



Downsview Newsletter

17TH OCT

2025

<https://www.downsview.croydon.sch.uk/>

FOND FAREWELL & WARM WELCOME



LET'S GO

ADVENTURE

Mr Cooke has been a cornerstone of Downsview for over 33 years. He started in his late 20s and has witnessed more building works, headteachers and staff changes than some of us have had hot dinners! Through all the decades—and countless paint splatters—Steve has remained unwavering in his integrity, passion for the school and dedication to the children. His engagement goes far beyond the call of duty; he truly is an absolute legend. We hope Steve will always look back fondly on his time here at Downsview as much as we will remember him. As we say goodbye to Steve, we are delighted to welcome our new Site Manager, **Mr David Laxton**. You may have already spotted Dave around the school and had the chance to say hello, but we wanted to officially welcome him to the team. Please do take a moment to introduce yourself and make him feel at home.

Steve's last day will be November 14th—let's make sure it's a memorable one!



On Friday, 10th November, we celebrated a fantastic JUST ONE Tree Day! Many of our children wore green and spent the day learning about how we can all help protect our planet. It was a fun, inspiring, and educational experience for everyone involved.

Even better, we raised an amazing £444, which means we've kick-started The Downsview Forest with 444 trees! These trees will soon begin removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere—official figures on CO₂ absorption will be shared soon.

The Downsview Forest will do so much more than fight climate change. It will:

- Create homes for wildlife
- Support rural employment
- Protect coastlines
- Capture and store water
- Purify the air we breathe

We are incredibly proud of the positive impact our school community is making—and it's all thanks to your generous support.

Thank you! 🌳💚

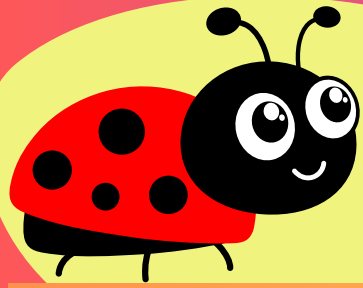
JUST
ONE
TREE



JUST ONE Tree supports reforestation projects planting in areas severely affected by mass deforestation such as Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique & Brazil. In doing so, they have the greatest positive effect on limiting global warming whilst simultaneously alleviating extreme poverty within local communities through the provision of training, agricultural education and sustainable incomes.

More information can be found at: <https://www.justonetree.life/>

DATES FOR THE DIARY...



[LINK TO WEBSITE CALENDAR...](#)



Eco Calendar 2025

October

[Sustainability Calendar LINK](#)

October

- Tues 21st Harvest Festival assembly (10am) **N-Yr 2 ONLY**- Bring your Grandparents
- Weds 22nd FOD Halloween Disco (KS1 3.30pm - 4.15pm) (KS2 4.30pm - 5.30pm)
- Thurs 23rd Parents Evening 1.30pm-7pm

Mon 27th - Fri 31st OCTOBER HALF TERM

NOVEMBER

- Mon 3rd Yr 6 PGL - ALL WEEK
- Tues 4th Yr 1 Come Dine with Me!
- Weds 5th EYFS Prospective parents tour 9.05am - 10.30am
- Tues 11th EYFS Prospective parents tour 9.05am - 10.30am
- Thurs 13th Book Fair
- Fri 14th Children in Need - Mufti Day
- Weds 19th EYFS Prospective parents tour 9.05am - 10.30am
- Thurs 20th Yr 6 Come Dine with Me!
Book Fair ENDS
- Mon 24th LAST WEEK OF CLUBS
- Thurs 27th FOD - Wreath Making

Autumn

1st Sept - 24th Oct 2025

Half-term:

27th Oct - 31st Oct

3rd Nov to 19th Dec 2025

**Inset days: 1st & 2nd
Sept 2025**

Term Dates

Spring

5th Jan - 27th March
2026

Half Term: 16th- 20th Feb

Easter holidays: 30th
March - 10th Apr 2026

Inset days: 5th Jan 2026

SUMMER

13th Apr - 22nd May 2026

Half Term: 25th- 29th May

1st June - 20th July 2026

Inset days: 20th July 2026

Bank Holiday:

4th May 2026



JOIN OUR TEAM

School Caretaker - Grade 5 - Scp 13-15 (£33,012 - £33,987) - Hours per week: 36 hours (10.30 - 6.30pm) Full time - All Year Round - Permanent

Downsview is a vibrant, inclusive and dog friendly school – and we're looking for a reliable, proactive and hands on person to help keep our school safe, clean and welcoming for everyone. If you take pride in your work, love being part of a friendly team and want to make a real difference in our school community, we'd love to hear from you!

