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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

05 May 2017



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Welcome from the Headmaster

We have come to the end of another busy week and are looking forward to our final Open Morning of the academic year. Space will be very much the theme for the day, and I was delighted to see Downsend being awarded the top Gold Award in the Spacemark assessment for our provision in this area. I am sure that current and prospective pupils will enjoy their morning endeavours.

Next week, we will be sending out the latest 'Voice of the Parent' questionnaire. Over the past couple of years, this initiative has helped us to identify what we do well, as well as what we need to improve. Your balanced feedback is extremely valuable in this regard, and we look forward to using it to continue to explore new frontiers, much like the Space theme!

Ian Thorpe

Space Education Quality Mark



Last academic year I was so inspired by Tim Peake and his mission to the International Space Station that I signed Downsend up to the Tim Peake Primary Project. In September I was informed that we had successfully gained a place. This project provided us with both a STEM ambassador and free Space resources in return for filling out a few questionnaires and the occasional blog - or so I thought. It turned out to be so much more!

After working closely with Technology, Art and Maths alongside my colleagues in the Pre-Preps, Lower School and Upper School I started to realise how much inspiration can be gained from teaching subjects through the medium of Space and how it was a fantastic starting point across the curriculum to inspire our students. Our STEM ambassador encouraged me to collate this evidence for Downsend's first Space Quality Mark and I'm pleased to say that this week we were awarded the top grade of Gold.

It wasn't just the STEAM subjects that got involved, languages taught Russian lessons, Year 4 wrote Space stories and Drama had Year Five exploring new worlds. Nearly all the school from First Steps to Year 8 have contributed, but my greatest thanks does go to the STEAM team for helping throughout the year.

Special thanks go to Mrs Day for reinventing the Year 3 Technology curriculum around Space (fruit astronauts, rock cakes, dehydrated food and moons buggies), Mrs Mercer for helping me build a scale replica of the ISS, Mrs Langridge for spying a Maths on Mars book and Mrs Potter (Leatherhead Pre-Prep) for emailing me all the amazing Space work her pupils did.

Finally a special shout out to **all** the teachers involved in the Space Open morning this Saturday. Our pupils could experience lessons on the history of space, planet maths problems, meteorites, galaxies, rockets and space suits, so I thank you for your hard work and commitment to showing how a cross curricular approach can help inspire our students.

Tamsin Grocock, Head of Science

The Great Outdoors

Year 3 have had a very exciting week celebrating 'The Great Outdoors'!

On Tuesday, the children were transported back to Celtic times when they went on a school trip to Butser Ancient Farm. They enjoyed a wide range of practical activities such as chalk carving, becoming archaeologists and digging in the soil for artefacts, and making Celtic jewellery. We enjoyed visiting a replica of a Celtic roundhouse, and even had the chance to make daub to construct our own wall! The weather was absolutely glorious, and the children's behaviour was exemplary. We can't wait for our next trip to Wakehurst Place in a few short weeks!

Throughout the rest of the week, the children have been immersed in a range of creative cross curricular lessons celebrating the Great outdoors, including sensory poetry, planting of bean plants, and measuring the perimeter of different areas of the school. Well done year 3!

Marian Bayley





Year 6 Class Captains

Congratulations to the new Year 6 Class Captains for the Summer Term!

Robert Temlett



8S French Play "Blanche Neige" 2017

On Thursday during Lower School Assembly as part of their ASE programme 8S performed the French play of "Blanche Neige" to years 3 and 4 during their Assembly. The scholars had all had dressed up as dwarfs and different characters from Snow White. The year 8 linguists spoke beautiful French to their audience and were confident enough on occasions to add some humour, sound effects and music!

It was a fabulous opportunity to speak a different language confidently and creatively, in front of a young audience which they all thoroughly enjoyed. It was great to see the whole class taking part and learning to put together a play themselves, direct it and create costumes and props. We may see them one day on the stage in years to come!

Susie Taylor



News from our Pre-Preps

Year One at Ashted Pre-Prep had a fabulous day at Wisley this week. The focus of our visit was on trees and we certainly saw some amazing trees and learnt many interesting facts about them. Did you know that a Giant Sequoia tree can live to be 2,000 years old or that there is a redwood cedar tree from China that is deciduous? The children were able to put their imaginations to good use as they built fairy houses out of items they had collected under the trees. These house included "tickle-traps" to keep the dragons out, and special launch pads where young fairies could learn to fly! The children were all extremely well behaved, as usual, and I would like to thank them all for being so enthusiastic about all the activities – including the "bear-hunt".

