Ready, Respectful, Safe

2nd October 2026 Newsletter

Please find us on instagram and facebook:

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

September	
October	
Saturday 3rd	OPAL Working Party 9-3pm – Any help for any amount of time would be greatly appreciated
Friday 16th	Dress up Day - Goals and Ambitions – please see information below
Monday 19th	Parent Consultation Meetings – All classes – **except Penguin** the booking system will open on MCAS next week – you will be able to book a 10-minute appointment with your child's class teacher, please contact the school office if you need further assistance.
Wednesday 21st	Parent Consultation Meetings – All classes **except Penguin**
Half Term Friday 23rd October until Monday 2nd November (inclusive)	
November	
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 Week Full of Visitors and Wonderful Experiences!

What a busy and exciting week we have had in school! We have welcomed lots of visitors, each bringing something special to our children and giving them opportunities to learn, explore and have fun.

We loved welcoming Scott to our assembly this week, where he showed us just how amazing Science Club can be. The children were fascinated by his demonstrations, and we were incredibly impressed by how brave some of our children were when they came to the front and had a go at spinning four plates at once! You should have seen their faces! If your child is in Year 1 or Year 2, you will have received communication about how to sign up for Science Club, so please do take a look.

Our Bikeability friends have also visited this week and spent time with our Year 1 children. They shared lots of important messages about being safe on our bikes and supporting children with confidence riding a bike. We were even treated to a few impressive skateboard tricks at the end of lunchtime!

It was also lovely to welcome Reverend Adam**,** who spent time with our Reception children talking all about his role at our local church, St Mary's**.** The children were fascinated to hear about the work he does within our local community, and it was wonderful to strengthen those links with our local church.

Another very special moment this week was seeing our Reception classes join us for their very first Recognition Assembly. There were so many proud and smiling faces as the children came up to receive their recognition certificates. It was a wonderful way to celebrate their achievements and the positive start they have made to school.

I hope many of you are now getting signed up to our new MCAS communication system. We are currently running both communication systems alongside one another to give everyone plenty of time to transfer over and become familiar with MCAS. Thank you for your patience and support as we make this change.

And, finally, we have our OPAL working party this weekend from 9-3. If you are able to lend a hand, even if just for a short amount of time, it will be greatly appreciated. We will be improving and adding to so many areas around our playground. Making Downs View's outdoor play experience even more amazing!

It has certainly been a week full of learning, visitors, new experiences and lots of proud moments. As always, I am incredibly proud of our children and all they continue to achieve.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone and hopefully see some of you tomorrow.

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.

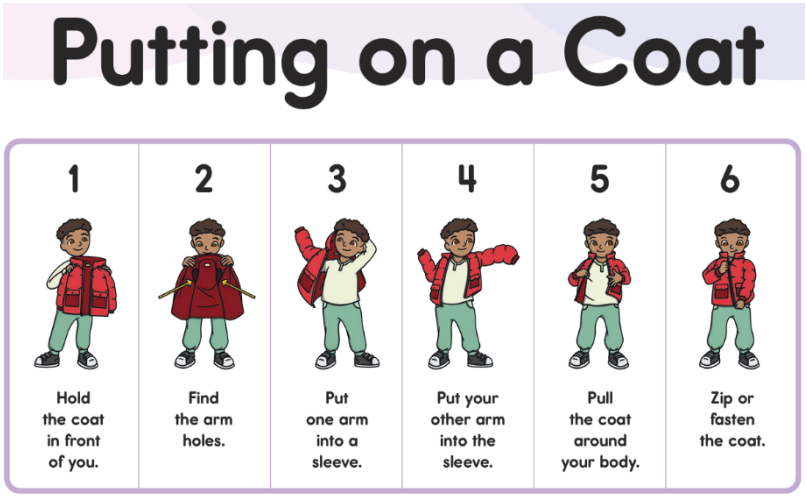
Class	Awarded to	Recognition
Ladybird	**Cade**	Cade has been working hard on the school value of being 'ready' by trying super hard to come into school independently and for following the carpet time rules.
Bee	**Jemima**	For her enthusiasm for writing! She is always in the writing area practising her new phonics sounds.
Dolphin	**Freya**	For showing respect to the class adults all week by giving focused attention and following instructions. Well done Freya!
Starfish	**Freya**	Freya Tait for encompassing all 3 of our values by always being ready to be a good friend, showing respect for the grown-ups, children and equipment in school and making safe and sensible choices around the school.
Snow Leopard	**Parker**	For being ready with learning this week and working really hard in maths and phonics
Penguin	**Nancy**	For showing that she is ready to learn by always listening on the carpet. She is respectful to both the adults in class and her peers.

