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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

19 May 2017



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Welcome from the Headmaster

As we approach the half-term break, end of year exams come slightly more into focus, and the opportunity to reflect on what we have all learned throughout the year. For some these represent the culmination of their time at Downsend, for others the chance to regroup and develop as they continue their journey with us. This feedback cycle is crucial for growth and we have adopted the same approach with our recent survey. We are extremely grateful to the 130+ families who have taken the time to respond and are in the process of considering what we have clearly done well, and where we still need to focus in order to improve. As always, I'll summarise this for you once the survey has closed.

One of the areas we want to progress is restoring the calendar to the new school website. We are working through some rather trying technical issues at present and hope to be able to get this important function back up and running as soon as possible. Finally, a plea for an improvement in driving standards from a tiny minority of our parent body. Turning right across the A24, out of the Main Car Park, is dangerous, inconsiderate and illegal. I have had a number of reports this week about drivers who believe

this to be acceptable and will be publishing details of registration numbers noted in the hope that this will deter any future occurrences:

Light blue metallic Mercedes convertible with dark blue hood (LB13 MMY)

Metallic dark grey Vauxhall Astra (LG17 PKY)

Metallic dark grey Landrover Discovery (LP64 DFU)

Metallic light grey Landrover Discovery (No Reg)

Ian Thorpe

Year 7 Commendation News

Congratulations to the following commendation winners who have worked very hard on achieving their next badge – the challenge is to keep their badges up to date on their jumpers rather than put them in pockets - show your needlecraft skills Year 7! I would like to give a special mention to Lucy P who has achieved the top commendation award, this means that she can now start working towards her bronze award which usually begins in Year 8. Very well done to all of you, keep up the excellent work!

Oscar A, Adam H (absent for photo), Danny A, Sophie E, James C, Diogo C-A, Ollie G, Rylie H, Matt K, Chloe C, Tom D, Lukas E (absent for photo), Roman H-T, Fraser L, Tom Q, Ethan S, Hannah G, Kavishkar K, Lucy P.

Anna Mercer



Calling all Dragons!

We have our annual Dragons' Den as part of the Year 8 ACE programme on Wednesday 28 June (am only) and Thursday 29 June (all day).

I am looking for the following dragons:

An MD, Advertising and Sales.

Please email me directly on dee.vanstone@downsend.co.uk if you might be able to help out. Thanks,

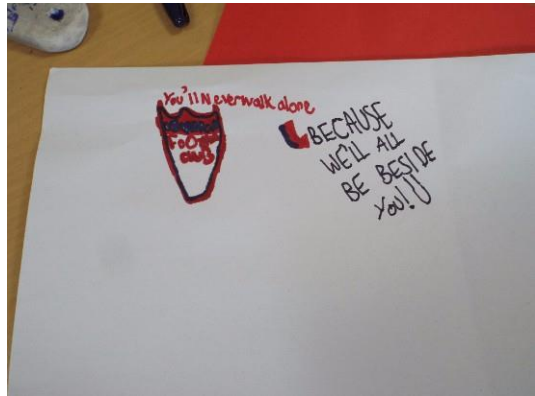
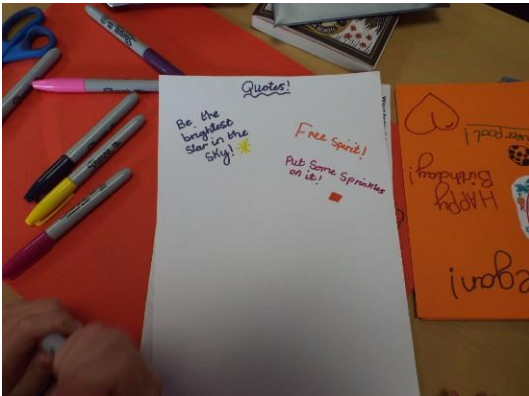
Dee Vanstone



Kindness Workshop

On Wednesday, Year 4 took part in a Kindness workshop, led by Greig from the charity '52 Lives'. We thought about what kindness means and how much better life can be when we are all kind to each other! As part of the workshop we learned about Keegan, a young boy who is unwell and feeling down. We made him lots of birthday cards, wrote out some jokes and designed him some lovely posters with caring messages. We also filmed video messages to send him. Spending our morning thinking about others left us all feeling fantastic! We can't wait to find out how happy Keegan felt when he received all of our messages and hope that we have brightened his day.