Part-Time School Cleaner - Grade 1 - Scp 2-3 (£28,221 - £28,617) Hours per week - 10 hours (3.30pm - 5.30pm) Part time

Special perk: If you have a child at Downsview in Reception to Year 6, you can use our afterschool childcare free of charge during your working hours!

Classroom Teacher - Start Date: ASAP - Salary: ECT - UPS Contract Type: Full-time, Fixed Term

At Downsview, we are a warm, inclusive and diverse school where kindness and respect shape a vibrant community. We nurture the whole child encouraging curiosity, creativity and a love of learning; while balancing academic success with personal growth. Here, children gain confidence, follow their passions and are prepared for a bright, fulfilling future.

We are now seeking a talented and dedicated Key Stage 2 Class Teacher to join our team as soon as possible, as part of our commitment to providing an exceptional education for all learners.

For full details of the roles, please visit our school website: www.downsview.croydon.sch.uk



BEYOND THE SCHOOL GATES



What makes a good peacekeeper?

The UK government is planning to bring in digital identity cards, which people could keep on their phones or have as a physical card. The idea is that these new IDs would make it easier to prove who you are for things like work, travel, or applying for services. Supporters say they could improve safety and convenience, while others worry about privacy, fairness, and people without access to smartphones.

Things to talk about at home...

Can you make a list of some of the pros and cons of identity cards? Discuss these with someone at home. Do you think a digital card is better than having an actual card? Why? What do you think makes up your identity? Ask and share your response with someone at home.

[CLICK HERE](#)



Positive NEWS



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Can we feed the world without breaking it? Yes, says report!

Is it possible to feed almost ten billion people by 2050, while keeping within planetary boundaries? According to the most comprehensive study of food systems to date, the answer is: yes. But not without major changes in how we produce and consume food.

The EAT-Lancet Commission's report identifies food systems as "the single biggest cause of planetary boundary transgressions", and the main driver of biodiversity loss and emissions (30% of the global total).

But it doesn't have to be this way. In its report, it said that an urgent reduction in meat and dairy consumption, particularly in the west, could put diets on a more sustainable footing. It also advocates for an increase in the production and consumption of whole grains, fruit, nuts and vegetables.

According to the commission, its 'planetary health diet' offers a template for a "science-backed dietary pattern" that promotes human health and protects the planet. Mass adoption of this, it estimates, could deliver returns of \$5tn (£3.74tn) a year through better health, restored ecosystems, and climate resilience.

"Transforming food systems is not only possible, it's essential to securing a safe, just, and sustainable future for all," said Johan Rockström, the commission's co-chair.

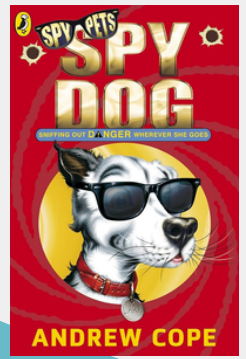
[Click here for the clip](#)



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

**PROTECT
OUR
CHILDREN**

Important Safeguarding Notice: Children's "Spy" Books



We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the Spy Dogs, Spy Cats, and Spy Pups series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

What this means for you:

- If your child has any Spy Dog, Spy Cat or Spy Pups books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves – the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend using a permanent pen or sticker to black out any weblinks you may find in books from home so that you feel reassured that your children are not accidentally exposed to inappropriate content.

At Downsview, we have checked these books in our school library as well as our class books.

School
FUND 25 - 26

**THANK
YOU!**

Schools are constantly having to work to very tight budgets and we rely greatly on the kind generosity and support of our parents. Each school year we ask parents if they are willing to contribute to the School Fund. This voluntary contribution allows the school to purchase additional resources for the children and this year we would love to purchase some additional equipment for our outdoor learning areas.

We would like to suggest a minimum contribution of £30 per family.

Your contributions are greatly appreciated and can be made on-line using the Magicbooking website. Please log into your account, go the E-Shop and select the item School Fund 2025-2026

Linh Son Temple

Y6 trip

Buddhism

As part of their learning about Buddhism in R.E., Year 6 were invited to visit the Linh Son Buddhist temple on Beulah Hill. We were greeted by a Buddhist Monk from Vietnam who took us on a tour around the very peaceful grounds. Through his translator, he told us the story of Siddhartha, the man who would become Buddha. The children got to explore the grounds before heading inside to do a guided meditation with the monk. The children were incredibly respectful and on their best behaviour and we even managed to get back in time for break!

Beautiful surroundings



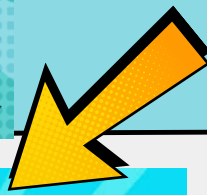
FOD NEWS



YEAR REPRESENTATIVES

THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR INTEREST

5TH NOVEMBER



Friends of Downsview are recruiting

Year representatives

We need one person to take this role in each year group.

why is it so important?

