THE DOWNS CEP SCHOOL

This term we will be focusing on the value: Faith

"Jesus walks on water" Matthew 14:22-33

September 2026

Term 1 – Newsletter 2

Nothing is impossible

Jesus said: "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see."
Matthew's Gospel 5: 14 – 16

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge welcome to all of our new parents. As well as year R, we have some new pupils in other year groups, and I am delighted to share that they have settled in beautifully. Our new year R children are quite amazing and continue to astound us each day with how independent and confident they are. We are looking forward to sharing this journey with you all!

This week The Lighthouse SRP opened for children. Mrs Wiseman and Mrs Curry have had a super first week introducing these children to the school and embarking upon lots of exciting learning.

As many of you will know, Benedicts Law became statutory in schools this September. This is a new rule around training for all staff with regard to allergy awareness. All staff have now carried out training for allergens and anaphylaxis.

We now hold AAIs in school. AAIs most commonly stand for adrenaline auto-injectors, which are life-saving medical devices used to treat severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis). These pens are available for staff to use in the event of a life threatening medical event.

Please continue to ensure that we are aware of any allergy or intolerance your child may have and remember, we are a nut free school.

As always, the senior leadership team will be on the gate every day should you have any questions.

Ms Luxford

Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term dates 2026-2027

Term 1: Wednesday 2nd September – Friday 23rd October

Break: Monday 26th October –Friday 30th October

Term 2: Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December

Break – Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January

Term 3: Monday 4th January – Friday 12th February

Break – Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February

Term 4: Monday 22nd February – Thursday 25th March

Break – Friday 26th March – Friday 9th April

Term 5: Monday 12th April – Friday 28th May

Break – Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June

Term 6: Monday 7th June – Wednesday 21st July

INSET DAYS

Wednesday 21st October 2026
Thursday 22nd October 2026
Friday 23rd October 2026
Friday 25th June 2027

Term 1 PE Days

Year R – Friday

Year 1 – Wednesday

Year 2 – Monday

Year 3 – Monday

Year 4 – Tuesday

Year 5 – Friday

Year 6 – Thursday

Important Dates for Term 1

Monday 21st September – Year R Police Car Visit

Tuesday 22nd September – Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 24th September – Year 2 Trip to Tyland Barn

Friday 25th September – Ootiboo Money Matters Workshop for Year 4 & Year 6

Monday 28th September – Year 4 Trip to Kearsney Abbey

Thursday 8th October – Fire Brigade Visit – Whole School

Monday 12th October – Harvest

Tuesday 13th October – Parents Evening

Wednesday 14th October – Parents Evening

Tuesday 20th October – Last day of term – *normal finish time*

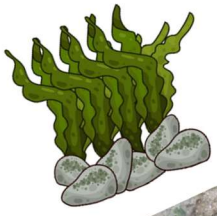
Term 2

Monday 2nd November – Term 2 starts

Friday 6th November – Individual/Sibling Photos

Year 3 Geography Field Trip to Kingsdown Beach

Year 3 spent a beautiful day at Kingsdown Beach on Tuesday 15th September 2026. The children enjoyed sketching and map work as well as making word banks to support their literacy and copying Steve Backshall's pebble experiment. They finished the day with a pebble throwing challenge – we have some excellent throwers!!



School day:

To support our children in getting to school on time and having a joyful start to their day we will be offering a breakfast bite and wake up activities.

From 8.35am all children will be able to enjoy a bagel or crumpet with marmite or cream cheese. Dietary requirements will be catered to.

Children will be supported by adults to independently organise their breakfast bite.

We will then break into a variety of activities for a wake-up session.

Collective worship will move to 2.50pm where we will gather to celebrate the success of each day.

THE DOWNS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Breakfast Club

In response to feedback from our families, from September 2025 we are offering two bookable sessions for our Breakfast Club provision.

Session 1: 7:45 - 8:35am
£4.50 per child
(breakfast provided)
Session 2 - 8:15 - 8:35
£3 per child
(no breakfast provided)

Sessions must be booked via the Gateway App by midday the day before booking date. Please contact the school office to discuss access to Tax Free Childcare (Government scheme)

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

PLAY. CREATE. TEAM. HAVE FUN!

AT THE DOWNS CEP SCHOOL

TEAM THEME

ARTS & CRAFTS

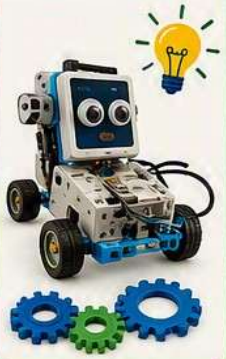
MINI MAKERS

SCIENCE

CONSTRUCTION

LEGO, magnetic blocks, wooden blocks, towers.

STEM CLUB



SPORTS

Basketball, football, cricket, dodgeball, multisports

MONDAY

Arts & Crafts

+ Basketball

TUESDAY

Mini-Makers

+ Football

WEDNESDAY

Science

+ Cricket

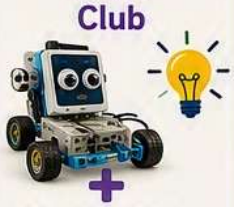
THURSDAY

Construction

+ Dodgeball

FRIDAY

STEM Club



+ Multi-Sports

MAKE. PLAY. TEAM UP. EVERY DAY!

provided by Team Theme

STAY 'n' PLAY

The Downs Primary

TEAMTHEME KENT

Please note that, where as the timing structure will remain the same, sometimes there may be occasional need for some individual activities to differ from those that are shown here

