31st October 2025 Newsletter

Please find us on instagram and facebook:

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

October	
Friday 31st	**Friends of Downs View Sponsored Danceathon –** this event was held in today school – Please return your child's form and any money to the school by Friday 7th November – Thank you for your support.
November	
Monday 3rd	**Poppy Appeal –** the School Council will be taking the poppy appeal items to classes each afternoon this week: further information below
Wednesday 5th	**Childhood Flu Nasal Spray Vaccination –** A parentmail has been sent with information on opting in or out of this. Please see information leaflet below - the date has changed from Monday 3rd
Tuesday 11th	**Remembrance Day** Children who belong to any uniformed youth group, for example: Brownies, Rainbows, Cubs, Beavers, may wear their uniform to school on this day. The School Council and children from these groups will join Kennington Academy to lay a poppy wreath at the memorial at 11am and a 2 minutes silence will be held across the school. Any parents are welcome to join this ceremony if they would like to.
Wednesday 12th	**9.15am** – **Prospective EYFS Parent Tours** – please see information below
Thursday 13th	**David Tricks Road Safety Magic Show –** in school all day **Funded by a grant from Boughton Lees Parish Council applied for by the Friends**
Friday 14th	**Children in Need -** further information to follow
Tuesday 25th	**6pm** – **Prospective EYFS Parent Tours** – please see information below
Friday 28th	**Non-school uniform day in exchange for donation for Christmas fayre –** details to follow.
Saturday 29th	**10am-2pm - The Friends of Downs View Christmas Fair –** please see poster below for further information

December	
Week Commencing 1st	**Lantern Decorating Sessions After School –** the lanterns can be brought to the community sleigh evening on Sunday 7th
Sunday 7th	**Santa Sleigh Procession –** the Friends are looking for volunteers to join them on this event to help with the collection buckets
Monday 8th	**Year 1 Christmas Performances** 9:10am – Dolphin Class 10:15am – Turtle Class 2.30pm – Starfish Class Parents/carers are welcome to attend – 2 spaces per family have been allocated.
Wednesday 10th	**Year R (EYFS) Christmas Performances –** 9:10am -Ladybird Class 10:15am -Bee Class Parents/carers are welcome to attend – 2 spaces per family have been allocated.
Thursday 11th	**Year 2 Christmas Performances –** 9:10am – Year 2 joint class performance – Penguin Class parents 2.15pm – Year 2 joint class performance- Snow Leopard Class parents Parents/carers are welcome to attend – 2 spaces per family have been allocated. **Year R Trip to Gulbenkian Theatre-** a letter has been sent home regarding this trip
Tuesday 16th	**Christmas PJ day & Christmas Movie after school**
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

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.

The Friends of Downs View Sponsored Danceathon

The children have enjoyed the danceathon today, having fun dancing to popular songs with their friends. Thank you to the Friends of Downs View for organising the event and decorating the hall and to you for sponsoring your child/care. All the money raised will go towards resources and events for your children to experience whilst at school.

