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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

20 October 2017



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[Welcome from the Headmaster](#)

As if in the blink of an eye we have arrived at the end of our first half of term and I am sure that everyone is looking forward to recharging the batteries over the next fortnight. Following our successful Open Morning last week, it's been another busy week, with a number of prospective parents looking round Downsend. Three of them took the time to write to us following their visits and clearly enjoyed the experience: *'Although I've been round the school before it was great to see it again 4 years on, and to note all the positive developments that have taken place. The children encountered were without exception polite, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed - and there is a palpable atmosphere of enthusiasm and drive through the school.'*

Those followers of our social media outlets and the newsletters will have seen regular accounts of such enthusiasm and drive, all aimed at inspiring our young learners. As CATs and assessment scores come in, it is also evident that this approach is bearing fruit and the impressive results speak for themselves. At the same time we have continued to see Music blossom, as evidenced at this week's Informal Concert, watch

'Spamalot' take shape and hand out seven tournament trophies. It's been quite a few weeks and we all need a break; I hope that yours is a restful one, wherever in the world it takes you.

Ian Thorpe

Upper School Update

As always this has been an incredibly busy but productive term and I wanted to say how proud all the staff are of the Upper School pupils.

In Year 6 the children settled quickly at the start of the term and have been working hard in the final stages of their preparation for their mock exams and pre-tests in January. Mr Temlett and his tutor team have consistently noted how happy and cheerful they have been and those pupils who have started their interview practice have presented impressively. We will continue to roll out the interview practice programme after half-term to ensure all the Year 6 pupils are ready for their interviews, whatever the choice of senior school.

Mrs Mercer and her Year 7 team have been so pleased with how well the pupils have stepped up to the challenges of Year 7. The ambassadors were fabulous on our recent Open Morning, and all of the Year 7 pupils have been kind and supportive of their Year 5 buddies.

Both Year 7&8 CE pupils have started their mid-term assessments, so can afford a break from their studies over half-term, That said, where necessary, some time should be spent on consolidating any weaker subjects or areas still to be assessed when they return in November and 8S should spend enough time preparing for their mocks after half term.

For both parents and pupils, I would encourage you to visit the VLE which has revision materials and resources for all subjects, in each year group. In addition, for Year 6 reasoning can be practised on 'Planet Bofa' in line with Mrs Vanstone's advice.

Outside the classroom all the boys and girls should be congratulated on how well the Football and Hockey seasons have gone. The results have been impressive against some of the strongest schools on the circuit, but I am delighted to report that the pupils have played hard but in a sporting fashion and they have always looked smart and been polite, both on the pitches and at tea.

Good luck to the Year 6 pupils heading out to Jersey this weekend for their Hockey and Football sports tour. I know how much Mr Thompson, Mrs Fitch, Mrs Cooper-James, Miss Rodriguez and Mr Roberts are looking forwards to the trip, and we look forward to hearing about both your sporting success and adventures.

Mums and Dads, thank you so much for all your support, both on the touchline and with your children's studies. I do hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half-term and we look forwards to seeing you after the break for another busy half-term in the run up to Christmas.

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

Lower School Update

As half term arrives today, I am able to reflect on a fun-filled and academically exciting start to the school year in the Lower School. The children have once again amazed staff with their passion for learning and their ability to take on a seemingly endless variety of new challenges. The children have not only settled well into their new classes; welcoming new pupils and staff to the school in their typically friendly manner, but have enjoyed an array of educationally rewarding events and experiences. From Wizard of Oz week, the Teddy Bear's Picnic and Egyptian Day to trips to Fishbourne, Hampton Court Palace and the Herstmonceux Science Observatory, the curriculum has been enriched wherever possible with our children thriving and loving learning at every stage.

Our new Year 2 children have already become an asset to the school with some already even speaking publicly in front of our Pre-Prep parents! They have shown great strength of character and independence and I would encourage as many as possible to walk from the Turret into school next half term unaccompanied. From what I've seen already they will be very confident to do so.

I hope that all of our Lower School families have a wonderful half term break and look forward to seeing you all in November ready for more inspiring academic challenges and plenty of fun.

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Year 2 Harvest Festival

On Monday 9th October, Year 2 had a Harvest Assembly to celebrate this year's harvest and to bring the children's attention to those less fortunate than themselves.

This was a huge success largely due to the enthusiasm of the children and generosity of so many parents. Thank you for all your food contributions, which were taken to a homeless shelter based in Leatherhead. Our gifts were gratefully received and we were ensured they would make an invaluable contribution to the charity's work. It was really uplifting to see the children show such empathy to help others.



