# 28th November 2025 Newsletter

***Please find us on instagram and facebook:***

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **November** | |
| **Saturday 29th** | **10am-2pm - The Friends of Downs View Christmas Fair** |
| **December** | |
| **Monday 1st & Tuesday 2nd** | **3.10-4pm - Lantern Decorating Sessions After School –** the lanterns can be brought to the community sleigh evening on Wednesday 3rd – information regarding booking a space on this activity is available at https://www.friendsofdownsview.co.uk/events |
| **Wednesday 3rd** | **5pm – Community Sleigh Walk -** The Friends will be working as volunteers to collect money for the Ashford Community, alongside Santa on his sleigh. We also benefit from the donations given as a thank you for the adult volunteers Please pop along and give us a wave and an optional donation but most importantly, join in the fun! |
| **Monday 8th** | **Year 1 Christmas Performances**<br>9:10am – Dolphin Class<br>10:15am – Turtle Class<br>2.30pm – Starfish Class<br>Parents/carers are welcome to attend – 2 spaces per family have been allocated.<br>We appreciate some families have asked for an additional space, there may be a few extra spaces available on the day. We will assess at the door if there are any additional spaces and if possible one additional adult per family may be admitted. Please be aware that we may have to turn extra adults away on the day. We ask where possible that younger siblings do not attend. |
| **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 –**<br>9:10am -Ladybird Class<br>10:15am -Bee Class |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Parents/carers are welcome to attend – 2 spaces per family have been allocated.<br>We appreciate some families have asked for an additional space, there may be a few extra spaces available on the day. We will assess at the door if there are any additional spaces and if possible one additional adult per family may be admitted. Please be aware that we may have to turn extra adults away on the day. We ask where possible that younger siblings do not attend. |
| **Thursday 11th** | **Year 2 Christmas Performances –**<br>9:10am – Year 2 joint class performance – Penguin Class parents<br>2.15pm – Year 2 joint class performance- Snow Leopard Class parents<br>Parents/carers are welcome to attend – 2 spaces per family have been allocated.<br>We appreciate some families have asked for an additional space, there may be a few extra spaces available on the day. We will assess at the door if there are any additional spaces and if possible one additional adult per family may be admitted. Please be aware that we may have to turn extra adults away on the day. We ask where possible that younger siblings do not attend.<br>**Year R Trip to Gulbenkian Theatre-** a letter has been sent home regarding this trip |
| **Tuesday 16th** | • **Special Visitor -** A special visitor may pop by each classroom with a gift for all good children! The money raised by The Friends of Downs View and your donations has helped to fund this treat for the children.<br>• **3.10-4.10pm Christmas PJ day & Christmas Movie 'Alien Christmas' -** information regarding booking a space on this event is available at https://www.friendsofdownsview.co.uk/events |
| **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 |
| **Thursday 18th** | • **Menu Change** – Fish Fingers with Chips<br>Cheese Whirl with Chips<br>Jacket Potato<br>• **Christmas parties in classrooms – Children do not need to bring anything in.**<br>• **Last day of term** |
| **Friday 19th** | **Training Day – School closed to children** |
| **January** | |
| **Monday 5th** | **Children return to school** |

**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.

Registered Charity Number 1122114

**Please remember it's our Christmas fair tomorrow and we hope to see lots of you there from 10am-2pm. Come and have fun whilst raising money for your children! If you can spare some time to help, we are still in need of help, even if for half hour or help with clearing up! The Friends have worked tirelessly to prepare for the fair with lots of exciting games/ activities for you and your child to come and play! There are craft activities, food and drink and the chance to visit Santa's Grotto! There are also independent stall holders selling a range of different things which would make ideal Christmas presents. Not forgetting the raffle – such amazing prizes! You can buy tickets at the fair or contact the Friends to buy online from friendsofdownsview.co.uk**

**We can't wait to share with you how much the Friends raise.**
**Thank you for your continued support.**
**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 practising sitting with their legs crossed and their hands in their laps. |
| **Ladybird** | Ladybird class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' whilst visiting the church. |
| **Turtle** | Turtle class have been working hard on the school value of being 'ready' by sharing their ideas in class discussions. |
| **Dolphin** | Dolphin class have been working hard on the school value of being 'Respectful' by listening carefully to the pirate explain the Christmas Story at the Church! |
| **Starfish** | Starfish class have been working hard on the school value of being 'safe' by walking sensibly to the church. |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Snow Leopard** | Snow Leopard class have been practising their value of being 'ready' by beginning to rehearse our Christmas show. We are sure that you have already heard a sneak preview of some of our songs. |
| **Penguin** | Penguin class have been respectful by taking care of each other on the playground. |

**Weekly Class Achievements and updates**

**EYFS**

This week in Maths we have been engaging in activities which have encouraged us to use the concept of 1:1 correspondence. We have also been developing our understanding of the concept of cardinality – that the last number in the count tells us 'how many' things there are altogether – and have begun to apply this concept to count more abstract things, such as claps and jumps. We have also begun counting to larger numbers. Please encourage counting to numbers to larger than 20 to develop further knowledge of the counting sequence.

