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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

15 September 2017



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Welcome from the Headmaster

The first full week of term has been both eventful and successful. Children and staff appear to have settled into their new routines, with our new colleagues and pupils almost appearing to be part of the furniture already! The cast for the this term's production 'Spamalot' has now been announced and sports fixtures are well and truly up and running. Congratulations must go to the U13 and U9 Football teams, Plate & Tournament winners at Hoe Bridge and Hawthorns respectively. Not to be outdone, our Senior Hockey teams enjoyed their own success in a very competitive set of fixtures against Feltonfleet. With the U13s and U10s in tournament action this weekend, we hope to be reporting on further success next week.

We have enjoyed meeting so many parents at the various Coffee Mornings and Welcome Evenings. Creating a positive dialogue between school and home is such a fundamental part of helping children to reach their potential, as is encouraging them to be brave, which was very much Mr Newland's theme in Assembly today. Encouraged by personal tales from our Prefect team, and this brilliant music [video](#), our pupils looked very much galvanised for the challenges ahead. With the Clubs Programme starting up in earnest next week, it should be a busy Autumn Term!

Ian Thorpe

Reminder to Parents - Gate and Turret Timings

In order to maintain as a secure a site as possible, the gates are open at the following times:

Morning:

8.00-8.30am (Both Entrances)

Afternoon:

3.45-6.00pm (Turret)

3.45-4.45pm (Admin Gate)

Upper School Digital/E-Safety Workshop



As part of our social media and digital technology focus we have a workshop planned for both you and your children on Tuesday 19th September at 7pm in the Sports Hall. The workshop is being run by Childnet who are the leading organisation in educating children (and their parents) on Internet Safety. This promises to be an informative yet fun evening where you will have the opportunity to work alongside your children and others in the year group on a variety of internet and social media based activities.

As you are no doubt aware, the world of both educational and digital technology is growing at an ever-increasing rate and keeping up with your children on the latest apps, games or social networking site is increasingly challenging. We are hoping to build on the success of last year's pupil/parent workshop with Year 7 only and consequently have opened to all in the Upper School. We also plan for the evening to run a little more informally with pupils and parents across the Upper School sitting around tables to maximise interaction.

The workshop will include a focus on the three "C"s – Conduct, Content and Contact. There will be a specific focus on digital footprint, online reputation, sexting, who to trust online, the latest apps, gaming, grooming, cyberbullying and critical thinking – making the right decisions.

The aim of the evening is to empower you as parents to help your children make informed and correct decisions and to assist you in your understanding of your children's digital habits and profile. There will also be useful resources to take away and suggested sites that can support you in your understanding of this.

We would like to involve everyone in the Upper School and so I would invite you to show your commitment to this evening by completing the slip that you should have received via Schoolcomms if you have not already done so. If you have not received this email please contact the School Office.

Dee Vanstone

Year 6 Reasoning

Last Tuesday there was a drop-in Reasoning session for parents to understand the Reasoning part of the Pre-Tests for the children's Senior Schools. This included how we approach Reasoning at school, the use of Bofa online and the type of exam sat at most of the schools that our children sit for. The most important aspect of improving reasoning is the age-old saying 'Practise makes Perfect'!

I strongly advise you to look at the websites of your child's future schools to ascertain whether the exam is paper or online and what type of Reasoning they include (verbal, non-verbal, numerical or a mixture of all of these).

If you were unable to make the meeting, please don't hesitate to contact Dee Vanstone for further information.

Dee Vanstone

Year 6 Class Captains Autumn Term

Congratulations go to:

6ST - Alexa E-M & James M

6DV - Ines M & Aadam M

6CB - Jack M & Sophie S

6JT - Aryana M & Khalil V

6SG - Bijou C-S & Brandon G

These children were recommended by the Year 5 team as great potential role models in Year 6 due to their organisation and conduct.

The Year 6 tutors look forward to working with them over the course of this term.