Amy O'Toole



Epsom Pre-Prep Teddy/Soft Toy Collection

Epsom Pre-Prep are running a stall at their Summer Fair selling any unwanted bears, soft toys and dolls. This is raising funds for local charity Rianna's Fund. A collection box will be in the Turret from today until Half Term. We appreciate your help with any donations.

Many Thanks.

Vanessa Conlan



Public Speaking Competition

Wednesday of this week saw the younger members of the Public Speaking Club performing at our own competition. This was open to local schools for children in Years 5 and 6 and its purpose is to encourage the less experienced speakers to have a go!

We welcomed 8 teams – 2 from Downsend, 2 from St. Teresa's, 2 from The Greville and one each from Danes Hill and Manor House. The children spoke on a variety of topics ranging from Diversity and Testing to The Ministry of Happiness!

The standard, as always, was incredibly high. All the children spoke eloquently and confidently and gave our three judges – Mr Willian Burn (Head of English at Epsom College), Kate Symes-Thompson (St. John's) and Emma Leigh from CLFS – a really tough job deciding on the winners. After deliberation, they gave very constructive feedback to each of the speaking roles in the teams and finally results were announced and awards given out.

Congratulations go to the Year 5 team from St. Teresa's who were the outright winners – nothing to do with their suggestions as to how to make teachers happy! The Greville team won runners-up spot. Individual prizes were also awarded to:

Best Chairperson: Alex W (Downsend)

Best Speaker: Lois O'C (St. Teresa's) and

Best Vote of Thanks: Romilly T (Danes Hill).

Both Leah and Aaryan were given a special mention too.

Downsend put forward two teams:

Year 5: Aaryan S, Josie D and Ines M.

Year 6: Alex W, Leah F and Edward M.

It was a very well-attended, successful and enjoyable evening.

Dee Vanstone and Sue Dinnage



News from our Pre-Preps

Inspired by Andy Goldsworthy and a sunny afternoon, Year 1 at Leatherhead Pre-Prep ventured outside to create some artworks using just natural materials and their imaginations. Working together and individually, the children created some wonderful designs using daisies, leaves, twigs, stones, feathers, seedpods and chalk. 'The best art lesson ever' was Michael's comment as the children admired each other's creations.

Gill Howe



Music Update

Music Success

Well done to Octavia M for being offered a full place at the Guildhall Centre for Young Musicians to study the recorder, clarinet and orchestral percussion from September.

Year 3 Instrumental Scheme

All pupils need to bring their instruments in for both music lessons until after the Summer Concert.

3PM Wednesdays and Thursdays

3MB Tuesdays and Wednesdays

3JC Wednesdays and Thursdays

3EF Mondays and Wednesdays

Rock Band Evening

Pupils involved in any of our School Rock Bands will be taking part at the Rock Band Evening. More details will follow shortly.

Upcoming Events

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

Artist of the week is Hector M in 4OT for his great patterned print!

Well done!

Hannah Shore



News from the DPA



DPA Committee

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

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 22 May	6.00pm	Yr 5 Assessments and Yrs 6 & 7 Exam Week Informal Piano and Oboe Concert (Sarah Cobby), Dining Hall
Tuesday 23 May	All Day	8S Legal Challenge
Thursday 25 May	All Day All Day	Yr 2 Forest School Visit @ Downsend 8S Science Trip
Friday 26 May	Assembly All Day	Mrs T Groocock STEAM Curriculum Collapse

A Toolkit for Raising Resilient Children



You are invited to attend...

A 4-hour workshop for parents, exploring resilience and how to use specific techniques to develop positive and resilient behaviours in children

- Resilient environments
- Four dimensions of resilience
- Emotional intelligence
- Embodying resilience
- Managing self-talk
- Encouraging accountability
- Problem solving

Facilitator: Julia Philpott

Julia Philpott has a background in corporate executive development and is qualified in both leadership coaching and psychology. She combines these skills with her experience as a parent to offer a range of tools and techniques, so that parents can help their children navigate the primary school years with confidence.

Date and time: Tuesday 20th June, 9am – 1pm

Venue: The Pavilion, Downsend School

Price: £50 per person

For more information and to book, please visit www.jp parentingcoaching.co.uk, or contact Julia Philpott on: julia@jpparentcoaching.co.uk 07967 497779

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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