



A warm welcome to all our new families joining us this year, especially our new Nursery and Reception children, as well as those who have joined us across other year groups. We are delighted to have you as part of the Downsview family and look forward to supporting your child's learning and development.

At Downsview, our school is built on six core values – Love, Cooperation, Diversity, Resilience, Responsibility and Trust – all centred around our one golden rule: Respect. These values guide everything we do and help create a safe, happy, and respectful learning environment where every one is encouraged to do their best.

We are excited to see these values in action throughout the year and to celebrate the many achievements of our children as they grow both academically and personally.

We believe that the partnership between school, parents and children is key to success. We look forward to working closely with you all as a strong tripartite team to support your child's journey and ensure they have a positive and enriching experience at Downsview.

Thank you for being part of our community. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Walking Home

Children in Years 5 and 6 may walk home alone only with written permission from a parent/carer. Younger siblings are not allowed to walk home with older brothers or sisters unless they are also in Key Stage 2 and permission has been given. If you would like your child(ren) to walk home alone, please complete the consent form via the link in this email.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1RmhGnOMZ91rTdEKSyDu6_RuH1DFrN8Un1bn0LRNrw3Q/edit

Your child(ren) will not be allowed to leave the school premises without an adult, until we have received written consent.

GDPR / Data Protection at Downsview

At Downsview, we take the protection of personal information very seriously. We are committed to keeping information about our pupils, families and staff safe, secure and confidential, and ensuring it is only used and shared appropriately.

Following GDPR and data protection requirements helps us protect our school community and maintain your trust.

For further information, please view our GDPR & Data Protection Policies on the school website:

[GDPR & Data Protection Policies](#)

2026

Dates for the Diary

[Link to School Calendar](#)

[Sustainability Calendar LINK](#)

The Parent **WORKSHOP** is an opportunity to meet your child's year team, hear about our priorities for the year and discover simple ways we can work together to support your child's learning, wellbeing and success, both at school and at home.



Mon 7th	Workshops- Year 3/4 3.30-4.30pm 1st Half of New Reception children in Full time New Nursery Children in
Tues 8th	2 nd Half of New Reception children in All New Nursery Children in
Wed 9th	Workshops Year 2- 3.30-4.30pm All new Reception Children in
Thurs 10th	Workshops Year 5/6- 3.30-4.30pm
Fri 11th	FOD Uniform Sale 3.15pm
Mon 14th	Clubs start
Fri 18th	Whole School BBQ
Weds 23rd	Year 6 Trip to Imperial War Museum



Thurs 1st	WHOLE SCHOOL - Bring in food for Harvest festival
Tues 6th	Harvest festival assembly EYFS/KS1- bring your Grandparents (RE)
Fri 9th	Come Dine with Me- Reception
Fri 16th	Just one Tree - Mufti day
Thurs 22nd	1.30-7pm: Parent's Evening



Tues 3rd	Year 1 Come Dine with Me
Weds 4th	EYFS Prospective parents talk 9-10.30 am
Fri 6th	FOD Mufti Day- Winter fair
Mon 9th	PGL Week
Tues 10th	EYFS Prospective parents talk 9-10.30 am
Weds 18th	EYFS Prospective parents talk 9-10.30 am
Thurs 19th	Year 6 Come Dine with Me
Fri 20th	Mufti day - Children in need

Term Dates



2nd Sept - 23rd Oct 26
Half Term: 26th Oct - 30th Oct
 2nd Nov - 18th Dec 26
Inset days: 2nd & 3rd Sept



4th Jan - 25th March 27
Half Term: 15th - 19th Feb
 Easter holidays:
 26th March - 9th Apr 27
Inset day: 4th Jan 27



12th Apr - 22nd May 27
Half Term: 31st - 4th June
 7th June - 23rd July 27
Inset days: TBC
Bank Holiday: 3rd May 27

A new year with new priorities...



Working together to help every child thrive

Every year, we look carefully at what is working well at Downsview and where we can make things even better for our children.

This year, we have **four key priorities**. They are all about helping our children become confident learners, great communicators, curious thinkers and kind, responsible young people who are ready for their future.

Families are an important part of this journey too! Here is what we will be focusing on and some simple ways you can help at home.