START 3.15pm

HALF TIME 4.30pm

FULL TIME 6.00pm

WELCOME | OUTDOOR OR CREATIVE PLAY* | BRAIN BREAK | OUTDOOR ACTIVITY OR CREATIVE PLAY* | WIND DOWN

3:15 · 3:30 · 4:30 · 5:00 · 5:45

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sign In	Sign In	Sign In	Sign In	Sign In
Fruit snack | Activators	Fruit snack | Activators	Fruit snack | Activators	Fruit snack | Activators	Fruit snack | Activators
Outdoor play OR Creative play	Outdoor play OR Creative play	Outdoor play OR Creative play	Outdoor play OR Creative play	Outdoor play OR Creative play
Sign Out & Collection A	Sign Out & Collection A	Sign Out & Collection A	Sign Out & Collection A	Sign Out & Collection A
Meal time | Quiet play	Meal time | Quiet play	Meal time | Quiet play	Meal time | Quiet play	Meal time | Quiet play
Outdoor activity OR Creative play	Outdoor activity OR Creative play	Outdoor activity OR Creative play	Outdoor activity OR Creative play	Outdoor activity OR Creative play
Wellbeing time/Quiet play	Wellbeing time/Quiet play	Wellbeing time/Quiet play	Wellbeing time/Quiet play	Wellbeing time/Quiet play
Sign Out & Collection B	Sign Out & Collection B	Sign Out & Collection B	Sign Out & Collection B	Sign Out & Collection B

*Outdoor activities include: Forest School, Football, Monkeyball, Nerf, Adventure Playground, Goalball, Tennis, Archery, Basketball, 4Square etc.
*Creative/quiet play options include: Lego, Arts & Crafts, Makery Make, Puzzles, Board Games, Card Games, Chrome Books, Reading etc.

Please use the QR code to book

Attendance in our school will now be monitored and supported by Ms Luxford. Working with the local authority, we will liaise with parents to support all children coming to school every day.

THE DOWNS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Enhanced curriculum

Self sustaining Environmentally sound

Personal development

Enhanced Curriculum Curators

This year we welcome the following children as ECCs. We are sure they will do a great job in supporting others and leading whole school projects.

Tommy M, Elwood, Charlie C, Sapphire
Thomas J, Jasper AK, Idriz M
London, Lexi, Kayla
James and Jensen

As our children can access the enhanced curriculum every day it is helpful if they have suitable welly boots to change into. These should come into school with names inside them please.

Reliable readers

Sophie
River-Mae
Eva
Madison
Jessica
Isha
Ottile
George
Eden
Esmee
Haya
Eleanor
Moqadusa
Kayla
Juana
Lee
Evie
Emily
Lexi
Sana
Sapphire

Clara
Ava
Charlie
Kady
Alvin
Daisy
Joesph
Ava
Archie
Roman
Tommy
Kinga
Abigail K
Lucy
George O
Teddy
Lilly
George S
Archer
Ava
Moseley
Max

Eleanor
Beau-Lily
Abigail C
Grayson
Aisla
Romario
Romario
Erin
Tilly
Ivy K
Freddie
London
Noah C
Noah B
Lorna
Chelsey
Harrison
Amisi
Ivy C
Harleydene

The children listed above have applied to become reliable readers in our school. During each week these mini leaders will listen to other children read, share picture books and support their peers in developing a love of books.

The Downs Church of England Primary School - Online safety

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps that we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

18 CENSORED

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it *does* offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 26.01.2022

School Uniform – ready to learn and play:

Following our consultation we have made the decision to extend our school uniform options.

Winter uniform	**Summer uniform**
Blue or black unbranded joggers Traditional grey school trousers/skirt White polo t shirt (school ones are available) Royal blue school jumper or cardigan Royal blue zip hoodie (school ones will be available) **Black** school shoes or trainers (unbranded)	Blue or black unbranded shorts (jersey material only) Traditional grey school shorts Blue gingham dress/skort/jumpsuit White polo t shirt (school ones are available) Royal blue school jumper or cardigan Royal blue zip hoodie (school ones will be available) **Black** school shoes or trainers (unbranded)
PE kit School house t shirt Blue or black shorts Black trainers	

https://www.mapac.com/education/parents/pages/find-my-school

- unbranded means no logos such as Nike/Adidas etc. This will be monitored daily.
- sandals and boots are not permitted
- jewellery, apart from small stud earrings is not permitted
- **our school uniform shop offers t shirts, hoodies and jumpers/cardigans with the school logo on it.**

Spelling Shed

Spelling Shed's online games for Years 1 to 6, can be played at home!

Please see the link below for the website.

https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb/

There is now a new feature on this website…Grammar Arcade!
Please do have a go at home.

https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb/grammar-arcade

Log on today!

All passwords are in reading records.

In the same way that we send reading books home we are going to start sending maths games home too!
Children across the school will have the opportunity to select different games from their classroom and bring them home to enjoy with you.

Deal PANTRY

HARVEST FOOD DRIVE

Deal Area Foodbank
Together with Trussell

YOUR HELP, FEEDS OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY
PLEASE HELP US BY DONATING AN ITEM OR TWO

THE ITEMS WE REALLY NEED AT THE MOMENT ARE:

PASTA	UHT MILK	SPREADS
RICE PUDDING/ CUSTARD	HOT TINNED MEAT	TINNED VEG
MICRO RICE	CEREALS	BISCUITS

ITEMS CAN BE HANDED IN AT LOCAL CHURCHES, SCHOOLS & SUPERMARKETS

OR DONATE £5 HERE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Community Baby Bank at **St Richard's Church, Mill Hill, Deal, CT14 9JA** on the **last Saturday of every month** from **1pm** to **2pm**.

The Baby Bank supports local families by providing good-quality baby and young children's clothing and other essential items such as nappies, wet wipes, bibs, food, formula, toys, books and much more, free of charge and offers a friendly, welcoming and confidential service.