



DOWNSEND SCHOOL

22 March 2017



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Welcome from the PE and Sport Department

Please continue to send your children's personal sporting highlights out of school. As ever we are keen to celebrate all their successes. Please email details and any images to editor@downsend.co.uk

Please keep an eye on www.schoolssports.com for team sheets and match results follow us on Twitter @DownsendSport.

Howard Roberts & Marie Seivewright

Team of the Week

U11 Surrey Rugby Junior Schools Festival

The U11 'A' 9 a-side squad finished their season with a tremendous performance in a series of games in the Surrey Festival. The team came through the group stage undefeated, with three wins over Whitgift, Kings College Junior School and Cranmore 'B'. Their passing and off-loading in attack, combined with

some elusive and speedy running lead to a host of tries. Equally impressive was the team's line press and one on one tackling, which meant that they did not concede a single try in their three games.

After the first group stage we were placed in a second group with the winners of the other three pools. In the remaining six halves of rugby we performed admirably in four and came unstuck in two, which unfortunately lost us two matches. So often games can be decided on the smallest things and against Trinity we did not deal with our restarts effectively in the first half and were unable to overcome a three try deficit despite much greater parity in the second half.

With no rest, the team then recovered brilliantly to lead Cranmore 'A' by three tries to nil at half time. We were however taken by surprise in the second half by a resurgent Cranmore who played direct and powerful rugby, spinning the ball wide once they had drawn in sufficient numbers to create the overlap. A final result of Cranmore 4 Downsend 3 was hard to stomach. Playing back to back games certainly didn't help Downsend in the dying minutes of this encounter.

Our last game was against Hampton and after a two game rest we returned to the pitch refreshed and ready to play at our best. The side's fluid passing and penetrating running proved too much for Hampton and an impressive victory was secured.

This was a great way to conclude the rugby season and demonstrated just how far the boys had progressed with their organisation as a team and their individual skills as players. It has been great to see the side develop into a truly competitive unit, who can perform to such a high level. Well played everyone!

Played:6 Won:4 Lost:2

Points For:110 Points Against:40

'A' Squad: Jake W, Tom J, Lachie T, Louis P, Adam G, Reiss C, Toby W, Rory D, Sonny A and Jake T.

Rupert Howe

Swimming



The past few weeks have been very busy for the Downsend swimmers. Lots of hard work and training has been the focus in squad sessions for many of the forthcoming big competitions.

Saturday saw the boys and girls from Years 6 head to the Guildford Spectrum for the Surrey round of the Primary Relay Championships.

The event comprises of Relay's, both Medley and Freestyle. In the past there have been heats and finals on the day, with the top 2 teams qualifying for the South East Round. This year there were no finals so the importance of the changeovers and swimming fast in the heats to ensure we had a fast time was even more key to qualifying for the next round.

First up were the medley relays, the girls were first to compete. Having watched the first heat we knew we would have to swim fast to beat the fastest time in the first heat. The girls swam extremely well, comfortably winning their heat but were narrowly pipped into silver medal position by .20 of a second. And so on to the boys medley team, with sheer determination and a hunger for a top 3 placing the boys swam extremely well with safe changeovers securing another silver medal finish.

Next up were the Freestyle relays. Both boys and girls teams were now even more medal hungry and determined to put out a strong performance. Both teams were determined to better their medley result and swam hard, with each changeover and much cheering from the gallery and poolside, the girls finished strongly in the heat. We waited nervously as the judges were discussing the changeovers whilst the boys went into their swim. The boys once again swam extremely well finishing again in Silver medal position. We waited nervously and patiently for the final results for the girls as it was clear there had been some disqualifications in our heat. As the results were ready, our school name was announced in Gold medal position, naming us as Surrey Champions for the 2nd year in a row, the delight was clear to see on both the girls and parents faces, I was just relieved that we weren't disqualified!!

A great evening of swimming by all the competitors and it is great to have all 4 teams progress to the next round. Well done to all who took part and a huge thank you to the parents for your continued support.

Boys Team – Lachie T, Ben W, Louie P, Joe M and Noah B-H

Girls Team – Katherine V, Isobel R, Amelie H, Elizabeth H and Lauren B

The next round is the South East Regional Round on Saturday 20 May at Spectrum, Guildford. Time to be confirmed.

Marie Seivewright

Rugby



U12 Sevens at Cranmore

The 'A' team's performances at the Cranmore festival demonstrated that the squad had made significant progress since their last outing at Aldro.