Becoming Great Readers & Confident Communicators

We want every child to read well, write confidently and be able to express their ideas.

This year, we will continue to strengthen **reading, spelling and handwriting**, while developing children's vocabulary and giving them lots of opportunities to talk, explain, question, listen and share their thinking. We also want every child to develop a genuine love of reading.



How can you help?

Read together regularly – even when your child can read independently. Talk about books, programmes, news and everyday experiences. Ask questions such as “Why do you think that?”, “What makes you say that?” and “Can you explain your thinking?”
And don't forget – talking and listening are learning too!



Curious Minds & Big Ambitions

We want children to investigate, problem-solve, create and discover where their learning could take them.

Through **Science, Computing, Design and Technology and Maths**, we will encourage children to reason, investigate, design, create and solve problems. We also want them to learn about the exciting opportunities and careers that STEM can open up for their future.



How can you help?

STEM is everywhere! **Cook** and measure together, **talk about money, build things, investigate nature, spot patterns and ask how things work.**

Encourage curiosity. You don't always need to know the answer – “**I don't know... how could we find out?**” is a brilliant response!

Talk about different jobs and careers too. Help your child believe that **big ambitions are for everyone.**

★ Small Things Make a BIG Difference



Read together •



Talk together •



Ask questions



Let them struggle a little •



Talk about the world •



Model kindness and respect

🧡 Every Child Supported. Every Child Challenged.

Every child is different – and every child should have the opportunity to succeed.

At Downsview, inclusion doesn't mean expecting every child to learn in exactly the same way. It means **knowing our children well**, recognising what might be getting in the way and giving them the right support and challenge to move forward.

We will continue to develop children's **resilience, independence and self-regulation**, helping them become confident learners who can keep going when things feel difficult.

🏠 How can you help?

Celebrate **effort, progress and perseverance**, not just getting the right answer.

Encourage your child to have a go independently before stepping in to help. Let them struggle a little, make mistakes and try again – that's an important part of learning!

If something is becoming a barrier for your child, **talk to us**. Working together makes a huge difference.

🌍 Great Learners. Good People. Responsible Citizens.

School is about so much more than academic results.

We want Downsview children to grow into **kind, respectful, responsible and confident young people** who understand themselves, care about others and are interested in the world around them.

Through lessons, assemblies, leadership opportunities and wider experiences, children will learn about democracy, diversity, equality, British Values, current affairs, careers and the wider world.

We want **every child to see themselves as a leader**. Someone who can make good choices, take responsibility and make a positive difference.

🏠 How can you help?

Talk about what is happening in the world in an age-appropriate way. Ask your child for their opinion and encourage them to explain why.

Give them little **responsibilities at home**, encourage them to make choices and solve problems, and talk about how our words and actions affect other people.

Most importantly, continue to model the kindness and respect we want our children to show to others.

🤝 How Will We Make It Happen?

Throughout the year, our staff will work together to develop teaching, share expertise, look carefully at how well our children are doing and continually improve what we provide.

Of course, you are part of the team too!

We will keep sharing our priorities throughout the year, showing you what the children have been doing and giving you simple ideas for supporting learning at home.

The Downsview Way

Trust • Diversity • Cooperation • Responsibility • Resilience • Love

Our Golden Rule: Respect

**Creating a safe, happy and respectful learning environment
where everyone is encouraged to do their best.**



REMINDER

**SAFETY
FIRST**

Playground

We kindly ask that the playground is cleared by 3:30pm, and by 3:45pm on Fridays. This is to ensure that our clubs and extended schools can safely use the grounds, and that only authorised individuals remain on site.

We also request that **NO** football games take place anywhere on the playground. Due to the high number of children and adults moving around at these times, it becomes unsafe to have a ball in play. Additionally, our staff are unable to supervise these games, and should an incident occur, we may not be able to address it due to other responsibilities and workloads. Please remember to walk your bikes and scooters off the property to ensure everyone's safety.

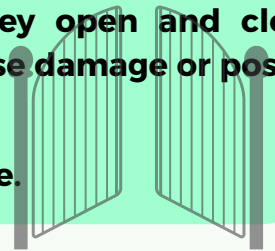
Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep the school grounds safe for everyone.