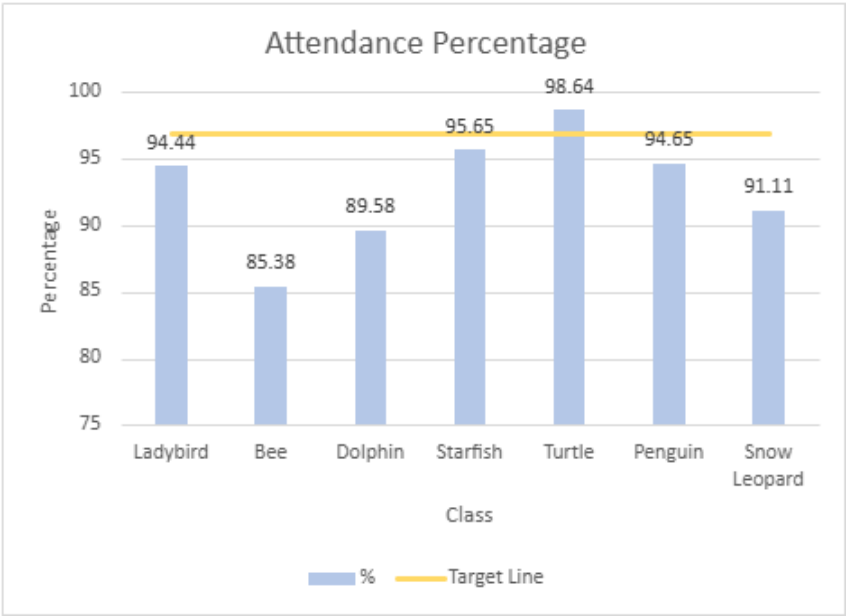
**Year 1**

This week we have been to St Mary's Church in Kennington for a Christmas workshop. We had so much fun! Can your child tell you the story of the first Christmas?

**Year 2**

This week Year 2 had great fun visiting St Mary's church and joining the pirate captain on his mission to find the keys. We learnt that Christmas is about a king for all, born under a manger. Yo ho ho and away we roll!

**Attendance**



Our school attendance for this week is **92.61%**, which is **3%** lower than last week.
This week's attendance has been significantly affected by illnesses and lates after registration closes. Well done to one class 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 **408 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.

**Farewell**

We said goodbye to Mr East, Site Manager, today. He has had an amazing impact on the environment around the school and he will be greatly missed, we wish him every success for the future. We are pleased to announce that the Site Manager at Kennington CE Academy, Steve Plumb, is helping us out with opening and checking the school site and we are working with Kennington to recruit an additional caretaker who will work across both schools.

**Academisation Consultation**

We would be very grateful if parents/carers are able to complete the feedback form on academisation. This can be easily accessed using the QR code below. It is important we have parent feedback. Thank you

**Current Vacancies**

Downs View Infant School is looking to recruit a temporary cleaner to cover staff absence on a Wednesday. This position will be fixed term from 5th January 2026 until 13th February 2026 however this will be reviewed and the contract may be extended.

**The hours of work are 3.30-6pm Wednesday, 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 by Friday 5th December.

**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.

**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 |
|---|---|
| Thursday 4th December 25 | 9:15am |
| Thursday 8th January 26 | 9:15am |

**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

# Downs View
## Superstars

# AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

## Our Menu & Theme

### Week commencing 1st of December

Monday– Pittas and Salad

Tuesday– Croissants and Fruit

Wednesday – Hot Dogs and Fruit

Thursday – Tomato soup and Fruit

Friday – Pizza Muffins and fruit

This week's theme is "Christmas"

# Ashford Family Hubs

## Christmas HAF Events

29th- 31st December 2025

## Ice Skating and Rockits Soft Play

Please note these events are open only to those who are eligible to benefit related free school meals.

