27th February 2026 Newsletter

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

February	
March	
Monday 2nd	**Book Week –** Please see information below about the fun activities that are taking place in school this week for World Book Day on Thursday. **3.30-6pm - Parent Consultation Meetings (not Starfish Class – a separate parentmail has been sent to Starfish Class about this) –** Booking system via parentmail is now available
Thursday 5th	• **World Book Day –** children can dress up as their favourite book character or wear their pyjamas to school. **We do have a number of costumes in school that you are welcome to borrow. These will be available in the foyer in the entrance hall from Monday 23 February 26.** • **3.30-6pm - Parent Consultation Meetings (not Starfish Class –** a separate parentmail has been sent to Starfish Class about this**) –** Booking system via parentmail is now available.
Tuesday 10th	**7pm - Friend of Downs View Meeting – Monthly meeting at The Old Mill, Canterbury Road –** parents/carers are invited to come along and join the Friends for a drink and help with ideas for their next fundraising events.
Wednesday 11th	• **Young Carer's Action Day –** Please see information below • **Mother's Day Sale –** further information from the Friends to follow
Tuesday 17th	**Themed Lunch Menu – Around the World Brazil –** further information below
Friday 20th	• **Comic Relief -** further information to follow • **World Storytelling Day**
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	• **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)

Your views, compliments or suggestions…….

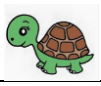
We welcome any feedback from you which can be completed formally via parent view (www.parenview.ofsted.gov.uk) or via email (office@downs-view.kent.sch) or via the box in the front Reception area.

We hope you found your child's attainment details and targets on their interim progress report informative. Next week we have parent's consultation meetings which give you the opportunity to discuss this and their progress in more detail – if you have not yet booked an appointment please contact the school office.

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	**Ollie**	Continuously demonstrating all of the school values particularly being respectful to his friends and teachers.
Bee	**Luna**	Always being ready for learning and respectful to her environment, peers and teachers.
Ladybird	**George**	Writing an amazing sentence to describe his pirate. George also remembered to use a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop.
Ladybird	**Nico**	Always being ready to learn during our phonics lessons and putting in 100% effort!
Turtle	**Isla C**	Listening respectfully when others are talking.
Turtle 	**Bradyn**	Helping tidy up, even when it is a mess he has not made.
Dolphin	**Faith**	Her amazing attitude towards her reading this week. She has demonstrated readiness to learn during Guided Reading resulting in her reading her book fluently and with expression. Well done Faith!
Dolphin	**Dotty**	Being respectful to the class teachers by making sure she stopped and listened every time the class teacher gave the class an instruction. Well done Dotty!

Starfish	**Olaedo**	Showing respect by always tidying up thoroughly after ID
Starfish	**Cadan G**	Being a great role model by using PE equipment safely
Snow Leopard	**Isla G**	Being ready to learn and apply her skills to a wonderful piece of writing.
Snow Leopard	**Keegan**	Being respectful by listening attentively during learning times and always using good manners.
Penguin	**Zachary**	Being ready to learn in English by producing a well-written and entertaining story.
Penguin	**Lileana**	Being ready to learn in Maths by finding one more and one less of a given number.

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

This week we have had a surprising visit from a very special pirate! He came and left us a whole host of clues to follow which led us to a special gift of our new book for Term 4! As we didn't get to see what the pirate looked like we created our own images and then used our sentence knowledge to write a sentence to describe him. As we have been thinking about sentence structure this week please encourage your child to look out for capital letters, finger spaces, a full stop and any other punctuation whilst reading both their free choice and reading books.

Year 1

What a great first week back we have had in Year One! We have already completed so much learning in just 5 days. In Maths, we have been comparing different numbers to 20, identify which number is greater and which number is less. In English, we have had lots of fun learning about our new book 'The Curious Case of the Missing Mammoth'. The missing mammoth has already caused so much mischief across the town and we enjoyed writing sentences explaining what the mammoth has been up to using the -ed suffix to show past tense. In Geography, we have learnt about human and physical features. We know a human feature is something that has been built by humans and only exists because a human has built it for example, houses, factories, and roads. Alternatively, physical features are natural elements that would exist even if there were no humans for example, rivers, mountains, and forests. Can you go on a walk around your local area and identify the different human and physical features you can see?