School Electric Gates around the School

School gates are an important part of keeping our pupils safe, as they help us manage access to the site and maintain a secure environment for everyone. We kindly ask all parents and visitors not to push, pull, or swing on the gates. They open and close automatically at a safe and controlled speed and forcing them can cause damage or pose a risk to others.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep our school safe and secure.



Parking and driving before and after school

As part of our commitment to keeping Downsview a safe and welcoming place, we kindly ask all families to be respectful and cautious when driving and parking near the school. Please remember to:

- Drive slowly and carefully, especially around the roundabout and near the church.
- Park legally and safely, never blocking neighbours' driveways.
- Be respectful of our neighbours and avoid causing congestion.
- Consider parking further away from the school and walking the rest of the way to reduce traffic and ensure children's safety.
- Speak politely to one another and model good behaviour for our children.
- Help ensure children arrive calm and ready for learning.

Together, we can maintain a safe environment for everyone in our community.



Medication in School



Please be aware that we can only administer medication that has been prescribed by a doctor. If your child needs medication during the school day, including an asthma inhaler, please bring it to the school office and complete the relevant consent form. It is very important that any medication is collected promptly once the course is finished, so we can keep the school environment safe and ensure no medicines are left on site unnecessarily.

School Procedures

The beginning of the school day:

- Children are not allowed on site before 8.45am, unless they are attending a club, musical practice or special school event, as there is no adult supervision. The doors open at 08.45 am. and children will make their way to their classroom.
- The register closes at 09.05 am. All children who arrive after this time are late and must report to the school office to sign in via our electronic InVentry System.

Absence Reporting

- Parents/Carers must contact the school office, using the attendance@downsview.croydon.sch.uk mailbox no later than 9.00am reporting their child's absence. Please ensure you specify the reason for absence, along with your child's class.

The office follows "first day calling" procedures contacting parents/carers who have failed to inform the office of any absence. A text will be sent and if we haven't had a response by 11.00 am a follow up phone call will be made, to parents and then to emergency contacts if necessary.

Parent-School Communication

It's important that we have up-to-date information for all our pupils to ensure their safety and wellbeing. This includes contact details, medical information, and any allergies your child may have.

If there are any changes, please contact the school office as soon as possible so we can update our records accordingly.

At Downsview, our primary method of communication is through ClassDojo.



ClassDojo

We expect all parents to have access to and engage with this platform, as it allows for timely and efficient communication between teachers and families.

ClassDojo is particularly beneficial as it is user-friendly for both teachers and parents, including those who may require messages to be translated. If you do not have access to ClassDojo, please speak with either your class teacher or the school office who will send you an invitation to join.

Please [click here](#) to view the 'Guide to School Communication' flyer.

Together We Thrive: Strengthening Parent-School Communication



Connecting with You: A Guide to School Communication

At Downsview Primary and Nursery School, our primary method of communication with parents is through ClassDojo. We expect all parents to have access to and engage with this platform, as it allows for timely and efficient communication between teachers and families. ClassDojo is particularly beneficial as it is user-friendly for both teachers and parents, including those who may require messages to be translated.

We understand that some parents have expressed concerns about receiving too many messages in different formats, while also indicating that they would like reminders for important events and updates. To address this feedback, we have established a structured approach to our communications. This ensures that critical information is delivered in a timely manner, while also allowing parents to have a clear understanding of the importance of each message.

Our goal is to foster a collaborative partnership with families, ensuring that all parents feel informed and engaged in their child's education.

Telephone

Urgent matters needing immediate attention including but not limited to...

- Sick/accident and needs collecting
- Head bump
- Incident requiring direct conversation to discuss situations
- Concerns about a child's well-being or behaviour
- Important updates that cannot wait for written communication
- Unreported absences 2nd contact
- Financial discrepancies



Text Messages

Immediate reminders about day to day happenings such as...

- Key reminders for Whole school priorities e.g. class photos, parent questionnaires
- Celebration assembly invites
- Messages pertaining to clubs scheduling
- Notifications about school closures, major changes or emergencies
- Absence 1st contact



Email

Emails are generally used on an individual basis including...

- Individual communications outside of general parent teacher discussion
- Responses to parent emails
- Formal response or updates on complaints
- Sharing resources or information about support services



Specific circumstances to communicate to whole school

- Newsletters
- Parents evening
- Notifications about school closures, major changes or emergencies

Individual Dojo Messages

General communication between specific members of staff and parents personal to the individual child such as...