Weekly Class Achievements and updates

EYFS

This week we were super lucky to have a visit from Rev Adam Childs. He came to talk to the children about being a Christian and his role within the church. The children were so inspired they even painted some pictures of him to say thank you.

We have also been perfecting our gross motor skills by practicing taking our coats on and off. We have also been learning how to turn the arms in the right way and zip them up. This is a skill that we would love for the children to continue practicing at home so that they can be completely independent when getting ready for outside play and home. Hopefully it will help you too when getting ready in the mornings!



Year 1

We have been very busy this week and have enjoyed lots of exciting learning experiences.
On Monday, we had great fun meeting Scott the Scientist! He showed us how friction can be used to keep plates spinning, and the children were fascinated watching his demonstrations. We loved being little scientists and thinking about how and why things work. We also had a fantastic time with Alex and Connor from Bikeability. The children had lots of fun practising on the balance bikes and learning how to use them safely. It was lovely to see everyone having a go, building their confidence and cheering each other on. In Maths, we have been learning all about comparing and ordering numbers. We have been practising putting numbers in the correct order and talking about which numbers are bigger or smaller. The children are becoming much more confident with their numbers to 10, and a little practice at home would be fantastic! Why not have a go at ordering numbers at home? Give your child five numbers between 1 and 10, but mix them up. Can they put them in order from smallest to greatest?

For example:
8, 3, 6, 1, 5

Can you put them in the right order?
1, 3, 5, 6, 8

Don't forget to ask them "How do you know?" This will encourage them to explain their mathematical thinking.

In English, we have been having lots of fun using drama to help us explore our learning. The children have enjoyed acting out different ideas, using their voices and expressions, and bringing their learning to life.

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Year 2

In Year 2 this week we have been continuing to explore the story Troll Swap. We have been discussing the personalities of the different characters - Timothy the troll who is polite, tidy and well-mannered and Tabitha the little girl who is loud and messy. We have learnt the difference between speech bubbles and thought bubbles and written what we think Tabitha's parents may be thinking or saying, and also had some fun with a lesson of drama acting out a key part from the text, creating a freeze frame and then predicting what we think may happen next in the story. In Maths we have been completing number line activities. We have had to look carefully at the starting number and work out whether it is counting up in intervals of 1 or 10. If you get some time at home, can your children practice writing their numbers, checking that they are formed correctly and the right way around?

OPAL

School Council

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)

The activation links were sent out this week and lots of families have joined/downloaded the app. If you are experiencing any problems or have not received the link please contact the school office. Any information for parents will now be sent out via parentmail and MCAS during this migration period.

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.

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

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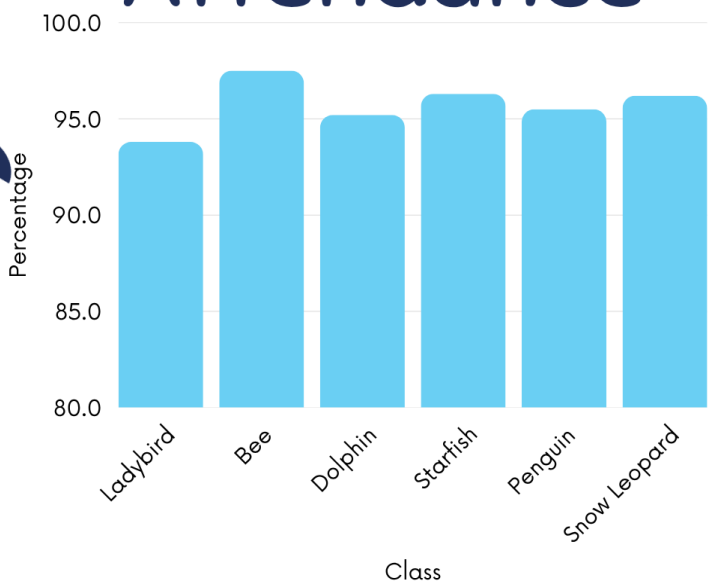
Weekly Attendance



This week's attendance was 96.6% which is a fantastic achievement. We managed to get above 96%! 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 stay above our attendance target of 96%. Every day in school counts and makes a difference to children's learning. ⭐