Rob Temlett

Year 7 Update

Year 7 have made a great start to the new academic year and all seem organised and enthusiastic - long may it continue! Congratulations to Warren H, Lachie T, Ben W, Joanna H, Kristy M and Brooke T for being selected as our Autumn Term Ambassadors.



Congratulations also go to Sonny A, Jack D and Leah F for being voted by their peers, as form representatives for the School Council.



Anna Mercer

Year 2 Teddy Bears Picnic

Year 2 have settled into school beautifully and had great fun in the sunshine this week welcoming their teddy bears in our annual Teddy Bears Picnic. The children enjoyed a variety of activities including how high they could make their teddies fly in the air from the parachute!

Clare Kirkham



Year 7 and 8 Play - Monty Python's Spamalot

The cast and crew for this term's big musical production has been announced! The lists can now be found on the Drama board in Tregenna Hall.

If your child has not received the part they wanted, they should be consoled by the knowledge that everyone is going to have a brilliant time putting it together.

Rehearsals will be from 4.15-6.00pm every Monday from now on. If any cast member cannot attend any of these rehearsals, please inform me, preferably by e-mail, as far in advance as possible. christopher.bryant@downsend.co.uk

Those who are on the backstage team will be informed in due course what their duties will be.

It is of course essential that everyone involved in the play is available for the following dates:

Saturday rehearsal: 2nd December 10.00am-1.00pm (backstage not needed)

Tech rehearsal: 4th December 1.45-6.00pm

Dress rehearsal: 5th December 1.45-6.00pm

Performance: 6th December 2.00-3.15pm

Performances: 7th December 2.00-3.15pm and 7.00-8.30pm

Performance: 8th December 7.00-8.30pm

If you see any problems with these dates and times, please contact me as soon as possible.

Christopher Bryant



Music Update



Music Clubs and Ensembles

We have moved Whole School Orchestra to Wednesday 1.15pm.

For a full list of Music Ensembles please see [here](#).

Music Ensembles 2017



Monday	
Lower School Choir	10.15 - 10.45 (Mrs Allison)
Upper School Choir	10.45 - 11.15 (Mrs Allison)

Tuesday	
Chamber Choir (Rehearsal 1)	8.00 - 8.30 (Mrs Allison and Mrs Bayley)
Lower School Rock Band 1	10.15 - 10.45 (Mr Bradfield)
Upper School Rock Band 1	10.45 - 11.15 (Mr Bradfield)
Lower School Orchestra	12.45 - 1.15 (Miss Woods and Mrs Allison)

Wednesday	
Brass Ensemble	8.00 - 8.30 (Mr Boote)
Lower School Rock Band 2	10.15 - 10.45 (Mr Bradfield)
Upper School Rock Band 2	10.45 - 11.15 (Mr Bradfield)
Whole School Orchestra	1.15 - 1.45 (Mrs Allison and Miss Woods)



Friday	
Whole School Orchestra	8.00 - 8.45 (Mrs Allison)
Chamber Ensemble	10.45 - 11.15



Thursday	
Lower School Percussion	10.15 - 10.45 (Mrs Allison)
Upper School Scholarship Club	10.45 - 11.15 (Mrs Allison)
Chamber Choir (Rehearsal 2)	1.15 - 1.45 (Mrs Allison and Mrs Bayley)



Rock Band Auditions

Sign up in the Music Department for the auditions which will take place on 19 and 20 September.

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 Head of Music at nicole.allison@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 Workshop Day at Hampton School

On Sunday 1 October Hampton School is hosting its 20th annual Music Workshop for local Primary and Prep Schools.

As in previous years, they will be running courses for both string and wind players led by Elizabeth van Ments, Head of Strings, and Joanna Estall, Head of Woodwind. In addition they will be running courses for brass players and singers, and depending on demand, electric and bass guitar.

The Workshop will start at 10.00am (registration from 9.30 a.m.) and will break for lunch and activities at 12.30pm. At 2.30pm. There will be a Concert of music prepared in the morning classes in the Hammond Theatre at which parents and teachers will be very welcome.