Janet Catlow



Marathon News

Despite saying I would never run a marathon, on Sunday 23 April I completed the London Marathon for the first and only time!

Having collected my number and race pack at the expo on the Wednesday before, the nerves were really starting to kick in. Mr Roberts kindly drove me to the start line bright and early on Sunday morning where I met up with a friend from my running club (and ex Downsended Parent). After a few cups of tea and numerous visits to the toilet we started to make our way to the start line!

At 10am promptly the race started and we were off. The thought of running 26.2 miles was still slightly scary despite having completed the months of training. Before long I was at the Cutty Sark, only 20 more miles to go! The atmosphere and support from the crowds helped to lift my spirits when the pain was starting to get me down. Having suffered quite badly from blisters in training I could feel them developing (and bursting!) as I ran but I pushed on through as I was determined I was going to get my medal.

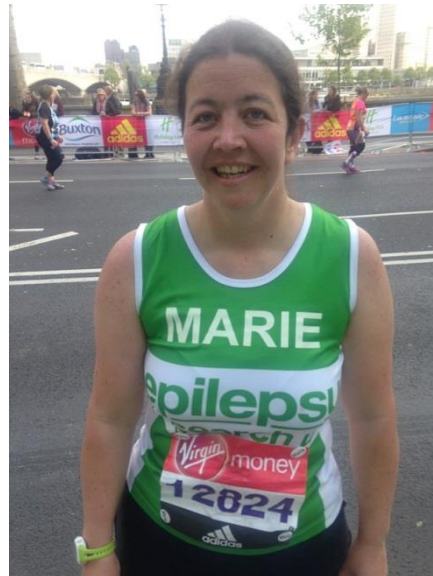
As I ran along the Embankment at around 24 miles the support grew immensely with all the charity cheer points helping the runners in the last few miles. As I approached the Epilepsy Research cheer point it was great to see Mrs Crow and Mrs Graham along with other friends and family shouting my name and telling me how fresh I looked - I certainly wasn't feeling fresh! After a brief chat with them I pushed on to the finish line.

It wasn't pretty, it wasn't easy and it wasn't fast but I completed it, something I never thought I would say - 'I've finished the London Marathon!'

Thank you so much to all the parents who have sponsored me and helped raise such a significant amount for our worthy school charity. Thank you also to Mrs Graham for her support throughout but also a massive thank you to Mrs Crow who has helped me train, pushed me on when I doubted myself and was there to cheer me on and provide me with pretzels on the day itself. I am now looking forward to returning to smaller distance events once the blisters have healed!

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MarieSeivewright>

Marie Seivewright



Music Update

Music Success

Well done to the following pupils for passing their instrumental exams.

Matthew I	Grade 3 Violin	Merit
Bibi W	Grade 3 Descant Recorder	Pass
Alice L	Grade 2 Clarinet	Pass

Upcoming Events

Friday 19 May	Informal Voice Concert (Hayley Griffiths) 5.30pm
Monday 22 May	Informal Piano Concert (Sarah Cobby) 6.00pm
Monday 12 June	Informal Flute and Violin Concert 5.30pm (Miss Woods and Mr Bayley)
Tuesday 13 June	Rock Band Evening 7.00pm
Wednesday 14 June	Informal Guitar Concert (Mr Smith) 5.30pm
Monday 26 June	Informal Piano and Guitar Concert 5.30pm (Mrs Salzedo and Mr White)
Thursday 06 July	Yrs 2 and 3 Prizegiving pm
Friday 07 July	Yrs 4-8 Prizegiving pm

Summer Music Courses

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

Britten Music Course. 18-23 July at Gresham's Prep in Holt, Norfolk www.greshams.com/bmc

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.