- Class teacher
- SENDCO
- Member of Leadership or Senior Leadership Team
- Attendance and Welfare Officer for updates on attendance or lateness
- Any other member of staff



Whole School Dojo Messages



Announcements relevant to the entire school community such as

- Updates on school policies or procedures
- Information about school-wide events (e.g., sports days, fairs, panto)
- Sharing newsletters or important notices with all parents
- Promoting community engagement opportunities including FOD

Class/Year Group Dojo Messages

Individual messages pertaining to that class or year group

- General day to day such as home learning, PE days etc
- Information regarding trips, visits, experiences etc
- Sharing class-specific news or events including Celebrating achievements or milestones
- Communicating about specific behavioural or medical concerns (e.g. head lice) within the class/year group

Post

Letters pertaining to attendance



Formal Consultations to discuss progress and achievement

The Government guidelines of formally communicating pupil progress is each term. This is done via parent consultations in the Autumn and Spring terms and a formal written report at the end of the academic year.

All staff will do their best to respond within 3 working days. Staff will not be expected to respond during holidays, weekends or weekdays before 8.30am and after 4.00pm.

Connecting with Us: A Guide to School Communication



At Downsview Primary and Nursery School, our staff is dedicated to providing a high-quality education for your child. We recognise that effective communication with parents is essential in supporting your child's learning and development. Our goal is to foster a strong partnership between home and school, ensuring that we work collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes for our children.

We strive to maintain open lines of communication with parents. Regular updates and interactions help us to share important information and celebrate your child's achievements. We encourage parents to engage with us, as your insights and feedback are invaluable in shaping our educational practises.

Lines of Communication

Class teacher:

Class Dojo is your main way to communicate with the class teacher to...

- Ask for clarification on issues specific to the class or year group, i.e. home learning or questions about timetables, trips etc.
- Raise a concern that has or might affect the child's day at school.
- Urgent concern about your child's progress or academic achievement
- Positive feedback

SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities):

First contact the class teacher via Dojo, who may then pass on your details to the SENDCo Mrs Hearne-Reed (senco@downsview.croydon.sch.uk)

Any other staff:

If you need to reach out to another member of staff, please contact them directly on Class Dojo or email them at sec1@downsview.croydon.sch.uk. Our office team will ensure that your email is directed to the appropriate staff member for a timely response.

If you have any further comments or concerns regarding the school's communication, please feel free to contact Ms Hussey teachingandlearning@downsview.croydon.sch.uk.

Reporting Absences: Email- attendance@downsview.croydon.sch.uk.

WhatsApp Groups:

Many parents create WhatsApp groups to facilitate communication and build community connections. While these groups can be beneficial for networking and sharing positive experiences, it is important to remember that they should not be used as a platform for discussing concerns or grievances. We encourage parents to approach the school directly for any issues, as this promotes a constructive dialogue and ensures that concerns are addressed appropriately.

End-of-Day Communication:

Teachers are usually available in the playground at the end of the school day for quick messages. However, it is crucial that teachers can safely supervise the dismissal of children during this time. If you have more detailed concerns or queries, we kindly ask that you schedule an appointment with your child's teacher at a mutually convenient time. Please note that teachers will not be available for discussions before school or while children are entering the school.

Addressing Concerns:

We understand that parents may wish to discuss concerns with friends within the school community. While we appreciate the support that comes from these discussions, we strongly encourage parents to bring any issues directly to the class teacher. Teachers are best positioned to address concerns and provide the necessary support. Furthermore, we invite you to refer to the school's [Complaints and Concerns Policy](#). On page 5, you will find a detailed explanation within the flowchart regarding the process for expressing a concern or complaint.

Changes during the school day...

If there are any changes to your child's pickup arrangements, such as who will be collecting them, you **MUST** call the office on 0208 764 4611 to inform us. Please do not use Dojo to message the class teacher, as they may not receive the message in time.

Resolving concerns:

1st

Class teacher: through Class Dojo or on the playground at the end of the day. Depending on the situation, the class teacher may need to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

2nd

If you still feel your concern has not been addressed then you can email to arrange a meeting with a member of the Leadership or Senior Leadership Team- teachingandlearning@downsview.croydon.sch.uk.

