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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

10 November 2017



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[Welcome from the Headmaster](#)

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I hope that everybody enjoyed the half term break and returned to school refreshed for what has been something of an interesting week! It was lovely to so many of you at Wednesday's announcement that Downsend will be expanding to offer GCSE provision with effect from 2020. On a personal level, I would like to thank all of those parents who have commented on how refreshing it is to see parents being offered choice for their ongoing education, based on such child-centric ideals. Please click [here](#) to see a summary of the presentation on our VLE. As always, if you have any questions, please do ask and we will assist.

This morning, Mr Watts led our Remembrance Assembly; the minute's silence was poignantly and respectfully observed, accompanied by 10 year old Bronwen's beautiful playing of the Last Post. I then informed the children of the changes to the school in the future, and explained that I would need some help in planning and designing the new Creative Arts Centre. I asked if they knew of any children that could assist and was immediately confronted with a long list of around 350 likely candidates. I'll find a way to whittle this down, but, in the very finest Downsend traditions, this will be a project that will bring together the key elements of our school, to design a resource that will give us such wonderful scope to showcase Drama, Music and the performing Arts in the years to come. Our school motto means, 'Nothing is an Obstacle to Valour'; I am proud to lead a school that balances courage and compassion in equal measure and look forward to a bright future for our school community.

Ian Thorpe

Anti-Bullying Week



Next week is Anti-Bullying Week nationally. At Downsend will be recognising this by asking all staff and pupils to wear odd socks on Monday 13th November. This is an initiative by the Anti-Bullying Alliance which celebrates the fact that 'we are all different but equal'.

Monday also sees the first ever Virtual Reality Workshop focusing on anti-bullying. This will involve all pupils in the Upper School.

In addition to these activities, there will be assemblies and PSHE lessons throughout the school which will focus on this all-important topic.

Dee Vanstone

News from the DPA

**Downsend
Parents'
Association**



Registered Charity No. 1116557

Phil The Bag Update

Thank you to all those parents who kindly brought in bags of clothes for our recycling event on Wednesday. We had over 86 bags of items. The winning house was **WISLEY** who will receive Donuts which will be given out at school next week to every child in Wisley at main site. Well done Wisley. The next recycling event will probably be next Easter.



Downsend DPA Christmas Fair – Saturday 25 November



Dear Parents

The Christmas Fair is now only 2 weeks away! We really cannot run this event without the support of you.

It promises to be a great event - we have over 24 confirmed stall holders that will be in the Sports Hall, selling items such as Christmas wreaths, mens and ladies clothing, artwork, jewellery, make up, homewares, travel and much more - so you can do a whole load of Christmas shopping on the day. We will also have the house tables manned by our upper school with a prize for the house that makes the most profit.

In the social area a certain special guest will be paying Downsend a visit, I hope his reindeer don't break any of the tiles on the roof when landing though!

The Dining Hall will be offering a range of Christmas food items such as roast turkey and stuffing rolls, Krispy Kreme donuts and new for this year; gluten free options. And a fair would not be a school fair without Tombolas such as the Bottle, Chocolate & Toy.

You would have already received a school comms this week with details of what we need you and your children to do running up to the fair. The information is available to download below and hardcopies are coming out to you all today and Monday along with the blank bag to decorate (Jolly Bag) and a book of raffle tickets. Extra bags for those children who want to do more than one are in Reception. Also in Reception are spare raffle tickets for those who wish to sell to family and friends.

[Parents Information](#)

[Christmas Fair 2017 Checklist](#)

[Christmas Poster Competition 2017](#)

We really need lots of volunteers for the stalls on the day, set up the day before and early Saturday and clear up on Saturday afternoon. If you are able to help in any way even beforehand then please contact events@dpaschool.org.uk with your contact details and times you can spare.

Please send in any raffle ticket money and stubs in a sealed envelope addressed to the DPA and either leave at Reception or in the DPA box down the hall from the turret (Next to the Extended Day box). If you are sending in a cheque then please make it payable to the DPA.