Lower School Council

Thank you to all Lower School pupils for taking part in the Lower School Councillors elections back in September. We can proudly announce that our 2017-18 Lower School Councillors are:

Year 2 2YdV - Darcey D 2LB - Elliot M 2ST - Amy D 2CW - Katie J	Year 4 4LC - James R 4JN - Theo M 4MP - Isabelle D 4AS - George P
Year 3 3MB - Sophie M 3EF - Henry H 3NL - Aston S 3PM - Rebecca J	Year 5 5JA - Megan R 5Jay - Sam B 5HB - Angus W 5MS - Harrison G-S

As the powerful voice of the Downsend pupil, the Councillors' role is to listen carefully to the needs of the

pupils in their form and to clearly and effectively communicate these to the Lower School Council and Staff. The Council meets on a regular basis and works on generating suggestions and ideas for the further improvement of our successful school.

We are very proud to say that the Councillors have already had two very successful meetings this half-term focussing on discussing the Aims of our School, which they will feedback to their Forms after half-term.

Thank you to all Lower School pupils for their continuous support to the Council. Over half-term, we would be very grateful if you could think of ideas for 'Christmas in the Lower School' and record these in your Form's Lower School Council Book.

With warmest wishes for a brilliant half term.

Mrs Carmody and Mrs de Vries, on behalf of the Lower School Council



Year 2, 3 and 4 Councillors (Year 5 are away today)

School Charity



This year the school will be supporting the Royal Marsden Hospital. As has been the case in previous years, the charity has been chosen for its work with a member of our community. We hope you will lend your generous support to this very worthwhile cause.

Charities Committee

Lower School Christmas Cards

If anyone has any late orders, please ensure money comes into school after half term, but send designs (clearly labelled with Downsend School) to the following address as soon as possible:

Fundraising Creations
20 Beehive Business Centre
Skelton-in-Cleveland
TS12 2LQ

Julia Ayles

Charity Hair Donation

Well done to Zoë S (7MS) who has donated over 30cm of her hair today to help the Little Princess Trust charity. The Little Princess Trust provides wigs free of charge to children who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other illness. Zoë is also fundraising for the Trust through sponsorship - she is hoping to raise £250 which is about half the cost of making up a wig. This was a big decision for Zoë who has been growing her hair for 6 years!

Please click [here](#) to donate to Zoë's Justgiving page.



Music Update



Well done to Hector M who achieved a place on the National Youth Jazz Collective for this year playing his saxophone. www.nationalyouthjazz.co.uk



Informal Music Concert

Well done to all pupils who took part in the Informal Music Concert on Monday.



Saturday 25 November

Lower School Choir, Upper School Choir, Chamber Choir and Whole School Orchestra perform at the DPA Christmas Fair.

Wednesday 29 November

Brass Ensemble perform at the Informal Brass Concert (6pm in the Music Suite) Entry will be through the green side gate behind Extended Day which will be manned from 5.30-5.50pm. The concert should last approximately 1 hour.

Tuesday 5 December

Chamber Choir perform at the Rainbow Trust Christmas Concert, St Nicolas Church, Bookham (7pm). The children are expected to gather in the Church Hall at the back of the church no later than 5.45pm in full school uniform. The concert starts at 7pm and is expected to finish at 8pm. There is no parking at the church itself but there is a free car park (after 6pm) behind the Co-op in Bookham, diagonally opposite St Nicolas Church.

Tickets can be booked [online](https://rainbowtrust.org.uk/events/bookham-carol-concert-2017) at <https://rainbowtrust.org.uk/events/bookham-carol-concert-2017>

**Music Clubs and Ensembles**

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

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

In our Art lessons this week we have been celebrating The Big Draw, which is an international festival encouraging everyone to draw. We have been busy developing our drawing skills and creating colourful self-portraits. Here are a few examples...

