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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

29 September 2017



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[Welcome from the Headmaster](#)

Lower School Wizard of Oz Week has been a resounding success, with costumes (and straw) in abundance on Tuesday. There were more Dorothys, Tin Men and Witches than I could count, and certainly plenty of heart, brains and courage on show. The events of the week have produced a number of catalysts for creative work; I look forward to reading examples of this in the week ahead. On Sunday, we enjoyed our first DPA event of the year, the Family Fun Day and were blessed with sunshine and sunny dispositions. The children bounced away, whilst the Dads took to the tug-of-war rope, all with enormous enthusiasm. I do hope that there were not too many bad backs come Monday morning! The DPA are a crucial source of information, support and community spirit, so do consider how you can support them this year, with a little bit of volunteering time or simply coming along to some of the events that they organise. They are always great fun!

This time next week, we will be completing our final preparations for the first Open Morning of the academic year. Our children are our greatest advocates, so we are grateful to all of those who will be joining us for a fun-filled morning. We will also be hosting the Downsend U9 Football Tournament that day, so please follow the guidance of our Facilities Team, who will be assisting with parking arrangements. If our Year 4s can match the achievements of our Year 5 girls (bronze medallists) and Year 2 boys (Cranmore Tournament winners) last weekend, it promises to be another successful and busy event.

Ian Thorpe

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

Wizard of Oz Week

The Lower School have thoroughly enjoyed Wizard of Oz Week this week in a variety of activities and dance workshops. We have seen some lovely costumes around school - from pupils and staff! Thank you to all parents for the huge effort put in by you all, events like this really add a wow moment to the week!

Clare Kirkham



Music Update



Recorder

Parents of Year 2 Pupils - many thanks to those of you who have sent your children in to school with recorders. I am keeping them safely in the Music Department until I feel the children are ready to begin learning to play the recorder. We are currently covering the essentials of pitch and rhythm work. I aim to start recorders before half term.

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



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)



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:

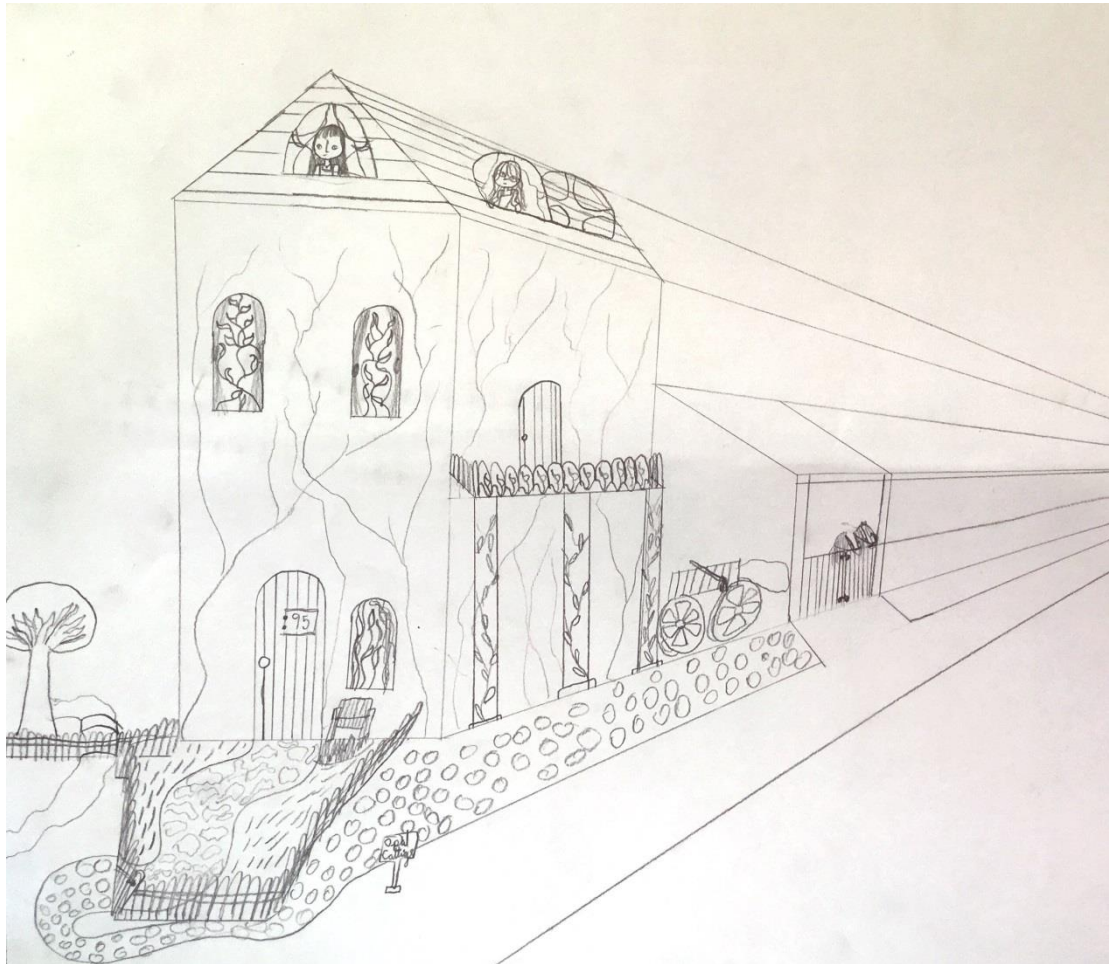
Flute, Recorder, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Tuba, Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Mandolin, Bass Guitar, Drum Kit, Percussion, Ukulele, Violin, Viola and Piano.

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 Alice U in 5JA for her fantastic street scene, demonstrating an excellent understanding of how to draw in perspective.



Julia Ayles

News from the DPA

Downsend
Parents'
Association



Family Fun Day

We had a glorious sunny afternoon for the annual Family Fun Day for the children and parents of the Lower School last Sunday. The inflatables were a great success as was the introduction of the Egg & Spoon race this year. Top marks have to go to the winners of the cake competition, fancy dress competition and the winner of the egg and spoon race. However, I think everyone will agree that the 'Tug Of War' was the highlight of the afternoon - gosh our dads are a competitive bunch it was like the Olympics!



Portrait Day

On Saturday 14th October 9am – 5pm (Booking essential) we are again hosting the Family Photography day at Downsend. This is an opportunity in time for Christmas to get some family portraits done for presents etc. Posters will be up around school from today. We have a great photography company coming down on the day called Greenlight Photography.



Class Reps

We still urgently need people to volunteer to be a class rep. Charlotte Staplehurst via Class list has been kindly coordinating.

Classes without class Reps are as follows:

Yr4: 4MP / 4AS

Yr5: 5JA / 5MS

Yr6: 6CB / 6JT / 6DV

Yr7: No Class Rep in any class

Yr8: No Class Rep in any class

Uniform Shop

We urgently need volunteers to run this key service for the parents CAN YOU HELP?? If we do not get volunteers then unfortunately this service within the school will no longer be able to be offered.

Finally, don't forget the following ways to help raise funds for the DPA. [Easyfundraising](#)

Have a great weekend.

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
Monday 2 October	1.15-1.45pm	Lower School House Meeting
Tuesday 3 October	am 7.00pm	Yr 8 HPV Vaccinations (part1) Yr 5 Choice of Independent School Meeting, Dining Hall
Thursday 5 October	All Day 12.45-1.15pm	Yr 4 Trip to Fishbourne Palace Upper School House Meeting
Friday 6 October	Assembly	Reverend C Moloney, Chaplain, St John's School
Saturday 7 October	am	Open Morning

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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