**Bookings by 18th December 2025**

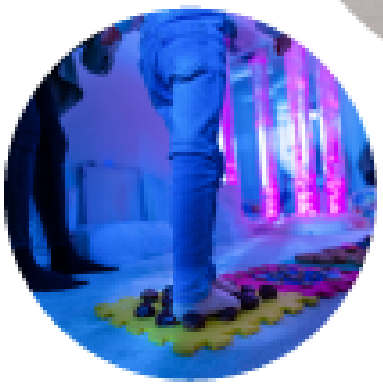
**Contact us on any of the numbers below to book:**

Between 9am - 3.30pm Monday to Friday

Ashford North Family Hub - 03000 417567
Bockhanger Family Hub - 03000 416600
Tenterden Family Hub - 03000 416400
The Willow Family Hub - 03000 416800
Waterside Family Hub - 03000 416700

**Find us on:**

Facebook or Instagram at ashfordfamilyhubs and ashfordfamilyhubs11to19



Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council

# Rockits Sensory and Soft Play

## Monday 29th December 2025

## Tenterden

Rockits Sensory
and Play
TN30 6BN

**10.45am - 12.45pm**
**Ages 5 - 10**

Join us for a Soft Play and Sensory session with lots of festive fun to break up the Christmas holidays with your little ones.
Please contact us if your child has younger siblings

Food for all children will be provided

Booking Required

HAF

# Ice Skating

## Tuesday 30th December or Wednesday 31st December 2025

Booking Required

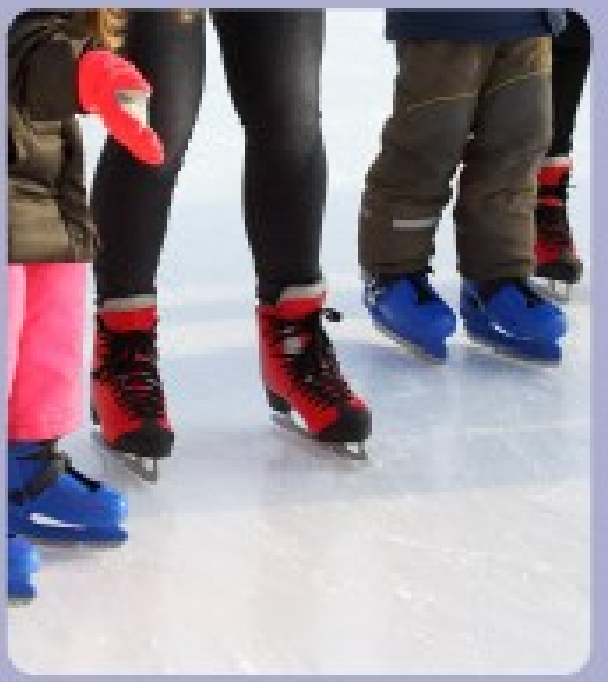
### Ashford North Family Hub
Mabledon Avenue,
Ashford, Kent TN24 8BJ

Skating fun for the whole family and young people, with snow machine with music and floodlights.
Please only book one session per family to allow others to have fun too.
Set numbers per session to ensure safety.
Food provided for children and young people

Note: there will be no onsite parking available and we request attendees to park in the nearby streets or to use public transport.

Sessions available throughout the two days. Later sessions available on 30th

HAF



# Get FREE meal plans

WITH **FIVEDINNERS**.COM

**FREE FOR ALL RESIDENTS AND WORKERS IN ASHFORD WORTH £86!**

**Fed up of deciding what to cook every night?**

**Want to save money on food shopping?**

**Just fancy eating a bit healthier?**

**Then this is for you!**

Get a new personalised meal plan and shopping list every week designed just for you - for FREE

FiveDinners

Scan the QR code or visit
**www.FiveDinners.com/MyCommunity**

**SUPPORTED BY ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Ashford Borough Council

# EAT WELL, SPEND LESS & WELLBEING ROADSHOW

PROVIDING YOU WITH RESOURCES, SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES TO THRIVE IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIVING

## NEXT ROADSHOW

**The Ashford Cinema**

**Elwick Place,**
**Elwick Road Ashford,**
**TN23 1AX**

**Wednesday 10th December 2025**

**10am – 2pm**

- **FREE** NHS health checks
- **FREE** fresh fruit & veg, food and hygiene items
- **FREE** financial, housing, benefits, health and safeguarding advice from Ashford Borough Council and local organisations

www.ashford.gov.uk/ewslwr

EAT WELL SPEND LESS & WELLBEING ROADSHOW

Funded by UK Government

NHS Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

The Hygiene Bank

Ashford Borough Council

FareShare

NHS

Premier Foods

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 SNAPCHAT

SNAP STREAK 97

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

## SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

## SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🔥 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

## SEXTORTION

CENSORED

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

CENSORED

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

# Advice for Parents & Educators

## ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

## ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

## BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

## USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.09.2025

# Now showing, CONFIDENCE!

Drama, dance & singing classes
designed to help 4–12 year olds shine

**❝ My son has adored his first term at Perform.
He has blossomed and I've seen his confidence grow every week.❞**
Pippa Wotton

PERFORM
WATCH YOUR CHILD SHINE

## Play is a POWERFUL THING

Perform classes help boost children's **confidence, concentration, coordination** and **communication** skills, as well as being lots of fun.