If you are interested in joining this day of music-making, please see further details and a reply slip [here](#).

Nicole Allison

Artist of The Week

Well done to Sadie T in 4LC - our first artist of the week for the Academic Year.

Sadie has created a continuous line drawing of a sweet pea.



Julia Aylen

Saturday Sports Club

It was great to see over 70 pupils from Reception to Year 2 attend last weekend. This Saturday we will be based on the tennis courts and field as the Astroturf is being used for hockey matches. I hope the children enjoyed themselves and are looking forward coming again.



Jon Albert & Jo Hawes

Parents Communications – Classlist

For those parents that are new to the school our class reps and parents have been moving away from paper class contact sheets to an online community to chat with each other. [Classlist.com](https://www.classlist.com) is a private and secure website for class reps and parents.

As well as providing mobile-friendly class lists and contact details for your year group, it will enable you to communicate easily with your class/year group, and set up events and private birthday party invitations. Parents can share as much as or as little contact information with other parents as they like, and can even keep their own email address private whilst still receiving messages.

If you are new or have not got around to signing up please take a few minutes to register by going to www.schoolclasslist.com or for ease and to save lots of time, download the classlist app from the Apple Store or Google Play.

If you have any questions please contact Charlotte Staplehurst by email at charlottefeltham@hotmail.com

News from the DPA



We hope you have all had a great first full week and all your children have settled into their new classes. We have a number of exciting events coming up this term, the first of which is the annual **Family Fun Day** on Sunday 24 September 2-4pm. All Lower School parents and children are most welcome, and we hope you come along for a fun filled afternoon with the DPA and the lower teaching staff. We will be holding a [cake competition](#) as well as a [fancy dress competition](#), so look around school for the full posters. We also have probably the largest inflatable pirate ship you will ever see!! As well as lots of other inflatables and games.



We then have on Wednesday 27 September the **DPA AGM**, every parent is welcome to come along and if any of you fancy getting more involved in school events and becoming part of a great team that is the volunteer parents of the DPA, please let us know. It will be from 7pm in the Pavilion.

Lastly in just under a months' time is the annual **Family Photography Day** on Saturday 14 October. Posters will go out from next week and booking will be via our events email. The sitting fee is just £15 per session. This year we have Greenlight Photography coming to Downsend to capture some truly magical family portraits in time for Christmas (Yes I did just mention that word – sorry!)

UPCOMING DATES OF DPA EVENTS THIS TERM

24 September - Lower School Family Fun Day (School Field)

27 September - DPA AGM (Pavilion)

29 September - Macmillan Coffee Morning (Dining Hall)

14 October - Family Photography Day (Dining Hall)

There lots more to come after Half term too watch this space...

Maxine Homewood, DPA Secretary

Uniform Shop



Intake/Drop Off

6 – 10 OCTOBER

8.00 - 8.30 AM

Please leave clean, labelled uniform in a bag outside DPA stockroom, or in reception.

Sales in the Social Area

WEDNESDAY 11th OCTOBER

8.30 – 10.00 AM

For further information or to download labels, click Uniform in the Parent Portal of our website or click [here](#).

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 19 September	All Day 7.00pm	Yr 5 Trip to Hampton Court Upper School Online Safety Evening
Wednesday 20 September	6.30-7.30pm	Yr 5 Welcome Evening, Peterborough Hall
Thursday 21 September	7.00pm	Yr 8 CE Parents Information Evening
Friday 22 September	Assembly	Whole School House Assemblies
Sunday 24 September	am pm	DPA Table Top Sale DPA Family Fun Day

Downsend+

Downsend + has had a busy, successful summer and will return again in October Half Term from Monday 23 October to Friday 3 November 2017. Further details regarding the programme to follow in the next few weeks.

[Contact Form 2017-2018](#)

[Price Information 2017-2018](#)

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.

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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Our mailing address is:

Downsend School
1 Leatherhead Road
Leatherhead
Surrey
KT22 8TJ

www.downsend.co.uk

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