7th November 2025 Newsletter

Please find us on instagram and facebook:

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

November	
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 **3.10pm – Charity Cake Sale –** cakes will be on sale in the playground after school. One of our reception child's parent is taking part in the London marathon in April, they are raising money for MacMillian Cancer Support. Your support is much appreciated.
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 –** children can wear pyjamas, something spotty or non-school uniform with a spotty accessory. The Lenham School pupils will be visiting and will perform an upbeat dance number to our pupils as part of a 'Dance Dash' around Kent. They will be bringing their charity buckets to raise money for Children in Need, if you would like to donate the children can bring in some coins -this is optional.
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

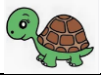
Your views, compliments or suggestions…….

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 School Council have been doing a great job this week visiting the classes in the afternoons with the RBL Poppy Appeal merchandise - Thank you for your support in donating to this cause. We will let you know how much money was raised, once we hear. 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 on Tuesday and a 2 minutes silence will be held across the school. Any parents are welcome to join this ceremony if they would like to.

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 putting their coats on, taking them off and then hanging them tidily on their pegs.
Ladybird	Ladybird class have been working hard on the school value of being 'ready' by trying new things during this week's PE lesson where we have been dancing like different jungle animals.
Turtle 	Turtle Class have been working hard on the value of being 'respectful' by not talking over others.
Dolphin	Dolphins class have been working hard on the school value of being 'ready' by listening and following instructions from the adults in class.
Starfish	Starfish class have been working hard on school value of being 'safe' by lining up sensibly.
Snow Leopard	Snow Leopard class have been working on the key value of being 'ready' by clearing up ID resources quickly to be ready for Guided Reading.
Penguin	Penguin class have been showing 'respect' by using manners in the playground.

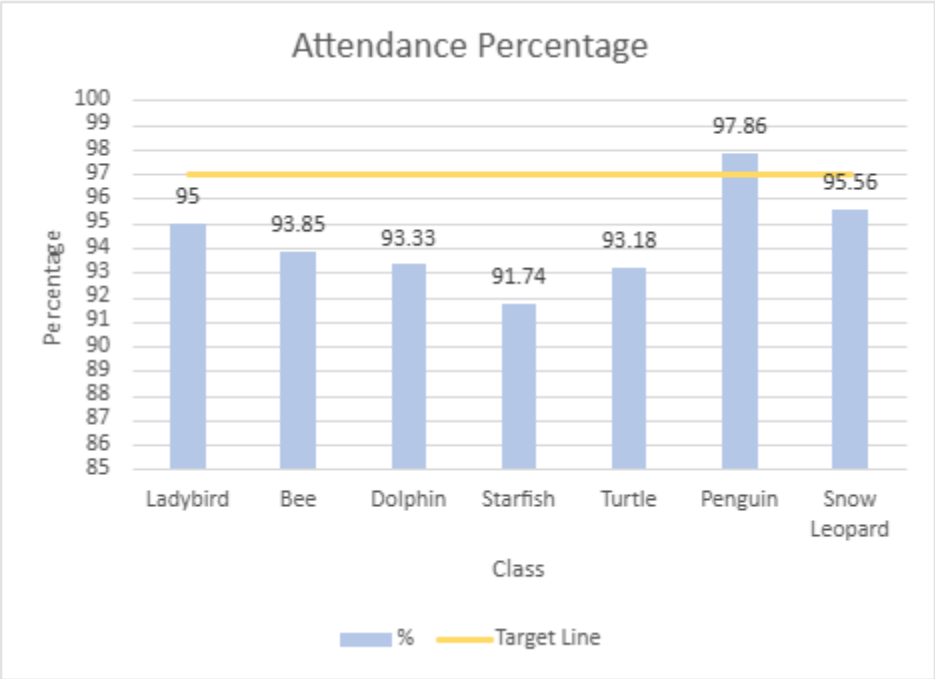
Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS
This week in EYFS we have been helping the pigs pack their suitcases in preparation for moving into their new homes. We had to read the CVC words and find the correct objects to put in. We then added a few of our own things and wrote our own labels for these objects. This week at home encourage your child to use their phonic knowledge to segment the sounds within words and maybe even write these words down i.e. bag b-a-g, hat h-a-t

Year 1
This week Year 1 have had lots of fun learning all about Bonfire night. We explored lots of different historical themed items about the Gunpowder Plot and have been introduced to Guy Fawkes. We watched some videos of fireworks and learnt why we celebrate every year. Some of us even shared stories about our own experiences with watching firework displays. Can you ask your children who Guy Fawkes is and why we remember him each year?

Year 2
This week Year 2 have been learning about significant people from History. We know that significant people are people that have changed people's lives for better or worse, changed events at the time they lived, had a lasting effect on their country or their world or been a really good or bad example on how to live or behave. Can you ask your children if they could think of a significant person?

Attendance



Our school attendance for this week is **94.46**%.

This week we have seen a quite a few term time holidays and illnesses that has affected each class as you can see in the chart above, with only one class getting 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 **224** 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.

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

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

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 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 games 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 AMONG US

AGE RESTRICTION 7 PEGI

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as *The Traitors*, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it *is* worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.

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: 04.10.2023

PERRY COURT FARM

Festive Fayre

Join us on the 8th & 9th November
10am - 3pm

Country Crafts & Demonstrations
Christmas Gifts ★ Festive
Refreshments ★ Floral Festivities
Tombola & Raffle

All proceeds to the Ashford Pilgrims Hospice

Perry Court Farm ★ Canterbury Road ★ Ashford ★ Kent ★ TN25 4ES
See www.perrycourt.farm for more

citizens advice North & West Kent

Money & Pensions Service

Are you struggling with debt?

Please don't ignore it. Take action today.

Our expert Debt Advice team are here to support you every step of the way!

We provide free, confidential, independent, and impartial debt advice and support that's right for you.

We can help you:

- deal with your debts or arrears
- find ways to deal with your creditors
- draw up a budget of money coming in and money going out
- find ways to save money
- access financial support available, like benefits and grants, if eligible, **and more**

Contact us for an appointment

Phone: 03300 533 667

Email: debt@nwkent.cab.org.uk

When contacting us, please provide your name and contact details for a call back.

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

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