THE DOWNS CEP SCHOOL

This term we will be focusing on the value: Faith

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

October 2026

Term 1 – Newsletter 3

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,

Last week year 2 had a wonderful visit to Tyland Barn, year R met with two local police officers and got to experience sitting in a police car, year 3 visited Kingsdown beach and year 4 thoroughly enjoyed their 'ootiboo' money matters workshop.

Trips and experiences are an integral part of our curriculum. We firmly believe that children should have the opportunity to put their learning into practice and experience new and exciting places. We try hard to keep the cost of any trip as low as possible but due to the significant increase in coach prices this is not always as low as we would like. We do very much appreciate all of your support.

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

Ms Luxford

Headteacher

Parent Consultations

Working together for your child's success

Tuesday
13th
October 2026
3.30pm – 6pm

Wednesday
14th
October 2026
3.30pm – 6pm

Please see email with instructions on how to book your appointment with your child's class teacher.

Listen Support Celebrate Achieve

A polite reminder

Every member of staff is here to help you and support your children.
Please do treat staff with kindness and respect.
Swearing and intimidating conduct will not be tolerated.
Thank you.

DEALT

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

Thursday 8th October – Fire Brigade Visit – Whole School

Friday 9th October – Harvest Arts & Crafts Exhibition – 3pm in the school hall *(see poster for details)*

Monday 12th October – Family Harvest Years 1-6 at St Marys Church

Tuesday 13th October – Parents Consultations

Wednesday 14th October – Parents Consultations

Friday 16th October – Year R Harvest Showcase to parents – 10am in the school hall

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

Wednesday 21st October – INSET DAY – *children not in school*

Thursday 22nd October – INSET DAY – *children not in school*

Friday 23rd October – INSET DAY – *children not in school*

Term 2

Monday 2nd November – Term 2 starts

Friday 6th November – Individual/Sibling Photos

HARVEST ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION

You are warmly invited to walk through our **Harvest Arts & Crafts Exhibition**, where each year group, and members of our local community, will be **showcasing** their **harvest-themed creations.**

- **DATE:** **Friday 9th October 2026**
- **TIME:** **From 3:00pm**
- **VENUE:** **The School Hall (Entry via the School Office)**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The school **gates will open from 3:00pm** on this day, for you to **collect your children from their classroom**, and **then walk through our exhibition** together **(via the School Office).**

THE DOWNS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Harvest CELEBRATIONS

Years 1 to 6

Family Harvest Service
at St Marys Church

2pm

If your child is in
Year 4, 5 & 6
please meet us at the church at
1.40pm.

If your child is in
Year 1, 2 & 3
please meet us at the church at
1.50pm.

♥ Give Thanks • Share • Celebrate Together ♥

Year R Harvest Showcase

Let's celebrate our harvest together!

Friday 16th October 2026

10am

in the school hall.

Year R children to come dressed as farmers or scarecrows if they wish.

A time to share, celebrate and be thankful! ♡

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)

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	HALF TIME	FULL TIME
3.15pm	4.30pm	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.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

PLAY. CREATE. TEAM. HAVE FUN!

AT THE DOWNS CEP SCHOOL

TEAM THEME

ARTS & CRAFTS

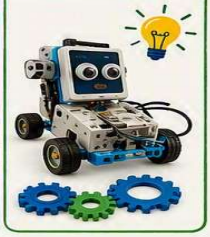
MINI MAKERS

SCIENCE

CONSTRUCTION

LEGO, magnetic blocks, wooden blocks, towers.

STEM CLUB



SPORTS

Basketball, football, cricket, dodgeball, multisports

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Arts & Crafts + Basketball	Mini-Makers + Football	Science + Cricket	Construction + Dodgeball	STEM Club + Multi-Sports

MAKE. PLAY. TEAM UP. EVERY DAY!

provided by Team Theme

Please use the QR code to book

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

Enhanced curriculum

Self sustaining Environmentally sound

Personal development

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.

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.

Mini leaders across the school

In our last newsletter we announced our reliable readers and ECCs.

This week we can share that the following children are also taking on a leadership role withing our school.

House captains	Collective Worship leaders	Community advocates	School council	Digital leaders	Buddies
Archie	Arina	YEAR 6	Ellena	Elsie	Jasper B
Ellena	Truly	James	Frankey	Setayesh	Lucy
Kinga	Romario	Jasper B	Oscar	Jayden	Grayson
Abigail C	Kayla	Esmee	Kayla	George A	Isabella
Frankey	Grayson	Stanley	Ivy	Tykhon	Esmee
Abigail K	Rachel	Jenson	William	Maddie-Mae	Haya
Evie		Evan	Nancy	Tommy D	Georgie
Rhys		Amelia	Albus	George D-K	Kinga
Haya		Amanda	Rafferty	Oscar	Ellena
Isaac		Anesu	Layla		Jasper A-K
		YEAR 5	Arry		Amanda
		Freddie B	Sophie		
		Chelsey P			
		Lexi H			
		Amisi-Rae N			
		YEAR 4			
		Tommy-David S			
		Ivy J			

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 games which 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
ROBLOX
PEGI RATING
7+
Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.
WHAT ARE THE RISKS?
CONTACT WITH STRANGERS
Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.
ONLINE DATERS
These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODer is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter ODers. Some player-built Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.
PUBLIC SERVERS
Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.
IN-APP PURCHASES
Roblox is actually free to download and play, but bear in mind that there *are* some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money. People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and some private or VIP servers also have a cost.
OSCAR1
COUNTY JAIL
STOP
Tasty Pizza
TAXI
SWAG
Advice for Parents & Carers
SET PARENTAL CONTROLS
Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.
DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING
Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.
PRIVATE SERVERS
If your child has some genuine friends to play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.
MONITOR SPENDING
If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.
DEALING WITH STRANGERS
At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should *never* tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with other people online safely.
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.
Sources: https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/24/21334345/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-playing-virtual-parties-fortnite https://corp.roblox.com/parents/
NOS
National Online Safety®
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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/pinafore 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.**

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.

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

SHIELDS STUDIOS

INSPIRING CONFIDENCE AND CREATIVITY THROUGH MUSICAL THEATRE

MUSICAL THEATRE CLASSES

CONFIDENCE | CREATIVITY | JOY

Classes for children who want to sing, dance, act and grow in confidence without the pressure of auditions or competition!

MINIS

(Ages 4-6)
Tuesdays 3:45pm-4:45pm
OR
Saturdays 9:30am-10:30am
£7.50 per class paid termly

JUNIORS

(Ages 7-10)
Tuesdays 5pm-6:30pm
OR
Saturdays 10:45am-12:15pm
£11 per class paid termly

TUESDAYS AT WALMER PARISH HALL
SATURDAYS AT RINGWOULD VILLAGE HALL

FREE TRIAL AVAILABLE!
Scan QR code to book your child in now!

shieldsstudios@hotmail.com
Shields Studios
@shieldsstudiosdeal

SHIELDS STUDIOS
HALLOWEEN PARTY
SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2026
RINGWOULD VILLAGE HALL
Minis
Ages 4 - 6
09:30am - 10:30am
£7.50 per child
Juniors
Ages 7 - 10
10:45am - 12:15pm
£11 per child
Singing, dancing, acting, games, sweet treats & more!
Fancy dress encouraged!
Plus a prize for the best dressed!
Scan the QR code or email shieldsstudios@hotmail.com to join us!