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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

22 September 2017



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[Welcome from the Headmaster](#)

Over the past fortnight, we have met with the vast majority of our parents at our various Coffee Mornings

Over the past fortnight, we have met with the vast majority of our parents at our various Coffee Mornings and Information Evenings, including our Online Safety Workshop on Tuesday evening. Working closely with you is very much a part of any success, whilst also allowing our dedicated staff the time to carry out their duties in inspiring our pupils. It was lovely to put so many names to faces and to hear of how your children have settled in. The school is certainly a very happy place to learn, for 7 and 47 year olds! Feedback always helps us to keep doing what we do well and to tweak what we can improve further. I heard a lovely message in the Turret this morning when a parent explained that she had come into the school yesterday and had walked through seven doors, all of which were held open by pupils en route. Good manners cost nothing, but deliver so much and I am very proud that Downsend pupils conduct themselves in this way!

It's another busy weekend, with various hockey and football tournaments, as well as the DPA Family Fun Day on Sunday. If the children can emulate the successes of the past week, including the Surrey Cup first round wins, for the U11s and U13s, they can consider the weekend a job well done. Next week, we look forward 'Wizard of Oz Week' in the Lower School. We look forward to welcoming you along our very own Yellow Brick Road.

Ian Thorpe

Healthy Snacks

Please may I remind parents to send their children into school each day with one healthy snack to enjoy at playtime. Healthy snacks include whole fruit, dried fruit, plain popcorn or some vegetable sticks. Crisps and chocolate, sugary cereal bars and items such as cocktail sausages are not to be sent in please as we find that these have a negative impact on energy levels, mood and on what the children subsequently eat for lunch. The Lower School team would be hugely grateful for your support with this.

Clare Kirkham

Congratulations to the new House Captains!

Today the school congregated for the first Whole School House Assemblies of the year. These special assemblies create an opportunity for children in all years within a house to meet and get to know each other. I know our senior pupils thoroughly enjoy assisting their younger counterparts and leading by example.

We are very proud to announce the following children as House Captains this year, and I know they are all looking forward to working with the younger children and taking on additional responsibilities around the school.

Headley James Cast & Eve Jackson

Norbury Amelia Thomson & Tom Dolphin

Ranmore Roman Hunt-Turner & Rylie Herbert

Wisley Meharpal Grewal & Kitty Savan



"I am looking forward to being a house leader and having the younger children look up to me. I am also looking forward to handing out the achievement badges in Friday assemblies, but a little nervous about speaking in public" House Captain

"I was really excited to be selected as House Captain, as I can organise the house points and be in charge of our house board. I am looking forward to helping the staff run the events, although I know I will need to be organised and gain more confidence about standing at the front in assembly" House Captain

It is great to see our year 8's enjoy the positions of responsibility and grow with confidence throughout the year. I have no doubt this team will do a great job and make us very proud. Well done again

Mr Albert

Whole School House Assemblies

This morning marked the first of many Whole School House Assemblies. Children from Norbury, Ranmore, Headley and Wisley excitedly made their way to their first meetings, to discuss house point totals, top achievers, upcoming events and to set targets for the year. Each child received their new house pin which they proudly displayed on their blazer. It was lovely to see the older members of our community welcome their younger counterparts; something that always makes these assemblies and our House system so special. A great way to end the week.

Jon Albert and Helen Black



Future Schools - Year 5

On Tuesday 3rd October, I will be giving a talk to Year 5 parents on the subject of 'Choice of Independent Senior School'. This will take place in the Dining Hall (entrance via the side door) and will begin at 7pm. The talk is very much geared towards Year 5 parents who are beginning their journey to find a Senior School. Any new parents in Years 6, 7 and 8 are very welcome too.

I will be outlining the various types of schools and their entrance procedures, as well as the process of choosing a school. Questions from the floor will be encouraged at the end of the talk. The whole evening will last approximately an hour.

Seb Watts

Anti-Bullying



This week, I have given assemblies to the different parts of the school on the topic of bullying. The first part of the assembly focused on what bullying actually is, "bullying is any deliberate, repeated, unkind behaviour". I gave some examples of such behaviour and we talked about why people bully and concluded with a discussion about what to do if any child is unhappy and feels that someone is being repeatedly unkind to them.

