

Welcome to Yr7 Information Evening

Safe, Supported, Successful

Reassurance, Partnership and Community

The values, ambitions and vision that will shape your child's experience over the next five years.



Every child should be safe, supported and successful.

That belief sits at the heart of everything we do and reflects our vision of being **a truly inclusive community** where every young person is known, valued and encouraged to flourish.

Ofsted inspection.

The resulting report was something that we are enormously proud of, because it recognises the things we care about most.

Ofsted Headlines

- **Pupils achieve well** and that outcomes at Key Stage 4 are well above national averages.
- Inspectors recognised the **strength of teaching, the quality of our curriculum, our commitment to safeguarding, and our focus on personal development**.
- Importantly, they noted that our teaching is "**highly inclusive**" and that leaders promote "**high expectations, inclusion and equal opportunities**."

Our Greatest Achievement

Ofsted described Downlands as a school where pupils feel a **strong sense of belonging**, where community and **kindness** are central to the ethos, where young people are proud of their school and where **respectful relationships** underpin daily life.

ROCKS

Ofsted explicitly recognised our values in their report, noting that the school's values promote resilience, optimism, community, kindness and self-awareness and **help pupils develop confidence, independence and character.**

These values shape the adults we become and the communities we create.

Character, Contribution and Legacy

Over the next five years they will develop **friendships**, discover **new interests**, **experience success**, **overcome setbacks**, **build confidence** and learn more about themselves than they can possibly imagine today.

Our Best Results Ever!

West Sussex

Year: **2026**
Subject: **All subjects**
Age group: **Aged 16**

Total number of results in
the above selection: **76,800**

Percentage of results at grade **4 and above**:
In West Sussex (county): **73.0%**
In South East (region): **73.3%**
In England: **70.7%**

Total grades 4+

DCS: 88.6%

Our Best Results Ever!

West Sussex

Year: **2026**
Subject: **All subjects**
Age group: **Aged 16**

Total number of results in
the above selection: **76,800**

Percentage of results at grade **7 and above**:
In West Sussex (county): **22.5%**
In South East (region): **25.9%**
In England: **23.1%**

Total grades 7+
DCS: 38.3%

Our best ever results!

- That year group became known for their **kindness**, their support for one another, their **positive relationships** with staff and their commitment to **attending school regularly**. They created a culture where it was normal to **work hard**, normal to **support others** and normal to aim high.
- The **results were the outcome of that culture**.

pupils are "***very happy and love attending Downlands***" and "***value the strong sense of belonging they experience here***." *Ofsted Sept 2026*

Reflective and Ambitious

A strong school remains reflective and ambitious.

Ofsted highlighted two key areas for us to continue developing: embedding strategies that further improve attendance, particularly for disadvantaged and persistently absent pupils, and strengthening systems that identify and respond to the needs of our most vulnerable learners.

These recommendations align directly with our School Development Plan and our vision for the future.

The strongest schools are communities rather than institutions.

The word community appears throughout our values and vision because we know that **children thrive when home and school work together.**

When families champion **attendance**.

When we **communicate** openly.

When we hold **shared expectations**.

When we celebrate successes together.

When we support one another through challenges.

That **partnership** is one of the greatest strengths of Downlands.

Smartphone Free School Day Policy

From September 2025, Downlands operates a smartphone-free school day. This approach is designed to help students **focus on learning, build positive social relationships**, and make the most of their time in school.

Key Points for Parents

- ✅ Students may bring a phone to school for safety while travelling to and from school.
- ✅ **Phones must be switched off and kept in bags throughout the entire school day, including break and lunchtime**.
- ✅ Smartphones are not required for lessons or school activities. Alternative provision is available where needed.
- ✅ Paper timetables are provided and timetable information is available through school systems.
- ✅ If parents need to contact their child urgently, or a student needs to contact home, this can be done through Reception.
- ✅ Reasonable adjustments are made for students who require a phone for medical needs or SEND-related support.

If the Policy Is Not Followed

- Phones, headphones, smart watches or other electronic device seen or used without permission will be **confiscated**.
- A C1 detention will be issued.
- Repeated incidents may lead to parental contact and students being required to hand in devices at the start of the day or keep them at home.



DSA – Parent Volunteers

Our amazing dedicated parent volunteers raise **thousands** of pounds each year to help us **support our community** if you are interested please do **sign up** on your way out

Parent Governor Elections

Strong schools are built through strong partnerships.

We would love to hear from parents and carers who can bring fresh perspectives, expertise and a commitment to helping **every child succeed**.



The Curriculum at Downlands



Curriculum Ambition

- **Outstanding outcomes**
- **Next stage of learning**
- **Good members of the community**
- **Culturally enriching experiences**



The Curriculum at Key Stage 3

English
Maths

Sciences
Languages
History
Geography
RS

Art
Drama
Music
Dance
PE
Technology
Forest Schools
PDC



How the curriculum is taught

- High Expectations
- ROCKS
- Inclusive Teaching Practice
- Reading, Literacy and Numeracy
- Deep thinking
- Feedback



The Curriculum at Key Stage 4

PDC
PE

English
Maths

EBACC

Science

History Or
Geography

Language

Art – Dance – Drama – Computing – I Media – PE – Food and Nutrition – Product design – Resistant materials – RS – Health and Social Care – Music – Textiles – Classics -

Wider Curriculum







Student leadership







"Reading is the master skill of school, unlocking the academic curriculum for our pupils.“

Alex Quigley *Closing the Reading Gap*

Learn to Read

Read to Learn

Ofsted
raising standards
improving lives

Downlands Community School

Address: Dale Avenue, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8LP

Unique reference number (URN): 126087

Inspection report: 7 July 2026

Leaders’ relentless focus on reading has a clear impact. Pupils who need support improve swiftly and go on to achieve highly. Older pupils enjoy borrowing books from the library and consider themselves to be lifelong readers.

Leaders are highly focused on developing language and communication skills. The school's focus on reading supports pupils to read complex texts in lessons.

Decoding- can I sound out the word?

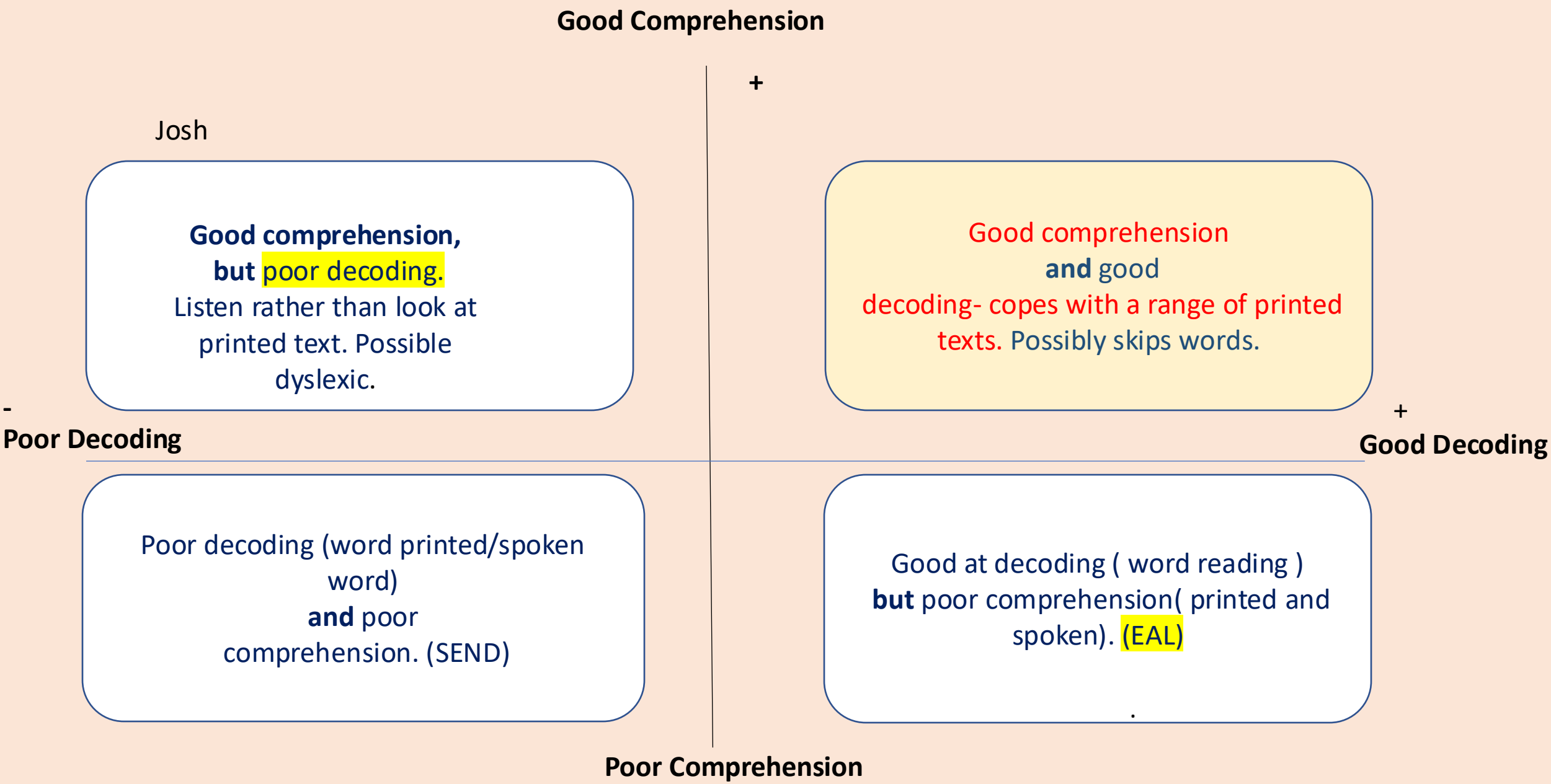
Comprehension- what is the story about?