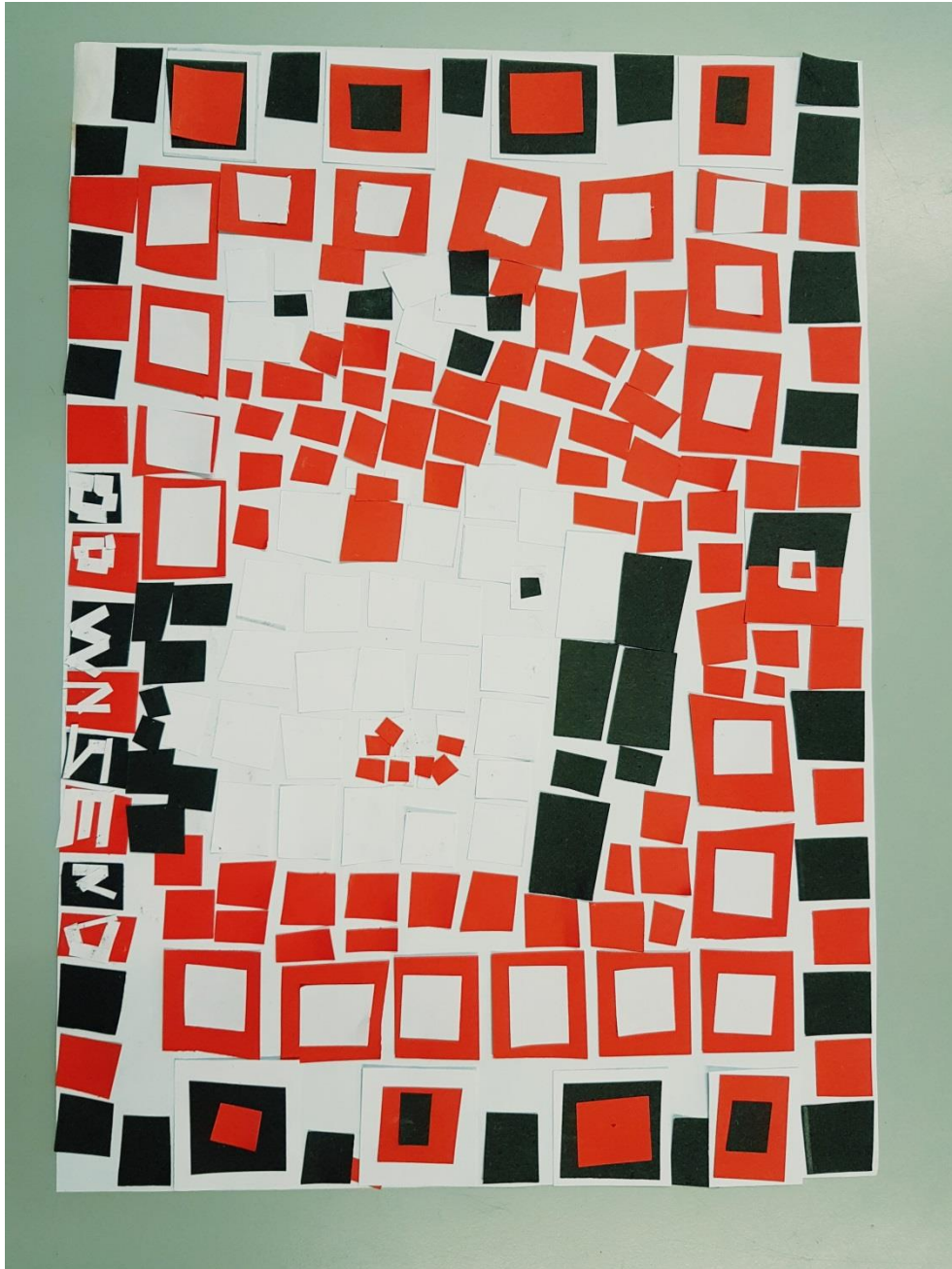


Julia Ayles

Year 4 Roman Mosaics

Year 4 are currently learning about the Romans and mosaics were a focus activity this week. Below is a mosaic of Mr Thorpe, which was created by Zoe G in 4MP.

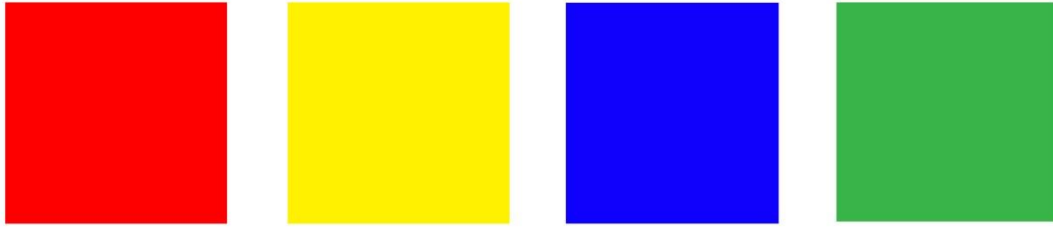
Marc Popham



House Art Competition

We can't wait to see your entries for the House Art Competition after half term. This year's theme is Taking a Line for a Walk. It is an intentionally broad theme to encourage you to be as creative and imaginative as possible! Please see the poster for more information. The deadline for entries is **Friday 10 November**.

Julia Ayles



HOUSE ART COMPETITION

This year's theme is
TAKING A LINE FOR A WALK

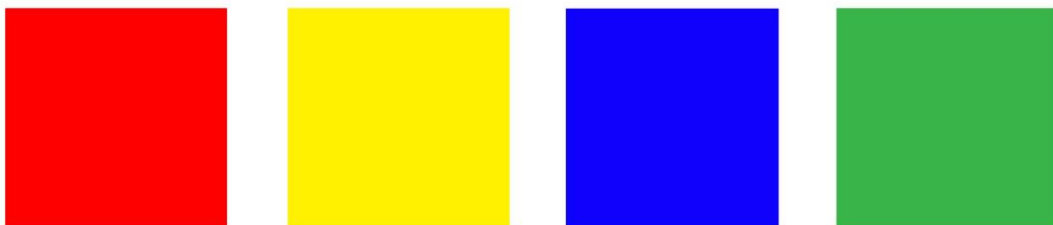
Use any materials, techniques or processes (for example drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, collage, sculpture) to make your piece of art.

