25th 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.

We started the week by celebrating our wonderful children in a special assembly, where we presented our recognition certificates. There were so many proud moments, and it was lovely to see our children's achievements celebrated by the whole school community. We also introduced our brand-new Attendance Trophy! It was fantastic to award it for the first time this week to one of our Reception classes. Go Bees! We can't wait to see which class will take the trophy back to their class next week. I loved popping into Year 2 this week and joining in with their baby photo guessing game. The children (and adults!) had great fun trying to match the baby pictures to different children. There was even someone in Snow Leopard Class whose baby photo nobody could guess! A big thank you to everyone for remaining on the playground in the mornings before the bell is rung. Your support with this really helps us to ensure that everyone is safe and ready for the day ahead, that is, of course, as long as the bell hasn't gone walkabouts! Finally, please make sure you take some time to read the information that will be coming out over the next few weeks about our new communication system, MCAS (My Child At School). For families who have children with siblings at the Junior School, this is the same communication system used there. Another busy and exciting week, well done, everyone!

Special Achievements

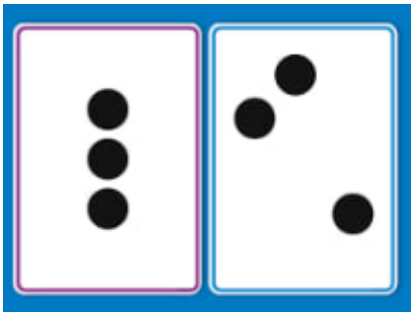
We are pleased to celebrate with you special achievements made this week. One children from each class have been recognised for doing something that has demonstrated one or more than one of our school values.

Class	Awarded to	Recognition
Ladybird	**Layla**	Layla has been working hard on the school value of being 'ready' by always following carpet time rules and showing fantastic listening skills at all times.
Bee	**Joel**	For his brilliant attitude to learning and for always trying his very best.
Dolphin	**Dennis**	Being ready to learn during Phonics. Dennis is always joining in with recognising his sounds and reading new words. Well done Dennis!
Starfish	**Maddox**	For always being ready to extend his learning during ID and becoming a true animal expert!
Snow Leopard	**Bradyn**	Consistently showing all the values. Particularly for always being one of the first to be ready for teacher time.
Penguin	**Mateusz**	For being respectful to everyone and always being ready to learn. He always follows the school values.

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

We have had another exciting fun packed week in EYFS. We have explored the tripod grip again but this time with a paint brush. We have learnt the rules for paint and we wonder if your child can share with you the catchy rhyme that we have learnt to support us with this. We have also used the Numberblock characters to help support us subitise a set of objects rather than counting (the ability to look at a small group of objects and instantly know how many there are without counting them). Why not have a try at this at home -draw a set of up to three dots, collect a set of objects up to three and arrange them in front of your child and encourage them to say how many there are by subitising rather than counting them out.



Year 1

It has been another busy week in Year 1!
In English we have continued exploring *Lost and Found*, thinking about what we might find in a Lost and Found office. We have also been learning some fascinating facts about penguins and having a go at writing our own fact sentences remembering to use capital letters, full stops and finger spaces.
In Maths we have been comparing amounts and using the vocabulary **more than, less than and fewer**.

Year 2

It has been another fun week in Year 2 this week. We are really proud of how well the children are supporting the younger children in the school, including helping the new Reception children find their way around, and supporting with things such as putting welly boots on. The children really enjoyed their Science lesson this week where they recognised the different stages of human growth. Thank you to all those who brought or sent in baby pictures. The children loved sharing their photos with their friends. Can your child tell you the different stages of human growth?

OPAL

Please ensure your child has **wellies and waterproof clothing** in school so they can enjoy our outdoor play whatever the weather!

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.

My Child at School (MCAS)

We are very excited to let our families know that we are moving to a new parent/carer/school communication system, MCAS (My Child At School) and will gradually phase out parentmail. We have attached a timeline below for your information and hope you will be able to work with us to activate your account once you receive the link next week.

Further information about the new system will be sent out in a separate parentmail.

Please contact the school if you have any questions/queries regarding this. All of our other communication channels will remain unchanged (including tapestry accounts for the children in Year R), you can phone the school 01233 632339, call in person at the school office, speak to your child's class teacher or email the school office office@downs-view.kent.sch.uk.

AQUILA
Diocese of Canterbury
Academies Trust

Ready, Respectful, Safe

Date	25th September	30th September	1st October	5th October	12th October	19th October	22nd October
Action	MCAS Sent Information to Parents	MCAS Activation emails sent to parents	Information to parents will be sent out on both MCAS and Parent Mail	Parents evenings bookable on MCAS only / Absence messages to be sent on MCAS	EYFS Trip information on MCAS only / Wraparound Care payments move to MCAS only	Parent Mail is accessible still but no information out or payments to be made.	End of term - Parent Mail will fully close and only MCAS for Parent school communication

This week's attendance was 95.8% which is a fantastic achievment. Can we get above 96% next 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 get closer to our attendance target of 96%. Every day in school counts and makes a difference to children's learning. ⭐