.

I am an American. I was born and reared in Hartford, in the State of Connecticut—anyway, just over the river, in the country. So I am a Yankee of the Yankees—and practical; yes, and nearly barren of sentiment, I suppose—or poetry, in other words. My father was a blacksmith, my uncle was a horse doctor, and I was both, along at first. Then I went over to the great arms factory and learned my real trade; learned all there was to it; learned to make everything: guns, revolvers, cannon, boilers, engines, all sorts of labor-saving machinery. Why, I could make anything a body wanted—anything in the world, it didn't make any difference what; and if there wasn't any quick new-fangled way to make a thing, I could invent one—and do it as easy as rolling off a log. I became head superintendent; had a couple of thousand men under me.

Spins/waves/wobbles

Reading is a complex problem, but the Simple View of Reading reduces it down to two key components:



Reading Journey at Downlands

At Downlands we have a rich reading environment

Dedicated Reading Time

Track reading progress

Reading Across Subjects

Additional support

Pleasure and Purpose





Test paper	Word count	Flesch Kincaid rating	Time allowance (mins)	Time to read at 90wpm	Time to read at 100wpm	Time to read at 110wpm	Time to read at 120wpm	Possible gains
AQA English Literature Paper 1 (Shakespeare/ novel)	4417	**75.7**	105	49.08	44.17	40.15	36.81	12.27
AQA Chemistry Foundation Tier	3078	**58.6**	105	34.20	30.78	27.98	25.65	8.55

In the Flesch reading-ease test, higher scores indicate material that is easier to read; lower numbers mark passages that are more difficult to read. (readability)

KS2 sats reading paper

A day in the life of a year 7 pupil



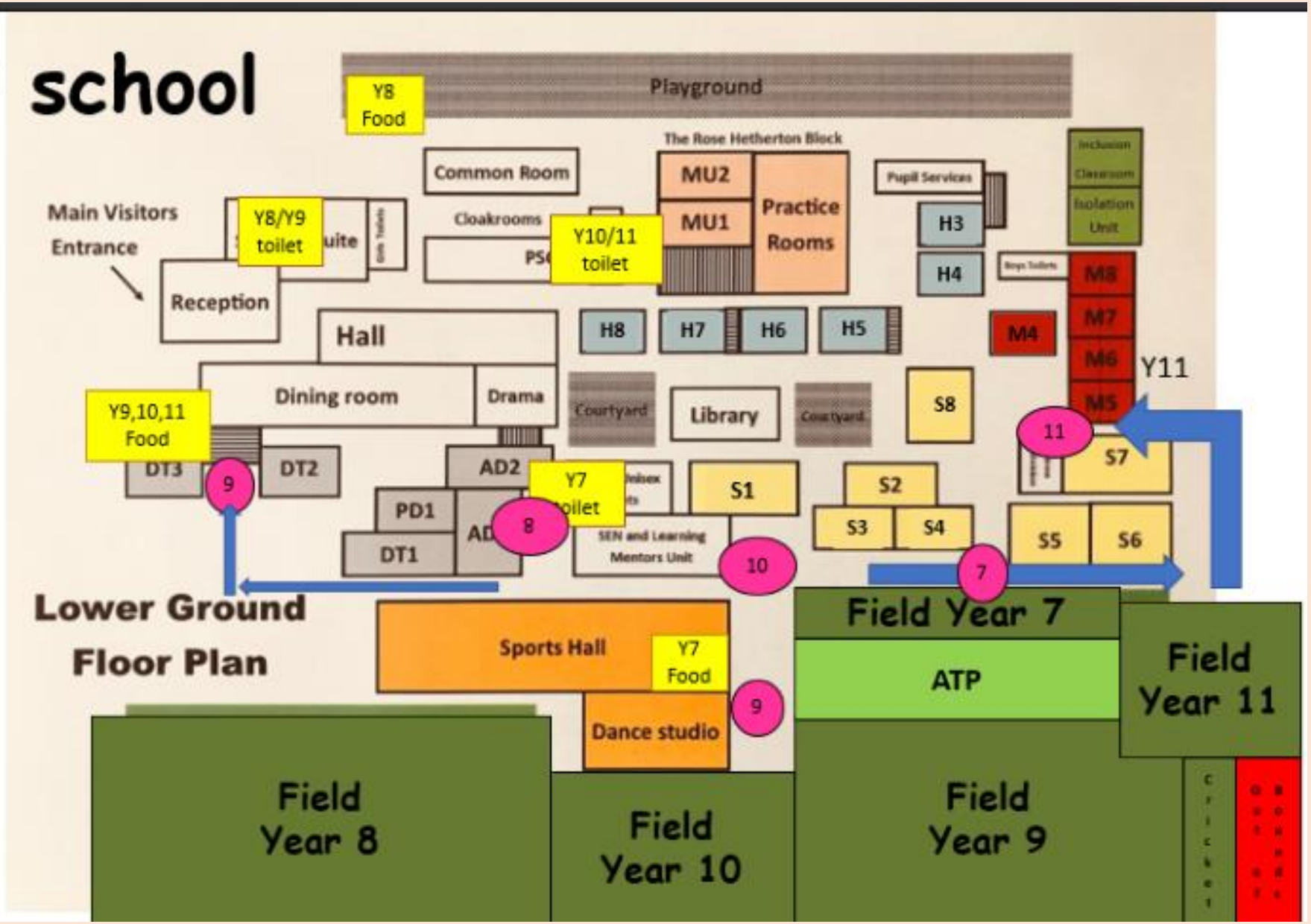
Sonya

Chronological age: 11 years 2 months
Reading age: 11 years 8 months

Bulletin

Re-enter school

Year	Locations
Y7	Between Science & Maths
Y8	Door to library
Y9	Around Sports Hall and across to door by DT2
Y10	Door by S1
Y11	Between Science & Maths



P1 English

Progress bar/assessment criteria

The wind howled through the **gnarled** trees, their **skeletal** branches clawing at the **storm-darkened** sky. Heavy rain lashed against the crooked windows of the manor, each drop echoing like ghostly footsteps in the gloom.

It was then that I saw it.

Victoria Sponge

180°C (160°C fan) or Gas Mark 4.

1. **Prepare** the tins: Line the bases of the two cake tins with baking paper and lightly grease the sides.
2. **Mix** Ingredients: In a large bowl, **cream** together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
3. **Beat** in the eggs one at a time, adding a spoonful of flour **if** it starts to curdle.

Liam has **72** apples. He wants to pack them into boxes, with **each** box holding 8 apples.

How many boxes will Liam need?

If he gives 3 boxes to his friend, how many apples does he have left for himself?