Collection boxes for Jolly Bags and House Tables will be in the turret area from this afternoon.

THANK YOU in advance for the extra time and effort we are asking you to make, it will, I promise all be worth it!

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

Safeguarding - Use of Mobile Phones

Please can we remind Parents that in accordance with our Safeguarding: Mobile Phones, Cameras and Devices policy that mobile phones should only be used outside of the main school buildings and away from children.

the Policy is available on our website and can be viewed [here](#).

Seb Watts

Year 2 Sets The School Ablaze

Flickering flames burned brightly in the Lower School this week as Year 2 returned to school dressed in fiery colours and beautifully decorated hats for 'A Great Fire of London Day'. Each of the four classes took part in an interactive workshop, run by Open Box Theatre Company, as part of their introduction to this fascinating topic. Not only did the children show they could identify many differences between their lives and those of people who lived more than 350 years ago, but their acting skills were ignited in improvisation sessions based on bread making, fire and fire-fighting during the Stuart era. The Year 2 teachers look forward to discovering more of the children's fantastic ideas in follow up activities planned later in the term.

Year 2 Team



We Will Remember....

Year 2 spent their PSHE lessons this week learning about the origin of Remembrance Day and its significance to our freedom and British values in 2017. Our youngest children impressed with their understanding of the sacrifices made by soldiers, sailors and airmen over the last hundred years and this led them to making a poppy display complete with messages of support and thanks.

Eleanor (2LB) wrote: *Thanking for saving our lives and keeping us safe. Thank you for making our world a better place.*

Oliver (2YdV) wrote: *I am glad you survived the war. Now we can make our own choices.*

George (2ST) wrote: *We show respect to the soldiers with poppies.*

Dhiren (2CW) wrote: *We remember the soldiers who died.*



RAISE Writers Club



The RAISE Writers Club meet every Monday and regularly write short stories and poems. Below are two poems that the children wrote to enter a Young Writers competition last term.

The Swimming Race

The air full of chlorine, hot and humid,
The echoing sound of hundreds of voices,
Butterflies rise in my stomach, my heart races.
I look down the lanes of the endless turquoise pool.
A sharp whistle; everything falls silent.
Three whistles: I clamber onto the blocks.
"Take your marks." I coil like a spring.
"Get set." I am ready to fly!
An electronic beep...
SPLASH!

Megan R
Age: 9
Downsend School

LEGO

Building my creation,
House, car or train?
No blocks are the same.
Possibility in my brain.

Now I build my grand fort,
Big, tall and wide.
When my fort is finished
I will be divine.

Alfie B
Age: 9
Downsend School

Peer Mentors

Congratulations to Sophia S (5HB), Alexander H (5Hb), Ralph H (5JA), Megan R (5JA), Eleanor K (5JAy),

Sebastian T (5JAy), Louise M (5MS) and Charlie B (5MS) who have all been selected to take on the role of Peer Mentors for the Lower School. The children will begin their training next week and will be helping to provide additional support and a listening ear to the children in lower school very soon. Well done.

Victoria Topa

Lower School Houses Shield Competition 2017-2018

Thank you to all of the participants in this exciting competition for their bright, creative and innovative designs. After much deliberation, following a healthy pool of high-quality shield designs, we can announce the runners up and winners for each House are as follows:

Norbury:

Runner-up: Aimee J, 5JAy

Runner-up: Thomas M, 4LC

Winner: Sarasa M, 5HB

Ranmore:

Runner-up: Aanya, 2CW

Runner-up: Sophia V, 4LC

Winner: Alexander C, 4MP

Wisley:

Runner-up: Geoffrey L, 5JA

Runner-up: Oscar R, 4AS

Winner: Keira F, 4MP

Headley:

Runner-up: Harrison J-H, 2CW

Runner-up: Imogen G, 5MS

Winner: Anouska S, 5MS

Well done everyone!

Mrs Carmody, Mrs de Vries, Mrs Temlet and Mr Mitchell (Heads of Lower School Houses)



Music Update



Please take note of the following information:

Saturday 25 November - Lower School Choir, Upper School Choir, Chamber Choir and Whole School

Orchestra perform at the DPA Christmas Fair.

