26th September 2025 Newsletter

Please find us on instagram and facebook:

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

September	
Week Commencing Monday 29th	**Harvest Festival Celebrations – children are welcome to bring in tins or packets of food or toiletries ALL week** which will be shared with the local community.
October	
Wednesday 1st	Vancols School Photographer – Individual School Photographs. Sibling photos of children **at Downs View** will also be taken. Please let the school office know if you would **not** like your child's photograph taken.
Friday 10th	**Mental Health Day –** non-school uniform to be worn
Monday 13th	**Parent Consultation Meeting** – further information will follow regarding booking system and timings
Tuesday 14th	**9.15am – Prospective EYFS Parent Tours** – please see information below
Thursday 16th	**Parent Consultation Meeting** – further information will follow regarding booking system and timings

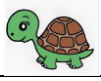
Your views, compliments or suggestions…….

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.

Following the challenges the kitchen had on Wednesday when there was no gas supply I would like to say a big 'Thank-you' to the servery team who made an alternative 'packed style' lunch for all the children who were having dinners. I was particularly impressed with the way the children coped with the last-minute change and they seemed to enjoy their lunch in the hall. Within the newsletter we have provided some ideas for a healthy packed lunch just in case you need them. Regarding food preparation for packed lunch boxes we have received guidance on how foods should be cut for children to reduce the chance of choking, some of these may be in your child's lunch box. Cut small round fruits like grapes, cherries, berries, strawberries and cherry tomatoes into quarters (4 small pieces). Always remove hard pips or stones from fruit. Cut fruit like melon and apples into slices instead of small chunks. Cut vegetables like carrots, peppers, cucumber and celery into narrow batons. Cut sausages and hot dogs into short strips. Cut them in half and then lengthways, or as thinly as possible. I hope you all have a lovely weekend and the sun is shining.

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 'respectful' by listening hard to stories at the end of each day, using their listening ears.
Ladybird	Ladybird class have been working hard on the school value of being 'safe' by remembering to put their shoes under their pegs before putting on their welly boots so that others do not fall over them.
Turtle 	Turtle class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by taking their wellies off at the door so the carpet stays clean.
Dolphin	Dolphins class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by sharing the classroom resources well with their friends.
Starfish	Starfish class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' and 'safe' by all making sure the corridor is tidy.
Snow Leopard	Snow Leopard Class have been working hard on the school value of being 'ready', remembering lots of facts about the Great Fire of London, sharing their knowledge with others.
Penguin	Penguin Class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful', being kind and supportive to other children at playtimes, helping each other to find play buddies.

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

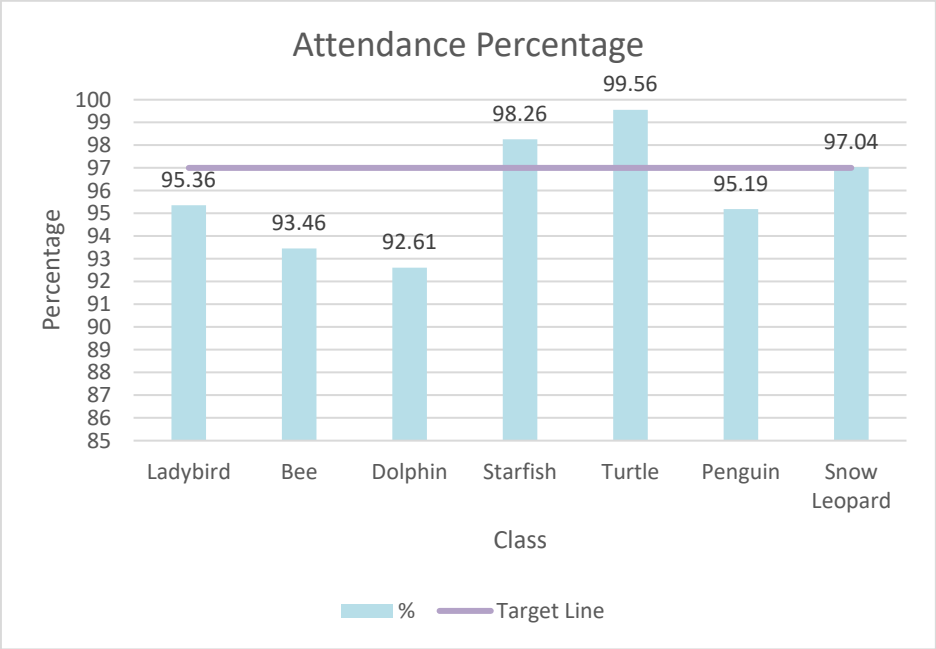
This week in EYFS we have been developing our counting skills. We have practiced counting out up to five objects using 1:1 correspondence (pointing to the objects or moving them as counting). Can you encourage your child to collect a given number of objects?