P4 Art



Period 5 DEAR time



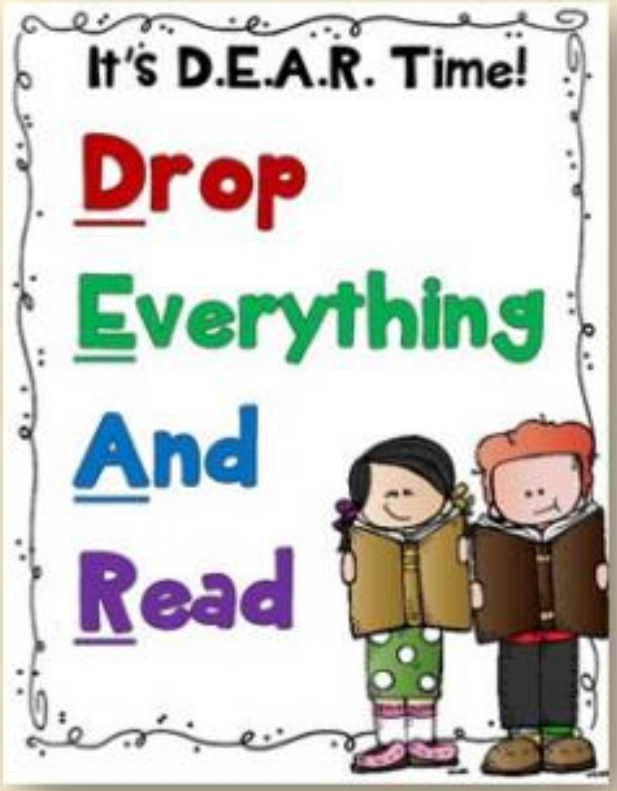


DEAR time

1. Get out your independent reading book (fiction or non-fiction).

2. Lose yourself in the joy of reading!

3. Your teacher will want to listen to you read- take advantage of the practice!

















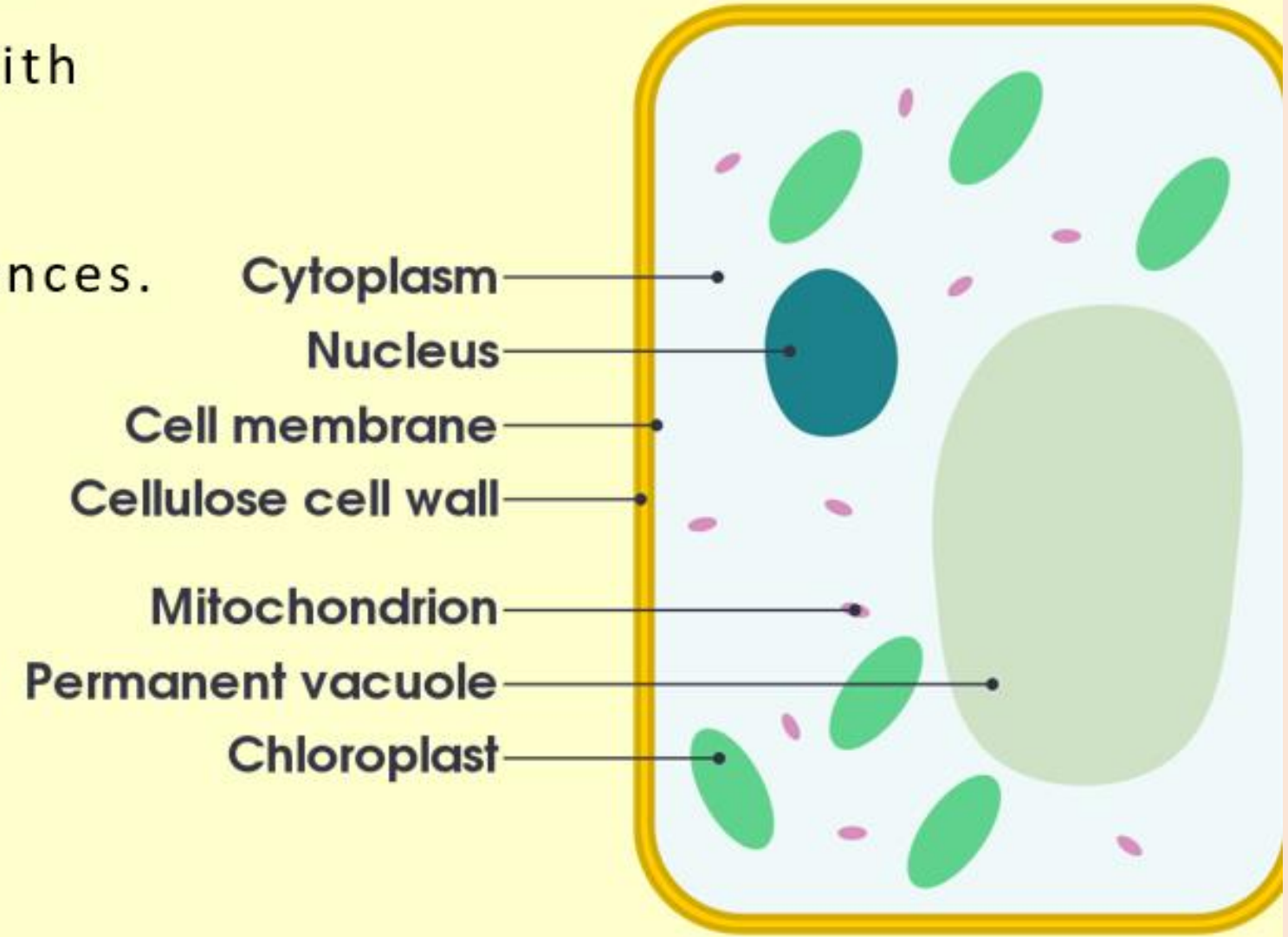
P5 Science

This a plant cell, which shares similarities with an animal cell.

But there are differences.

What are they?





Fast forward …Year 11



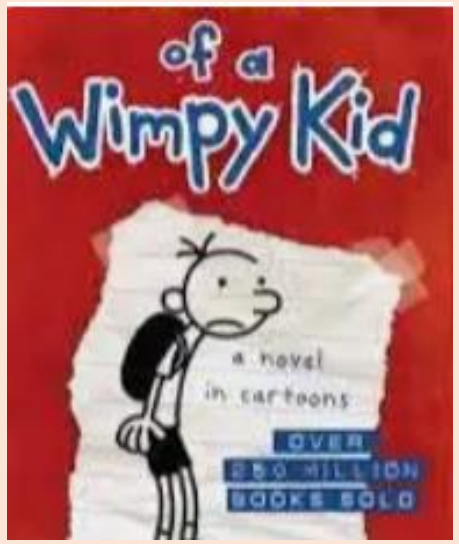
Sonya

Year 7 Age: 11 years 2 months
Year 7 Reading Age: 11 years 8 months

Year 11 Age: 15 years old and 11 months
Year 11 Reading Age: 15 years and 5 months

GCSE texts (15-16+)