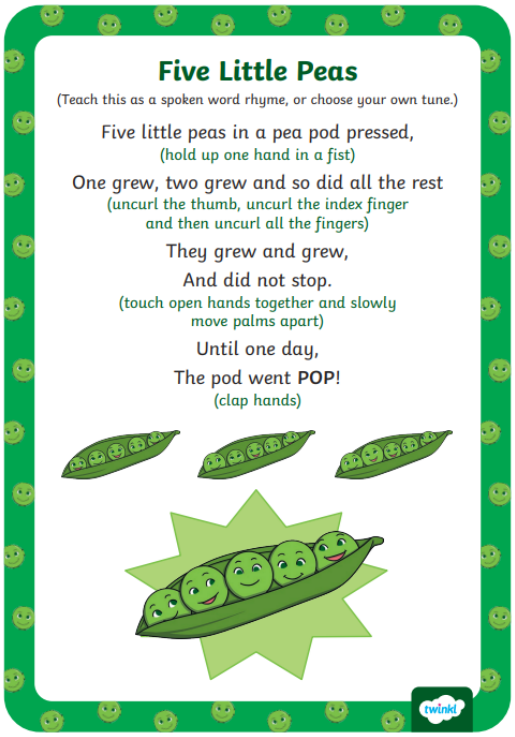
Mrs Collins

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 'ready' by practising taking their wellies off, putting them under their pegs tidily & putting their shoes back on.
Ladybird	Ladybird class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by listening to others thoughts and opinions during a PSED lesson on emotions.
Turtle	Turtle class have been working really hard on the value of 'respect' by using kind words to their friends.
Dolphin	Dolphins class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by helping our new classmate settle into school.
Starfish	This week Starfish class have been working really hard on the values of 'respect and safe' by discussing what we can do when we are feeling angry.
Snow Leopard	This week Snow Leopard Class have been amazing following our value of 'keeping safe' by keeping quiet and calm to ensure the owls were not scared and felt safe.
Penguin	Penguins class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by welcoming a new friend into our class this week!

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS
This week we have had fun in EYFS starting the new book for this term 'The Three Little Pigs!". We have been looking for tricky words within the text and have been using our segmenting and blending to read unknown three letter words. In Math's we have been reciting the rhyme 5 little peas in a pea pod pressed. At home recall the rhyme, encourage your child to show you the correct number of fingers after you have recalled a number from 0-5. Or roll a dice and see if they can collect that many objects.



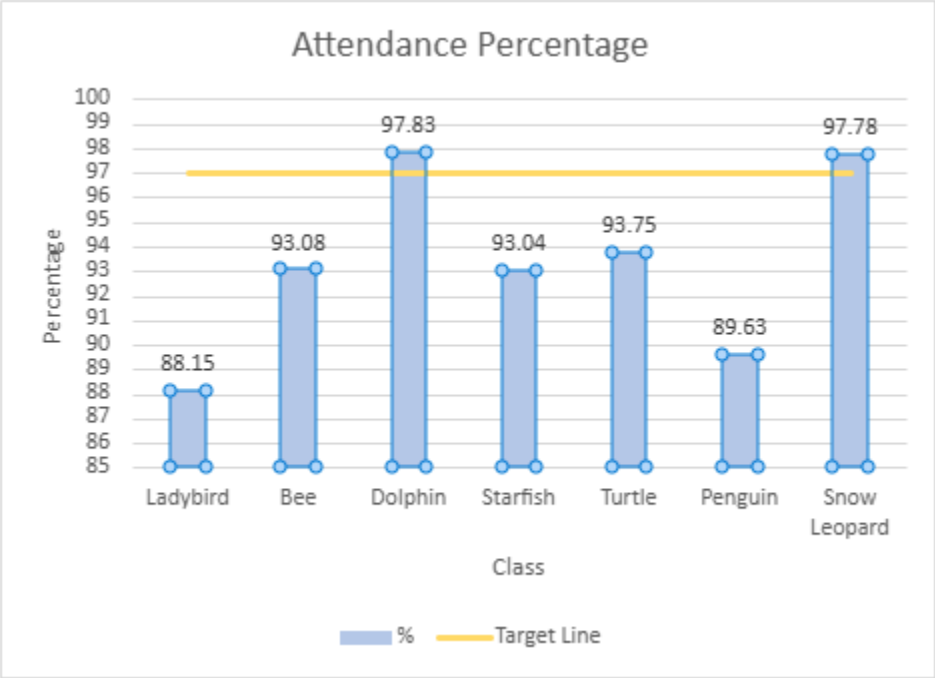
Year 1
In Year 1 this week we have started reading our story of the term 'Nibbles the Book Monster.' Nibbles has been really cheeky and has been nibbling lots of items in the classroom! We have written wanted posters to try and find him. Can you draw a picture of Nibbles and label it with adjectives to show your grown-up what he looks like.

