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# DOWNSEND SCHOOL

## DOWNSEND TIMES

6 October 2017



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The Lower School has returned to normal after its stint as the Emerald City last week and the sun is streaming across the site as we prepare for our first Open Morning tomorrow. Our guides will be the perfect hosts, I am sure, and our visitors will be in safe hands! We will also be hosting our own U9 Football Tournament tomorrow, so good luck to all those taking part. Here's hoping our boys can be as successful as our U11 hockey girls, who won the Danes Hill Tournament without conceding a goal last week, or our U8 football winners of the Cranmore Tournament, for the third year running.

On Tuesday I attended the Cognita School Improvement Network in London where Heads discussed a range of topics, many of which were relevant to Downsend. On my return I shared this [video](#) with the staff, reminding them of just how much of a difference we can make in our role. Having received a letter from the family of one of our Year 8 leavers last year, I would like to think that we have achieved this in

our own way: "We wanted to express our satisfaction at the seamless transition our son has enjoyed to his Senior School. It is clear that his depth of learning and understanding are beyond that of other former Prep School pupils." Let us hope that our visitors see this for themselves tomorrow.

*Ian Thorpe*

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## **A Wondrous Week It Was!**

Last week the Lower School threw their hearts, minds and courage into a week of 'Wizard of Oz' themed cross curricular activities. From estimating and measuring yellow brick roads in Year 3, to going on a Wizard of Oz noun hunt in Year 2, creating magical Maths problems to solve in Year 4 and crafting 'show not tell' character descriptions in Year 5, the Lower School was awash with an 'Over the Rainbow' week that inspired the children with new experiences while learning valuable skills.

A character 'dress up day' and film sessions introduced the children to this 20th century fairy tale and follow up music lessons enabled them to join in with some of the songs. Meanwhile assemblies demonstrated how some of the themes in the story link to British Values. One of the week's highlights was a series of highly popular 'Wizard of Oz' Dance Workshops (run free of charge by local Performing Arts group, Perform) to enable each class to explore ideas in the tale through performance art. The children's legacy to the week is a spectacular wall display in the Peterborough Hall which has involved the entire Lower School with incredible support from Ms Aylen and teaching assistants, Mrs Corr and Mrs Izatt.

Rebecca from 3PM said, "It was brilliant fun and I loved all the things we did."

Jackson from 2YdV said, "I loved our Wizard of Oz treasure hunt finding nouns that belonged to the characters."

*Lisa Burns*



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## **Year 4 Trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace**

Getting to visit an ancient palace on a beautiful, sunny day in October is a fantastic way to learn and this is exactly how Year Four were able to spend Thursday this week. We whisked them away to Fishbourne Roman Palace, former home of Roman citizen Tiberius Claudius Togidubnus, to further their learning about Roman Britain, this term's History topic. Everybody had a fantastic day exploring the gardens, learning about the Roman way of life through a super activities workshop and viewing the incredibly preserved mosaic floors in the Palace museum. Some children were lucky enough to meet a Roman school teacher and compare school life today with a Roman child's classroom. We even learned a little bit of Latin!

'Gratias vobis ago' (Thanks to you all I give) to the lovely parent helpers who joined us and to the Year Four team for organising and running a super day out.



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## World Teachers' Day

On Monday two teams of Year 8 pupils visited our Pre-Preps in Ashted and Epsom to interview the children there about why their teachers are so special. They staged, interviewed, filmed and edited the clips for everyone to celebrate via social media on World Teachers' Day yesterday.

Great team work, organisation and creativity from Cameron B, Chloe C, Hannah G, Felipe G, Ethan S and Francesca T- well done!



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## Year 5 & 7 Buddies

Children from Years 5 and 7 had fun yesterday finding their new buddies in a 'Five Minute Frenzy' activity before lessons started. They also found out some unusual facts about their new buddies which ranged from being allergic to sun cream, to having a large playground in their garden!

The children were asked about their new friends and what they were looking forward to most about helping their buddies and these were some responses:

*"I'm looking forward to encouraging my buddy through the year!"*

*"I can't wait to have lunch with my buddy tomorrow!"*

*"I really like the fact that Aimee and I can share the same buddy."*

*"It was so cool and so much fun; our buddy is the third best at karate in the world."*

They are having lunch together today and will enjoy various other activities throughout the year which will help develop skills of encouragement and teamwork across the two year groups.

*Mrs Mercer, Miss Black, Mrs Topa and the Year 5 & 7 Tutor Teams*



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## Lower School Assemblies

Each House in the Lower School met on Monday for an assembly. The theme was teamwork and the Head of House discussed the importance of working together and the benefits that this can achieve. The message was that 'Together Everyone Achieves More' and the children in each house discussed how they could put this into practice this year.

*Helen Black*



## Music Update



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



<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)



### 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](mailto: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*

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## **Artist of The Week**

Well done to Harry H in 6ST. Year 6 have been learning how to draw the face in proportion and this is an excellent example by Harry.



*Julia Ayles*



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## News from the DPA



Dear Parents,

Following on from last week's AGM we now have a new committee, details below. We have also said goodbye to some amazing women that have really helped make the DPA such a success. Our chair Mrs Jodie Pett has stepped down and left some rather large shoes to fill as she has done so much as chair, secretary and committee over her time here at Downsend and has left as one of my best friends. We have also said goodbye to Jayne Saunderson our Treasurer who did such a grand job, that we really did not want her to leave, but her child is now not at Downsend so we couldn't get her to stay! Also we have said goodbye to two great committee members; Julia Iverson and Birgit Lintner whose efforts over the past few years have meant things have happened! Thank you to you all and hopefully we can make you all proud with our DPA journey 2017 and onwards.

The new Committee is:

**Chair: Maxine Homewood**

**Secretary: Alex Dale**

**Treasurer: Laura Spanswick**

**Committee: Lisa Ballard, Rosie Green and Nicola Burger**

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Held last Friday - thank you to those parents who supported this great cause.. We raised £155.15. Many thanks.

### **Portrait Day**

Places are filling up fast and we now have only a few time slots available, so contact us as soon as possible if you would like to secure a slot. The event is on Saturday 14th October 9am – 5pm (Booking essential) this is a great opportunity, in time for Christmas, to get some family portraits done for presents

etc. Posters are up around school with full details. The photography company coming on the day is 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 Chair*

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## 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](#).

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## Next Week @ Downsend

### School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 9 October		Yr 3 Egyptian Week
Tuesday 10 October	6.30pm	Yr 2 & 3 Parent-Teacher Interviews, Peterborough Hall
Thursday 12 October	All Day	Yr 3 Ancient Egypt Day
Friday 13 October	Assembly am	Mr R Temlett Open Morning for Rising Reception
Saturday 14 October	All Day	DPA Portrait Day

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# 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](mailto: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*

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# School Notices

## Contact Details

Please email [office@downsend.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@downsend.co.uk) to be added to the distribution list.

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# Inspiring young minds

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## Our mailing address is:

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