Read and Listen





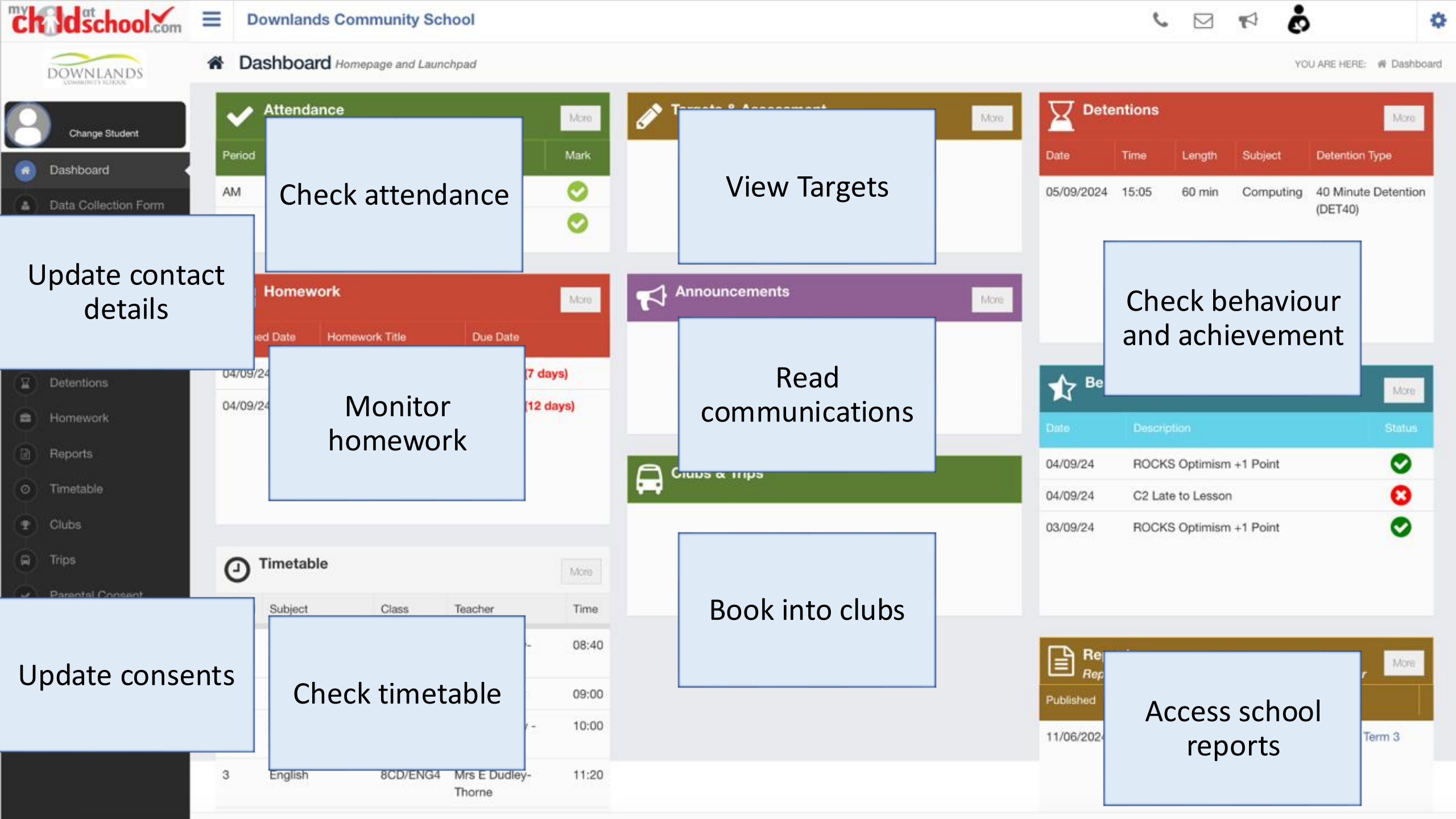
Make it a habit

Anecdote

30 minutes

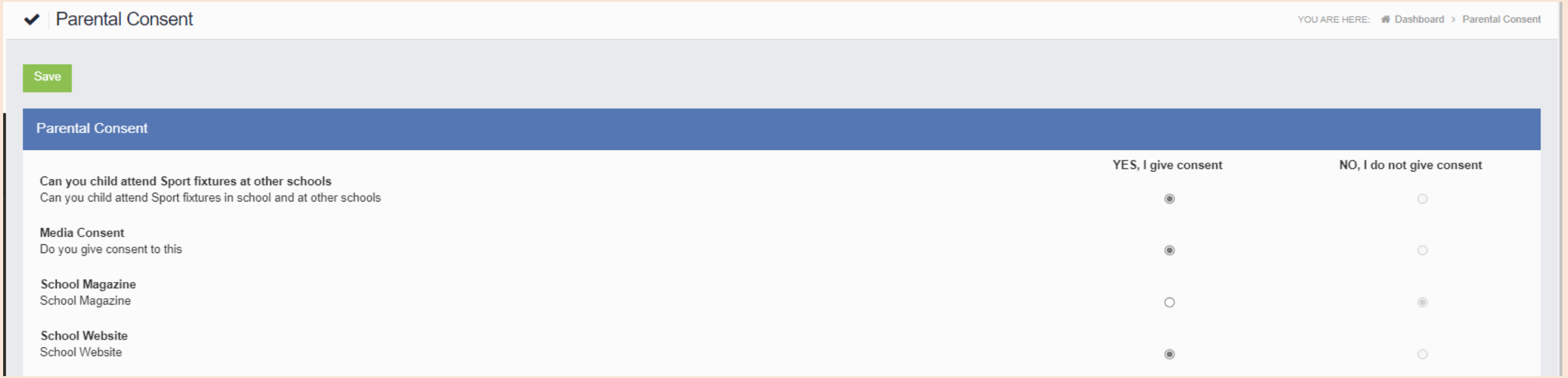
School Communication

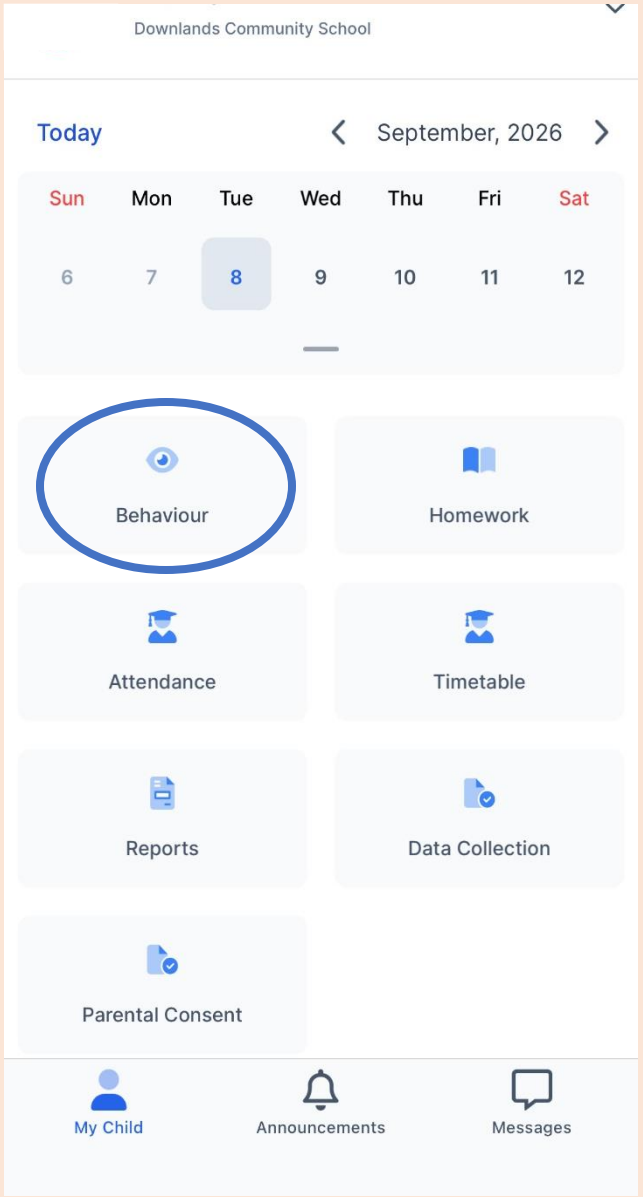
Mr Urwin
Assistant Headteacher Data & Digital Systems
and Head of the Science Faculty