3rd

Once you have followed the above and you still feel your concern has not been addressed then you can email to request a meeting with the Head teacher- sec1@downsview.croydon.sch.uk

All staff will do their best to respond within 3 working days. Staff will not be expected to respond during holidays, weekends or weekdays before 8.30am and after 4.00pm.

Stranger Danger

At **Downsview Primary School**, helping children stay safe is a key part of our curriculum. We teach children that while most adults are **kind and trustworthy**, they should know what to do if someone they do not know makes them feel uncomfortable, asks them to go somewhere, offers gifts, or asks them to **keep a secret**.

Children are encouraged to stay with trusted adults, say **"No"** if they feel unsafe, move away, and tell a trusted adult **straight away**.

We also remind pupils that if they ever need help when out, they should look for a safe adult such as a police officer, teacher, or shop worker.

Please support these messages at home by talking regularly with your child about personal safety and encouraging them to share any **worries or concerns**.

Together, we can help our children stay safe and confident.

**CLICK ON PICTURES
BELOW FOR INTERACTIVE
RESOURCES**

Clever Never Goes - The replacement for Stranger Danger from Action Against Abduction

Clever Never Goes is the replacement for Stranger Danger. Help us roll it out to schools around the country and help keep Children safe, not scared.

Action Against Abduction /



Stranger danger

Sadly, children may be at greater danger from people they know, from other children, or on the internet, than from the traditional bogeyman – but abuse and abductions continue to happen and it's important to teach your child how to stay...

[Better Lives Healthy Futures](#)

NSPCC

Keeping children safe outside the home | NSPCC

Our tips and advice to keep children safe away from home – at school, at work and at after school activities.



[nspcc.org.uk](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)



OUR UNIFORM

**The nearest local supplier is Bubblegum School Wear, 113 High Street, Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR7 8RZ.
Telephone: 020 8683 2773**

We are proud of our school uniform, which makes the children look smart and fosters a sense of belonging to the Downsview family. All children are expected to wear school uniform, with adaptations for children attending the Nursery. The cost of this is kept as low as possible by not specifying a particular design from one retailer.

Reception, Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) and Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

The standard uniform is based on the colours burgundy and grey and comprises the following items:

- Grey trousers, shorts, or skirt/pinafore
- White shirt or white polo shirt
- Burgundy school jumper or sweatshirt (with or without school logo) or cardigan
- Hijabs, if worn, should be in plain black or burgundy
- Summer dress in pink and white or red and white gingham
- Black closed shoes with flat heels or dark trainers (black, navy, or dark grey) only (no open-toed sandals). Shoes or trainers should be suitable for school wear for safety reasons.
- There is also an optional school fleece and sweatshirt available only from Bubblegum.

Nursery- not required to wear the formal school uniform

Children should wear the school navy tracksuit bottoms with a white polo shirt or house coloured t-shirt. They can either wear the Downsview navy tracksuit jacket or burgundy school jumper/cardigan. They must wear trainers or shoes which are suitable for outdoor play. They will require at least one house coloured t-shirt to wear at sporting events, such as the school Sports Day.

PE Kit – Nursery to Year 6

Games and PE (including swimming when appropriate) are compulsory subjects and children are required to wear the correct kit, comprising:

- Red, Blue, Yellow or Green House T-shirt (with or without school logo)
- Downsview navy blue tracksuit bottoms and jacket – they can either wear the Downsview navy tracksuit jacket or a burgundy school jumper/cardigan (with or without school logo)
- Black shorts or plain black leggings (under tracksuit if appropriate)
- Black trainers or plimsolls (please note that gymnastics is done barefoot)

Every pupil at Downsview belongs to one of the following school houses: Red, Blue, Yellow or Green and parents will be informed of their child's house colour once admitted to the school. House coloured T-shirts with a school logo are optional and available from Bubblegum.

Summary of Uniform Requirements:

Compulsory Branded Items: Downsview navy blue tracksuit (bottoms only – *jacket optional*).

Optional Branded Items: PE House coloured t-shirts, school jumper/cardigan, school fleece, school sweatshirt, Downsview book bag or satchel (if opting for non-branded, must be burgundy).

