Ready, Respectful, Safe

16th October 2026 Newsletter

Please find us on instagram and facebook:

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

October	
Monday 19th	Parent Consultation Meetings – All classes – **except Penguin and Starfish** – the meetings are being held in the school hall. Please access via the main office reception area
Wednesday 21st	Parent Consultation Meetings – All classes **except Penguin** and **Starfish -** the meetings are being held in the school hall. Please access via the main office reception area
Half Term Friday 23rd October until Monday 2nd November (inclusive)	
November	
Tuesday 3rd	**1st Day of Term 2**
Wednesday 4th	**Childhood Flu Nasal Spray Vaccination –** A parentmail has been sent with information on opting in or out of this. Please opt in or out by 30th October 2026.
Monday 9th	Parent Consultation Meetings – **Penguin class only**
Thursday 12th	Parent Consultation Meetings – **Penguin class only**

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.

A Wonderful Week of Learning and Creativity!

It has been lovely to see the children dressed up today as their future aspirations! So many children have been eager to share what they love, what they enjoy and what they dream of becoming. It has also been wonderful to see so many simply enjoying the chance to come to school in their own clothes!

Year 1 have been busy getting creative this week and have now finished their clay animal creations. These have been carefully painted and look fantastic! They will soon be making their way home, ready for the children to show off their wonderful work.

In Reception, it has been lovely to see Drawing Club evolving and developing. The children have been embracing their creativity and bringing their ideas to life through drawing. If you haven't already, do take a look in the Reception area to find out more about what Drawing Club is all about!

Meanwhile, Year 2 have certainly been making us hungry! As part of their Design and Technology learning, the children have been designing and making some delicious-looking sandwiches. We wonder how many of these tasty creations have inspired lunch ideas at home!

A little reminder that Parents' Evening takes place next week on Monday and Wednesday evening**.** This is a valuable opportunity to chat with your child's teacher about how they are settling in, their progress and all the wonderful learning taking place. Please note that Parents' Evening for Starfish and Penguin classes will take place during Term 2.

Finally, I thought I would borrow a lovely idea from the Reception team for those of you who like to plan ahead when it comes to Christmas presents. As Mrs Smith says, *it's never too early to think about Christmas!* With Halloween and Bonfire Night just around the corner, it won't be long before we are in full Christmas swing. Take a look at the end of this newsletter for some lovely ideas to get you thinking ahead!

Have a wonderful weekend, everyone!

Special Achievements

We are pleased to celebrate with you special achievements made this week. One children from each class have been recognised for doing something that has demonstrated one or more than one of our school values.

Class	Awarded to	Recognition
Ladybird	**Lily S**	For working hard on the school value of being 'ready' by always making sure that she is ready for learning. Lily has worked super hard to use her sounds to label her drawings in drawing club this week.
Bee	**Marvin**	For always showing respect to others. Marvin is always polite and treats everyone with kindness.
Dolphin	**Thea**	For showing respect and sharing the classroom toys in ID time. Well done Thea!
Starfish	**Amelia**	For always keeping herself and others safe by tidying up the equipment at the end of lunch.
Snow Leopard	**Isla C**	For always being ready, respectful and safe in the classroom and around the wider school.
Penguin	**Riley**	For always respectful and listens. He always tries his best.

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

This week in EYFS we have started 'Drawing Club'. Drawing Club is where we use picture books, traditional tales, and animations to help the children build a love for stories, writing, and language.

We start by:
Making Conversation: We read a book or watch a short animation together. The children then learn new, exciting vocabulary words each week and use physical actions to help remember them.
Mark Making (Drawing & Writing): The children then draw characters, settings, or wild imaginative adventures. They then add secret "passwords" or "codes"—ranging from early letter sounds and phonics to full sentences—to bring their drawings to life.

This week we have been using the book Dear Zoo as our starting point. The children loved listening to the story, learning some exciting vocabulary- captures, slippery, elongated and return and then drawing the character (a puppy),setting (the zoo) and thinking of an adventure (I wonder what other animal the zoo might send to you?). I wonder if at home they can remember the actions to the new vocabulary and maybe draw another adventure that might happen i.e. The zoo wants us to be zookeepers. Which animal cage would you not like to enter and why?