The children should arrive at school no later than 11.30am and report to the Sports Hall. The performance is expected to start at midday and will finish at approximately 12.45pm. School uniform is not required but it would be nice if the children could wear a Christmas hat or Christmas jumper!

Wednesday 29 November - Mr Boote's pupils perform at the Informal Brass Concert (6pm in the Social Area).

Entry will be via the Sports Hall Entrance 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).

- Due to space constraints we will only be taking pupils in years 5,6,7 and 8 to this event.
- The organisers have allocated rehearsal times for each of the performing groups - our rehearsal time is 5.50-6.10pm
- Please can pupils be at St Nicolas Bookham to register at 5.30pm.
- Year 7 and 8 pupils who are involved in the Spamalot rehearsal that afternoon will be transported to Bookham by minibus after their rehearsal.
- The concert starts at 7pm and is expected to finish at 8pm.
- Please can Parents collect their children from St Nicolas Church, Mrs Allison will be signing them out at the end of the Concert at approximately 8pm.
- There is no parking at the church itself but there is a car park 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>

Wednesday 13 December - Year 5 Carols by Candlelight Concert at St George's Church in Ashtead.



Thursday 14 December - Chamber Choir, Upper School Choir and Whole School Orchestra perform at

the Upper School Carol Concert (5pm in the Sports Hall).

- The Carol Concert starts at 5pm.
- The children are required to wear full winter uniform i.e. jumpers, blazers, tights for girls and long trousers for boys.
- At the end of the school day on Thursday, all Upper School children who are involved in music ensembles are expected to go straight to the Social Area where refreshments will be provided.
- Lower School pupils who are in music ensembles and who finish at 3.45pm must go to the Music Room where they will be supervised by a member of staff.
- Children can be collected from the Sports Hall at the end of the Carol Concert at approximately 6.15pm.
- All parents of participating children are welcome to attend.
- This is a ticketless event.

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.

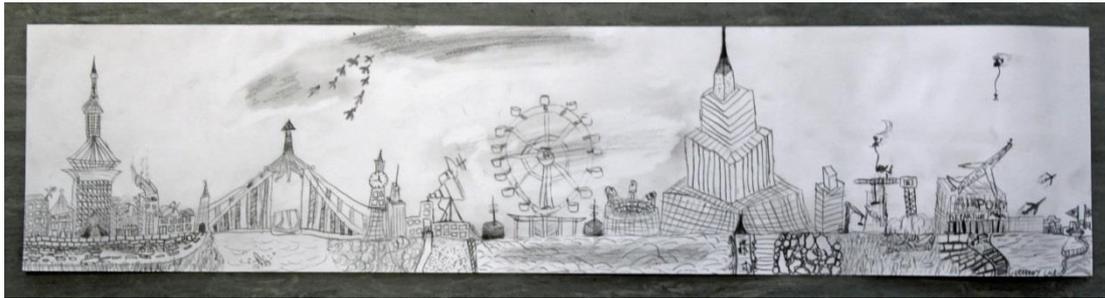
Nicole Allison

Artist of The Week

This week's Artist of the Week is Geoffrey Lau in 5JA who has created an imaginative cityscape inspired by the work of the illustrator Matteo Pericoli.

Well done!

Julia Ayles



Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



| Date | Time | Event |
|----------------------|-------------------|--|
| Monday 13 November | All day | Odd Sock Day for Anti-Bullying Week |
| Tuesday 14 November | 6.30pm | Yr 6 Parent - Teacher Interviews, Dining Hall |
| Thursday 16 November | All Day 6.30pm | Yr 7 Art trip Yr 4 Parent - Teacher Interviews, Peterborough Hall |
| Friday 17 November | am 4.15pm | Open Morning Yr 6 General Knowledge Quiz, Epsom College |

Downsend+

We are open in the Christmas holidays from Monday 18 December – Friday 22 December and are now taking bookings.

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](#)

[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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