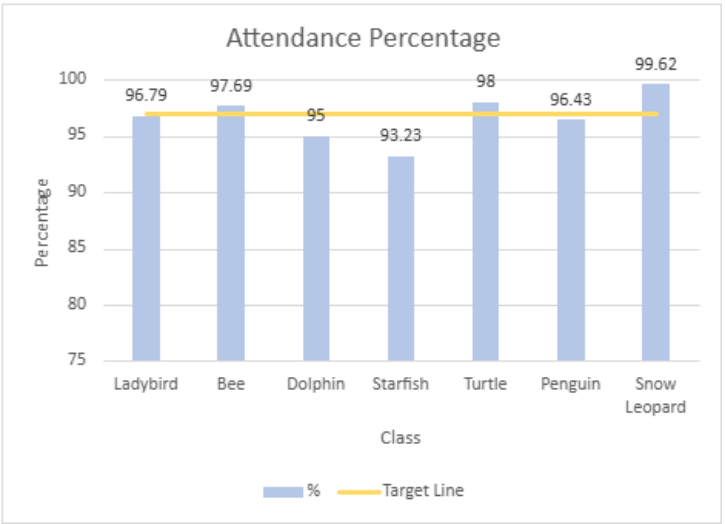
Year 2

This week in English we have started our new book 'The Last Wolf" and met the character Little Red. We have a sneaky suspicion that she is not going to be at all like the Little Red Riding Hood of traditional tales!

Farewell

We are saying farewell to Miss Friend, Learning Support Assistant in the Year Two team this week. We wish her every success and thank her for her hard work and valuable contribution to the school. She will be greatly missed by us all and we are sure you will join us in wishing her every success for the future.

Attendance



Our school attendance for this week is **96.79%**, which is **3%** higher than the last week for term 4 and it is great to see **three** classes above **97%** attendance this week too.

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 **315** minutes of learning has been lost, this is higher than the last week of term. 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

On Tuesday 28 April the children are taking part in a Skip2BFit workshop. The Skip2Bfit ropes will be available to purchase from school after the workshop. Ropes cost £8 or £9, there is a fit pack that can also be purchased costing £12. The skipping rope sale will take place on Tuesday 28 April after school in the playground. We will only be able to accept cash payment and would welcome exact money where possible.

Healthy Lunch Box Ideas and Food Allergies

We have a number of children in school with nut allergies so would kindly request that nuts or nut products (including Nutella) are not included in any child's lunch box or healthy break time snack. The free fruit and vegetable scheme is still operating, children will be provided with a piece of fruit at break time but if you would like to provide your own snack can we please request that this is also fruit/veg. Thank you for your help with this. Below are a couple of links to help with ideas for your child's lunch box if they bring a packed lunch to school:

https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/#tips

https://www.phunkyfoods.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Love-your-lunchbox_PRINT.pdf

Suncreen

Can we please remind parents/carers that sunscreen should be applied before school and if you would like your child to re-apply this during the school day, please send in a named bottle that will be kept in the class cupboard. Teaching staff will supervise the re-application of this at appropriate times during the day. This helps to ensure children are not sharing cream with children who may have allergies.

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)

Friends of Downs View
Book your little one on for some green-fingered fun!
The Friends of Downs View are running two 'Grow-your-own Veggies' after-school sessions on Monday 27th & Tuesday 28th April, from 3:10pm to 4pm.
£5 per child. Bookable online at friendsofdownsview.co.uk/events

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.

Reg Charity 285800

• Ashford & District Young Farmers Club •

LAMBING DAY

Lambing & farm animals

Tractor & trailer rides

Craft stalls

Have a go at spinning

BBQ & local food & drink

Sheep shearing demo's •

Sunday April 26th 2026
10am - 4pm

Hope Farm, Wittersham, Kent TN30 7NP

• £5 per head (Under 2's free) •

Tickets on the gate only - cash only Sorry no dogs
This is a working farm with limited disabled access

Supporting:

SWITCH

KESTREL

GYMNASTICS ACADEMY

AFFILIATED TO

South East Gymnastics | British Gymnastics | Kent | Kent Gymnastics

Unit 1 Counter Buildings

Woodchurch

Ashford

TN263SP

Email: kestrelgymnastics2009@gmail.com

Phone: 01233861441

Regional Grades NDP 2026

clubmark

KESTREL GYMNASTICS ACADEMY

EST in 2009

Timetable

All abilities welcome

Open Playgym (toddlers)
Monday and Friday 12:15-13:15 (pay on day)

Preschool 3years +
Monday and Friday 13:30-14:30

Adult Gymnastics
Tuesday 19:00-20:30 (pay on day)

Beginner's classes General/Recreational gymnastics
Monday to Friday 16:00-17:00 And Saturday 9:00-10:00

Advance Gymnastics
Tuesday to Friday 17:00-19:00 and Saturday 10:00-12:00

Tumbling/Acro
Friday 17:00-19:00

Teen Gym
Saturday 12:00-14:30

Squad Development
Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 16:00-17:30

Floor and Vault Squad
Tuesday, Thursday 17:00-19:00 and Saturday 10:00-12:00

Women's and Men's Artistic Squad
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 17:00-20:00

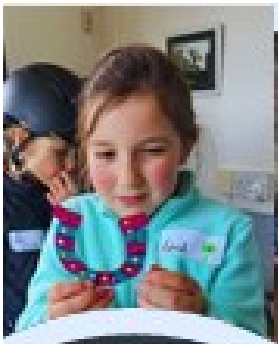
Tuesday and Thursday 17:00-19:00

Saturday 12:00-15:00

Trampolining
Wednesday 17:00-18:00

Friday 16:00-17:00

New member limited time offer valid till end of June 2026
15% of your first month please use code **Welcome15** to be used at reception on arrival
To book please Email: kestrelgymnastics2009@gmail.com



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

Elite Swim Academy Trials Available!

We have a rare opportunity to join our Elite Swim Academy via swimming trials in the following towns in Kent:

Ashford | Broadstairs | Cobham | Dover | Maidstone (Sutton Valence)

These Elite trials are only suitable for children who can confidently and reliably:

- Swim 75m front crawl
- Swim at least 10m wearing clothes
- Swim at least 10m breaststroke
- Perform sculling on their back with no swimming aids
- Tread water out of their depth
- Demonstrate they can surface dive and collect a sinking object from the pool floor

They are perfect for children looking to perfect their technique, skills and stamina. To sign your child up for an Elite Swim Academy trial, please scan the QR code and complete the form now!

Complete the form and book your trial now!

01622 236111
eastkent@puddleducks.com
Find more information at www.puddleducks.com

Swim Academy is brought to you by the experts at Puddle Ducks

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