18th September 2026 Newsletter

Please find us on instagram and facebook:

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

September	
Wednesday 30th	Vancols School Photographer – Individual School Photographs. Sibling photos of children **at Downs View** will also be taken. Please let the school office know if you would **not** like your child's photograph taken. 2.45pm OPAL Stay and Play presentation in school hall for new parents 3.10pm – 3.45pm OPAL Stay and Play in playground for all parents/carers and children
October	
Monday 19th	Parent Consultation Meetings – All classes
Wednesday 21st	Parent Consultation Meetings – All classes except Penguin
Thursday 22nd	Parent Consultation Meetings – Penguin class only
Half Term Friday 23rd October until Monday 2nd November (inclusive)	

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 wonderful to see all of our children getting stuck into their learning this week. Year 2 have absolutely fascinated me with their knowledge of the Great Fire of London and that is after only one lesson! Reception have done a fantastic job settling into their new lunchtime routines and have already become incredibly independent. Watching them confidently help themselves to the salad cart and scrape their plates at the end of lunch really shows just how far they have come in such a short space of time. Our Year 1 children have wowed me with their fascination for the story *Lost and Found*, and I have had so many children coming up to me to retell the story so far it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm! Thank you to everyone who attended our Year 1 and Year 2 information sessions this week; I hope you found them useful. The slides from these sessions will be sent out via ParentMail and will also be available on our website. Finally, a very special well done to all of our Breakfast Club and 8:10 children. It makes me so proud every morning to watch them walking past on their walking bus, looking so grown-up and sensible. We are incredibly proud of every one of you for adjusting so brilliantly to this new routine. What a fantastic week at Downs View!

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. The new reception children are busy settling in so will be added to the special achievement list in a couple of weeks.

Class	Awarded to	Recognition
Dolphin	**Luna**	Being ready to learn by writing a simple sentence in English this week about the penguin character in our story 'Lost and Found'. Well done Luna!
Starfish	**Hunter**	For always being ready to learn and try his hardest in every subject every single day. What a super star!
Snow Leopard	**Harry C**	Continuously demonstrating all the school values particularly being respectful to his friends and teachers.
Penguin	**Monty**	For showing that he is ready to learn by always listening on the carpet and joining in with class discussions.

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

We just want to start by saying a huge well done to all the Reception children on completing their first full week at school. They have all had to take on board so much and have tried so hard to listen and follow all of the routines we have already put in place.

We have started learning letter sounds this week with the help of the Little Wandle phonic scheme. The children have tried super hard to remember the correct terminology too i.e.

Phoneme: The smallest unit of sound that can be identified in words. We sometimes simply call this a 'sound'

Grapheme: A letter or group of letters used to represent a particular phoneme when writing. With children, we sometimes call this 'a sound written down'

Formation Phrase: A memorable phrase used to support the children in forming the letter correctly using directional vocabulary, such as 'down', 'up', 'across' and 'over'.

Mnemonic: Any simple device used to assist memory. In this programme, it is a combination of an engaging picture with a letter and is used as a 'hook' to help children remember it.

Over the weekend use the homework sheet to help consolidate the sounds s a t and p and see if you can find things around the house or when out and about that start with this letter sound.

Ready, Respectful, Safe

Year 1

This week, the children in Year 1 have continued to impress the grown-ups by showing our school value of being ready to learn. They have approached their learning with enthusiasm and have enjoyed taking on new challenges. In Maths, we have been exploring number composition and developing our understanding of numbers by finding 1 more than a given number up to 10. In English, we have been using our inference skills to think carefully about what the characters in our new book, *Lost and Found*, might be thinking and saying to one another. The children have enjoyed using clues from the story and illustrations to share their ideas. In RE, we have been thinking about kindness and the different ways we can show kindness to others. We would love for you to continue this conversation at home by asking your child how they can show kindness to family and friends.

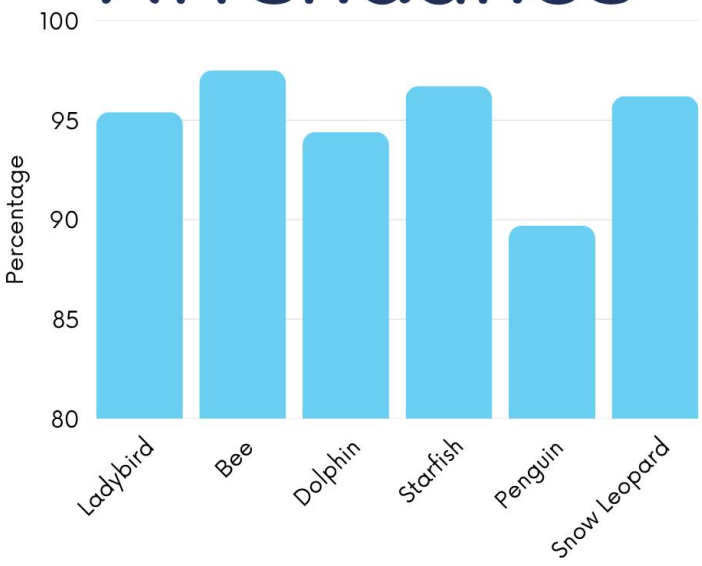
Year 2

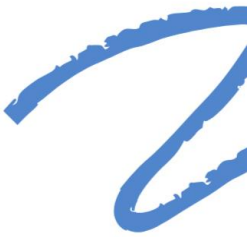
This week in Year 2 we have been learning about the Great Fire of London which happened in 1666. We have discussed what life was like in 1666 and how it was different to now. Can your child tell you some of the main differences between now and 1666. You could ask them about the way the houses were built, the food they ate and how was travel was different.

The Friends of Downs View

On Tuesday 13th October at 6pm, the Friends will be holding their Annual General Meeting. A letter has gone out in school bags today, this can also be found on our website linked here.

Weekly Attendance





This week's attendance was 95% which is fantastic, we would like to thank families for their support in helping children arrive at school every day, ready to learn.

It's been wonderful to welcome our Reception children for their first full week and fantastic to start Attendance BINGO again, this week we had three classes completing their letters.

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

AQUILA
Diocese of Canterbury
Academies Trust