We have also been thinking about the different noises we may hear during the night i.e. owl hooting, a bat flapping which led us to talking about nocturnal animals. Can you share with your grown-ups what the word nocturnal means and remember any animals that are nocturnal?

Year 1
This week in art we have made clay sculptures of our class animals, can you create a sculpture out of a different material? This could be playdoh, plasticine or small boxes.

Year 2
This week Year 2 have been intrigued to learn more about the Great Fire of London. Ask us how it started and why it spread so fast.

Attendance



Looking at the class attendance for this week, it's great to see nearly half of our classes above the expected **97%**; well-done!
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 **351 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.

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 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. 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

Harvest Festival

Week commencing 29th September we will be celebrating Harvest! As a school we would like to join in with the harvest festivities and at the same time support the vulnerable people in our community. We therefore need your help! If you can spare any tinned, packet food or toiletries then please bring them in to class from Monday 29th September; we will create a harvest display in the hall before the food is distributed. Thank you for your support.

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. More details will follow on this process.

We are hosting open sessions at Downs View Infant School on:

Date	Times
Tuesday 14th October 25	9:15am
Wednesday 12th November 25	9:15am
Tuesday 25th November 25	6:00pm
Thursday 4th December 25	9:15am
Thursday 8th January 26	9:15am

Prospective Year 3 Parent/children Tours

Kennington CE Academy are holding tours for our current Year 2 children on the following days, children are welcome to attend and can be collected from Downs View before the tour. This gives you an opportunity to view the school and ask any questions before you apply for your Junior School place. If you would like to book a tour please contact Kennington's school office via email: office@kennington.school or telephone 01233 623744:

Date	Times
Tuesday 28th October 25	9:30am
Tuesday 28th October 25	11am
Thursday 30th October 25	9.30am
Thursday 30th October 25	11am

Oral Health

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust – Dental Services have asked that we share the following link with families for information on oral health:
www.kentcht.nhs.uk/happyteeth

Term Dates 2025-2026
Term 1 – Wednesday 3rd September – Friday 17th October 2025
(Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd September – Training Days – school closed to children)
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)

NHS

flu: 5 reasons
to vaccinate your child

1. **Protect your child**
   The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia
2. **Protect you, your family and friends**
   Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family
3. **No injection needed**
   The nasal spray is painless and easy to have
4. **It's better than having flu**
   The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record
5. **Avoid costs**
   If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Flu immunisation
Helping to protect children, every winter

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ASHFORD MUSLIM ASSOCIATION

iera SHARE ISLAM

EXHIBITION ISLAM

OPEN HOUSE & EXHIBITION ABOUT ISLAM

VISIT MY MOSQUE

Date: Saturday, October 4th, 2025
Timings: 09:00 AM – 07:00 PM
Venue: 79 Torrington Rd, Ashford Kent, TN23 7TG

Who Can Attend: We welcome everyone. Ladies, Gentlemen, Children. People from all faiths and No faith.

Exhibition about Islam.
Visit the Mosque.
VR Display.
Artifacts.
Models.
Poster Display.
Free Book stall.
Listening station
Brief interactive presentations.

Free Activities.