Non-Branded Options: Burgundy school jumper or cardigan, burgundy sweatshirt and house coloured T-shirts which can be sourced from other retailers.

All items should be clearly marked with your child's name. We cannot use valuable time searching for un-named articles. Property, including money, is not insured by the Local Authority. In their own interests, parents are advised to obtain insurance cover against loss of or damage to their property while on school premises or elsewhere.

COMPULSORY BRANDED ITEMS



PE TRACKSUIT BOTTOMS

Compulsory branded items and optional branded items can be purchased from our uniform supplier Bubblegum Schoolwear, 113 High St, Thornton Heath, CR7 8RZ. The school often hold second hand uniform sales once a term where all items listed can be purchased at a reduced price.

OPTIONAL BRANDED ITEMS



SWEATSHIRT



JUMPER



CARDIGAN



FLEECE



PE T-SHIRT



PE TRACKSUIT JACKET



SACHEL



BOOK BAG

NON-BRANDED OPTIONS



SWEATSHIRT



JUMPER



CARDIGAN



FLEECE



PE T-SHIRT



SACHEL



BOOK BAG



FREE SCHOOL MEALS



Your child may be eligible to receive Supermarket Vouchers during the school holidays! Details of how to apply can be found below.

For those children who are eligible for benefits related free meals, schools are able to claim extra funding through the Pupil Premium. If your child is eligible, the school can use the extra funding to improve the quality of provision, for example, buying additional resources and equipment to support teaching & learning. In addition, if your child is eligible, you will receive an electronic voucher which can be used at a range of shops including Sainsbury's Tesco, ASDA, Morrisons, Lidl & Iceland during the school holidays!

We want to ensure that all our eligible families take up this offer!

TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND SUPERMARKET VOUCHERS, PLEASE REVIEW THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA BELOW:

Benefit Related Free School Meals

Children whose parents receive the following may be entitled to free school meals:

- Income Support
- Universal Credit if you apply on or after 1st April 2018 your household earned income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income-based jobseeker's allowance
- Support under part VI of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child tax credit, and have an income that does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by HMRC. If you receive working tax credit as well as child tax credit you will not be entitled to free school meals.
- The guarantee element of state pension credit

OR If you are not in receipt of any of the benefits listed above, you may be able to apply under:

No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

Eligible groups include, but may not be limited to children of:

- Zambrano carers
- Families who have NRPF with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights
- Families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are also subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction
- A subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Chen carers
- Families holding a BN(O) passport
- Spousal visa holders
- Work visa holders & student visa holders
- Those with no immigration status

Income thresholds

Under the permanent extension of free school meal eligibility to those with NRPF, the annual household income threshold for those families able to work are:

- £31,200 for families within London with 1 child
- £34,800 for families within London with 2 or more children

If you believe you are eligible, please come to the school office to collect an application form so that we can confirm eligibility on your behalf.

Please note: Families whose children have previously applied and receive free school meals do not need to re-apply.

Snack Times

At Downsview, we take great care in promoting healthy eating to support our pupils' wellbeing and learning. As a nut-free school, no nut-based products -including spreads should be brought in due to severe allergies.

Children in EYFS and KS1 are provided with a free piece of fruit at break time, while KS2 pupils should bring a healthy snack such as fresh fruit or vegetables, natural yoghurt, cheese, or a low-sugar cereal bar.

Fizzy drinks, fruit juices, sweets, and chocolate are not permitted at any time, only water—or subsidised milk for EYFS pupils—is allowed.

Packed lunches should include fruit or vegetables and avoid sugary snacks and drinks, with uneaten items returned home for parents to monitor.

Lunch staff help oversee food choices, and we will reach out if healthier alternatives are needed.

For full details, please see our School Website for our School Food Policy:

Downsview Whole School Food Policy (www.downsview.croydon.sch.uk)



Smartphone Free **ZONE**



Last year we received unwavering support from all the families in Years 5 and 6, who respected and embraced our decision to become a smartphone-free school.

From September 2024, Downsview became a smartphone-free school. This means that children in Years 5 and 6, who are permitted to bring phones to school, are no longer allowed to bring in smartphones. They may bring a basic 'brick' phone solely for safety purposes, such as calling or texting you when travelling to and from school.

