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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

12 May 2017



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Welcome from the Headmaster

After last week's Bank Holiday, this week has certainly been a full one in every sense of the word. As always, our Senior pupils were the perfect hosts and ambassadors for our Open Morning on Saturday, and the 30 visiting families could not have been more impressed with them. Whilst this was going on, our swimmers were competing at the IAPS Swimming Finals in Crawley. Our girls finished fourth in the country as a team, and the top school in Surrey, an incredible achievement. With Joe M winning bronze and Lauren D being crowned National Champion, it was a highly successful morning.

At this morning's assembly, I urged the pupils to be prepared as they helped me to unpack my backpack to reveal passports, Euros, a beach towel and sunglasses, amongst other things, in readiness for the holidays. There are residential trips, Prize Giving, exams, Sports Days and much more to prepare for over the coming weeks. Those that prepare for all of these things stand every chance of finishing the academic year on a high note. On a more negative tone, I was shocked to hear news that a parent in a light blue car left the school this morning by turning right across the A24, ignoring all signs to the contrary. To compound the error, the driver then responded to being beeped by winding down the window and abusing the driver concerned. Thank you to those parents that alerted me to this – we hope that all our parents seek to be ambassadors for Downsend.

Ian Thorpe

Marvellous Minibeasts

Year 2 had great fun exploring the wilds of Bay Pond last week as part of their current Science topic on living things. Learning about the balance of organisms in a habitat took on a fun twist as the children played a fast paced game of 'plants, nibblers and nobblers' (more commonly known plants, herbivores and carnivores) and the slightly slower 'woodlouse walk' in blindfolds designed to demonstrate how woodlice navigate their environment using feelers. Delving into the world of woodland minibeasts was rewarded with a rare sighting of a toad, not to mention magnificent beetles and detritus-eating millipedes and worms. Undoubtedly, the highlight of the day was pond dipping to discover the bubble breathing Lesser Water Boatman, Silvery Sticklebacks and Mayfly and Damselfly Nymphs galore. Back in school this week, the children have been creating their own habitats for woodland creatures during Forest School.

Year 2 team



Year 5 and 7 Buddies Day

On Tuesday Year 5 and Year 7 buddies met up for their Buddy Lunch, followed by an afternoon of team-building fun on the field with the Woodland Forest School. Activities included a nature-themed treasure hunt, fire starting and a build-your-own bivouac using some very basic materials. These tasks were accomplished with varying degrees of success – it is fair to say that some of the children sheltering in their bivouacs were not very dry during the 'torrential rain' test – but all were tackled with great enthusiasm and team effort!

A great afternoon's buddying up – well done to all!

Anna Mercer and Siobhan Baldock



Year 4 trip to Marwell Zoo

Year 4 had a fantastic day at Marwell Zoo on Wednesday. We participated in an exciting workshop, where we got to look at a number of animal furs and skins, as well as stroking rats and stick insects! We learned more about their habitats; which will be a great help as we complete our Science projects. There was a huge variety of animals for us to look at; we particularly enjoyed seeing the cheetahs, penguins and even a snow leopard! We were very sad to leave at the end of the day and hope to go back soon.

Thank you to all the teachers and parent volunteers who helped make this such a wonderful trip.

Amy O'Toole



House News

After a very strong finish to the Spring Term, Wisley find themselves chasing the pack after our recent first collection. Well done to Ranmore who came first in the Upper School and second in the Lower school; securing them poll position!

Congratulations to the following children for receiving the Top Achievement award:

Lower School: Bendall. T, Baxter. F, Mackie. H, Clark-Suleyman. B.

Upper School: Martin.J, Roberts. I, Taylor. E, Jennings. E.

