30th January 2026 Newsletter

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

February	
Monday 2nd	**2.30pm - ID Play and Stay sessions for Bee 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
Wednesday 4th	**2.30pm - ID Play and Stay sessions for Snow Leopard 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
Thursday 5th	**Year 1 School Trip to Dover Museum**
Tuesday 10th	**Safer Internet Day**
Friday 13th	**£26 for 2026 Sponsored Challenge –** further information below – sponsor forms will be sent home this week **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**
March	
Monday 2nd	**3.30-6pm - Parent Consultation Meetings -** You will be notified when appointments are available to book via parentmail
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 -** You will be notified when appointments are available to book via parentmail

Wednesday 11th	**Mother's Day Sale –** further information from the Friends to follow
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.

This term, my assemblies have focused on three powerful qualities that help every learner grow: perseverance, commitment, and courage. As the children take on new challenges and step outside their comfort zones, we will explore what it means to keep going when learning feels difficult, to stay committed to goals over time, and to show courage by trying something new—even when mistakes happen. Through stories, reflection, and shared experiences, assemblies will encourage students to see learning as a journey, reminding them that progress comes not from giving up, but from believing in themselves and embracing challenges with confidence. I look forward to hearing about any goals that the children have achieved recently and celebrating these achievements with them.

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.

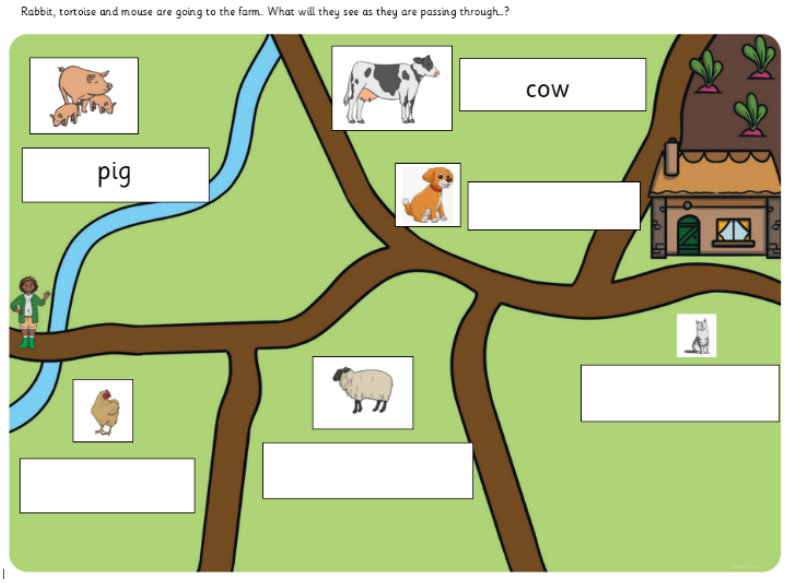
Class	Recognition
Bee	This week Bees have been working hard on being respectful by keeping the corridor clear and tidy.
Ladybird	Ladybird class have been working hard on the school value of being 'safe' by using all of the apparatus appropriately during our recent P.E lessons.
Turtle	Turtle class have been working hard on the value of being 'ready' by trying their best in handwriting lessons.
Dolphin	Dolphin class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by listening attentively to our friends during partner talk and giving appropriate responses.

Starfish	Starfish class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by discussing how we can resolve issues with our friends with kindness.
Snow Leopard	This week, Snow Leopard Class, we have been working on the key value of being ready by trying to get our wellies and waterproofs on and off more speedily.
Penguin	Penguins class have been working hard on the school value of being 'safe' by working together to create safe balances in PE.

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

This week in EYFS we have read the final part of our story 'Let's all creep through crocodile creek'. The children were excited to find out that the characters from the story were going to embark on a different journey on their way back home back through a forest. We discussed how the journey may be different and thought about what the characters may see on the way. That made us think about other journeys the characters might go on. We created a map of the farm which was one of the suggestions and then used our phonic knowledge to label each of the animals that they thought would be seen as the characters went around the farm i.e. cow, sheep, pig.
Perhaps encourage labelling of objects around your home, i.e. chair, bed. Remember to encourage your child to say the word, sound talk it and then write the sounds that they have heard in the correct order.



