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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

01 December 2017



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Welcome from the Headmaster

It was lovely to see so many parents at our DPA Fair on Saturday. There was a huge amount going on, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the DPA Committee. Maxine Homewood and her team have got Christmas preparations underway in exactly the right manner, followed up with the start of the nativities this afternoon, and the appearance of a number of Christmas trees around the school site. With a light dusting of snow having fallen last night and the crispness in the air, everything is falling into place for a festive couple of weeks.

We continue to engage with our parents about the Downsend Expansion and I am grateful to those parents in Year 5 who attended the Q & A Presentation on Thursday. I hope that you all found it to be informative. Next week sees the turn of the Year 4 parents, after which we will invite Years 2 and 3 to attend similar sessions early in the New Year. Tomorrow, we welcome a host of local schools to our U7 Football Tournament, to be held in the Sports Hall to the delight of the supporters and players. If they have as much fun as the Biathletes, Brass Players and Hockey players in similar events over recent days, it will be a great morning.

Finally, yesterday afternoon, Mr Newland and I attended an accident at the Grange Road lights. With so many schools in a small area, congestion will increase at this time of the day. This means that being responsible on the roads is of paramount importance if we are to avoid repeated incidents. Thank you to those parents who abide by the rules in order to keep the area as safe as possible, and who report incidents where this is not the case. Unfortunately, a Mercedes SUV (Y1 JLB) turned right onto the A24 on Wednesday afternoon, almost causing a similar accident. Please remain vigilant and feel free to contact us if you see examples of dangerous driving around our school.

Ian Thorpe

Christmas is coming



Year 2 kicked off the Christmas festivities today with the first performance of 'Follow the Star' to Year 1 children from the Pre-Preps. 2LB and 2ST performed to parents this afternoon and 2YdV and 2CW will follow on Monday 4th December. Smiling faces, spectacular costumes and super singing were in abundance!

Year 2 team



Christmas Post Boxes

The Christmas Post Boxes for the Lower School have been put out today. They are 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



News from the DPA

Downsend
Parents'
Association



Registered Charity No. 1116557

DPA Christmas Fair 2017

Dear Parents,

WOW thank you so much for all your efforts and commitment to what turned out to be a wonderful, busy Christmas fair last Saturday. Thank you volunteers for giving up your time and my team for all their hard work. We would love to hear any feedback from you regarding the fair, so if you have any please email me at events@dpaschool.org.uk

We are still tallying up final figures of what profit we made and should be able to post in next week's Downsend Times.

Please note we still have a number of unclaimed raffle prizes in reception.

REMAINING EVENTS 2017

Uniform Sale

Intake / Drop off of stock 8.00 – 8.30am, 4 – 6th December 2017

Sale 3.00 – 4.30pm, 7th December 2017

PLEASE NOTE: We are still desperately looking for someone to take over the running of the uniform shop. If you are at all interested please contact me directly as I'm happy to meet for a coffee and run through what's needed. You would be able to set the dates you see fit for sales, times etc. You already have a group of parents willing to help, we just

need someone to oversee it and take the lead. If we do not find someone by the end of this year, we will have to review whether it is a service we can still offer to the school.

2018 DPA EVENTS (Other things will be added)

January / February – Quiz night or Comedy Night Dates TBC

March - Book sale in Library

Easter - Craft activity with Lower school, Activity with Upper school

SAVE THE DATE

Friday 15th June - Parents DPA Downsend Summer Ball (New venue), Painshill Park Cobham

Summer - Sports Days (Whole school) Catering

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

DPA Poster Competition

Well done to Geoffrey L in 5JA. His design has won the DPA's Christmas Poster Competition.



Year 6 Bake Off

There were lots of fabulous entries for the Year 6 Bake Off this week. Congratulations to everyone who took part and thank you to parents who helped clear up the baking mess at home!

Well done to the following winners:

1st Daisy W 6JT

2nd Amelia B 6JT

3rd Emerson N 6JT & Damla S

Here is Daisy's winning entry - delicious!