The boys used their moves in the first phase of possession which, with strong runners, was often enough to break the line and score. The side put together many more successful passes in attack, creating gaps in the opposition's defence which led to further tries. Winning and retaining the ball at the ruck was also improved and meant the side had much more possession, critical in the sevens game. The team's defence was also more organised, especially on the kick off, though as tiredness set in towards the end of the day gaps appeared more often.

Overall this was a great afternoon, recording two wins against Thomas' Clapham and Feltonfleet, two draws against Cranmore and Shrewsbury House and only two losses against Aldro and Rokeby.

Well played everyone!

'A' Squad: Oliver G, Fraser L, Ethan S, Tom D, Marco H, Teddy K, Oliver C and Diogo C-A.

Rupert Howe

U10A Surrey Rugby Junior Festival 2017

The Year 5 A team represented themselves very well on Saturday playing their best rugby of the season against some strong opposition. We started our group with a fixture against a strong, direct Hampton side. The Downsend tackling was excellent and having gone behind in the early stages worked hard to try to get level. Unfortunately in the end Hampton were strong enough to hold on and we fell to a 5-10 defeat. Our next game was against CLFS and we played excellently against our local rival. A 25-5 win featured some aggressive running, sumptuous offloads and some great hits. Our final group game was against Cranmore and we put in a great effort but unfortunately lost 5-25.

We then qualified into a group Thomas' Fulham and Lanesborough. We played Thomas' Fulham first and played our best game of the season. Defensively excellent, with a more proactive team line press, we put them under pressure and took advantage of their mistakes. In attack all the boys played their part and it was pleasing to see the ball moved using the hands more effectively. We finished against Lanesborough and fought hard through to half time trailing by one score. Unfortunately fatigue and injuries took their toll in the final half and Lanesborough punished us to win 5-25 at the final whistle.

This was an excellent performance from this group of boys and one they should be very proud of. It was great to see a strong response from them following two tough fixtures the previous week. My thanks also goes to the parents who showed the boys nothing but support throughout the morning. Well done all!

Squad from: Oliver B, Noah B-W, William E, James G, Harry H, Jack M, Joe M, Isaac N, Rupert P, Alexander T

James Thompson

U9A Team Surrey Rugby Junior Festival 2017

The Year 4 boys in the U9 'A' team also took part last Saturday in the Surrey Rugby Festival. They made a fine start with a win against Hampton. The next game on the small pitch against Danes Hill was very even with some great passing and support work. The Downsend boys put Danes Hill under a good deal of pressure but went down by one score after a breakaway try. A well drilled and physical Kings team were the next to play. The boys did their best but lost possession too often and without much ball they were forced to tackle for much of the game resulting in a strong win for the opposition.

In the next phase of the Festival, strong wins against Cumnor and Lanesborough set the team up for the final game against Rokeby. This was an exciting game with many good passages of play from both teams. Rokeby began well going 3 tries up, making good use of their fast wingers. After the break Downsend came back well with two tries of their own and just ran out of time to draw level.

Well done everyone and thank you to the parents for their support.

Team from- Alex D (Capt), Curtis T, Louie L, Angus W, Ralphie A, Luca C, Ralph H, Charlie K and Felix A.

Howard Roberts



U13 Sevens St John's Northwood Tournament

On a warm spring afternoon the St John's, Northwood tournament provided some more strong opposition for our boys to test themselves against. In our first game we faced St John's Beaumont in what was a tight affair. Downsend started brightly, defending well and then finishing off with a simple try. In the following minutes Downsend went off the boil, allowing St John's Beaumont back into the game with three tries. A late flourish pulled one back but it wasn't enough to save the game.

We then faced a strong, athletic St Paul's side which were enjoying a very successful season. They attacked well and Downsend struggled to contain them in the first half. In the second half the Downsend boys showed a great deal of fight and some considerable skill to make it a much more even game. St Paul's ran out comfortable winners but there had been a vast improvement in the Downsend performance in the second half.

Our final group game saw us play Caldicott; a school with a fine rugby tradition who had won the previous two national competitions at this age group. The Downsend team started superbly and took the lead through a well worked double switch. There followed a sustained period of Caldicott possession during which Downsend defended excellently. Unfortunately our resistance broke and Caldicott drew level just before half time. The second half started in much the same fashion and again, after some dogged Downsend defence Caldicott took the lead. In the final minutes, with the game still up for grabs, Caldicott scored a controversial try through their scrum half after the referee seemed to change rules midway through the match! In spite of this it was a good performance from the Downsend team who had really showed some of their best play.

This meant we met Merchant Taylor's in the final match of the day. In spite of some injuries, the boys played with determination to ensure that at 10-10 they scored the crucial winning try. At times in the match they played some great sevens, moving the ball beautifully from one side of the pitch to the other to score some of our tries.

