



03 March 2017

Welcome from the Headmaster

Downsend was quite literally awash with literary characters yesterday as World Book Day brought reading to the fore. It was fantastic to see the various activities being so readily enjoyed by our pupils, from Harry Potter to Pippy Longstocking. The staff also embraced the concept fully, whether in animal onesies or dressed as Captain Jack Sparrow. We hope that the children enjoyed the day, and that you enjoy the photos and reports contained within. It was also lovely to hear how much the pupils the children enjoyed the 'Book Day' lunch, and I was delighted to receive this response from a parent this morning: *'Just wanted to let you know that (PUPIL) talks about how much he enjoys the Downsend food almost every night. The smoothies are a huge success and it sounds as though a huge amount of effort went into the World Book Day theme. Please could you pass on our appreciation to the kitchen staff?'* I have already passed on to the parent concerned how much staff appreciate positive feedback which only spurs us all along to repeat such successes next time.

Today, we welcomed our Open Morning visitors and hope that they enjoy their morning with us; our guides will again proved to be the perfect ambassadors. This week I was saddened to hear complaints from local residents of inconsiderate driving by a minority of Downsend parents. This included driving through the red lights at Grange Road before entering our car park, as well as leaving engines running whilst waiting for children, with the fairly obvious negative impact upon air quality. Please remember that parents are also important ambassadors for our school, whether in our own car park or on the surrounding roads.

Ian Thorpe

Ski Trip

Ski Trip 2017 to Prato Nevoso, Italy

There will be an information evening on Wednesday 8 March in the Tregenna Hall at 4.15pm to discuss the trip. Please try to ensure that you attend as there will be a presentation of the trip, an information booklet handed out and a q and a session at the end. I look forward to seeing you there.

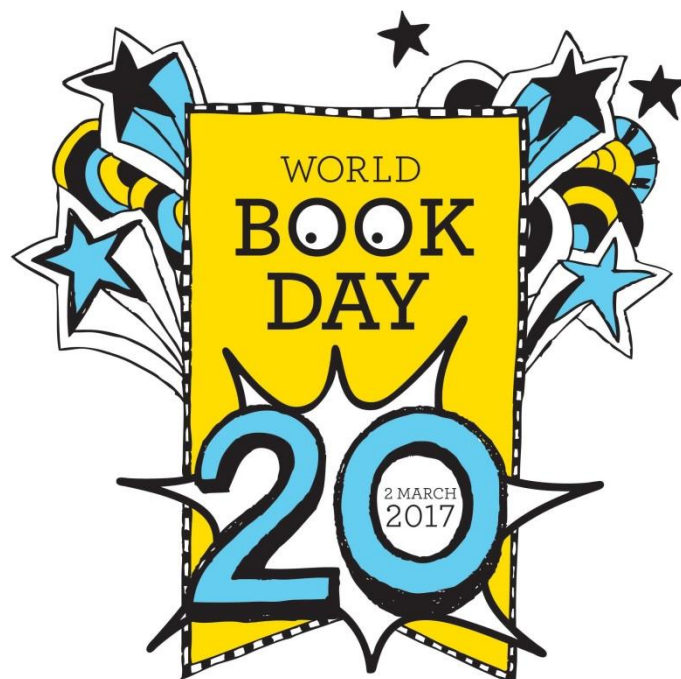


Ski Trip 2018

LAST CALL FOR SKI TRIP 2018! The deadline for showing your interest in next year's trip is Monday 06 March. The permission slip along with the deposit cheque of £300 must be handed to Dee Vanstone by Monday. The estimated cost of the trip to Prato Nevoso is £1300 and therefore two further payments of £500 will be due in September 2017 and then January 2018. This price is estimated as the final cost will depend on numbers, but I am confident that it is likely to be very close to this.

