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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

24 November 2017



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Welcome from the Headmaster

ARK Week has obviously been a hugely rewarding and enjoyable time for pupils and staff alike. I have observed, from afar, wonderful stories of thoughtfulness and sensitivity and have been rather jealous not to have been at Downsend to see this in person. Thankfully, I have been able to enjoy similar experiences with my Senior colleagues from our schools across the world. I have been privileged to see best practice shared from Chile to Singapore, Spain to Huddersfield, all of which have clearly had significant impacts upon learning outcomes for Cognita pupils. Our own Downsend Diploma was lauded as an example of best practice in the development of character education and will now be adopted in a number of schools around the world. Seeing Heads being so committed to learning and self-reflection was hugely energising and I have learned so much, particularly on the subject of GCSE options and Duke of Edinburgh provision. The preparation for the Downsend expansion is most certainly underway, as promised!

Tomorrow, we are looking forward to getting our Christmas preparations underway with our DPA Christmas Fair. These are always well-attended and great fun for young and old alike and I look forward to seeing you here for the festivities. For the DPA themselves, this will be the culmination of months of

preparation, and I would like to thank them for all that they have done to make the event a success. As we move into December, our nativities, Carol Concerts and school production will take centre stage. It's going to be a busy and enjoyable few weeks ahead.

Ian Thorpe

ARK Week



We have just enjoyed a very successful ARK (Acts of Random Kindness) Week in which the entire Downsend community took part.

The children have been a credit to the school. They have kept their 'secret friend' completely anonymous and have showed their kindness and initiative in lots of different ways.

I would like to thank the parent body for helping the children in this important week.

Seb Watts

Christmas in the Lower School



Christmas Concerts

The invitations to the Lower School Christmas Concerts have been sent home this week. The children are all very excited and are looking forward to seeing you at their performances.

Year 2

2LBu Friday 1 December 1.45 - 2.30pm

2ST Friday 1 December 2.45 - 3.30pm

2YdV Monday 4 December 1.45 - 2.30pm

2CW Monday 4 December 2.45 - 3.30pm

Year 3

3MB & 3NL Tuesday 5 December 2.30-3.30pm

3EF & 3PM Thursday 7 December 2.30-3.30pm

For these concerts, please enter through the Turret and make your way to the Peterborough Hall. The Turret door will be open ten minutes prior to the start of the concerts. You are warmly invited to join us for some mince pies and refreshments after the performance.

Year 4 Christmas Concert @ St John's Chapel - Monday 11 December 2.30pm (please note that parking is limited, so we would advise parking at either the Swan Centre or at Downsend and walking from there).

Year 5 Carols by Candlelight - Tuesday 13 December 5.00pm at St George's Church, Ashted (please note that parking is limited, so we would advise parking in the roads nearby and walking to the church). Parents are asked to collect their children at the end of the service.

Clare Kirkham

Christmas Post Boxes

On Friday 01 December the Christmas Post Boxes for the Lower School will go out. They will be located in the turret and each year group has their own box.

Please make sure that all the envelopes are labelled clearly with first names, surnames and classes. The boxes will be emptied daily.

Helen Black

Upper School Carol Concert



We would like to invite both parents and pupils to the Upper School Carol Concert on Thursday 14 December. The concert will take place in the Sports Hall at 5.00pm.

As this is our annual Christmas Celebration, the expectation is that all Upper School Pupils will attend this event, whether they are performing or are part of the audience. Refreshments will be served in the Sports Hall from 4.30pm and the event is scheduled to finish at 6.00pm.

To assist with our planning, please could you indicate whether you will / will not be attending the event and how many adult seats you will require by emailing office@downsend.co.uk

Karl Newland

News from the DPA

**Downsend
Parents'
Association**



Registered Charity No. 1116557



Downsend DPA Christmas Fair



11am - 2pm

THIS SATURDAY

Wow what a great collection of bottles, chocolates and toys you brought in this morning for Mufti Day, thank you. We are now busy labelling for the tombolas. It's been wonderful to see everyone pulling together and juggling child care and other commitments to support this event and I would like all the volunteers to know how much they are appreciated - THANK YOU!

We do still have some empty slots available especially in the Sports Hall, if you can help please let me know.

If you have volunteered, copies of the ROTAs will be posted around the school (Turret, Dining Hall, Social Area and Entrance) as well as being sent via email to your class reps.

