3rd October 2025 Newsletter

Please find us on instagram and facebook:

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

October	
Friday 10th	**Mental Health Day –** non-school uniform to be worn
Monday 13th	**3.30-6pm - Parent Consultation Meeting** – the booking system is open on parentmail to book a 10 minutes appointment with your child's class teacher, please contact the school office if you need further assistance.
Tuesday 14th	**9.15am** – **Prospective EYFS Parent Tours** – please see information below
Thursday 16th	**3.30-6pm Parent Consultation Meeting** – the booking system is open on parentmail to book a 10 minutes appointment with your child's class teacher, please contact the school office if you need further assistance.
Friday 17th	**Last day of Term 1**
Half Term Monday 20th October to Friday 24th October	
Monday 27th	**1st Day of Term 2**
Friday 31st	**Friends of Downs View Sponsored Danceathon –** this event will be held in school further information will be sent out on October 17th.
November	
Monday 3rd	**Childhood Flu Nasal Spray Vaccination –** A parentmail has been sent with information on opting in or out of this. Please see information leaflet below.
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

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.

It has been lovely to spend some time in After School Club and see the children enjoying their time in the club playing with their friends. Don't forget your child can attend the club on an adhoc basis if you require wraparound provision after school at short notice. Just phone up the office and request a space for them. The cost is £12 per session.

Thank you to all parents and carers who kindly donated food and toiletries. The children have learnt about harvest and have reflected on how lucky we are to have food and drink daily and had time to reflect on others who are less fortunate in this country and around the world. The donations will be distributed within our local community, thank you again for your 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 ready by showing they are following carpet times rules ready for learning time.
Ladybird	Ladybird class have been working hard on the school value of being ready by being curious, exploring new things and being willing to experiment during ID times.
Turtle	Turtle class have been working hard on the school value of being ready by remembering to swap their share book.
Dolphin	Dolphins class have been working hard on the school value of being safe by making sure the corridor is tidy.
Starfish	Starfish class have been working hard on the school value of being ready by remembering the welly routines at different points of the day.
Snow Leopard	Snow Leopard class have been working on the value of being safe by moving carefully around the classroom and school corridors.
Penguin	Penguins class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by being kind to their friends in the playground.

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

This week in EYFS we have been continuing the story 'Peace at Last'. We used some of the images from the book to create our own rhyming game. We had to choose an image to put in the soup bowl and then find the image that rhymed with it - stair-chair, star-car.

At home practice saying nursery rhymes and listen out for the words that rhyme i.e. wall and fall in 'Humpty Dumpty' or have a go at this game...

1. A rhyming basket

The rhyming game

Forget the spelling, this example of rhyming games EYFS is completely auditory. You just need to identify similar-sounding words by pairing the objects in the basket with similar sounds.

What you need

- A basket.
- Toys and objects that have a rhyming partner — like a goat and a boat, a fox and a box, or a cat and a hat.

How to do it

First, allow the child to pick an object from the basket and name it.
Now, you can look through all of the other objects in the basket, together, to identify its rhyming pair. Encourage the child to run through the names out loud. You might need to repeat the name of the first object every now and again to keep reminding the child of the rhyming sound they're trying to make.

Year 1

In Science this week we have been learning about reptiles, can your child tell you 3 facts about reptiles? Can you make a reptile out of junk modelling materials?