Year 2
This week Year 2 have had such fun learning about owls! We enjoyed meeting Norman the burrowing owl, and Hobnob and Mandella the Tawny Owls! Ask us what we have learnt.

Junk Modelling Materials

All year groups have kindly requested that if you have any packaging that could be used for junk modelling such as boxes, plastic trays please could they be brought in to school. The classes are running short and need topping up. The packaging will also be used at play times for junk modelling activities in the Dolphin Pod. We need packaging to be brought regularly into school to ensure this activity is available. Thank you for your support with this.

Attendance



Our school attendance for the first week of term 2 is 93.18%. This week we have seen quite a few term time holidays and illnesses that has affected each class as you can see in the chart above.

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 238 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.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2025

We are supporting the Poppy Appeal again this year. The School Council children will be visiting each class in the afternoons next week with a selection of items available including key rings, wrist bands, snap bands and poppies. The poppy appeal is asking for a donation for the items. We have a limited stock, so children will only be able to purchase one item.

The Bell is Back!

You may have noticed a quiet start to our school days recently; our beloved school bell, which has marked the beginning of each day for over 30 years, had unfortunately broken. We hoped to get the bell fixed as it is a cherished part of our school's history.

We're thrilled to share that thanks to the incredible craftsmanship of local wood-turner Bob Cooper, the bell has been beautifully restored with a brand-new handle. This morning, we heard its familiar ring once again, a sound that brought smiles and a sense of tradition back to our school.

Bob will be showcasing his woodturning skills at Perry Court Farm's Festive Fayre on the 8th & 9th of November. If you're attending, be sure to stop by and see him in action; he often brings his lathe along and will be demonstrating his skills! A huge thank you to Bob for helping us preserve a piece of our school's story.

Nasal Flu Vaccination

The Immunisation Team will be visiting Downs View Infant School on Wednesday 5 November 2025 to administer the Flu Nasal Spray Vaccinations to children in Year R, Year 1 and Year 2. Information has been sent via parentmail regarding logging on to the e-consent portal to either accept or decline this for your son/daughter. The e-consent portal will close on **31 October 2025**.

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

Term Dates 2025-2026
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)

Play Practitioner/Therapeutic Play
We currently have access to a therapeutic play worker who is providing private therapeutic play services based at Downs View School.

Her name is Lisa Sommerville, Lisa previously worked at our school as the school's SENCO and taught at the school for many years. Lisa is a PTUK certified Play Practitioner with over three decades of Primary School teaching experience, including nationally recognised Special Educational Needs Coordinator accreditation.

Her company Sunbeam Therapeutic Play services provide high-quality, one-to-one therapeutic play consultancy for children with social/ emotional, communication and/ or behavioural difficulties.

Therapeutic Play provides an environment where children have an opportunity to process and express their emotions through play and can be particularly helpful for children who may be having difficulties finding the words to convey negative thoughts and feelings. In short, Therapeutic Play can help children to be the best they can be.

To find out more about the services that Lisa can offer to support your child please ask to speak to Miss Stanley or the office and they can answer any questions you may have and/or put you in contact with Lisa Sommerville.

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

DEVELOPING HEALTHY SLEEP PATTERNS

Quality sleep is paramount for wellbeing as it impacts our cognitive function, emotional balance and overall health. A World Health Organisation study highlighted that **44%** of young people reported difficulty sleeping – potentially affecting their mood, concentration and immune system. Our guide offers expert tips for helping children to sleep more healthily.

1 MINDFUL TECH USE

Encourage a balanced approach to screen time. While phones, laptops, tablets and so on can serve as a helpful means of stress relief, it's advisable to minimise their use right before bed. These devices can keep the mind racing long after they're switched off, impacting how easily and how well a person can sleep.

2 EFFECTIVE SLEEP PRACTICES

Offer practical advice on reinforcing certain habits that have a positive influence on sleeping patterns. Children could start keeping a diary which they add to each evening, for example – or they could use up excess energy by exercising during the day.