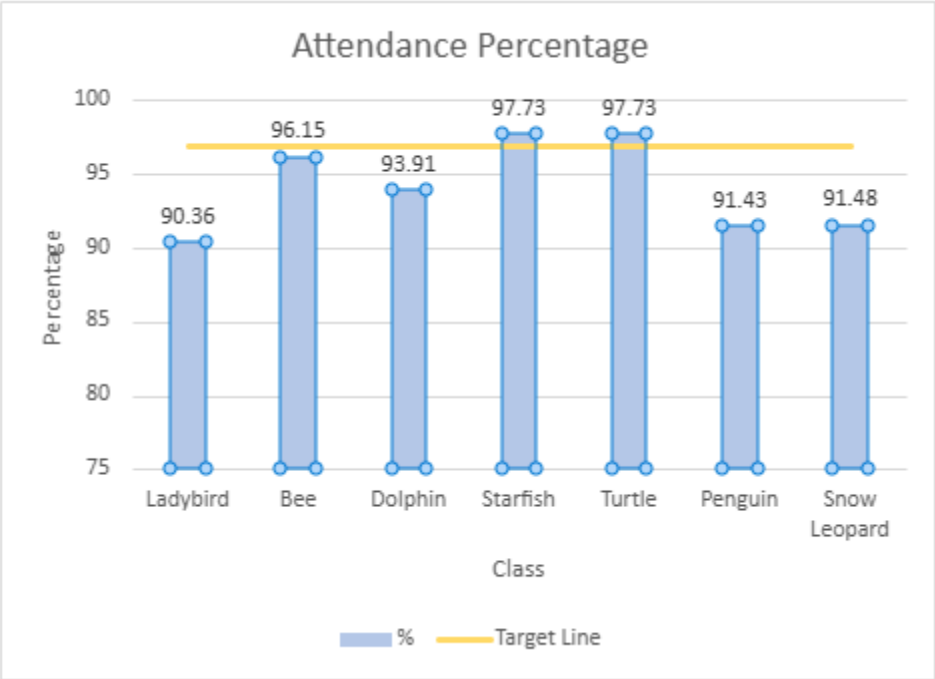
Year 1

In Year 1 this week we have made our predictions for our Science experiment next week. We have been discussing which material would be best for a teapot. Can you discuss what properties a teapot needs to be? If you have a teapot could you make tea using it?

Year 2

This week in Year 2, we have been writing instructions on how to look after a dragon. We have used bossy verbs and added conjunctions.

Attendance



Our school attendance for this week is **93.83%,** which is over **1%** higher 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 **667** 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 Dates 2026
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

£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!

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

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

SNAP STREAK 97

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.

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.

SEXTORTION

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.

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.

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.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

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

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FEBRUARY HALF TERM COURSES 2026

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ALL COURSES START AT 9am until 4pm
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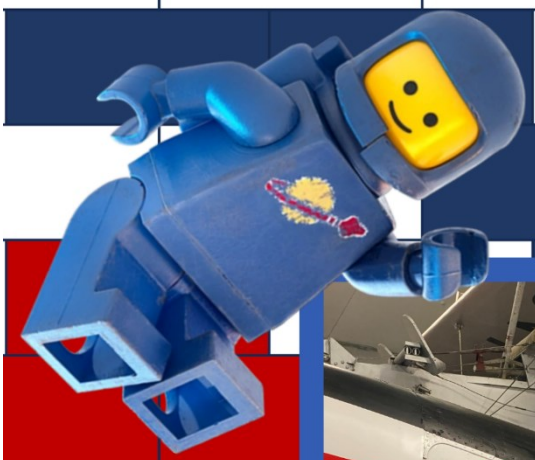
RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM

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

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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

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