Jon Albert



Ashtead Pre-Prep French Day

On Tuesday a group from 8S went to Ashtead Pre Prep to participate in their French Day and help Mme Roberts and Mme Murray serve in the French café. All the Pre-Prep children had dressed up in the colours of the French Flag. Some children had painted French Flags on their faces, or moustaches or had found some colourful berets! The Pre-Prep children were confident enough to order from the French menu and on occasions speak beautiful French to their 8S waiters and waitresses asking for “croissants” or “pain au chocolat” and also “jus d’orange” or “jus de pomme”. It was a fabulous opportunity to speak a different language confidently and creatively, in front of the older children which they all thoroughly enjoyed. The Scholars rounded off the morning playing with the children on the climbing frames, in some cases reliving their time at the Pre-Preps some 10 years ago!

Susie Taylor, Head of Lower School French



Year 8 Commendations

Silver Award:

Congratulations go to the following pupils for achieving over 700 points (a combination of housepoints, credits and subject commendations) to earn their Silver Headmaster's Commendation.

Ethan C, Ella H, Emma P, Francesca B, Ollie C-W, Bella F, Ava G, Eden J, Fraser S, Ellie T, Tomas C, Finlay C, Dan G, Louise O, Anna R.

Gold Award:

I am also delighted to announce that our first ever recipient of the Gold award (the top commendation awarded) goes to Susannah K for picking up an astonishing 1000 points. This is a stunning achievement with consistency from day 1 being the key to Susannah picking up so many points. A fantastic achievement, well done!

Lee Silva



Environmental Day 2017

We are really looking forward to our STEAM Environmental Day where we will be collapsing the curriculum for the day and working on our Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths skills.

Year 2 and 3 will be focusing on saving animals and their habitats.

Year 4 and 5 will be looking into the issues surrounding Water sanitation and collection in Kenya whilst also learning about up-cycling.

Year 6,7 and 8 will be learning about the environmental consequences of the fashion industry and running house fashion shows with up-cycled and recycled clothing.

As such, we have a request. Please may we:

1. Have large clean plastic bottles collected and brought to school during the week of the 22 May.
2. Ties and shirts collected.
3. Please can all **Year 4 and 5** pupils bring in a 1litre empty juice carton that has been washed and with its top and bottom cut off. Please see example.



Thank you in advance.

Tamsin Grocock, Julia Ayles and Beth Day

Languages Update

Downsend pupils showed their linguistic skills on last Saturday's Open Morning when we learnt some Russian as taught to cosmonauts, contributing to the Space themed STEAM initiative of the Science Department. We also chose our favourite language in which to name the planets, from a choice of 27 languages, and filled in a chart accordingly. Thanks to Ted S, Amelia T, Hannah G and Kitty S.

Sarah Gregory

Online Interactive Mandarin Lesson live from Beijing

On Thursday 8S were treated to an interactive Mandarin lesson live from Beijing using Zoom and a webcam. From the comfort of their classroom the children were taught by Yaya Yang about Chinese culture, geography and were also introduced to the basics of the Mandarin language.

Earlier in the week our ICT department helped us to convert the classroom into an “interactive classroom” complete with state-of-the-art technology. The 8S linguists learnt to say basic greetings that could be useful for their language learning and careers in the future. To be exposed to the intricacies of the 4 tones and pinyin was a great learning experience for us all. It was a fabulous opportunity to practise a new language creatively. In addition Yaya showed us the view from her window in Beijing and played video clips of different cities in China as well clips of the deserts of Western China and the rice-fields in Southern China. We learnt that the lowest recorded temperature in Northern China one winter was minus 44 °C.

We look forward to our next interactive lesson next Thursday and learning a few more Mandarin words!

Susie Taylor



Sunflower Growing Competition

The children in the Lower School have been busy planting sunflowers for our sponsored sunflower growing competition. Thank you to all of you who have brought in the £1 donation for this already. Please could you continue sending the £1 donations into your child’s form teacher over the next few days. Photos of sunflowers and completed sponsor forms with donations are due in by Friday 30 June. Good luck!

