22nd October 2026 Newsletter

Please find us on instagram and facebook:

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

Half Term Friday 23rd October until Monday 2nd November (inclusive)	
November	
Tuesday 3rd	**1st Day of Term 2** **Poppy Appeal –** the School Council will be taking the poppy appeal items to classes each afternoon this week: further information below
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**
Wednesday 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.
Thursday 12th	Parent Consultation Meetings – **Penguin class only**
Friday 27th	**Friends of Downs View – Christmas Danceathon** - this event will be held in school during the school day, a sponsor form will be sent home next term – children can wear their own clothes and/or Christmassy accessories/costumes (if they wish).

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.

What a wonderful week it has been at school!

It was lovely to welcome so many of you to Parents' Evening this week and to hear such positive comments about how well the children are doing. We are incredibly proud of the progress they are making, both academically and personally, and it is always so special to share in their achievements with you.

As you will have read in MCAS, we also had our final OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) audit today, and we are absolutely delighted to announce that we have been awarded PLATINUM status! This is a fantastic achievement and means we will now become a Showcase School for outstanding OPAL provision. This is a real testament to the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of our whole school community, and we couldn't be prouder!

Most importantly, a huge WELL DONE to each and every one of our children for such a brilliant first term back. They have worked so hard, embraced new challenges, grown in confidence and brought so much joy to our school. Every single child should feel incredibly proud of themselves.

An extra-special well done goes to our Reception children, who have completed their very first full term at school! What an achievement! They have settled into school life so well, and it has been wonderful to see them grow in confidence, develop new friendships and become such an important part of our school family.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are so proud of all that the children have achieved and look forward to seeing what the next term brings. A reminder that children return to school on Tuesday 3rd November due to a staff INSET day on Monday 2nd November.

Have a wonderful half term and well done everyone!

Ready, Respectful, Safe

Special Achievements

e 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	**Darcie**	For working hard on the school value of being 'ready' by making sure that she is ready for learning particularly in phonics, where she has worked super hard to recall the phonemes we have introduced.
Bee	**Ollie H**	For being ready for learning by sitting sensibly on the carpet and joining in with a positive attitude
Dolphin	**Nico**	For being ready to learn and showing great determination when writing his own adventure story this week based on the text Lost and Found. Well done Nico!
Starfish	**Arthur**	Well done for always being ready to learn and having a positive attitude to everything you do.
Snow Leopard	**Freddie**	For always being ready and respectful throughout the day.
Penguin	**Theo**	For making the right choices with his learning and being respectful.

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

This week the children have really been impressing us with their phonic knowledge. They have learnt so many sounds this term and many are beginning to blend to read unknown three letter words. Over the half term please keep consolidating the letter sounds and encourage your child to blend to read unknown three letter words. This can be both orally or from you writing the sounds down (or using the Little Wandle sound cards) for them. Please also have a look through the fine motor sheet that was sent out on Tapestry as all of these activities will continue to support their handwriting. We hope you all have a great half term and thank you for your continued support.

s, a, t, p *(e.g., sat, pat, tap)*

i, n, m, d *(e.g., in, pin, man, dad)*

g, o, c, k *(e.g., dog, got, can, kit)*

ck, e, u, r *(e.g., cup, red, run)*

Year 1

We've had a fantastic final week of term! In English, we finished writing our *Lost and Found* stories and are very proud of all our hard work. We hope you enjoyed reading them as much as we enjoyed being authors and bringing our ideas to life. In Maths, we have been learning about number bonds and fact families. Over the half-term break, please practise all the different ways of making 10 to help build confidence and fluency with number facts. Thank you for all your support this term. We hope you have a wonderful half term and a spooky, fun-filled Halloween!

Year 2

This week in Year 2 we got to use the new Discovery Room for our computing lesson. We each had a laptop and learnt how to use the different tools on the Paint program. We produced some really great art work. We concluded our learning on The Great Fire of London. Our big question for the term was What significant impact did the Great Fire of London have on how the layout of London changed? We were able to explain that before the fire most houses in London were made of timber, and were very close together, so close that people could shake hands across the road. After the fire more houses were made from bricks and roads were made wider. We have had a really lovely first term with your children and hope you all have a lovely half term.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2026

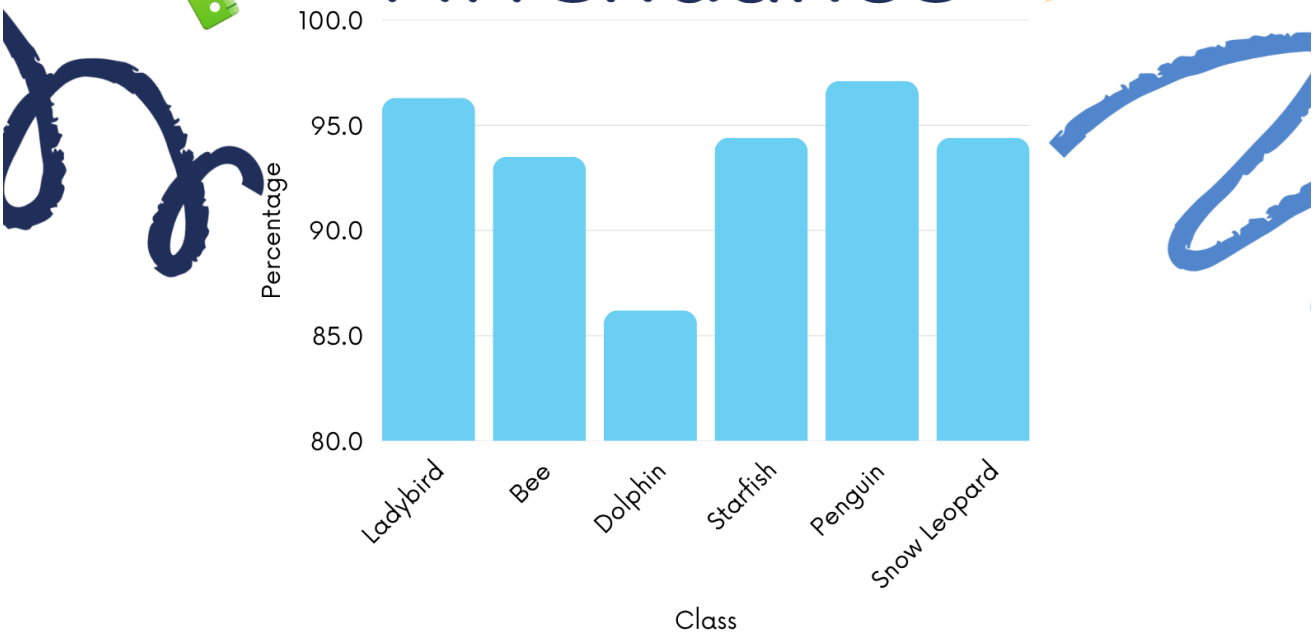
We are supporting the Poppy Appeal again this year. The School Council children will be visiting each class in the afternoons after half – week commencing Tuesday 3 November - with a selection of items available including key rings, wrist bands, snap bands, pencils and poppies. The poppy appeal is asking for a donation for the items. We have a limited stock, so children will only be able to purchase one item.

ParentMail & MCAS

We are now only using MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) to communicate with families. Please feel free to delete the ParentMail app as we will not be using this system anymore. Thank you again for your support during the transition to our new system.

Ready, Respectful, Safe

Weekly Attendance



This week's attendance was 93.1% which is a lot lower than last week, our attendance has been grately affected by illness.

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% when we come back next term. Every day in school counts and makes a difference to children's learning. ⭐