Another solid day of rugby sevens and one which will have provided the team with some good experience as we move into the National Schools 7s, this coming Friday.

Squad: Jake B, Oliver C-W, Daniel G, Anthonie K, Joshua L (Capt), James M, Billy P, Toby R, Yuvi S and Leyton T.

James Thompson

Hockey



Year 2 & 3 Internal Hockey Tournament

A fantastic turnout of 30 girls from year 2 & 3 gathered on the Astro for this inaugural event of hockey. The girls were placed in teams based on an African Safari. With Leaping Lions, Terrific Tigers, Energetic Elephants, Gallant Giraffes, Zestful Zebras, Marvellous Meerkats and Raging Rhinos; the morning was set to be an extravaganza of hockey skill and passionate play.

With the teams formed they each played in 6 mini games to fight for the title of Tournament Champions. After assessing the opposition each team was allowed to play a joker card in the match that they thought they were sure to win; this would then score them double points. The matches were fast paced and eagerly contested with some great skill. Control of the ball was paramount as was creating space and driving forward toward the goal.

The Raging Rhinos and Zestful Zebras both scored maximum points with their joker by winning their chosen games.

The results table was close but heading it up were the Terrific Tigers and Zestful Zebras with joint scores and the deciding factor of the tournament was based on the top two teams' goals scored. The winners were the Galant Giraffes, comprising, Sophia V, Bamidele B, Summer A, Amelia B, Charlotte R. Runners up the Terrific Tigers and in third place the Zestful Zebras.

A fun morning of hockey was had by all, showcasing the skill and development of the girls. A great season for hockey and much promise for the future - Well done everyone!

Mrs Hawes



Netball

U13 Versatility Tournament at The Hawthorns School

Last week the U13A netball team travelled to The Hawthorns School for a Versatility Tournament. In this type of tournament the girls start in random positions which are decided by a teacher from another school. The girls have to rotate through set positions after every game. We were extremely lucky with the weather in comparison to last year as the sun shone upon us.

Our first game against Hall Grove was a tightly fought match, just like in the IAPS. The final score was 2-2 giving us a positive before we headed into a tough match against Cranleigh. The result was against us and we lost 1-4 as we headed into a break. Our next two matches saw us produce some excellent netball with 3-0 wins over both St Teresa's and The Hawthorns. Next up were an unknown opposition, Holmewood House. This was another tightly fought game resulting in another draw, 3-3.

Our last match of the afternoon was against local rivals (and friends), Danes Hill. Unfortunately we didn't prove to be as strong in this game as in previous encounters with them and with a few unlucky misses at goal the final score was a 1-3 loss.

We were unsure where we were in the table as the two draws may not have been good enough depending on how the other schools fared. When the results were read out we finished in a very respectable 4th position.

Thank you to the girls for their continued hard work and effort throughout the season.

Marie Seivewright



Match Results

Netball

U13A Cranleigh Won
U13B Cranleigh Won
U13C Cranleigh Won
U10A The Study Won
U10B The Study Drew
U10C The Study Lost
U10D The Study Lost

Rugby Sevens

U12A Rokeby Lost
U12A Aldro Lost

Rugby Union

U10A Shrewsbury House Lost
U10B Shrewsbury House Won
U10C Shrewsbury House Won
U10D Shrewsbury House Won
U11A Cranmore Lost
U9A Cumnor House Won
U9B Rokeby Lost

Swimming

U13A Boys Parkside Won
U12A Boys Parkside Won
U11A Boys Parkside Won
U10A Boys Parkside Won
U9A Boys Parkside Won

Other Sporting News

Netball

Well done to Mia H in 5MS who was entered with an U10 team of Ashtead Allstars netball club into the U11 division of the Mid Surrey League and came third and collected a bronze medal.



Football

Well done to Teddy G in 5SB who plays for Horsley Crusaders U10's who won their semi final last weekend to reach the final of the Epsom & Ewell Secretary's Cup, which is taking place on 22 April 2017.



Karate

Another successful weekend for Sofia H who won gold at the AMA South Eastern Open championships in the 10-14 yrs old category. Well done Sofia!



Hockey

Issy B and Yasi F who are in Year 6 were part of the Surbiton Firecrests hockey team that won gold in the Girls U12 Surrey Plate Tournament last Sunday at Surbiton Hockey Club. Well done girls.



Cross Country

Well done to Jonny P who finished 3rd in the Surrey Badgers 2.5 km cross country race on Sunday 19 March. It was his first competition at this distance.



Sports Notices

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