There is a national conversation about the appropriate age for children to receive their first smartphone. While technology offers numerous benefits and opportunities, recent research has highlighted a concerning link between the age at which a child gets their first smartphone and mental health issues in young adulthood. (see research <https://sapienlabs.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Sapien-Labs-Age-of-First-Smartphone-and-Mental-Wellbeing-Outcomes.pdf>)

We encourage parents who feel the need for their child to have a phone for safety reasons to consider pay-as-you-go basic phones without internet access. These phones are both affordable and readily available. Please note, pupils will still be required to hand in their phones at the beginning of each school day. Here is a link for brick phone alternatives- <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/alternatives>

In the meantime, the Downsview SFC parents' group have offered to be on hand to support, signpost information and talk through the transition. Here is the link to their WhatsApp group <https://chat.whatsapp.com/lwCWZ8U6lqKHqVOKme2i4l>

Please also take the time to sit down with your children and watch the video below from Smartphone Free Childhood which explains:

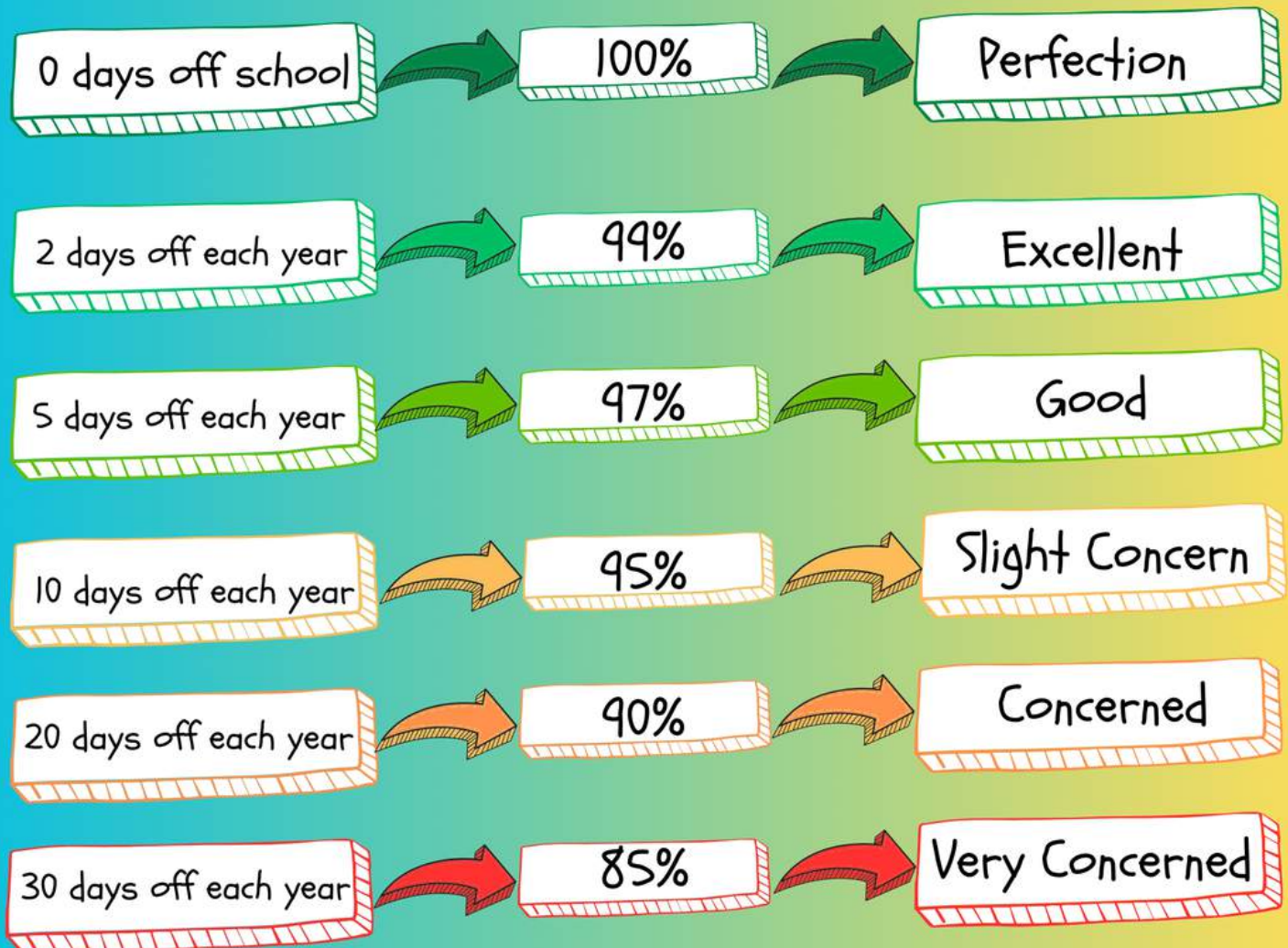
- How smartphones changed the world
- How they're designed to grab your attention
- The hidden superpowers you unlock by waiting to get a smartphone
- Views from teens on why smartphones aren't all they're cracked up to be!