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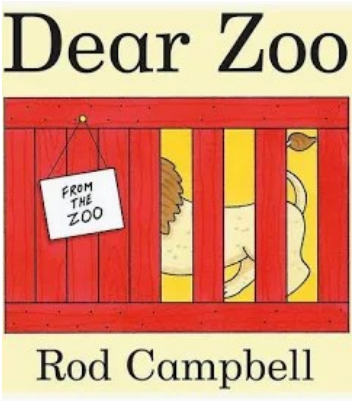

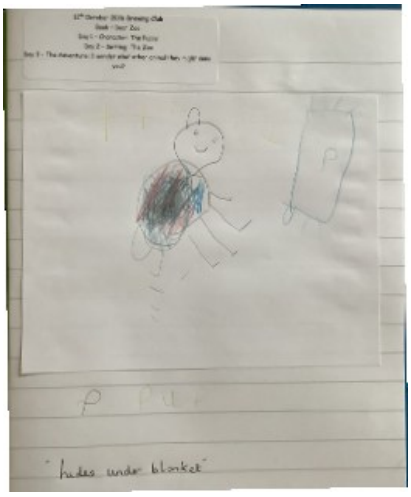

Year 1

This week in Year 1, we have started writing our own versions of *Lost and Found*. We have been practising writing sentences using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops, while working hard to include all the correct sounds in our words.

In Maths, we have been learning about fact families, part-part-whole models and bar models. We have discovered that addition can be done in any order. For example, if 4 + 2 = 6, then 2 + 4 = 6. We have also learnt that 6 = 4 + 2 and 6 = 2 + 4.

In Art, we have had lots of fun painting 3D surfaces, and we can't wait to show you our clay class animals soon!

On Friday, we enjoyed sharing our goals and ambitions with our friends. We are excited to see what other fantastic ideas and suggestions the school council comes up with!

Year 2

This week in Year 2 we had great fun in DT making the sandwiches that we had planned earlier in the term. We thought about hygiene making sure the area we made our sandwiches, and our hands were both clean. We looked at our plans and then made our sandwiches. We got to eat them and then evaluated what we thought of our sandwich. In History this week we had a live stream with the London Museum. The historians told us all about the Great Fire of London and we got to type questions to them which they answered for us. It was really exciting to be able to speak to real historians.

My Child at School (MCAS)

We will be closing ParentMail next week and moving fully to MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) for all our parent communications, parent consultation booking, trips and wraparound care sessions. Thank you to everyone who has downloaded the app and set up their accounts. We are extremely pleased with the up take and feel confident that our families will be able to use this new communication system.

This week's attendance was 95.7% which fantastic although slightly lower than last week.
As always, we would like to thank families for their support in helping children arrive at school every day, ready to learn.

Let's continue to work together to build strong attendance habits from the very start and see if we can hit our attendance target of 96% for the last week of term. Every day in school counts and makes a difference to children's learning. ⭐

AQUILA
Diocese of Canterbury Academies Trust

Christmas gift ideas!

I am a believer that it is never too early to start thinking about Christmas (or even if you are a last minute person or have another celebration coming up this may also help)!

Playdoh - it offers gentle resistance that builds hand, finger, and wrist strength while improving dexterity and control.

Hole punch - it builds the exact hand strength, coordination, and control muscles needed for writing, cutting, and everyday tasks.

Stapler - Pushing down on a desktop stapler activates the larger hand muscles (palmar arches) and the wrist. Developing these muscles prevents hand fatigue during other school and daily activities.

White board and white board pen - it strengthens hand muscles, improves grip mechanics, and refines hand-eye coordination through unique physical feedback.

Fidget Toys / poppers - they require repetitive, precise hand and finger movements—such as squeezing, pinching, twisting, and rolling—that actively build muscle strength and hand dexterity

Colouring books and pens - they build hand strength, finger dexterity, and hand-eye coordination needed for writing

Felt tips - they require continuous hand control, finger strength, and coordination to make marks without needing heavy downward pressure

Pencils - Holding a standard or short pencil naturally encourages the tripod grasp (pinching the tool between the thumb and index finger while it rests on the middle finger), which is the foundation for efficient handwriting

Magic painting (a little less messy than actual painting) - they learn to control how hard they press down—balancing soft strokes with firmer pressure so the water or paint reveals the hidden picture without tearing the paper.

Tweezers: picking up small things with them i.e. pom poms, string (these can be the ones you Mummy might use or some actual child ones) - they force the hand and fingers to isolate, strengthen, and coordinate small muscle groups.

Tap a shape - Connects what the eyes see with how the hand moves, which is a core foundation for writing letters, drawing, and cutting with scissors.

Scissors - Yes be brave!

Nuts and bolts or locks and keys - Strengthens the small muscles of the hands and fingers, improving precise movements