We anticipate the car park being very busy during the fair. Please allow yourselves extra time to find somewhere to park and note there will be lots of families with small children walking around so be vigilant. **St Andrews school has kindly offered overflow parking from 10.30am - 2.30pm on Saturday, please try and make use of this if you are able.**

We look forward to seeing you all tomorrow to join in the fun and games.. Entrance charge for Adults is £3 and all children are free. Please bring plenty of change and remember we have lots of stall holders coming along (28 in fact), so you can do lots of Christmas shopping! Remember many of them, due to lack of internet access, will not be able to accept credit cards so cash and cheques only.

In the Dining Hall we will have Roast Turkey, stuffing and cranberry rolls, including some gluten free vegetarian sausages in a bun and freshly made roasted tomato soup. We will be offering luxury hot chocolate (yes with cream, and marshmallows!) We also have fresh jam doughnuts and of course plenty of tea and coffee, soft drinks and crisps.

On a final note, don't forget to buy your raffle tickets if you haven't already or buy some more on the day (All prizes can be seen on the DPA table in the Sports Hall) Please remind family, friends and neighbours to come along too! We look forward to seeing you all there.

Many thanks.

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

Year 7 Art Trip to Watts Gallery

On Thursday Year 7 had a spectacular trip to Watts Gallery. To begin with, we visited the gallery and were shown some of the fabulous paintings and sculptures George Watts had created. Afterwards we attempted to sketch some of his work (some turned out better than others!). We then walked over to Watts' house and looked at his wife's work. She helped design and build the nearby chapel, along with making lots of pottery. We also saw Watts' studio, where some of his favourite work was on display, including the enormous 'Court of Death' which took 30 years to paint!

We then said goodbye to our fantastic tour guide Katrina and had a much needed lunch! In the afternoon we were shown how to create a bold landscape painting. This was an interesting challenge as we were only given the primary colours and white to create our masterpieces. It was a very enjoyable and inspiring trip and we look forward to receiving our paintings, which we left at the gallery to dry!

Amy N-J and Zoe S

Here are some of the sketches Lexi, Warren and Jack created.



Headmaster's Commendation

Congratulations to the following students in Year 6 who have achieved their first headmaster's commendation.

This highlights their fantastic effort in class as well as the positive contributions they make around the school.

Well done!

Millie M, Alex W, Elspeth W, Lauren B, Natasha C, James M, Bronwen R, Mia H, Amelia B & Luke W

Rob Temlett



Primary Maths Challenge

Many congratulations to the following children who received Gold Certificates for achieving high scores in the Primary Maths Challenge (over 18 out of 25). We are now waiting to hear if they have qualified for the next round which will take place in February 2018. Well done to all children in Year 5 and 6 for participating - the brain cells were truly stretched!

Brandon G, Noah B-W, Luke W, Ollie B, Ovee D, Aadam M, Alex T, Geoffrey L, Archie S, Findlay S, Khalil V, Shihong F.

Anna Mercer



RAISE Writers Club



This week, Downsend School has had Acts of Random Kindness happening all over the place! ARK week is all about being kind to someone, even if they aren't necessarily your best friend.

Everyone, including teachers, gets a "secret friend" for the week. The idea is to keep your secret friend a complete secret. You are not allowed to tell anyone! You have to be really kind to that friend, but you don't have to buy them anything.

Imogen G (Year 5) said, "I think ARK week is a great idea, because it reminds all Downsend pupils and teachers that you should be kind to everyone and respect everyone equally."

Lisa N-J (Year 5) said, "I think it is the best week of the year, because everyone is really kind to each other."

ARK week has certainly had Downsend full of smiles. Thank you to Mr Watts, Miss Black, Mr Temlett and all school staff involved for organising it so well.

Emma F, 5JA

House Update

Ranmore take the lead from Headley

There's only one point in it between Ranmore and Headley so far this term. Well done to all the children for continuing to work hard for their houses; the competition is close between all four, although currently, Ranmore are in pole position. With House Art, the great Downsend Bake Off and points to be won at the Christmas Fair, its all to play for!

Congratulations to the 'Top Achievers' below:

Louise M, Alexander B, Naomi B, Imogen G, Francesca T, Chloe C, James M, Elseph W, Angus W, Adam V, Jake S, Polly G-G, Tm D, Turkey C-S.

Mr Albert



Last Date for Clubs

The final date for all clubs this term will be Friday 8 December, this includes m:tech. There will be **no** sports practices during the final week of term.