Beth Day



Lower School House Bake Off

On both Tuesday and Thursday this week, the Lower School was filled to bursting with Christmas themed cakes, biscuits and other fantastic treats. A lot of time and effort had gone into all the cakes and the judges had a very difficult decision to make. The children helped to sell all of their creations at break time and have managed to raise over £400 for the school charity in the process. After a lot of deliberation by the four judges, the following people were crowned the winners.

Norbury

Maria 3NL

Wisley

Charlotte 3PM

Ranmore

Chloe 4LC

Headley

Emerson 3MB

Well done everyone!

Peter Mitchell



Year 6 & 8 Buddy Lunch

Yesterday the Year 6 & 8 children got together in their buddy groups to enjoy a Scottish themed St Andrew's Day lunch in the dining Hall. The Year 6's loved chatting with the Year 8's and it was great to see the fantastic role models that the Year 8's continue to become.

It really was a lovely atmosphere in the Dining Hall today and some Year 6's even managed to sneak a little time in the Year 8 Common Room.

Well done everyone! A perfect boost ahead of a busy 2 weeks!

Rob Temlett & Lee Silva





Music Update



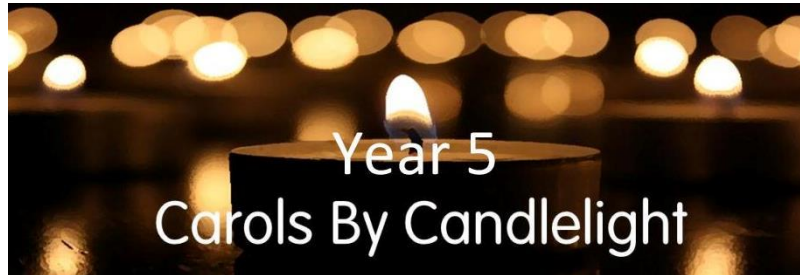
Tuesday 5 December - Chamber Choir perform at the Rainbow Trust Christmas Concert, St Nicolas Church, Bookham (7pm).

- 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>

Monday 11 December - Year 4 Christmas Concert @ St John's Chapel 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).

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



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.

Well done to Jonny P who gained a merit in his recent grade 5 violin exam. Victoria B got him through a challenging last few weeks as his exam was at the same time as his scholarship mocks! He was delighted with his result!

Well done to Octavia M for coming first with distinction in the seven and under recorder category at the Sutton music festival.



Well done to Hector M who came second in the 9 and under woodwind category and first in the under 15 jazz.



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 Bamidele (4MP) for her pen and ink drawing of a pumpkin!

Well done!

Julia Ayles



Chess Championships

On Saturday Harrison J-H and Lucas R both attended The South East England Girls & Boys Chess Championships at Greycourt School, Richmond. There were nearly 300 players taking part but both boys managed to score 11 points in their age group and took home a rosette each.

Well done.

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 04 December	1.45-2.30pm 2.15-8.00pm 2.45-3.30pm	2YdV Christmas Concert, Peterborough Hall Technical Rehearsal for Yr 7/8 Production 2CW Christmas Concert, Peterborough Hall
Tuesday 05 December	2.15-8.00pm 2.30-3.30pm 7.00pm	Dress Rehearsal for Yr 7/8 Production 3MB & 3NL Christmas Concert Rainbow Trust Christmas Concert, St Nicholas Church, Bookham (Chamber Choir)
Wednesday 06 December	2.15pm	Performance of Yr 7/8 production to Lower School
Thursday 07 December	2.15-4.15pm 2.30-3.30pm 7.00pm	Performance of Yr 7/8 production to Upper School 3EF & 3PM Christmas Concert Performance of Yr 7/8 production to Parents
Friday 08 December	Assembly pm 7.00pm	House Singing Assembly Yr 4 Christmas Concert Rehearsal @ St John's Chapel Performance of Yr 7/8 production to Parents

Downsend+

With only two weeks to go before the Christmas Holidays Downsend+ has space available on all courses and all day, but please do remember bookings must be received 10 working days in advance to receive the pre-booked rate.

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

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.

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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