They will help gather and cascade key school and FOD communications, ensuring parents are well-informed and collective feedback is shared effectively. It is in everyone's best interest.

Key roles:

- Passing on information from the FOD to other parents/carers in their year group (via the year Whatsapp group)
- Spreading the word about all FOD events and answer questions about details (time, date, cost) or contacting the FOD person for help if needed
- Help raise awareness about PTA events to encourage participation and engagement from parents

More info will be in the newsletter with full description.

If you think this is your role or would like to know more please email us: friends@downsview.croydon.sch.uk

SCHOOL LOTTERY:

We are funding the Book vending machine and school library books with the income.

Currently, we have 10 Lottery ticket holders, which is not even enough to buy the books for the vending machine. You have a chance to win every week!

Please sign up and support us! It costs less than a coffee in a month.

IF YOU ACTIVELY TAKE PART IN THE LOTTERY, YOUR CHILD WILL RECEIVE 5 GAME TOKENS FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL FAIR.

[Click here!](#)



DONATIONS

WE WOULD NEED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS NOW:

- party bags, gift bags (any size, any kind)
- party bag fillers
- toys (new, used)
- xmas wrapping paper
- books (new and used)
- soft toys (new and used)



If you donate used toys, books, please make sure **they are in good condition and fully working.**



OCTOBER

22nd - Wednesday

KPOP Demon Dancers Disco

- KS1 (Y1&Y2) **3.15-4.15pm**
- KS2 (Y3-Y6) **SOLD OUT**

Only a few tickets left!

TICKET

Buy tickets and click here

DOWNSVIEW SCHOOL PRESENTS

KPOP DEMON DANCERS DISCO

You can be a pop star, a demon, a princess, a spooky ghost or wear your favourite Diwali or EID outfit! Everything goes here and fancy dress is only optional. If you prefer you can even wear your own clothes. If you go for spooky, make sure you are not too scary!

22nd OCTOBER WEDNESDAY

KS1 (Y1&Y2)	3.15pm - 4.15pm
KS2	4.30pm - 5.30pm

The kids will get a small bag of crisps and a halal vegan sweetbag with every ticket but please pack your own snack if your child will need more. Unlimited squash will be provided.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE TO BUY AT: £6
[HTTPS://WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/DVPS/](https://www.pta-events.co.uk/dvps/)

The kids can wear their costumes all day

NOVEMBER

Christmas Wreath workshop



BOOK TICKETS



Calling the **ADULTS** only for an evening of creative fun, cakes and some bubbly!

Downsview Primary School, SE19 3XE

NOVEMBER 27th/ Thursday 5-8 pm

Festive refreshments are available (cakes, mince pie, prosecco & lemonade) to purchase.

Christmas Wreath Workshop

Come and join me to make a beautiful wreath ready for the festive season.

With festive tunes and creative Christmas fun, what could be a better way of getting into the Christmas mood.

All materials provided, with step-by-step guidance to take you from start to finish.

Tickets are £45/person (including a drink). Only very limited spaces available so please book yours ASAP here:

<https://pta.events/9gagvs83>



FAMILY LEARNING FESTIVAL

27th to 31st October

Story Power

FREE WORKSHOPS celebrating the power of stories to help us make sense of our experiences, to grow our understanding of others and their experiences, and to learn, problem-solve and imagine new ways of doing things.



Workshops across the borough!

Central Croydon · Thornton Heath · New Addington

Family History Workshop · Listen Up! A Family Guide to Podcasts
Story Generator Workshop · Making Comics · Halloween Art & Stories



SCAN ME



Croydon Adult Learning And Training

For more information, scan the QR, pop in to one of our centres or email:
familylearning3@croydon.gov.uk
www.calat.ac.uk/family-festival-2025



After-school has never been so fun!

After-school coding clubs for Years 1-8 starting this autumn!

- 1 hour weekly sessions led by DBS-checked staff
- Coding, Minecraft engineering, game design & more
- Club options tailored to KS1, KS2 & KS3
- £10 per pupil, per week (paid by parents)
- No cost or admin for schools - we handle everything
- You provide a room, WiFi and laptops
- Choose any weekday that suits your school



For more information contact us:
partners@codecamp.co.uk 07539281080

HALLOWEEN SPOOKY TRAIL

20th - 31st October

Join in our trail to find the animals hidden in Halloween pictures around the farm
Collect your prize from the Tea Room

Open daily (except Tuesday)
from 1.30pm - 4.30pm



£4 per entry



Foal Farm Animal Rescue
Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, TN16 3AX
www.foalfarm.org.uk



SOCCER SCHOOLS

VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN SOUTH LONDON

FOOTBALL SESSIONS IN SOUTH LONDON FROM UEFA LICENSED PALACE COACHES DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

- All abilities welcome
- School years 2-8
- Boys, girls & goalkeeper specific courses
- Develop new skills and make new friends



BOOK NOW



WHEN:

- 9am-4pm
- School holidays

DISCOUNT CODE



PALACEFORLIFE.ORG FOOTBALLDEVELOPMENT@PALACEFORLIFE.ORG

OPEN ENTRY FOR BOYS & GIRLS



It's Harvest Festival Time Again!