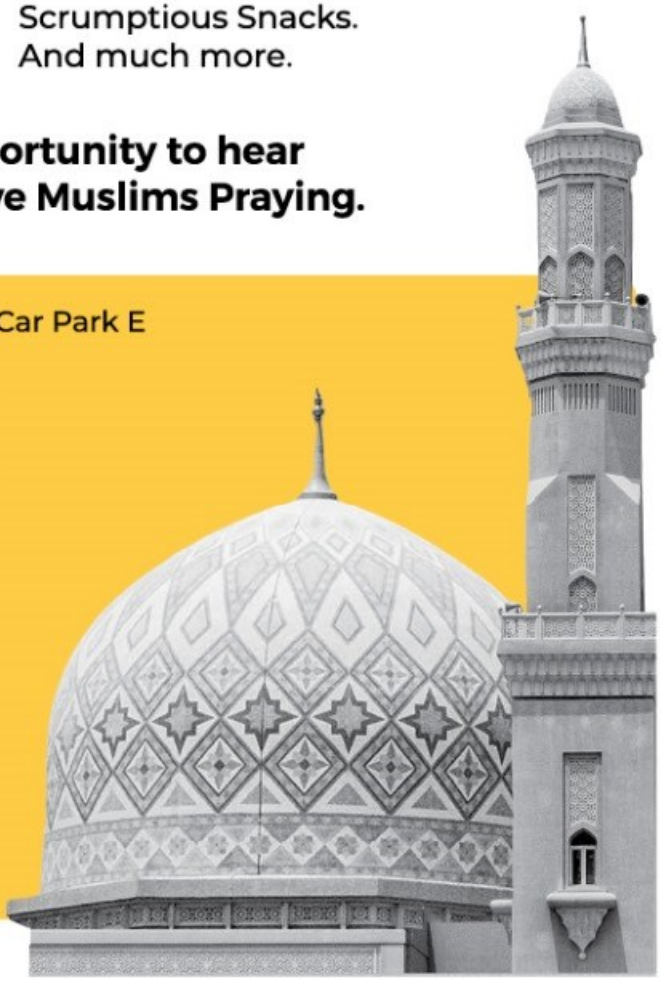
A translation of the Quran & Books for you to keep.
Kids' Corner.
Face Painting, Henna.
Tea/coffee & Scrumptious Snacks.
And much more.

Also includes an exclusive opportunity to hear the *'Call to Prayer'* and observe Muslims Praying.

Free parking at Ashford International Car Park E
(Designer outlet overflow Car Park E)
Vehicle registration is a must for free parking.

+44 7876766212 (Messages only)
education@ashfordmosque.org

For RSVP, please scan the ***QR code*** and fill in the form



HOLIDAY COURSE

OCTOBER HALF TERM

Fun, engaging, inclusive, safe football activity for Boys & Girls of all abilities, during the school holidays. Book now by scanning the QR code or using the below website and course code.

Course Code	Venue	Date
SS-LA-K-2	Leigh Academy TN9 2PH	21st-22nd October

Timings	Age	Cost
10.00-15.00	School Year 1-8	£72.00

chelseasoccerschools.co.uk

Folkestone Model Railway Club

MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, CT20 2DZ

Sat 4th & Sun 5th October 2025, 10am-5pm

ADULT (16+): £8, CHILD(5-15): £4, FAMILY: £22

Supported by:

accurascale

RAPIDO TRAINS

FOOTPLATE

www.folkestone-mrc.com

BROOK RURAL MUSEUM

Harvest Festival

Saturday 4th October 2025
2.00pm - 5.00pm

Entry: £5

Children under 14 go free*

Live Music & Food and Drink
Face Painting, Crafts & Donkey Rides**

Ashford Borough Council

SINCE 1698 SHEPHERD NEAME BRITAIN'S OLDEST BREWER

Made possible with Heritage Fund

The Street, Brook, Ashford, TN25 5PF
brookruralmuseum.org.uk

*No unaccompanied children on-site
**£5 per donkey ride. Weight limit 38kg

Fully Funded School Support Course

Aspire Education

www.studysmartuk.online

We are looking to fill 150+ School Support vacancies in local schools (e.g. SEN Support, Behaviour Mentors, 1-1 Classroom Support, Cover Supervisors etc). These roles are available in both full time and part time positions.

Please go to our website address given above, or scan the QR code for more information.

This is a 6 week course, full time, intensive course, with online guided learning sessions within school hours.
If you are earning less than £23,500 per annum or are in receipt of any benefits, you will be eligible for a fully funded place with us.

Childcare Vouchers welcome!
HOLIDAY CAMPS
BOOK NOW
TEAMTHEME KENT
Ofsted
Registered