Dee Vanstone

World Book Day Thursday 2 March 2017



Lower School

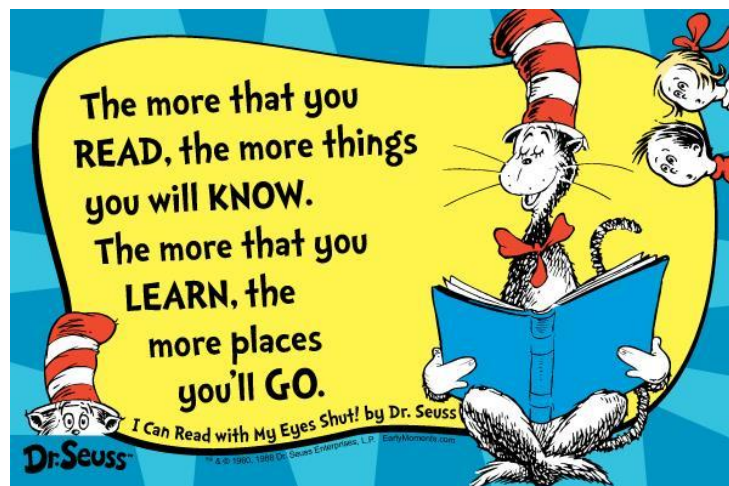
The Lower School was abuzz with books on Thursday as we opened decorated classroom doors to a vast array of characters from Alice in Wonderland to swashbuckling pirates and several creative costumes involving lions, witches and wardrobes.



In a day of interactive storytelling, character hot seating and poetry, Year 2 explored some of Aesop's fables whose messages hold true today, while Year 3 jumped down a rabbit hole with Alice in Wonderland to write acrostic poems and share books. It was full steam ahead on the Hogwart's Express for Year 4 and Year 5 who embraced the gruesome delights of Horrible Histories. Highlights of the day included a paired reading half hour during which Upper School children visited our younger pupils to listen to them read and a Lower School House book quiz in which teams from Headley, Norbury, Ranmore and Wisley pitted their wits against each other to answer questions ranging from the much loved, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' to children's classics including RL Stevenson's 'Treasure Island'. Snatching victory by just half a point, the team from Wisley proved to be the ultimate Lower School literary champions.

The fun did not stop there as all children from Year 1 in the Pre-Preps through to Year 5 worked together over a 24 hour period to write their own children's story inspired by Rod Campbell's book, 'Dear Zoo'. Year 1 created three lovely animal characters, each with their own distinctive personality traits and Year 2 used their ideas to produce the story start. Year 3 then took up the baton by penning the story build-up, followed by Year 4 who introduced the problem of the evil 'Animal Catcher' which then gave Year 5 the challenge to resolve the dilemma and tie up the loose ends. The project resulted in some fantastic ideas from across the school and proved to be a great way for the children to experience the importance of revising and improving upon their initial ideas. The final product was shared in Assembly and is now available to view [here](#).

The power of the written word can be summed in no better way than by wonderful wordsmith, Dr Seuss:



Lisa Burns

Upper School

Downsend looked amazing on Thursday as pupils turned up to school dressed as literary characters from Alice In Wonderland to Gangsta Granny.

We had a host of Hogwarts pupils, Dalmatians by the dozen and no trouble at all trying to locate Wally. More unusual characters included Jesus (from The Bible), Beowulf, Donald Trump and several versions of the Wardrobe that leads to Narnia. The staff joined in too which helped to make World Book Day 2017 a really memorable occasion for all concerned.

The Upper School Book Quiz was won by Headley despite fierce competition and some entertaining dramatic performances along the way. Perhaps the highlight of the day though, was watching the Upper School pupils join the Lower School for a shared reading activity, showing strong leadership skills and hopefully inspiring younger and older pupils alike.

Our Year 8 scholars visited our three pre-prep schools to spend time with the children there, while the Lower School created their own book and decorated some very attractive doors. The book fair is still going strong in the library! Meanwhile, our catering team laid on a special World Book Day lunch complete with lashings of frobscottle!

I would like to extend my thanks to all those who helped so much over the whole week but especially on Thursday. Roll on the next one!

We are delighted to announce that World Book Day donations raised a total of £656.07 for Epilepsy UK.



Christopher Bryant

Book Fair

We have held a Scholastic Book Fair in our School Library all week. The children have had the opportunity to browse and I know many parents have been presented with very long 'wish lists' of books that your children liked! Many thanks to parents for all the orders that have been placed. I am looking forward to collecting Scholastic Rewards which means we will then receive some fantastic books to add to our Library.

Please note: The Book Fair closes today and all orders and payment must be received by Monday 06 March. No orders can be placed after this date.

Books that are ordered will be with us week commencing Monday 13 March.

Once again many thanks for your support and I hope your children thoroughly enjoy reading and sharing their new books with you.



Year 8 Pupils visit all of our Pre-Preps

Some of our Year 8 pupils were kept very busy on World Book Day as they went to each of our Pre-Preps to read and share books with our younger pupils.