Our expertly designed drama, dance and singing sessions for 4-7s and 7-12s are run by experienced teachers, hand-picked for their warmth and approachability. They'll be with your child every step of the way – inspiring and encouraging them to develop vital life skills as they discover the joy of performing.

### What does Perform offer?

- Performing arts-based games and exercises
- Focus on a different social skill each week
- Small classes and feedback on your child's progress
- Specially created scripts, videos and apps
- End of term presentation for family and friends

**❝ Perform helps develop all key areas of a child in a fun, supportive and engaging way. It gives my daughter a brilliant sense of fun, community, purpose and pride in her achievements.❞**
Begum Bari

### Ready to try for free?

Your child's first class is free, so why not give it a go? Classes take place all over, have a look online or call us:

**perform.org.uk/try 020 7255 9120**

# 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"

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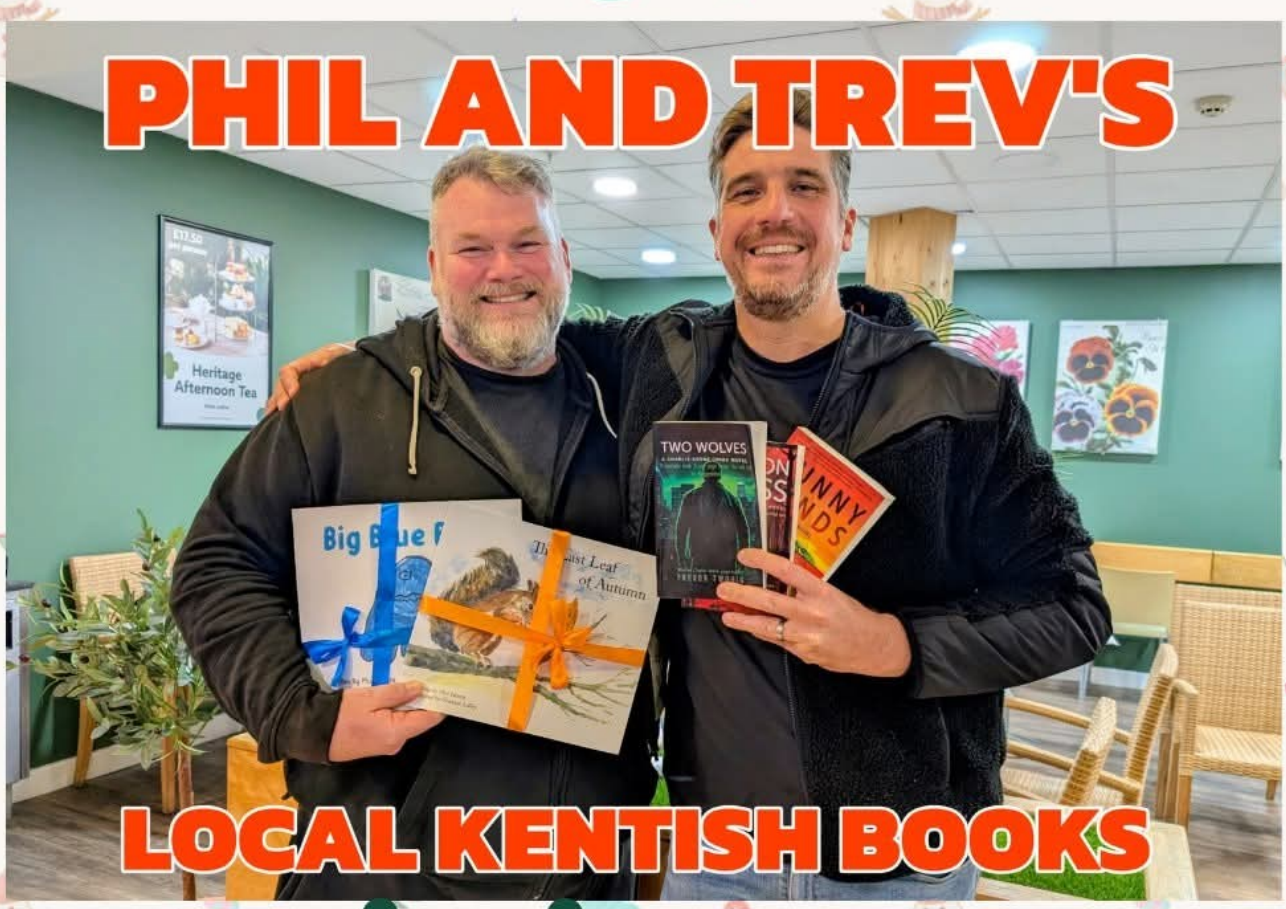
**Stanhope Parish Hall,**
**Otterden Close,**
**Ashford,**
**TN23 5TG**

**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.