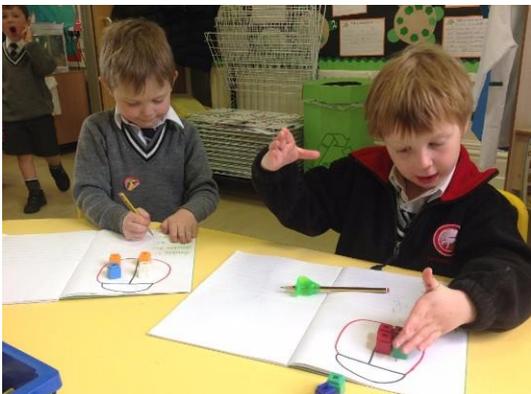
Natasha Ludlam



News from our Pre-Preps

Reception at Leatherhead Pre-Prep have been learning about ladybirds this week. We have learned lots of facts about them and even used ladybirds to help us with our maths! In maths we have been learning about doubling. Doubling is when we add two numbers that are exactly the same. We tried to use the ladybirds to help us double by putting the right number of cubes or numicon on each of the wing cases. We have been practising learning our doubles to 10 off by heart but some of them are very tricky!

Gillian Brooks



This week Pre-Prep Epsom have had a wonderful time travelling around the World as part of their International week. They have visited Jamaica, Australia, France, China and India. While they were visiting the countries they took part in lots and lots different fun activities including making masks for a Jamaican carnival, constructing the Sydney Harbour Bridge from straws and masking tape, visiting a French café and performing French songs for their parents, taking part in a dragon dance and tasting Indian food!

First Steps children brought in items from home that reflected the countries that their families came from. They loved sharing pictures, stories and objects from the different countries with their friends.



Music Update

Music Success

Well done to Octavia M for winning first place in her accompanied and unaccompanied recorder classes at Redhill and Reigate music festival.



Super Strings Day

11:00am | 14 May 2017 | Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall

Hear some of the brightest string stars in action at the ever-popular annual Super String Sunday.

This year's musical marathon features a host of performances by RCM students including all five of Mozart's dazzling violin concertos with original cadenzas, directed by RCM Junior Fellow Eunsley Park, plus the usual spectrum of virtuosic works for string instruments.

For more information, go to the following website:

<http://www.rcm.ac.uk/events/listings/details/?id=1044080>

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

Library News

We have had a wonderful, busy week in our School Library.

On Monday Reception children from Ashted Pre-Prep came to visit our Library and have a story session with our Year 7 Library Ambassadors. The younger children listened beautifully as our Ambassadors kept them engrossed with their dramatic reading of a range of stories suited to our visitors.



On Thursday Year 1 from Leatherhead Pre-Prep came to have a story session with our Year 7 Library Ambassadors who have been kept very busy during their breaks and lunchtimes this week! We had so many lovely Year 1 children that other Year 7 pupils were invited to join in. I have been so impressed by all these pupils. They were outstanding role models and so enthusiastic and caring – taking our younger children out onto the lawn after their story session for some much needed refreshments.



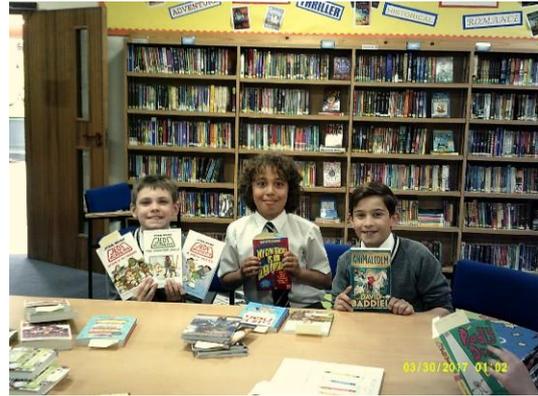
Thank you to Year 7 and Mrs Mercer – we truly couldn't have held such wonderful sessions for our younger pupils without you.

New Books chosen by our Pupils

Recently Library Advisers from all year groups 3-8 came to the Library and discussed books that they thought we should buy. This week the books arrived and they had the opportunity to come to the Library and look at the books that they had recommended. They have made some great choices and the brand new books will be available for pupils to borrow soon. Thank you to all the Library Advisers for such thoughtful and knowledgeable advice about books for we should have in our School Library.