We were met by very excited children and I was very impressed with how our pupils read and discussed stories with either small groups or whole classes. I witnessed Year 8 rehearsing the stories they would share and questions they would ask some very little people during their sessions.

Year 8 really enjoyed their time in our Pre-Preps. A huge thank you must go to Mr Bryant, Mrs Burns and Mr Newland who organised our visits, although we did get some rather shocked glances from concerned drivers as we were driven round our local area by a scary looking pirate – Captain Jack Sparrow!

Well done to our Year 8s and to the children in our Pre-Preps who concentrated very hard during the story sessions.



Karen Cresswell

House Chess Competitions

Well done the following children who have won their House Chess Competitions:

Ranmore	Khalil V
Wisley	Adam V
Headley	Luke W
Norbury	Aaryan S

In the Semi Finals Headley took on Norbury with Aaryan winning and Ranmore took on Wisley with Khalil winning. The final games of the competition will be between Khalil in Ranmore against Aaryan in Norbury.

Well done to all four House winners!



Jon Albert

News From Our Pre-Preps

Pre-Prep Epsom had lots of fun on Tuesday celebrating Shrove Tuesday with pancake races. Rising Reception, Reception and Year 1 took part in lots of different races, running with and then tossing the pancakes. A few fell on the floor but it was all part of the fun. Even the teachers had a go! Mrs T made us some new pancakes for dessert at lunchtime. We even got to have chocolate sauce with them. Yum yum!



Vanessa Conlan

Last week a rumble and a ROAR could be heard from the Reception classes at Pre-Prep Ashted. Overnight the children become archaeologists, excavating vast dinosaur graveyards in the dinosaur dig. They have taken on the role of prehistoric explorers and have even become ferocious dinosaurs themselves! This term the children have really embraced our new topic 'Dinosaurs' with great excitement as it has seeped into every aspect of our learning. We have particularly enjoyed creating fossils and exploring the different features and movements of various dinosaurs that lived 225 million years ago! Reception is an exciting place to be, especially at the moment. Just come and see. We think you'll agree! As Max exclaimed "T-Rex's bite, but we don't!"



Tessa Roberts

Next week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 06 March	All Day	Year 7 ESB Individual Presentations
Tuesday 07 March	All Day	Year 7 ESB Individual Presentations
Wednesday 08 March	8.45-9.15am	4NL Class Assembly
Thursday 09 March	All Day All Day All Day 8.30-9.00am 8.45-9.15am 6.30pm	Lancing Poetry Competition Year 2 Forest School Visit @ Downsend Year 2 St Christopher's Music Festival Uniform Shop open to receive stock 4OT Class Assembly Year 5 Parent-Teacher Interviews
Friday 10 March	Assembly All Day	Whole School House Assemblies Year 6 trip to The Globe



Music Update

Whole School Orchestra

I am really looking forward to our concert at St John's this Sunday 05 March from 2-4pm. I have managed to renegotiate our rehearsal time to 12.30pm so the children will now need to arrive, in full school uniform, no later than 12.00pm. Please could you provide your child with a packed lunch/snack and a full bottle of water. There will be a short break to eat in between the rehearsal and the concert.

Although Downsend will be performing first, all children are required to stay for the duration of the concert in order to support the other acts.

Upon arrival, the children should report straight to the Chapel where they will be met by a member of staff from Downsend. Entry is via the Performing Arts Centre gates.

Tickets are available and can be purchased from the following website:

<https://www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk/surrey-schools-concert-2017>

Chamber Choir

Unfortunately, I have made the decision to withdraw the Chamber Choir from the Music for Youth Festival on Sunday 12 March. This is owing to an unforeseen clash affecting a large number of our participants. The majority of pupils who are unable to take part make up Part 2 in the three part piece we have been working on. Without them, all of the pieces we have been rehearsing will sound unbalanced and too many changes will need to be made to make it work.