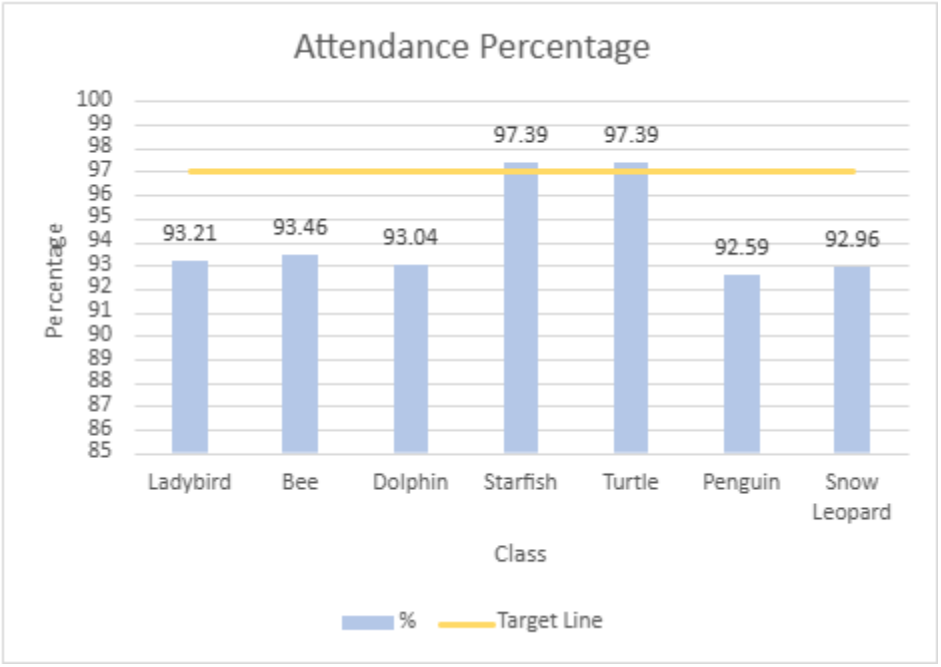
Year 2

This week Year 2 have been practising counting in multiples of 2, 5 and 10 in Maths. Can you help us practise at home?

Headlice

There have been several cases of head lice in school. It is important that you check your child's hair regularly to help prevent them spreading to other children. If you find head lice, your local chemist or doctor can advise on treatment and which lotion to use.
If your child has head lice you will also need to examine the heads of all other members of the household. If head lice are found they should also be treated at the same time.

Attendance



Our school attendance for this week is **94.15%**, due to illness and term time absence this is a drop compared to last week which you can see when looking at the class attendance for this week, with two classes getting over the expected **97%**; well-done to them!
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 **206 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.

After School Club – The Downs View Superstars

The highlight of the week at After School Club was the children trying new things whether that's new foods or playing with something new. We noticed a lot of children being independent or working together to try things.

Nasal Flu Vaccination

The Immunisation Team will be visiting Downs View Infant School on Wednesday 3 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**. Please see the information leaflet below.

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

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)

Downs View
Superstars

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Our Menu & Theme

Week commencing 6th of October

Monday- Wholemeal pittas , ham, chicken, cheese and salad

Tuesday- Cheese on toast and fruit

Wednesday - Pasta and Fruit

Thursday- Hot dogs and fruit

Friday - Croissants and fruit

This week's theme is "Seasons Week"

21 Aug
24 Aug
30 Aug

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.

Source: https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 13.09.2023

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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If you want to order more copies of this poster, please visit: healthpublications.gov.uk/Home.html or call 0300 123 1002.

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.

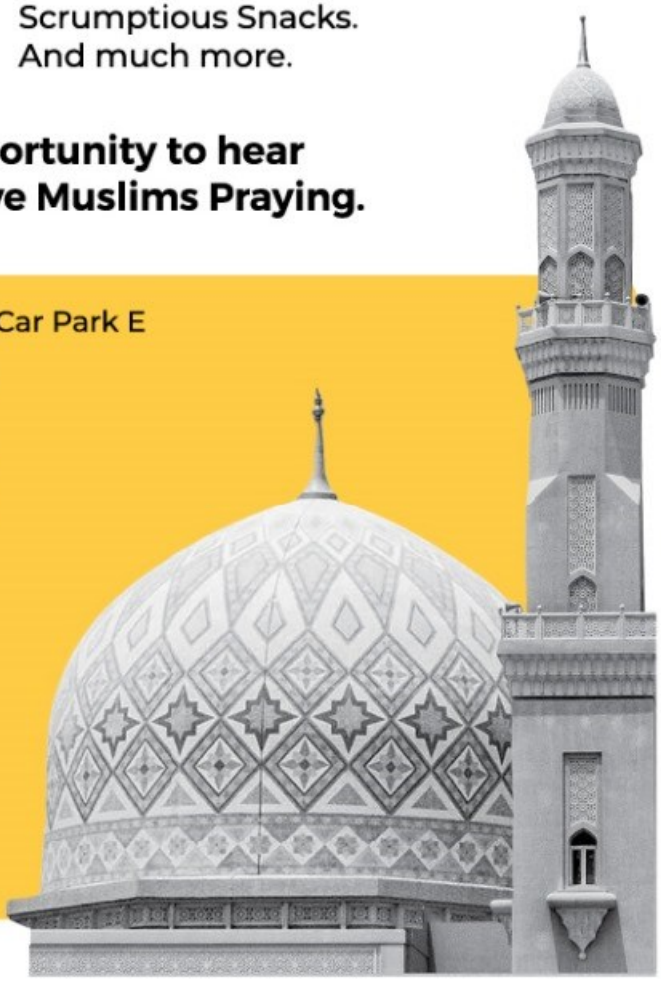
A translation of the Quran & Books for you to keep.
Kids' Corner.
Face Painting, Henna.
Tea/coffee & Scrumptious Snacks.
And much more.

