6th February 2026 Newsletter

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

February	
Children's Mental Health Week: 9th–15th February – further information below	
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 (not Starfish Class –** a separate parentmail has been sent to Starfish Class about this**) -** 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 (not Starfish Class –** a separate parentmail has been sent to Starfish Class about this**) -** 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.

The children have enjoyed using some new equipment in the playground this week. A huge thank to the Friends for their fundraising and for parents/carers who have supported their events as this has funded the new items.
We are very proud of the year 1 children who followed our school values whilst on their trip to Dover Museum yesterday. They had a wonderful time and the museum offered lot of hands-on learning opportunities for the children.
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 being respectful by listening to each other's thoughts and ideas
Ladybird	Ladybird class have been working hard on the school value of being 'ready' by showing curiosity and excitement when learning about another important person from the past (Mary Seacole) and how she influenced medicine, health and well-being.
Turtle	Turtle class have been working hard on the value of being 'safe' by listening to the adults on the school trip.
Dolphin	Dolphin class have been working hard on the school value of being 'safe' on the school trip to Dover Museum by listening to the adults and following instructions carefully.
Starfish	This weekend starfish class, we have been showing that we are ready to learn while on our school trip to Dover Museum
Snow Leopard	This week Snow Leopard Class have been working hard on the key value of being respectful. We have celebrated our friends' achievements and have listened respectfully to other's thoughts and ideas.
Penguin	Recognition award for Penguins this week: "Penguins class have been working hard on the school value of being 'respectful' by inviting others to play with them at play times."

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

The children have really enjoyed over this term learning about people from the past. We have focused on those that have had an importance on medicine including William Harvey, Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. At home have a look through some old family photos, talk to grandparents about their childhood and explore what is 'old and new' i.e.

Year 1
In year one this week we have been on our school trip to Dover museum. We had great fun finding out about toys from the past. Can you talk to your child about how toys have changed over the past 100 years or so? Can you talk about what materials toys are now made from compared to what they were made from in Victorian times?

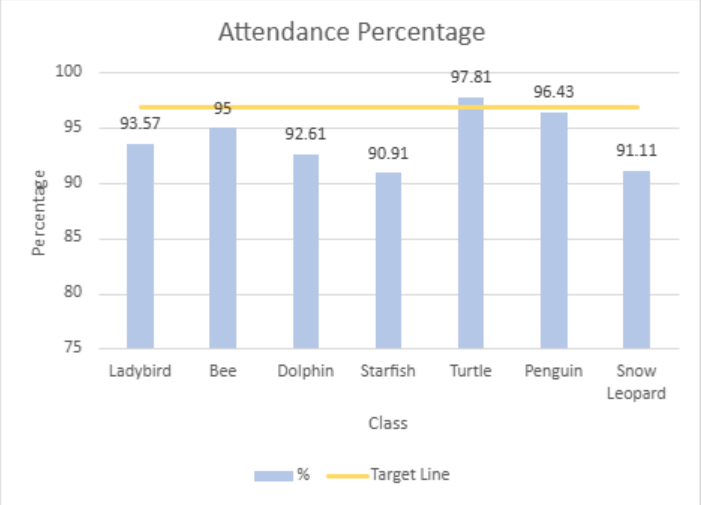
Year 2
This week the children in Year 2 have loved learning about 3D shapes in Maths. Can you spot any at home?

Parent/School Communications
We offer an open-door policy for parents/carers to communicate with us. If you would like to discuss something in more depth with your child's class team or a member of our Senior Leadership Team/SENCO please contact the school office in person, via telephone or email and this can be arranged**.**

Children's Mental Health Week: 9th–15th February
Next week is Children's Mental Health Week, and this year's theme is all about belonging and helping children find their place in the world. We'll be doing some activities in school to explore this together.

If you'd like to take a look at the theme or try something at home, you can find more information here:
https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/

Attendance



Our school attendance for this week is **93.89%**, which is roughly the same as 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 **158** minutes of learning has been lost, this is significantly lower than last week which is fantastic.

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

New Wells church as running a Free Half term holiday club this February, there will be a bouncy castle, soft play bus, games, crafts, sports and much more. If your child is in Primary school, they are invited! You can sign up here using this link: https://forms.gle/GNqvK2mRyw2zBZdn6

£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 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.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so enthrals young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK ... and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

Algorithms rank content by user interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss who they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds: if alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across unsuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces: involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at. Be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound pings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practise mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area at home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert

Shazia Sarwar-Azim is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of The Rainbow Within, a book which supports children with SEMH needs.

Sources: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-53034605
https://sproutsocial.com/insights/social-media-algorithms/

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: 30.11.2022

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FEBRUARY HALF TERM COURSES 2026

Ofsted Edenred HAF

ALL COURSES HAVE LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE, SO BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

We are excited to be running our Multi Sports Courses & Football at fantastic venues where we will provide various activities such as:

ATHLETICS CRICKET DANCE FOOTBALL TRI-GOLF BASKETBALL SCOOTERS DODGE BALL INFLATABLES OUTDOOR ADVENTURE BIKES

ALL COURSES ARE NOW BOOKED ON-LINE or USE QR LINK
www.elite-coaching-uk.co.uk/holiday-club-bookings

ALL COURSES START AT 9am until 4pm

All Courses are for Primary School Children (Year 1- Year 6)

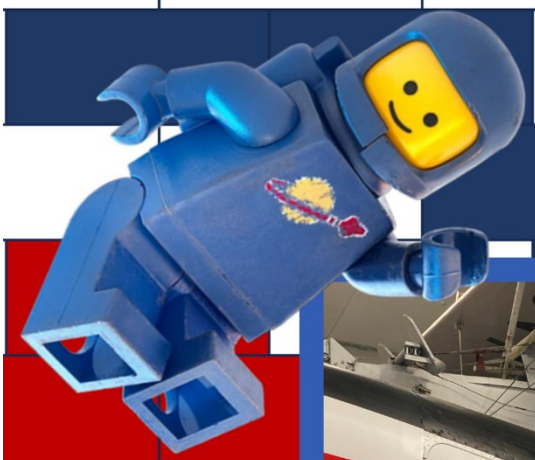
EACH CHILD WILL NEED TO BRING FOOTBALL BOOTS / SHINPADS (Football Only) AND APPROPRIATE CLOTHING, PACKED LUNCH AND AT LEAST 1 LITRE OF STILL DRINK (NO – FIZZY

LL OUR VENUES<<

BRICKS AT THE MUSEUM

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

BOOK HERE

LEGO FIGURE HUNT
SEARCH AROUND THE MUSEUM, FIND THE HIDDEN LEGO FIGURES & WIN A PRIZE...ONLY £1.50

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,

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.