Upcoming Events

Sunday 5 March 2.00-4.00pm - The Children's Trust Surrey Schools' Concert (Whole School Orchestra)
Thursday 9 March All Day - St Christopher's Music Festival (Selected Y2 pupils)
Sunday 12 March 10.00am-12.00pm - Chamber Choir perform at Music for Youth (The Connaught School, Aldershot)
Monday 13 March 1.15-1.45pm - Informal Music Recital (Selected pupils)
Wednesday 22 March 6.00-7.00pm - Informal Drums and Guitar Concert (Mr Precious and Mr Bradfield)
Thursday 23 March 7.00pm - Performance of Y6 Production 7pm (Dining Hall)
Friday 24 March 7.00pm - Performance of Y6 Production 7pm (Dining Hall)
Tuesday 28 March 7.00-9.00pm - Spring Concert 7pm (Sports Hall)
Friday 21 April 7.00am - Chamber Choir tour to Belgium departs
Monday 24 April 10.45pm - Chamber Choir tour to Belgium returns

Easter Music Courses

There are a number of music courses available to our musicians over the Easter period. Here are a few that have been recommended:

Join the Buzz Brass course	3-7 April at the Purcell School, Hertfordshire
Feel the Beat Percussion course	3-7 April at the Purcell School, Hertfordshire
www.brass-academy.co.uk	
Surrey Arts Music Courses	3-7 th April at Royal Alexandra and Albert School, Redhill
https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritage-culture-and-recreation/surrey-arts/music/easter-music-course	

Summer Music Courses

www.musicmakers.co.uk/ have come highly recommended and they are offering a number of courses in July and August suitable for ages 5-18.

If you can recommend any other courses, please let me know at steven.williams@downsend.co.uk.

Instrumental Lessons at Downsend School

If your child would like to learn an instrument at Downsend with one of our tutors then please email the Director of Music at steven.williams@downsend.co.uk. For more information about how the music lessons work, please click [here](#). Currently we have tutors for the following instruments:

Flute, Recorder, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Tuba, Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Mandolin, Bass Guitar, Drum Kit, Percussion, Ukulele, Violin, Viola and Piano.

If your child would like to play an instrument that is not listed above, please let me know and I will try to source a tutor for you.

Music Clubs & Ensembles

Please click [here](#) to download this term's schedule.

Steven Williams

Downsend +

Downsend+

Easter and May half term course descriptions are available [here](#). Please note that the contact information form should only be completed once during the academic year 2016-17 unless your contact details change during the year.

[Booking Form - Easter 2017](#)
[Booking Form - May Half Term](#)
[Contact Form](#)
[Price Information](#)

Summer 2017 Tennis & Cricket Courses

We will be running cricket and tennis courses again this summer. Please click [here](#) to download the booking form.

All morning tennis courses will run from 9.00am to 1.00pm and the years 3 - 5 cricket course will run from 9.00am to 1.00pm and the years 6 - 8 cricket course will run from 12.00 noon till 4.00pm. All courses will include a mid session snack and a hot lunch, finishing with a barbeque lunch each Friday. The 5 session courses will cost £150. However, all courses booked and paid for in full by 4.00 pm Friday 31 March will be charged at £125.

Tennis Courses

All abilities aged 6 - 13 years

This summer's action-packed tennis courses will be led by Amanda Beaumont and her team of LTA coaches and are aimed at children aged between 6 - 13 years. The course will comprise of instruction on basic techniques, practice drills, match-play, together with singles and doubles tactics appropriate to age and ability. In addition there will be plenty of fun games for all ages, with competitions on the final morning. Great fun to be had by all!

Cricket Courses

All abilities - Years 3 - 5 and Years 6 - 8

This summer's action-packed cricket course will be led by James Thompson and Alex Culhane, both ECB Level 2 Qualified Coaches. A fun course over 5 mornings for children in Years 3 - 5 and afternoons for children in Years 6 - 8. Both courses welcome children of all abilities to improve their batting, bowling and fielding ability through a variety of fun activities and games. Whether you are new to cricket or want to improve your cricket come and join us.

Please feel free to [email us](#) if you have any enquiries.

Rebecca Peek

School Notices

Contact Details

Please email office@downsend.co.uk if any of your contact details change. Most communication regarding school matches, meetings and other general school information is sent via email or text message.

Medical Details

Please email nurse@downsend.co.uk if any of your child's medical details change or return a hard copy to the School Office.

[Music Clubs and Ensembles](#)

[Downsend +](#)

[Downsend Matters](#)

[Maths Clinic](#)

[School Sports](#)

[Sports Fixture Line](#)

[Parents' Swimming](#)

[Weekly Music Practices](#)

[Extended Day](#)

[Transport & Walking Home](#)

[Absence from School](#)

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[School Uniform](#)

Downsend Times

Should you wish to add any additional family members to the weekly distribution list then please email their details to editor@downsend.co.uk

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