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



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

www.yourspacetherapies.org

October Half Term Mindfulness Pony Day for Kids!

Date: Wednesday 29th October 2025
Time: 9am- 2pm
Location: Ponies 'n' Kids, Eaton Thorne Stables, Woodmancote, Nr Henfield, W.Sussex, BN5 9AG

Join us for a magical day designed especially for children ages 5-11! Dive into a world of peace, friendship, and mindfulness, all while experiencing the calming presence of our adorable ponies.

What to Expect:

Mindfulness Time with Ponies

Pony Care

Riding and Mounted Games

Connect with Nature

Make New Friends

Scan the QR code or click this link to book: Mindfulness Pony Day 29th October 2025

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 15TH OCTOBER.

Spaces limited to 15 children

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.

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

MODELFEST

RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM

Charity No. 1179982

AT THE MUSEUM 10am - 4pm

18TH-26TH OCTOBER 2025

Planes, Trains & Automobiles

A series of model displays including;

WARHAMMER 40,000

World War II Wargames Rules

BOLT ACTION

SCALEXTRIC

& much more!

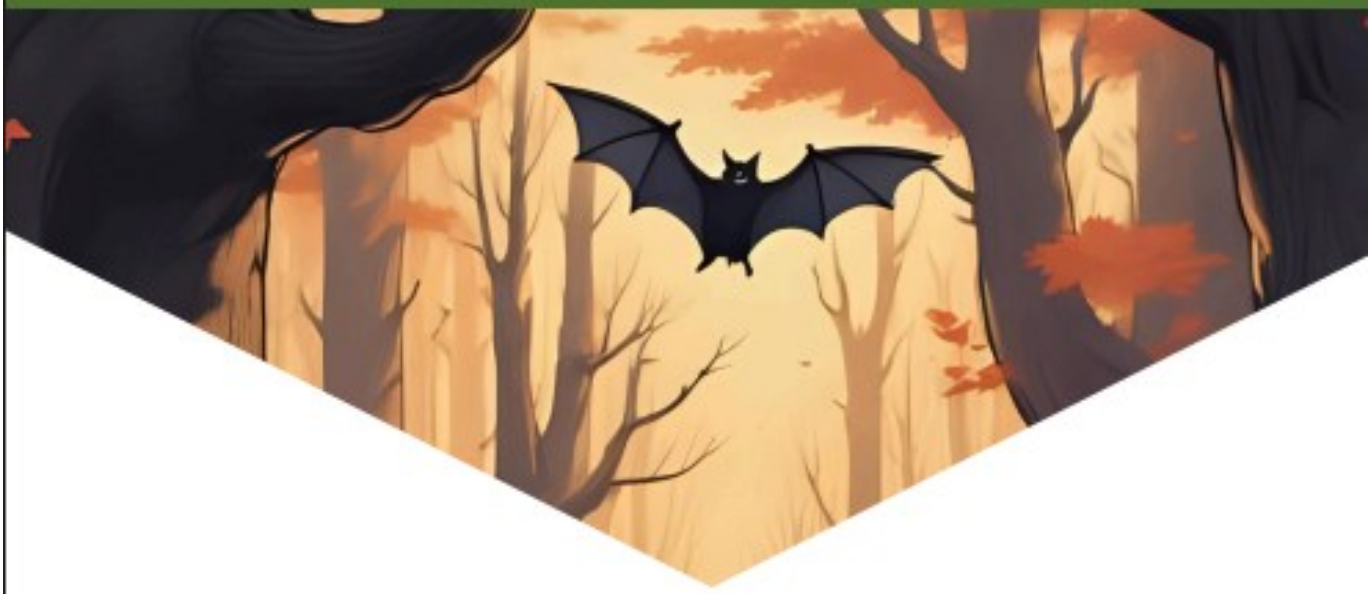
Usual Museum entrance prices apply, see webpage for more information

@RAF Manston History Museum

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@rafmanston.co.uk

Subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to, weather conditions, mechanical breakdowns and shortage of volunteers and/or exhibitors.

GODINTON HOUSE AND GARDENS



HALF TERM WORKSHOPS
GETTING BATTY AT GODINTON!
THURSDAY 23RD OCTOBER

Start with a bat-tastic trail around the gardens, discovering amazing bat facts. Then warm up inside with a hot drink and make your own bat mobile using natural materials.

Workshop times:
10am - 12pm
1pm - 3pm

TICKET PRICE: £3 PER CHILD

Under 4s are free. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information and to purchase tickets please visit www.godintonhouse.co.uk

The Godinton House Preservation Trust - Charity No. 1002278

GODINTON HOUSE, GODINTON LANE,
ASHFORD, KENT TN23 3BP