Steven Williams

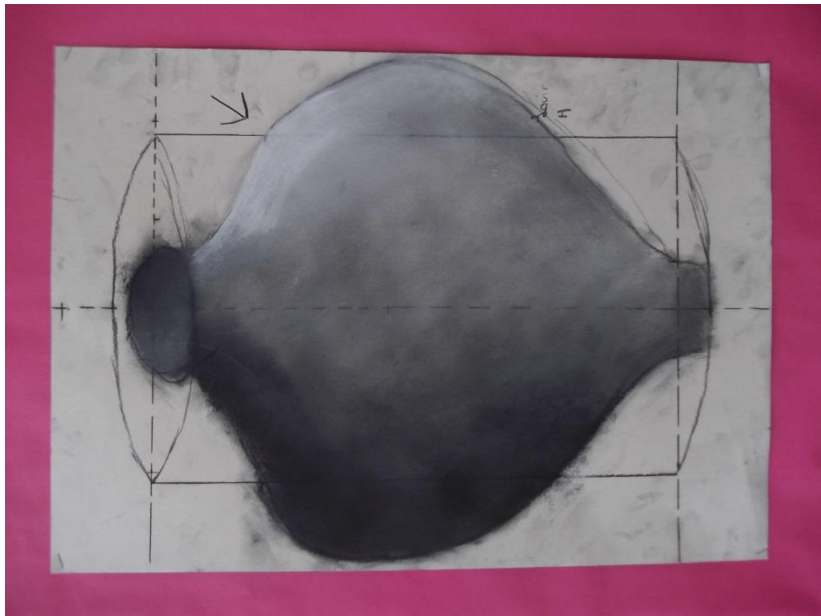
Artist of the Week

Last week's artist of the week was Anna R in Year 8 for her fantastic pumpkin screen print.



Year 8s have been creating screen prints recently in which details from an observational drawing has to be carefully cut out then printed using a special screen.

This week's artist of the week is Louis H in Year 6 for his great tonal bottle drawing.



Well done Anna and Louis!

Julia Aylen

Old glasses charity appeal

We are supporting our Year 8 pupil, Callum H, who is collecting any unwanted pairs of glasses for charity. If you have any old glasses to donate, they can be dropped off at the School Office.



News from the DPA



SUMMER BALL SUCCESS!

Tickets went on sale this week and in all my years on the committee (and there have been several) I have never known bookings to come in so fast! It's wonderful to see that everyone is so enthused and wants to attend. This is now likely to be our 4th sell out ball in a row – if only the RAC had a bigger room!

At the time of writing this there were a few tickets remaining so if you have not booked yet there may still be time – please send your booking form ASAP to events@dpaschool.org.uk

If any parents can help with large auction donations please can you contact me or Mr Thorpe directly.

2017/2018 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

From the notice last week, we've had some parents come forward that are interested in joining us and they are coming along to the committee meeting next week to see just how exciting our meetings are!

Whilst this is great news but we still need more help so please let us know if you are interested admin@dpaschool.org.uk

In particular, I am looking for some lower school parents to setup and run the **FAMILY FUN DAY** at the end of September. It's for the whole lower school and is an introduction event for new year 2 parents. Please let me know if you are interested admin@dpaschool.org.uk

Have a great weekend everyone.

Jodie Pett, DPA Chair

Downsend+

The May half term course description is 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 - May Half Term](#)

[Booking Form - Summer 2017](#)

[Summer Holiday 2017 Description](#)

[Contact Form](#)

[Price Information](#)

Summer 2017

Our Summer 2017 programme is now complete and we have plenty of exciting days and courses over the 8 weeks, our 'Wednesday Specials' will be back, together with our Friday BBQ lunches. Please do contact me if you have any queries on 07909 861 280 or email me downsendplus@downsend.co.uk.

Please also note that we still have space on all our days and most courses at Easter but time is running out to take advantage of our pre booked rates as these must be received 10 working days in advance. Our special offers on our Summer Tennis and Cricket Camps expire on the 31 March so please do take advantage of these offers and book early. Details of both the Easter and Summer programmes together with our Special Offers can be found on the website www.downsend.co.uk.

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

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 09 May	pm 1.45pm 4.15pm 7.00pm	Pre-Prep Ashtead Yr 1 Assembly Yr 5 & Yr 7 Buddies Event Yr 7 French trip meeting, Dining Hall Yr 5 Transition meeting, Dining Hall
Wednesday 10 May	All Day	Yr 4 trip to Marwell Zoo
Thursday 11 May	8.30-9.30am All Day am	Uniform Shop open to receive stock Yr 2 Forest School Visit @ Downsend Pre-Prep Leatherhead Yr 1 Assembly
Friday 12 May	Assembly	Mr I Thorpe

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](#)

[Out of school childcare](#)

[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

Downsend Sports Bulletin

If you do not already receive the Downsend Sports Bulletin on a Wednesday and would like to start receiving it then please email your details to editor@downsend.co.uk to be added to the distribution list.

Inspiring young minds

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