The most important message that was emphasised to the children is they need to share their concerns with someone, ideally with their parents and/or with their form teacher/tutor or a peer mentor. Unkindness will not disappear if nothing is done and the need to share any worries is vitally important. Equally important is the fact that we all have a responsibility to ensure that Downsend continues to be a safe, caring and nurturing school where children look forward to coming to school. Therefore, any child who witnesses anything unkind should share this with us.

This week we hosted an E-Safety workshop for parents and children in the Upper School. Further ahead we will be supporting Anti-Bullying week from 13th - 17th November. In addition we will be holding an ARK week (Acts of Random Kindness) week on the 20th November 2017.

Seb Watts

School Photographs



Individual photographs of all pupils will be taken on Friday 29 September. There will not be the opportunity for sibling photographs. Should you wish to get a sibling photograph you may be able to do so at the DPA Portrait day later in the term.

Children should wear the following uniform:

Lower School (Years 2, 3, 4, 5)

Girls: summer dresses, red cardigans, white ankle socks and hair bands appropriate to school uniform

Reminder: jewellery, other than watches, is not permitted in the Lower School

Boys: short trousers, school socks (or short grey socks), white shirts, ties, grey jumpers

Upper School (Years 6, 7, 8)

Girls: winter kilts, white blouse, white ankle socks black jumpers and hair bands appropriate to school uniform

Boys: long trousers, white shirts, ties, grey jumpers

Seb Watts

Childnet E Safety Evening

Many Upper School parents and their children turned out for the important E Safety evening held here at Downsend by an experienced presenter from Childnet, the leading educator on the subject of E safety in schools.

Many aspects of E Safety were covered including online reputation, digital footprint, social media sites, online gaming and the pitfalls of some of the sites. Valuable information was given to the parents

regarding what parental controls are available and various booklets such as 'Supporting Young People Online' and 'Young People and Social Networking' were given out.

It was good to see how many pupils engaged with their parents in an informal atmosphere and discussed what they liked to do on the internet. The most important message that was conveyed is that communication between parent and child is key. As Kate said, 'the children are more experienced with technology, but the parents are more experienced with life!'

If you were unable to attend the evening and are interested in finding out more all the resources that were handed out are on the Childnet website – www.childnet.com. Alternatively, please see Mrs Vanstone who has copies of some of these resources.

Dee Vanstone

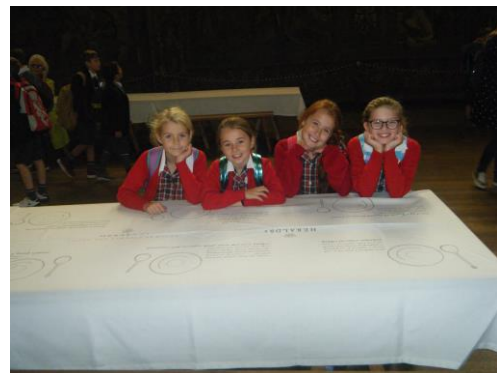


Year 5 Hampton Court Trip

I really enjoyed the Year 5 trip to Hampton Court Palace on Tuesday. With our packed lunches, we boarded the coach nice and early. When we arrived at the Palace, I was amazed at how large, beautiful and grand it was. We began our day with a workshop on old games and toys. I was fascinated to learn that Hampton Court Palace has over one thousand rooms! I was lucky enough to be chosen to try on a knight's helmet. It was extremely heavy and you couldn't see a lot out of it. After eating our lunches under a beautiful pine tree, we made our way into the palace. My favourite room was

the kitchens. They showed us how they would have cooked meat in Henry VIII's time and had two juicy pieces of beef being turned in front of the fire! We also saw a replica of Henry VIII's crown, the jewels were magnificent. Just before we got back on the coach, we had a play in the amazing gardens. At the beginning of our trip, we were set the challenge of counting the number of Tudor roses we spotted during our visit. I lost count at around two hundred! A great start to the year, I can't wait for the other adventures we are going to have.