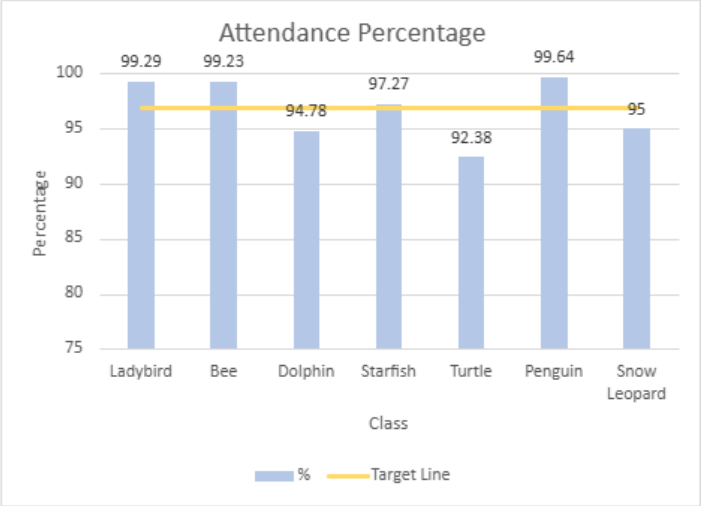
Year 2

This week Year 2 have started to write their own adventure stories based on "The Dragon Machine". We have planned and written our beginnings thinking about using coordination, adverbs, adjectives and a range of sentence types. Ask us if we can retell you our stories so far.

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome Mr Bunyard, Caretaker who will be working as part of a team with the Site Manager and Caretaker at Kennington CE Academy. It is great to have new staff members at Downs View who bring lots of fresh ideas to the school.

Attendance



Our school attendance for this week is 96.99%, which is nearly 3% higher than the last week of term, it is also amazing to see three classes nearly having 100% attendance. Lateness this week has meant that **498** minutes of learning has been lost, this is over 100 minutes more lost learning than the previous week.

🍕 Attendance Bingo Begins Monday! 🍕

We are excited to launch **Attendance Bingo**; starting on Monday 2 March! Each class will work together to collect letters to make the word "Bingo" this is achieved by having **every student present and on time** each day. Once a class collects all the letters to make "Bingo," they will earn a special class reward which they will enjoy as a class during their ID time! When a class reaches "Bingo" this will reset and they can work towards earning the letters again Let's make every day count and see how many classes can win complete Bingo this 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.

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

We are celebrating World Book Day 2026 on 5th March with our annual dressing up day. However, we have lots of other exciting activities planned during that week too. We thought we would give you all a little insight!

Monday	The launch of our Readathon - Over the week of (2nd March till the morning of 6th March) we would like your child to read / listen to at least 12 books at home. Your child can choose whatever they want to read / listen to - from books to comics. They are not being assessed, it's all about reading for fun! Once they have read / listened to a book put a tick in the box. If they have managed to collect 12 ticks by the morning of Friday 6th March they can return the form and we will exchange it for a reading award sticker!
Tuesday	Visual Literacy – across the school we will all be looking at and discussing an image from a picturebook. The children will have opportunities to share their own thoughts and opinions, describe (position of characters, size of objects, textures and colours), interpret and analyse whilst in turn promoting high quality vocabulary and language.
Wednesday	Story swap – all teachers will swap classes and a read a story to another class.
Thursday	Come into school dressed as your favourite book character or wear your pyjamas. Children will be bringing home a £1 book voucher that they can spend within a local bookshop or at our school Scholastic book fair date to follow.
Throughout the week	Competition - In ID all children will get an opportunity to design a superhero for a new story book. Within their design they will need to think about the superheroes name, what costume they wear, what their super power is, what they can do i.e. save people, the planet. The winner from each class to be chosen by their class teachers and in the Thursday assembly the winners will be awarded a golden ticket to exchange for any book at the book fair. Participating in a wide range of oral language games. Opportunity to make book character fridge magnets, book marks, creating character descriptions. Each day writing a short sentence or paragraph which will lead to a whole class story.

Friends of Downs View - £26 for 2026 – Sponsored Activity/Challenge – We hope you all had lots of fun over the half term break with your sponsered challenges we can't wait to hear what you have been up to.

£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!

Young Carers Action Day

Wednesday 11th March 2026

#fairfuturesforyoungcarers

We support young carers to reach their full potential in education, training and employment to ensure a brighter future!

CARERS TRUST

www.imago.community

PARTY NIGHT

Come join us for a party evening
with music, food and a raffle.

IN AID OF

JOE

RUNNING THE

LONDON MARATHON

Join us at
Queens Head Kingsnorth ,
Ashford, TN23 3EN

Saturday 28th February
7pm- Midnight

£10 A Ticket, All Proceeds To Macmillan
Book via Zara or Joe
or donate using the qr code tickets as reference.

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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 link 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.