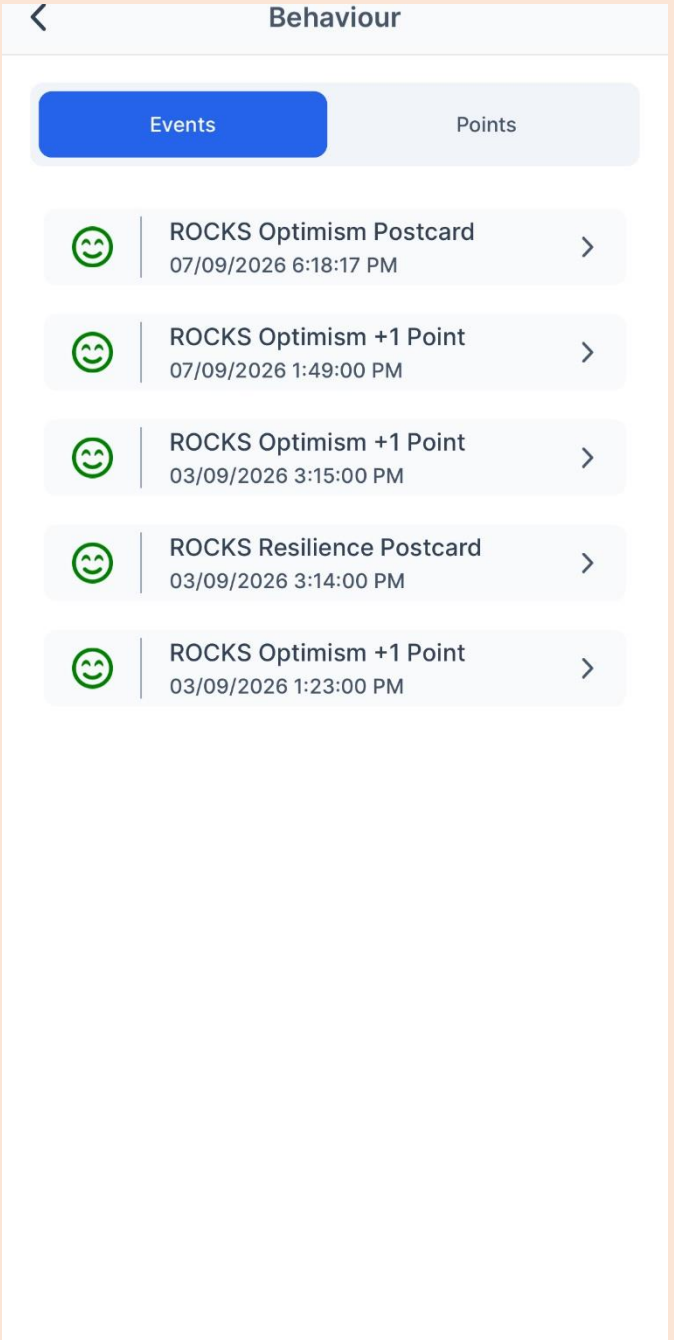

Downlands Community School
Dashboard Homepage and Launchpad
YOU ARE HERE: Dashboard
Change Student
Dashboard
Data Collection Form
Detentions
Homework
Reports
Timetable
Clubs
Trips
Attendance
More
Period
Mark
AM
Homework
Homework Title
Due Date
(7 days)
(12 days)
Timetable
Subject
Class
Teacher
Time
08:40
09:00
10:00
3
English
8CD/ENG4
Mrs E Dudley-Thorne
11:20
Announcements
Detentions
Date
Time
Length
Subject
Detention Type
05/09/2024
15:05
60 min
Computing
40 Minute Detention (DET40)
Description
Status
04/09/24
ROCKS Optimism +1 Point
04/09/24
C2 Late to Lesson
03/09/24
ROCKS Optimism +1 Point
Published
Term 3
Check attendance
View Targets
Update contact details
Check behaviour and achievement
Read communications
Monitor homework
Book into clubs
Update consents
Check timetable
Access school reports

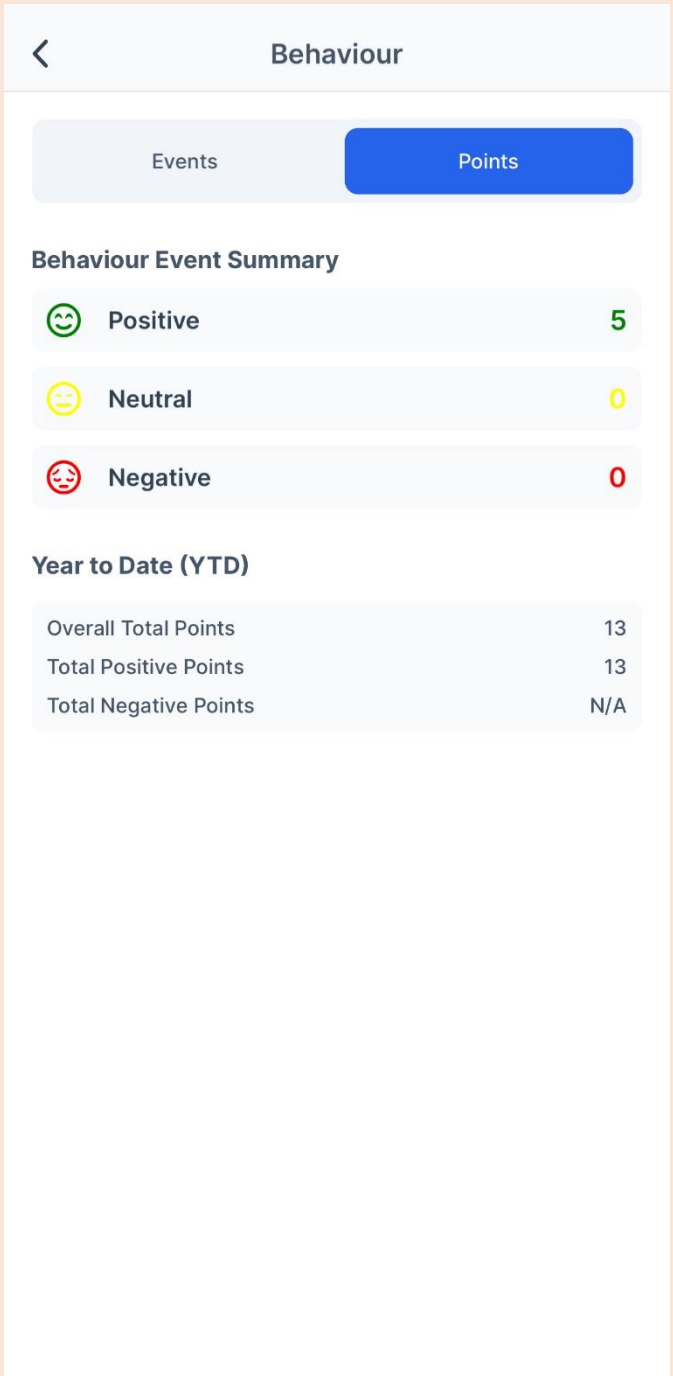
Parental Consents

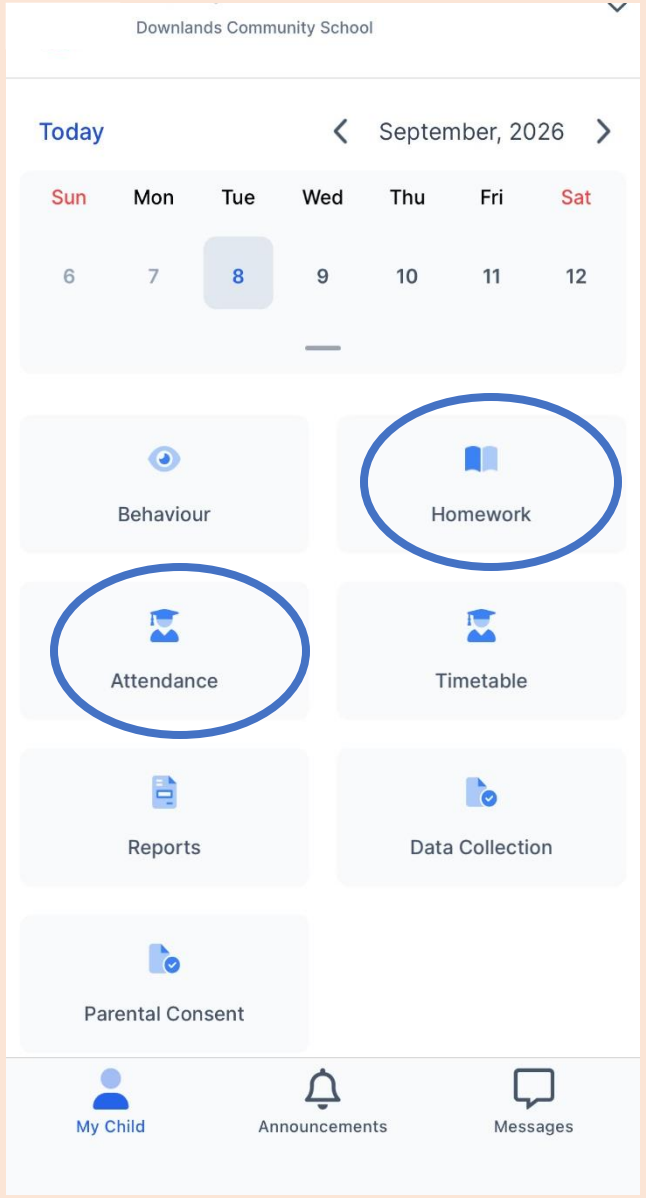
- Please navigate to the Parental Consent panel to review and give consents
- Simply click the radio buttons to give consent

