





[www.downs.kent.sch.uk](http://www.downs.kent.sch.uk)

Our school website has lots of useful information for parents, pupils and visitors. There are six main sections:

|   |  |
|---|--|
|    | <p>The <b>Home</b> page shows you the <u>latest information and additions to our site</u>. You can see our new photos and podcasts (radio reports). Don't forget to look at the upcoming calendar events and read the most recent news about The Downs.</p>  |
|    | <p>In the <b>About Us</b> section, you can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch a <u>video</u> about the school to find out more.</li> <li>• Go on a <u>tour of the school</u> using our panoramic photos.</li> <li>• Learn about <u>local events</u> and community activities.</li> <li>• Download copies of our Ofsted report, policy documents and other important information.</li> </ul>   |
|  | <p>The <b>Latest News</b> area is the place to <u>find out what has been happening</u> at The Downs recently. Teachers post information about what each class has been doing and you can also learn about upcoming events.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>Our Achievements</b> - Our pupils always create amazing work, take part in exciting events and do lots of great things to help others. In this section of our site, you can find out all about these incredible achievements.</p> <p>Watch some of Year 5's <u>wonderful animations</u>, play our <u>online computer games</u> (made by Years 3 and 6) and see what other classes have been making.</p>  |
|  | <p>The <b>Parents' Zone</b> has information just for you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Download copies of our <u>school newsletters</u>.</li> <li>• Update your diary by looking at our school's <u>online calendar</u>.</li> <li>• Look at our <u>attendance results</u> and find out how you can help to improve them.</li> <li>• Discover <u>useful links</u> to help your child with their learning outside of the classroom. Also, read our tips about helping each other <u>stay safe online</u>.</li> </ul> |
|  | <p>The <b>Children's Zone</b> has links to lots of fun, safe and educational sites for children to explore. They can also try out Daily Sudoku challenge to build their brain cells!</p>   |

We hope that our school website is useful to you. If you have any comments or suggestions, please get in touch using the contact details on the site.





**Don't have a computer or access to the Internet?**

You may be eligible for the government's 'Home Access' scheme which offers a free computer and broadband connection. Visit [www.homeaccess.org.uk](http://www.homeaccess.org.uk) or call 0333 200 1004 for more information.

# The Downs.ME

[www.thedowns.me](http://www.thedowns.me)

TheDowns.ME is a new site which we have set up for our children, giving them a safe starting point whenever they use the internet. The site has four main sections:

|   |  |
|---|--|
|    | <p>The <b>Our Favourites</b> section has links to six services that we subscribe to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Superclubs Plus</b> (for year 3 and above) - Children can use this safe, moderated environment to communicate with their friends and develop important ICT skills. A popular site with our pupils.</li><li>• <b>Purple Mash</b> (for all children) - These creative tools allow children to draw, design and make a wide range of items. Work can be saved online and continued at home or at school. Highly recommended!</li><li>• <b>Education City</b> (for year 3 and above) - Children can play lots of educational games here, learning about Literacy, Maths and Science.</li><li>• <b>Brainpop</b> (for all children) - Learn about lots of different subjects and topics with these entertaining videos from Tim and Moby.</li><li>• <b>Tout le Monde</b> (for year 3 and above) - We use this site in our French lessons at school and now you can practise your French at home with it too!</li><li>• <b>Manga High</b> (for year 3 and above) - These exciting games will test your Maths skills. Will you be one of our star performers?</li></ul> <p>Children need to know their username and password to access these six sites. These details are printed on their MEcard which should be kept in a safe place and should not be shared with others. Please contact your child's teacher for a replacement card.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Other Sites</b> - This area has links to a range of other websites which are safe and fun for children to use. Some of them are also educational, allowing them to learn new skills or find out things.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>Search Safely</b> - Lots of people simply use Google when they are searching online. However, Google is not the safest tool for primary children.</p> <p>This section has search boxes allowing children to find information and images, using tools which are much safer than Google. Please be aware that no search tool is 100% safe so children are encouraged to tell an adult if they see something they are unhappy with.</p>   |
|  | <p>On the <b>Great Downloads</b> page, we have added links to some free software that can be downloaded and installed at home. Children are encouraged to check with an adult before downloading anything, so we recommend that you explore this software together and learn alongside your child!</p>   |

Please remember that our pupils should not be using sites like Facebook as children under 13 are not allowed to register with the site. We are providing the websites and links mentioned here to help keep your child safe online.

Why not set up [www.thedowns.me](http://www.thedowns.me) as your computer's homepage so that it appears whenever your child goes online?