Entries can be two or three-dimensional and shouldn't be larger than A3 in size.

Please label your work with your name, class and house.

5 housepoints for every entry and prizes for the winning entry from each year group!

DEADLINE: Friday 10 November



Design & Technology Update



Design and Technology Autumn Term 2017—Lower School

YEAR 2—MOVING MONSTERS

Pupils in year 2 have been investigating pneumatics to design and make moving monsters using burger boxes.



Year 3—LUNAR BUGGIES

This term pupils have researched vehicles and wheels to design and make a moving lunar vehicle.



Year 3—FOOD TECHNOLOGY

We have been learning about safe practice and hygiene rules, practising weighing and measuring ingredients and liquids as well as using a peeler, grater and sharp knife to make carrot burgers.



Year 3 - WIZARD OF OZ CRAFT

Year 3 pupils used their knowledge of Wizard of Oz characters to create lollipop character faces and rainbow fruit skewers.



Year 4—FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Having completed hygiene and safety training in the food room, pupils have modified a flapjack recipe.



Year 4—FABRIC POSTCARDS

The children have been thinking about their favourite holiday memories to create a fabric postcard. We have practised our hand embroidery stitches.



Year 5—EMERGENCY SHELTERS

Pupils have been investigating structures, joints and fabric finishes in preparation for designing an emergency shelter.





Design and Technology Autumn Term 2017—Upper School

YEAR 6—MARIONETTE PUPPETS

Our workshop project this year is to design and make a marionette puppet inspired by a book character.



Year 6—FOOD TECHNOLOGY

This term we have challenged the pupils to make rough puff pastry for a Mediterranean vegetable slice and created a boiled fruit cake to create a show stopper Christmas Cake after half term.



Year 7—MEMPHIS CLOCK

Using design inspiration from the Memphis Era, pupils are developing CAD skills to create an acrylic clock. Pieces will be cut on the laser cutter to achieve a high quality, commercially viable product.



Year 8—FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Year 8 pupils have enjoyed developing a range of skills and understanding in the Food Technology room this term. We have learnt about Fairtrade making banana muffins and chocolate brownies as well as exploring international foods and developing cutting skills with vegetable stir fry and sushi.



Year 8—MICRO-BIT



TECHNOLOGY CLUB

Years 4-6

Keen designers are exploring interior design and model making a shoe box house or room.



News from the DPA



Dear Parents,

With half term very nearly upon us, in the DPA we are busy planning events for the rest of 2017. We have two main events; the recycling day on 8th November and of course the Downsend DPA Christmas Fair on Saturday 25th November (details and promotion after half term). The Fair is our biggest fundraising event in the year and can only work with parent volunteers. I hope you will support us in this two events. Wishing you all a restful and happy half term, see you in November.

Wednesday 8th November

Raise money and clear out your unwanted clothing etc, over the half term ready for Christmas. We will be in the sports hall from 8.15am on the 8th November to receive bags for our recycling event. Bags will be put in HOUSE piles and the house with the largest pile will receive a super treat to all children in that house, given out in school later that week. See [poster](#) for details and a school comms will be coming out to you shortly.



Christmas Fair

Yes I did just mention Christmas! When we return after half term we will need to get volunteers sorted to help with the fair and it cannot be run by just the 6 of us on the committee!!

The Fair will take place on **Saturday 25th November 2017** from 11am – 2pm and we will need lots volunteers on the Friday and all day on the Saturday in various time slots. We even need people at home prior to wrap grotto presents etc. If you are at all willing to help however large or small, please let me know via email: admin@dpaschool.org.uk and I will collate a list and contact you in due course.

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.

Easy Fundraising – On your house hold purchases

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

Have a great half term weekend.

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

Next Half Term @ Downsend

School Events			
Date	Time	Event	
Tuesday 7 November	All Day	Yr 2 open box London Workshop	
Wednesday 8 November	All Day	Yr 6 Mock Exams begin	
Friday 10 November	Assembly	Mr S Watts	
	All Day	Yr 6 Mock Exams end	
	All Day	Yr 4 India Day	

Downsend+

Half term is nearly here and Downsend+ still has spaces for all days and most courses, so why not try your hand at Scuba Diving, Dry Slope Skiing, Go Karting or even make a Christmas pudding.

For full details and bookings please contact Rebecca Peek 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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Our mailing address is:

Downsend School
1 Leatherhead Road
Leatherhead
Surrey
KT22 8TJ

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