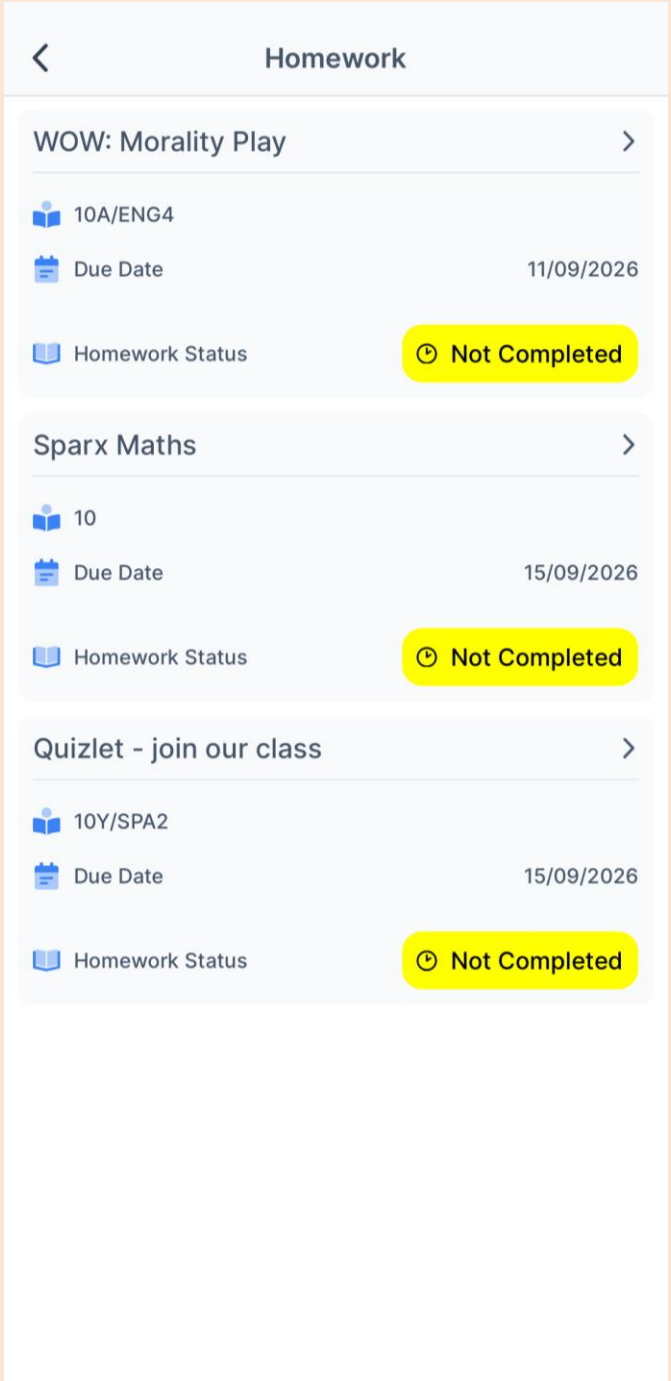


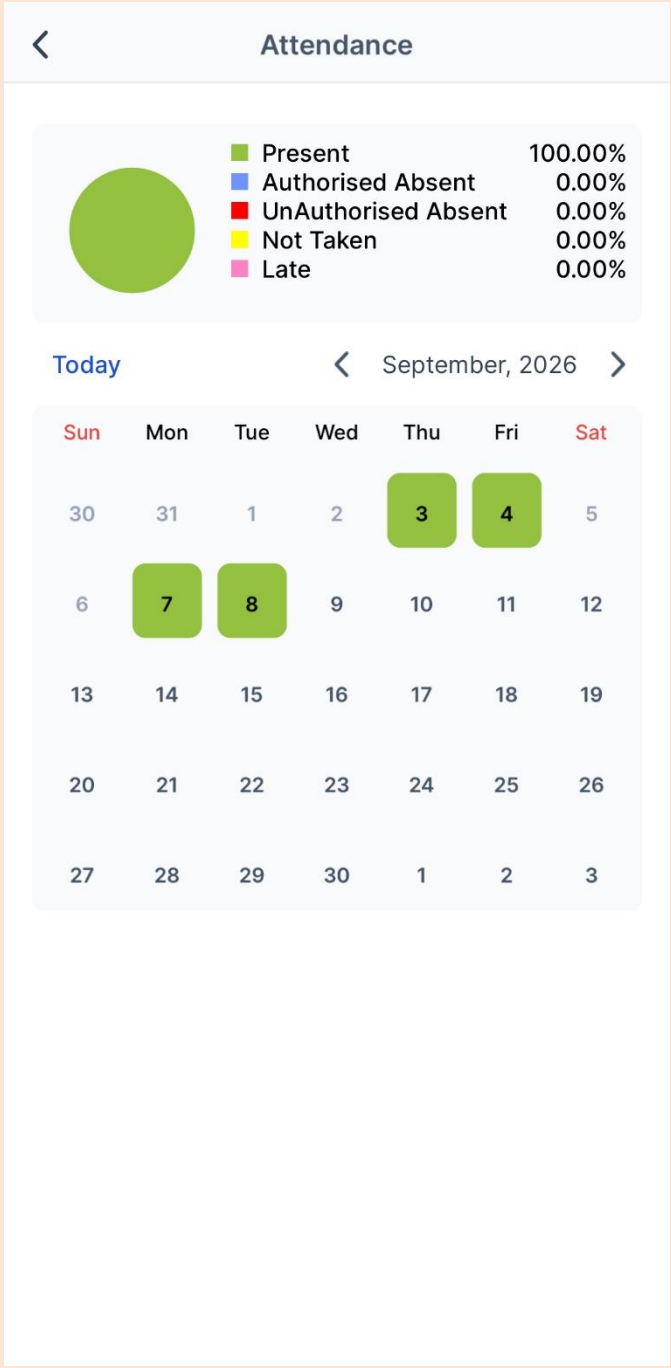

Downlands Community School
Today
September, 2026
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Behaviour
Homework
Attendance
Timetable
Reports
Data Collection
Parental Consent
My Child
Announcements
Messages

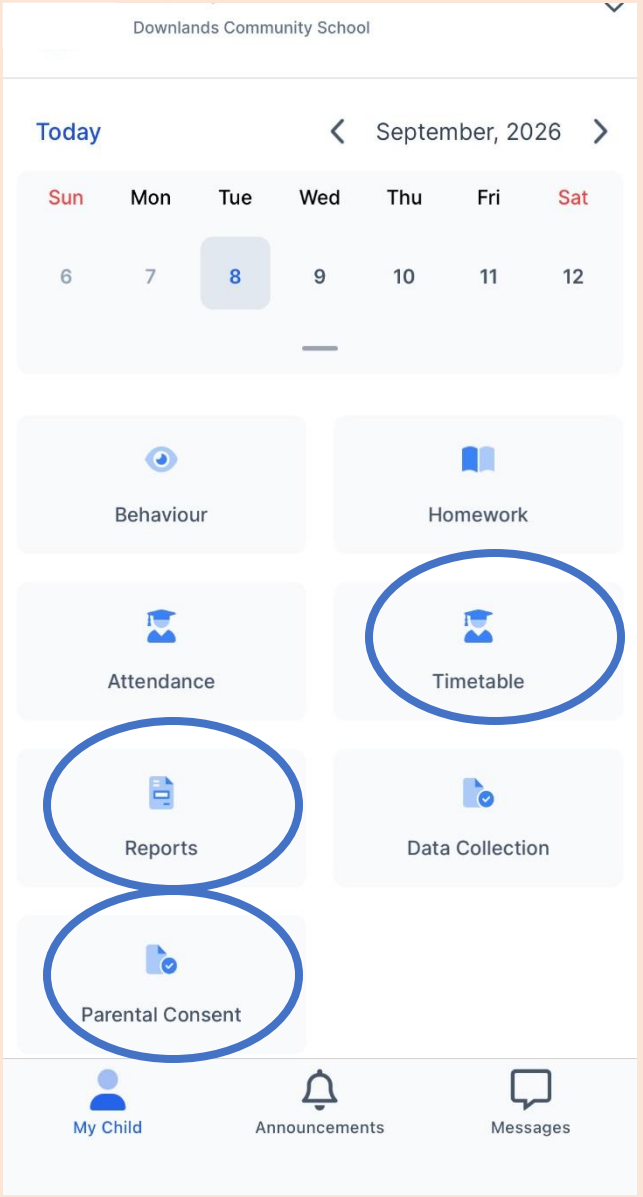

Behaviour
Events
Points
ROCKS Optimism Postcard
07/09/2026 6:18:17 PM
ROCKS Optimism +1 Point
07/09/2026 1:49:00 PM
ROCKS Optimism +1 Point
03/09/2026 3:15:00 PM
ROCKS Resilience Postcard
03/09/2026 3:14:00 PM
ROCKS Optimism +1 Point
03/09/2026 1:23:00 PM