Saturday Morning Sports Club

Just a reminder that there will be NO Saturday Sports Club this Saturday 25 November due to the Christmas Fair. If you can attend instead, please do so, it is usually an excellent morning. Enjoy the weekend.

Mr Albert

Protecting Children's Online Privacy

Here is a [link](#) to a very good guide to protecting children's online privacy.

Dee Vanstone



Music Update



ATTENTION ALL SINGERS

NEW TO GUIDFORD!! St Nicholas' Church, Guildford 22nd (all day) and 23rd (morning) December 2017

Established at St Catharine's College, Cambridge in 2013, The Oxford and Cambridge Singing School is for boys and girls aged 7–13 who love to sing. The singing school was established to give children the opportunity to sing great classical music with world class coaches in a relaxed and fun environment and to develop their confidence and ability in singing and performing.

Please have a look at the information below for what looks like a fabulous opportunity for all our pupils who love to sing.

[Guildford Flyer](#)

[Christmas 2017 Course Information](#)

Well done

Well done to Horatio who came second in the 7 and under violin/viola category at Sutton Music Festival.



Saturday 25 November - Lower School Choir, Upper School Choir and Chamber Choir 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 12.20pm. 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 Ashted. Please see above for more information from Mrs Kirkham.



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 6.00pm.
- All parents of participating children are welcome to attend.
- This is a ticketless event.

Please see above for more information from Mr Newland.

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.

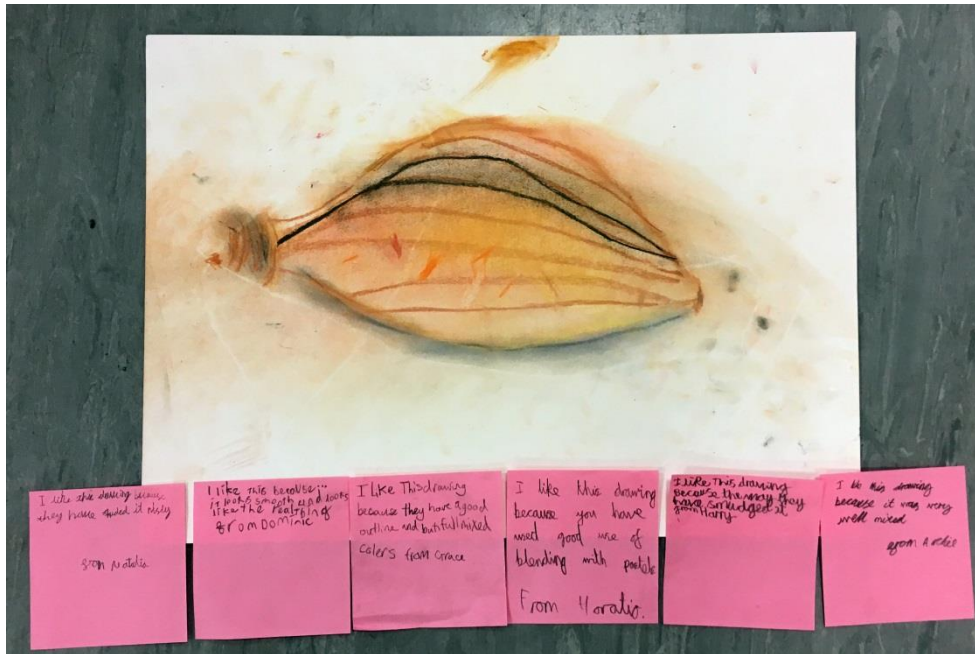
Nicole Allison

Artist of The Week

This week's Artist of the Week is Aston (3NL) who created a lovely pastel drawing of a shell, demonstrating excellent colour blending. His drawing was very popular with the rest of his class!

Well done!

Julia Ayles



Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 28 November	6.30pm	Yr 5 Parent Teacher Interviews, Dining Hall
Wednesday 29 November	6.00pm	Informal Brass Concert, Social Area
Thursday 30 November	6.30pm	Yr 5 Parent Teacher Interviews, Dining Hall
Friday 01 December	Assembly 1.45-2.30pm 2.45-3.30pm	Whole School House Assembly 2LBU Christmas Concert, Peterborough Hall 2ST Christmas Concert, Peterborough Hall
Saturday 02 December	Time TBC	Yrs 7&8 Play Rehearsal

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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