We would like to extend a special invitation to all the 'Grandparents' of children from Nursery to Year 2 classes (only).

You are cordially invited to our special 'Harvest Assembly' on **Tuesday the 21st Oct 2025 at 10 am.**

Please come to the reception office area and you will be escorted to the hall.

We are looking forward to welcoming our Grandparents!

Donations from the Harvest collection will be given to Good Shepherd church in Thornton Heath and Downsview Methodist Church!



PSSA HAS ARRIVED IN... CRYSTAL PALACE

Join us for a free workshop day learning the songs, dances and scenes from your favourite film!

KPOP DEMON HUNTERS

Wednesday 5th November
The Norwood School

5-6pm 4-6yrs
5-8pm 6-16yrs

Performance for parents at pick up!

Meet the PSSA teachers and discover expert led training for stage and screen in your area.

To book your FREE spot simply email info@pssa.co.uk but hurry - limited spaces available!



This Half Term, Miss Smith will be running another 'Fangtastic' Halloween Arts and Crafts Day, on Friday 31st October. The course will be run here at Downsview from 9am till 3pm with both pupils and non-pupils of the school welcome. For more information and bookings, visit: <https://art-yard-creative.square.site>



BLOOM THROUGH NATURE FOREST SCHOOL
Mr B and Miss Dickens

Last Camp until Easter 2026!
Date: 27th-28th October
Time: 9am-3pm
Year Groups: Ages 5- 11
Downsview Primary School

Cost: £35 per day price includes campfire snacks and materials for bush craft

For more information or to book a place please email:
Bloomthroughnatureforestschool@outlook.com

Christmas BAZAAR

QUALITY ITEMS AND GIFTS AT SUBSIDISED PRICES

RAFFLE TOMBOLA FOOD AND MORE

SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER 11:00 - 15:00

Sunbeam Mission
23A Northwood Rd
Thornton Heath CR7 8HU

Payment by cash or chip & pin



ROMAN DAY

Year 4



This week, the children were visited by a centurion from the Roman Empire, who transported them back in time for an immersive experience exploring the history and life of a Roman soldier.

The encounter began with a surprise as our guest spoke only in Latin. After a few puzzled looks, he switched to Celt, and the lesson began.

The children learned about the various swords used by centurions and had the chance to ask questions before moving on to a creative activity, crafting mosaic artworks, the common art form of ancient Rome.

They also discovered that centurions endured nine months of rigorous training before ever stepping onto the battlefield. Later, everyone was given a shield and joined together to form a Testudo, the famous "tortoise" formation used to protect Roman soldiers during attacks.

It was a truly memorable day that sparked curiosity and excitement about the Roman Empire.



Celebrations

Values

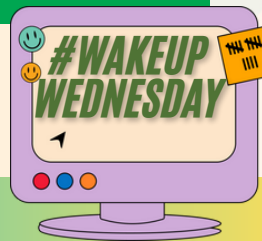
N- Harmony
R-Rowan
R-Lea
R-Genevieve
Y1 - Taalia
Y1 - Grace
Y1 - Jack
Y2 - Owen
Y2 - Jayden
Y2 - Hamza
Y3 - Leonardo
Y3 - Viola
Y3 - Esme
Y4 - Zach
Y4 - Zaki
Y4 - Lily
Y5 - Khari
Y5 - Austin
Y5 - Faouly
Y6 - Sulaiman
Y6 - Zakariya
Y6 - Phoebe

Effort

N- Yara
R-Ru
R-Jake
R-Kaiden
Y1 -Zakayla
Y1 - Roan
Y1 - Rose
Y2 - Mya-Li
Y2 - Layla
Y2 - Wilf
Y3 - Sonny
Y3 - Mehdi
Y3 - Jessica
Y4 - Alex
Y4 - Alice
Y4 - Sam
Y5 - Dexter
Y5 - Yazreen
Y5 - Sasha
Y6 - Luca
Y6 - Emma
Y6 - Muzaynah



Meme



They're everywhere online, but do you really know what memes are saying? 🤔 This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide explores the role of memes in youth culture - and why they're not always as harmless as they seem. From hidden messages to misinformation, we break it down 🌱📱

Plus, we share four simple ways parents and educators can guide young people to engage more safely with memes - encouraging empathy, critical thinking and healthier digital habits 🗣️🧠

[Click here for more information](#)