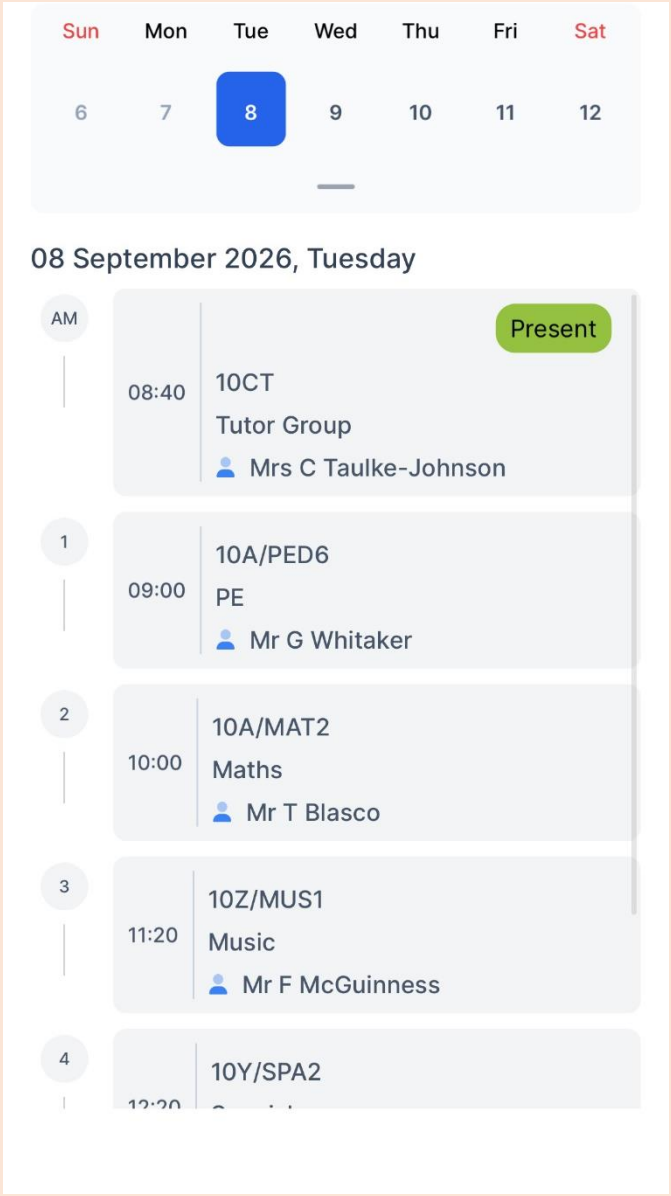

Behaviour
Events
Points
Behaviour Event Summary
Positive 5
Neutral 0
Negative 0
Year to Date (YTD)
Overall Total Points 13
Total Positive Points 13
Total Negative Points N/A


Downlands Community School
Today
September, 2026
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Behaviour
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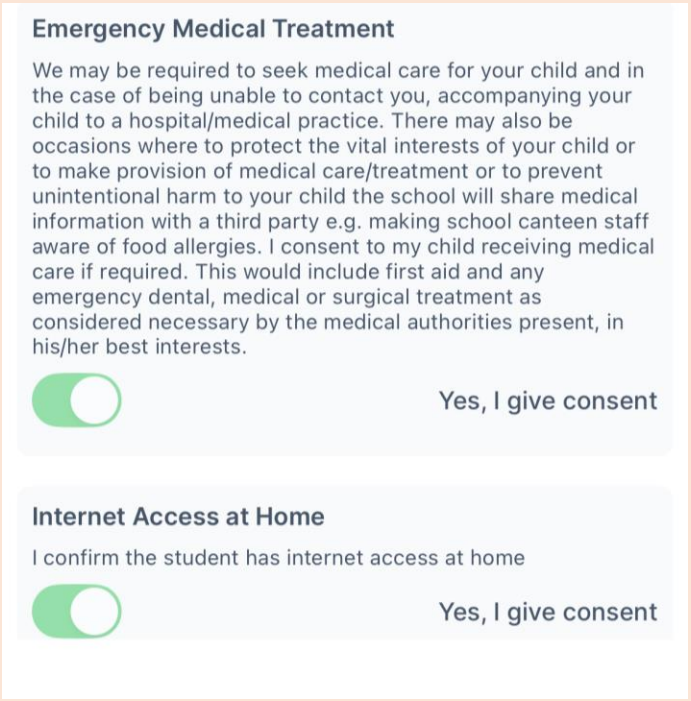

Homework
WOW: Morality Play
10A/ENG4
Due Date 11/09/2026
Homework Status Not Completed
Sparx Maths
10
Due Date 15/09/2026
Homework Status Not Completed
Quizlet - join our class
10Y/SPA2
Due Date 15/09/2026
Homework Status Not Completed


Attendance
Present 100.00%
Authorised Absent 0.00%
UnAuthorised Absent 0.00%
Not Taken 0.00%
Late 0.00%
Today
September, 2026
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat
30 31 1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 1 2 3


Downlands Community School
Today
September, 2026
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Behaviour
Homework
Attendance
Timetable
Reports
Data Collection
Parental Consent
My Child
Announcements
Messages


Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
08 September 2026, Tuesday
AM
Present
08:40
10CT
Tutor Group
Mrs C Taulke-Johnson
1
09:00
10A/PED6
PE
Mr G Whitaker
2
10:00
10A/MAT2
Maths
Mr T Blasco
3
11:20
10Z/MUS1
Music
Mr F McGuinness
4
10Y/SPA2


Reports
Scheduled_Timetable Report_2026031901... 19/03/2026
Scheduled_Timetable Report_2026031901280103.Pdf_8005 (2025 - 2026 Term 2 25/26)
Scheduled_Timetable Report_2026031911... 19/03/2026
Scheduled_Timetable Report_2026031911390085.Pdf_8005 (2025 - 2026 Term 2 25/26)


Emergency Medical Treatment
We may be required to seek medical care for your child and in the case of being unable to contact you, accompanying your child to a hospital/medical practice. There may also be occasions where to protect the vital interests of your child or to make provision of medical care/treatment or to prevent unintentional harm to your child the school will share medical information with a third party e.g. making school canteen staff aware of food allergies. I consent to my child receiving medical care if required. This would include first aid and any emergency dental, medical or surgical treatment as considered necessary by the medical authorities present, in his/her best interests.
Yes, I give consent
Internet Access at Home
I confirm the student has internet access at home
Yes, I give consent

My Child at School (MCAS)



Website: www.mychildatschool.com

App: iOS and Android app MyChildAtSchool Parent

App by Bromcom Computers Plc

How to log in/sign up

Existing Users:

Your student will be added to your profile

New Users:

We have created a new **User Account** and sent **Generate**

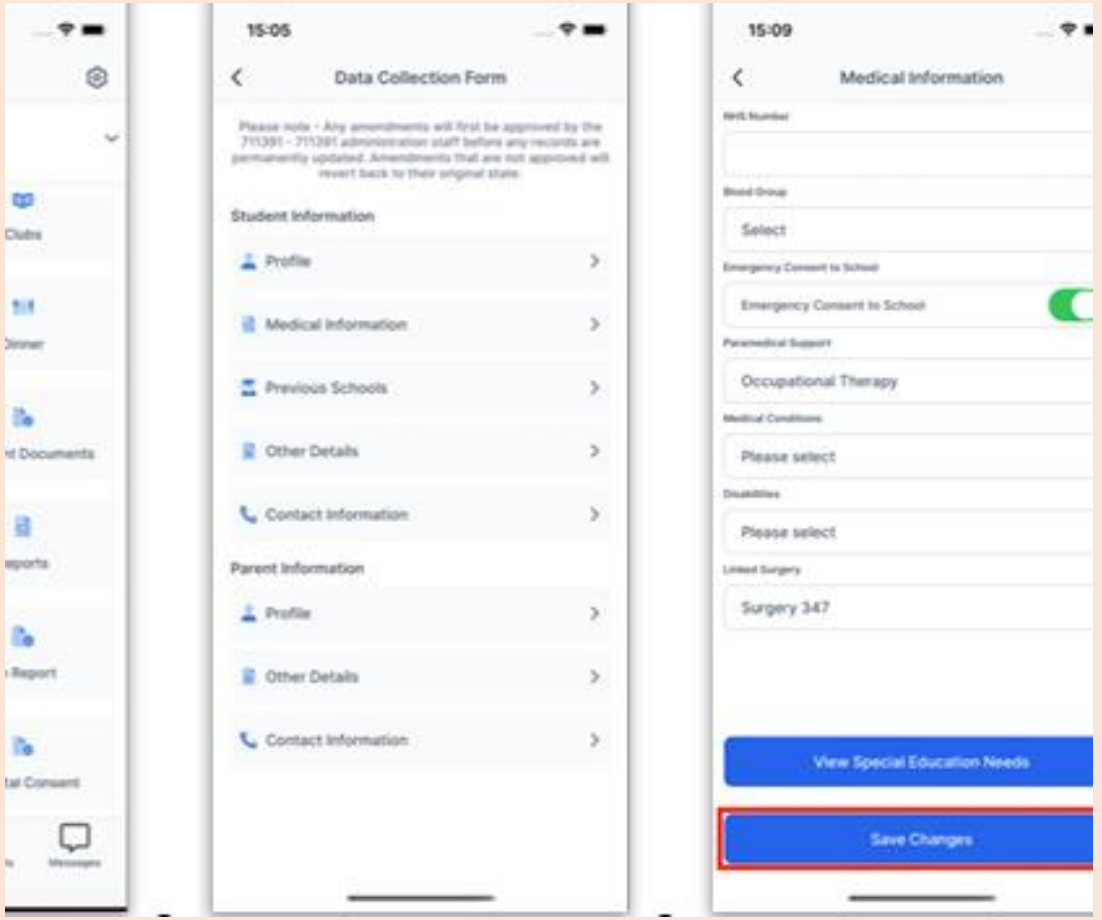
Password Email.

Any issues with MCAS, please email mcas@downlands.org.

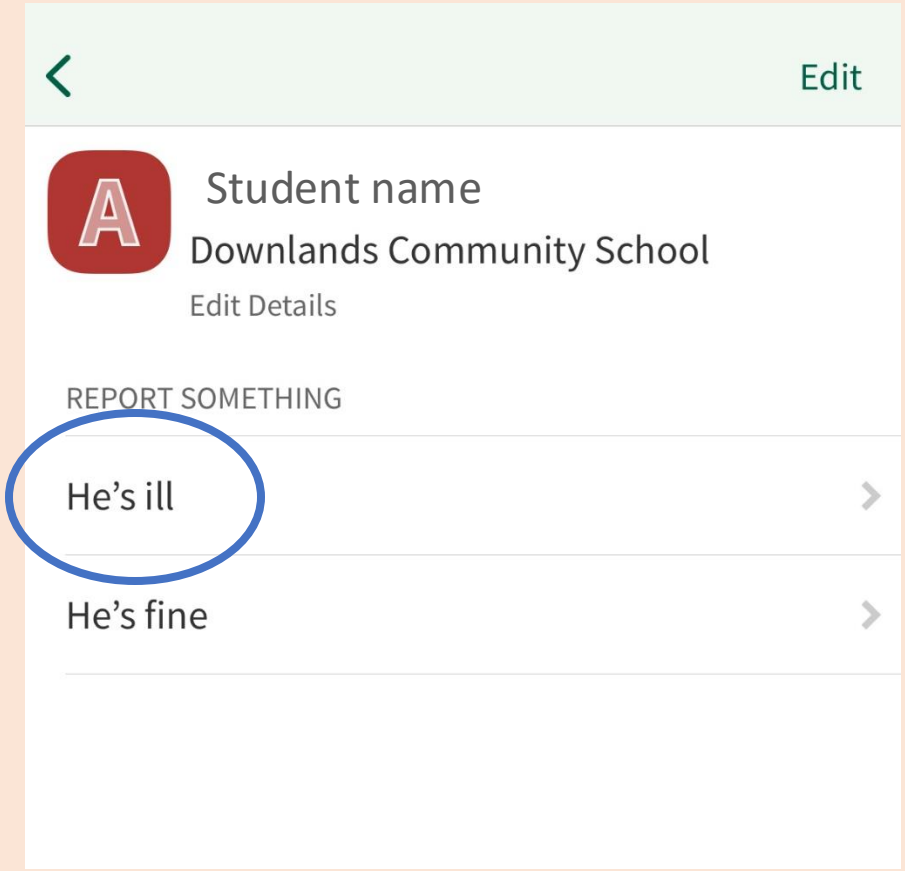
First Log In – **Admissions Form**

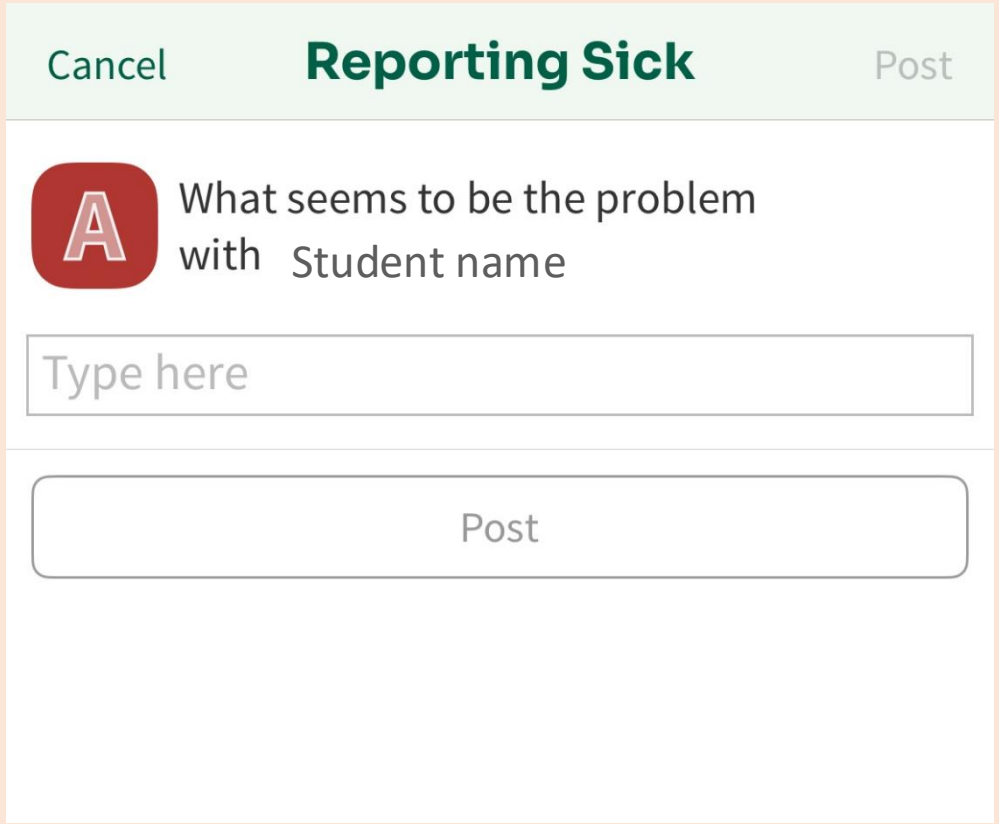
- **Extra information**
- **Emergency Contact Details**
- **Medical information**
- **Antihistamine and Paracetamol Permission**

Please Note: Once an **Admissions Form** has been submitted it will no longer be accessible



Studybugs


Edit
A
Student name
Downlands Community School
Edit Details
REPORT SOMETHING
He's ill
He's fine


Cancel
Reporting Sick
Post
A
What seems to be the problem with Student name
Type here
Post

How to log in/sign up

Existing Users:

Your student will be added to your profile

New Users:

Register for an account using the **same email address** as you used for My Child at School (MCAS).

Studybugs

Studybugs

Website: https://studybugs.com/

App: iOS and Android app Studybugs