3 HYDRATION HABITS

Underline the importance of drinking plenty of water throughout the day, while limiting drinks close to bedtime to prevent disruptions during the night: it's a lot harder to switch off if you keep needing to get out of bed for the toilet. Avoiding caffeinated drinks later in the day also allows the body and brain to slow down naturally, without any chemicals firing them back up.

4 CONSISTENT BEDTIME SCHEDULE

Assist children in developing consistent bedtime routines that tell the body it's time to wind down, promoting a more relaxed state. Establish specific activities for young ones right before going to bed – such as brushing their teeth – to set up an association between that action and falling asleep.

5 OPTIMAL SLEEP ENVIRONMENT

Ensure that the bedroom is comfortable, dark and free from distractions, fostering an ideal space for quality rest. The room's temperature should also be suitable for sleeping – that is, not too hot and not too cold – while rooms should be kept as tidy and free of clutter as possible.

6 RELAXING EVENING ACTIVITIES

Recommend activities that have a calming effect on the mind – such as reading or gentle stretching – in the lead up to bedtime, to prepare the mind for a peaceful night's sleep. Doing something quiet, relaxing and low intensity signals to the brain that it's time to rest and makes falling asleep much easier.

7 PRIORITISING ADEQUATE SLEEP

Emphasise the crucial role of sleep in maintaining physical and emotional wellbeing. It's especially important to sustain a healthy sleep pattern during challenging and intensive periods in our lives: during the exam season for children and young people, for instance.

8 NUTRITIONAL BALANCE

Highlight the significance of a healthy, balanced diet – and its role in establishing a more consistent sleep pattern. Try to lean towards preparing meals with plenty of fruit and vegetables, served in reasonable portion sizes: not only is this a lot healthier, but it also reduces the chances of feeling too full to be comfortable in bed.

9 PARENTAL SUPPORT

Parents and carers, of course, are uniquely situated to support their children in establishing and maintaining healthy sleeping habits. Parents can review their own sleep habits (incorporating anything from this list that they don't do already) to model a balanced bedtime routine and reinforce the importance of self-care.

10 MILITARY SLEEP METHOD

Look up 'the military sleep method': it's a technique for falling asleep quickly, which incorporates deep breathing exercises. You could encourage children to try it or even use it yourself. While it can take a good deal of practice to perfect, eventually it will start to feel natural – and the results are often extremely impressive!

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. Winner of the Social Enterprise UK: 'One to Watch' award, the charity provides training and support to education organisations and local authorities. This guide has been written by Adam Gillett – a learning and development specialist who is also Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at a large secondary school.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 13.03.2024

The Friends of Downs View

Christmas FAIR

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

10AM - 2PM

Santa's grotto, Crafts, Games,
Market stalls, Hot Food & Drink,
Raffle & MORE!

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.

Design Ashford Borough Council's Christmas Card!

Children aged 4 to 11 can enter

Deadline: Sunday 9 November 2025

Submit entries to **christmascardcomp@ashford.gov.uk**

WIN £30 worth of Waterstones vouchers and 10 printed cards to send to family and friends.

Selected dates available in November & December for....

RH&DR

SANTA SPECIALS 2025

Santa Special Tickets include:

- Return steam train journey from New Romney to Hythe
- A visit to meet Santa in his grotto
- A quality, age related gift for each child aged 0 - 17 years*
- Seasonal refreshments
- Entrance to Model Railway Exhibition prior to departure
- Platform rides on our visiting engine 'Soony'
- Snowy scenes on return to New Romney

& much more!....

PRE-BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

QUIET TRAIN
2 dates available in Nov & Dec

*Under 1's go free without a gift

SCAN ME

RH&DR
ROMNEY, HYTHE & DYMCHURCH RAILWAY

Book online now: www.rhdr.org.uk
call 01797 362353 or email info@rhdr.org

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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Family fitness

DANCE AND CHEER

get fit and have fun

Thursday 6:30 pm - 7:15pm

£7 per adult £3 per child

FUTURE DANCE

studio 5, Little Burton,
kennington, ashford
07896198442