Imogen G, Year 5



Lower School House Representatives

Congratulations to:

Anoushka S (5MS)

Adam V (5JA)

Aimee J (5JAY)

Ralphie A (5HB)

For being selected to take on the responsibility of House representatives for the Lower school. We are looking forward to each of the children playing an active role in House events in the coming year, and acting as Role models for the younger children in the Lower school.



Well done!

Victoria Topa



Music Update



Lower School Orchestra

This is open to all pupils in Years 2 - 5 who play an orchestral instrument. As long as you have been learning for a couple of terms and can play a few notes we would love to see you! Tuesday 12.45 p.m. in the Music Block.

Music Clubs and Ensembles

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

Music Ensembles 2017



<u>Monday</u>	
Lower School Choir	10.15 - 10.45 (Mrs Allison)
Upper School Choir	10.45 - 11.15 (Mrs Allison)

<u>Wednesday</u>	
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)

<u>Thursday</u>	
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)

<u>Tuesday</u>	
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)



<u>Friday</u>	
Whole School Orchestra	8.00 - 8.45 (Mrs Allison)
Chamber Ensemble	10.45 - 11.15



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.

Nicole Allison

Artist of The Week

Well done to Francesca T in 8MT for her chalk and charcoal still life.

Julia Ayles



Royal Academy of Dance Ballet Exams

Well done to the following pupils who passed the following ballet exams at the end of the Summer Term:

Pre Primary Ballet (year 2)

Aliyah K – awarded

Amy J – awarded

Ava D – awarded
Darcey D – awarded
Eleanor M – awarded
Emma C – awarded
Grace K – awarded
Harriet H – awarded
Isabella C – awarded
Katerina R – awarded
Niamh B – awarded
Zara E - awarded

Primary Ballet (year 3)

Ana-Maria H – Merit
Jessica Jane L – Distinction
Rebecca J – Merit
Mathilda K – awarded
Maria B – Distinction

Grade 1 Ballet (year 4)

Kitty M – Merit
Martha G – Merit
Sophia V – Merit
Zoe G – Merit

Grade 2 Ballet (years 5 &6)

Aimee J – awarded
Emma F – awarded
Eva R – awarded
Maya K – awarded
Olivia H – awarded
Olivia B – awarded
Sarasa M – awarded
Sophia S – awarded

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



Lower School Family Fun Day – Sunday 24th September 14:00 – 16:00

Preparations have gone well. Cakes and snacks are almost ready. More importantly the bouncy castles are confirmed and we have lots this year! We look forward to seeing you all and welcoming new year 2 parents.

Whilst we have had some volunteers come forwards we can always do with an extra pair of helping hands – just come and ask at the Pavilion on the day and we can allocate duties!

We will be holding a [cake competition](#) as well as a [fancy dress competition](#), so look around school for the full posters.



Family Photography Day – Saturday 14th October 09:00- 17:00

Details and booking forms will be issued next week, so keep an eye on your emails.

This year we are using a new photographer, 'Greenlight Photography' and look forward to a slightly different approach. Viewing and orders will take place after the event and not on the day (as with the past 2 years).

On Wednesday 27 September we have 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.

Have a great weekend.

Jodie Pett, DPA Chair

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
Monday 25 September	All Day	Lower School Wizard of Oz Week
Tuesday 26 September	7.00pm	Yr 8 Scholarship Parents Information Evening
Wednesday 27 September	All Day 7.30pm	Lower School Wizard of Oz Dance Workshop DPAAGM, Pavillion
Thursday 28 September	All Day	Lower School Wizard of Oz Dance Workshop
Friday 29 September	Assembly All Day	Reverend A.Jenkins, St Nicholas Church, Bookham Individual photographs

Downsend+

Please see below details of our Downsend+ October half term 2017, Christmas 2017 and February half term 2018 programmes. Also below is our 2017-2018 Contact Form which will need to be completed for this academic year and will not need to be completed again unless any of the details change.

If you have any queries regarding these please do contact me on 07909 861 280 or email downsendplus@downsend.co.uk.

[Contact Form 2017-2018](#)

[October, Christmas and February Course Description](#)

[October half term 2017 Booking Form](#)

[Christmas 2017 Booking Form](#)

[February half term 2018 Booking Form](#)

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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