Karen Cresswell



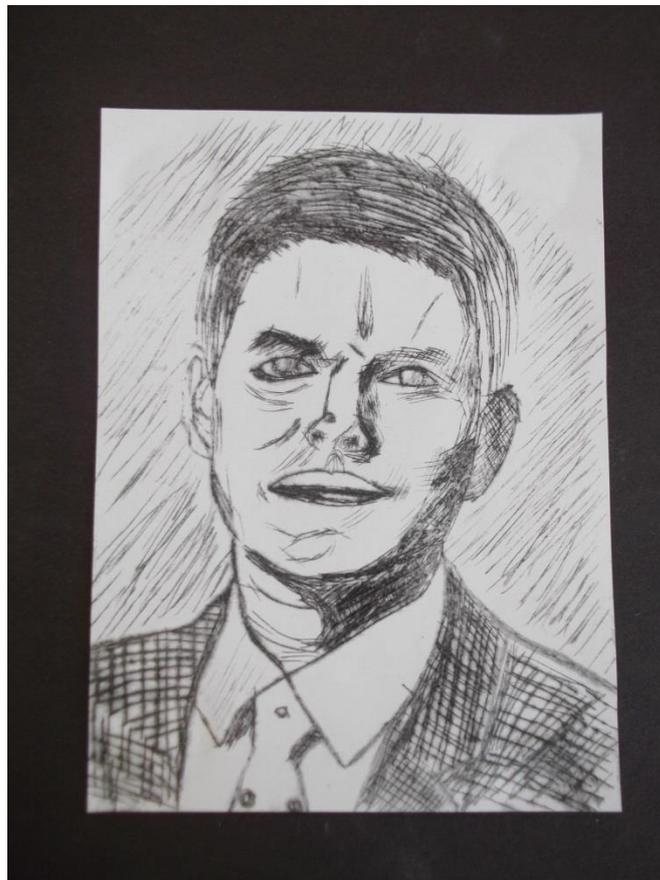


Artist of the Week

Artist of the week is Jonathan P in 7S for his great portrait etching of his father.

Well done Jonathan!

Julia Aylen



News from the DPA



Summer Ball

We have had Wonderful response again this year. There is one table left so if you are still interested please contact us asap.

The band are all set and we have some great auction prizes so are all set for another great DPA ball. Get your dancing shoes ready!

DPA Committee

Some potential new members joined us at our meeting last night and it sounds like they are keen to join us! We do however still need more volunteers for next years committee. It would be great to make contact this school year so that a handover can commence. Would anyone like to be Chair?!

Family Fun Day

The provisional date for this is Sunday 24 September. If anyone is interested in helping run this event (particularly from the Lower School) please contact me Admin@dpschool.org.uk

Funding requests

At last nights meeting we approved a donation of £400 towards improving the school garden. This is the first donation to the garden club for a number of years and we look forward to seeing the children's efforts growing vegetables. We also approved the purchase of 10 cricket helmets for the sports department. The children's safety is extremely important and the school were keen to purchase the new style helmets that are now available and offer added protection. The DPA funding will ensure that the school has enough helmets for numerous teams in different locations

Please remember we post updates and save the date information on our Facebook page so it's worth taking a look!

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.

Rebecca Peek

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 15 May	All Day	Common Entrance Language Orals Week
Tuesday 16 May	pm	Pre-Prep Epsom Yr 1 Assembly
Wednesday 17 May	Am 6.00pm	Yr 4 Charity Kindness Workshop Yrs 5&6 Local Schools Public Speaking Competition
Thursday 18 May	3.00-4.30pm 3.45pm	Uniform Shop open for sales Yr 8 residential trip meeting, Dining Hall
Friday 19 May	Assembly All Day 5.30pm	Whole School House Assemblies 8S trip to Victoria & Albert Museum Informal Voice Concert (Hayley Griffiths), Dining Hall



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.

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[Downsend +](#)

[Downsend Matters](#)

[Maths Clinic](#)

[School Sports](#)

[Sports Fixture Line](#)

[Parents' Swimming](#)

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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

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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