[This made my kids stop begging for a phone](#)

For more detailed information and resources, please visit the Smartphone Free Childhood website. [Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS



Every Minute Counts

LATENESS = LOSS LEARNING

(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 Minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 Minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 Minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 Minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 Minutes late each day	19 days lost!

DOWNSVIEW PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A RECEPTION PLACE 2027?

02087644611 or sec1@downsview.croydon.sch.uk

- ✓ Do you want to be part of a community school who cares about the whole child?
- ✓ Are you as passionate about sustainability as we are?
- ✓ Are you looking for a school that has fantastic facilities and massive grounds with green spaces and wooded areas to explore? We have an exceptional Forest School where all teachers have Level 3 Forest School's accreditation.
- ✓ Do you want to be part of a school who celebrates diversity and inclusion?



We even have
our own School
Dog- Joey!



Here is what some of our Nursery and Reception parents have said:

"I highly recommend Downsview . The structure and their ethos is amazing. The children have a wide variety of learning resources which are always fun for them. The staff are amazing with the children and the school has so much to offer."

"We are incredibly pleased that we chose Downsview for our child. She has settled well, loves her teachers and has made a lovely group of friends. She is thriving at Downsview, and is boosted by the encouragement that is given to all children - effort is rewarded daily, and the children are taught to celebrate their own successes as well as those of their friends, however big or small. The enthusiasm, friendliness and kindness of the teachers are seen across the school from the Headteacher through to the Support team. The grounds and facilities are also fantastic - a huge grass playing field and playground, set back from the road - not seen within many London schools! I can't recommend Downsview enough." [Click here for more...](#)

WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2026 AT 9.00AM -10.30 AM

TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2026 AT 9.00AM - 10.30 AM

WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2026 AT 9.00AM - 10.30 AM

WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2026 AT 9.00AM - 10.30 AM

REQUESTING A LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Should you need to request a leave of absence for your child, it is important that the following procedures below are followed to ensure our records remain accurate.



HOW TO REQUEST LEAVE

1

Collect a Leave of
Absence Form



2

Complete the
Form



4

Await Approval

3

Return the Form
at least 2 weeks
before



- By law, schools can only authorise leave in exceptional circumstances
- Holidays during term time are generally not permitted
- Unauthorised absences may lead to a penalty notice from the local authority



NURSERY

SPACES STILL AVAILABLE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

ADMISSIONS

To Apply please click [here!](#)



SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!

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.

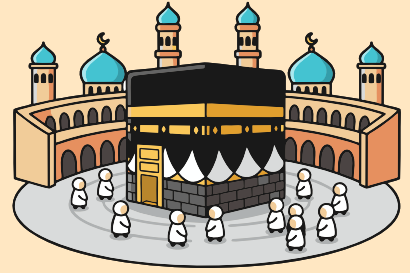
We would like to suggest a minimum contribution of £30 per family.

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 26-27



Pilgrimage and School Attendance



At Downsview Primary School, we recognise that pilgrimage is an important part of many faiths and a deeply meaningful spiritual journey.

We respect and value our students' religious commitments and understand the desire to take part in such experiences.

Please be aware that pilgrimages during term time **cannot** be authorised as an absence from school, as these trips can generally be taken during school holidays – with the exception of Hajj.

This means that any days missed will be recorded as unauthorised absences in accordance with school and local authority attendance policies.

We encourage families to plan pilgrimages during school holidays whenever possible, so that students can honour their faith without impacting their learning.