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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

15 December 2017



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Welcome from the Headmaster

We have ended the term on a series of festive notes, all of which should have us in the perfect Christmas spirit (if a little exhausted). Following the recent Nativities in Years 2 and 3, the Upper School continued proceedings with their excellent version of 'Spamalot' (I enjoyed Friday's performance just as much as Thursday's, a view clearly shared by the packed audience). At the start of this week, the focus moved towards the Christmas Concerts performed by our Year 4 and 5 pupils. Although all told a familiar story, each performance was unique and extremely well attended by proud family members. Our Pre-Preps enjoyed their own nativities and, on the strength of the performances that Mrs Kirkham and I witnessed, the future looks bright for Drama at Downsend. Following a hearty Christmas lunch yesterday, the term's main events concluded with a moving Upper School Carol Concert. The Sports Hall was full and we listened with interest to the Christmas story unfolding as told by our Senior pupils. This was broken up by some excellent musical items, both choral and instrumental, and the pupils did themselves, and Mrs Allison, proud as always!

So, my final act of the Autumn Term is to wish you all a restful and happy Christmas. It has been a busy yet fulfilling few months, and I suspect that 2018 will bring more of the same.

Ian Thorpe



Merry
Christmas



Christmas Greetings 

From

Downsend School

Lower School Christmas Update

As I reach the end of my first full year at Downsend I cannot help but reflect on all the wonderfully positive things I have seen. Our children are a credit to us all in their behaviour, endeavour and successes in many guises. Academic results are unfailingly pleasing and reflect excellent teaching, learning and progress, but it is not academia alone that makes up the Lower School. Be it during our creative Wizard of Oz week, on the sports field, in their reflections during November's acts of remembrance or in any one of the myriad of excellent Christmas performances, it is the exuberance, commitment and joie de vivre with which our children embrace their school life which really brings cohesion to our community. I am extremely proud to be a part of it and am looking forward to the Spring Term already, knowing now some of the wonderful events and achievements which undoubtedly lie ahead.

Thank you for all of your support of our wonderful Lower School team this term. I wish all our families a very happy and healthy Christmas break.

Clare Kirkham

Upper School Christmas Update

As we come to the end of an incredibly busy but hugely enjoyable term, I must congratulate the Upper School pupils on their achievements. They have studied hard, and excellent progress has been made in all areas of the curriculum. The Year 6 pupils are ready for their pre-testing process in January and I wish them all the best of luck in securing their senior school places.

Our scholarship pupils in Year 8 are producing excellent results and will, no doubt, impress in their exams next term. Outside the classroom the STEAM momentum has continued, with success in competitions at both local and regional levels, and the term has seen some amazing sporting results and teamwork across hockey, football, biathlon and swimming. Congratulations must go to Mr Bryant and his team for a spectacular Upper School production of 'Spamalot'. It was brilliantly acted, had some great dance and musical performances as well and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

After such a busy term all the pupils deserve a well-earned break, as do the Upper School tutors and teachers who have worked so hard to support the children and provide such a wide range of opportunities for our pupils.

On behalf of the Upper School pupils and staff, may I wish you all a very Merry Xmas and a wonderful 2018!

Karl Newland

Year 5 Carols by Candlelight



On Wednesday Year 5 performed 'Carols by Candlelight' to a packed audience of family members at St George's Church in Ashted. The children's songs and narrations took us on a journey of discovery through the Christmas story. Well done to the choir, the soloists, who all sang so beautifully, to the wonderful musicians and to the narrators who spoke so clearly. To quote Mrs Kirkham, 'the children were mature, composed and confident and the singing was fantastic.' You all made your teachers very proud!

Helen Black and Vicky Topa



SES Water Mains Replacement Update

We have received the following letter to our parents from SES Water:

Good afternoon,

I made contact with you back in the summer to advise you of our works taking place in Grange Road and Ottways Lane to replace an old water main. Works on Grange Road was completed in September and as you are probably aware we are still working in Ottways Lane with a road closure currently in place between Taleworth Road to Agates Lane.

The reason I am contacting you is because we have had quite a few customers living near the schools contact us regarding the additional traffic through their roads, particularly Harriotts Lane which at the moment is proving to be a popular cut through during school run hours. We would like to ask road users where possible to avoid using nearby roads as cut throughs and avoid mounting verges when parking. We would also like to encourage parents doing the school run to possibly consider alternative ways of dropping their children to school, walking, car sharing or public transport – all of which will reduce traffic. We sincerely apologise for the inconvenience our essential works may cause and thank road users and residents in advance for their co-operation and patience.

Could you please circulate the above to the parents and if there are any questions they can contact us in the following ways: email us on CustomerServicesOps@seswater.co.uk or call 01737 772000. We also have a dedicated project page www.seswater.co.uk/GrangeAndOttways where regular updates are posted.

Kind regards

*Natasha
Communications Team
SES Water*

Year 7 Christmas Update

After an exceptionally busy term with the Year 7's, we had an assembly to congratulate the children for surviving! They have also been encouraged to 'catch a smile and pass it on' and make sure they have a positive 'light up the room' attitude over the Christmas holidays and for the Spring term.

Many congratulations to all the Headmaster's commendation winners – the first of the year to be issued, as well as our Top Achievers from each form with Luke C being our highest achiever in the year group

this term; an excellent achievement as he is new to the school this term! Huge thanks also go to the Ambassadors for their excellent contribution around the school both in the Lower School, the library and with various Open Mornings – you have all been very responsible and hugely reliable, well done.

Commendations: Olivia B, Luke C, Jack D, Tilly H, Hannah K, Ben M, Ed M, Brooke T, Ben W, Toby W, Rhianna D, Harry G, Sofia H, Joanna H, Warren H, Lexi M, Louie P, Mihir R, Jules T, Matthew Y, Leah F, Harry M, Amy N-J, Jack P, Lachie T, Katherine V, Jake W (some pupils are not in photo due to other commitments).

Top Achievers: Jake W, Louie P, Luke C

Ambassadors: Brooke T, Kristy M, Joanna H, Warren H, Ben W, Lachie T

Lastly, the Year 7 team wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing your children back with their positive smiles in January!

Anna Mercer, Michelle Sehgal, Rupert Howe, Beth Day.





Year 8 Christmas Update

Year 8 pupils have had a typically hectic term but have finished it off in style with superb performances in both 'Spamalot' and last night's Carol Concert. I am so proud of what they have achieved over the course of the term and I look forward to seeing further successes as the year progresses. Pupils have performed well in their assessments this term but on top of their academic progress, they have been busy on the sports fields, in the swimming pool, music rooms or with their other interests and hobbies.

I would like to congratulate each and every pupil in the year on their energy, positive attitude and fantastic humour. They are a wonderful group of pupils who continue to astound and amaze me.

A special mention must also be given to the following pupils for being the top performers in their Forms through the collection of Housepoints, Credits and subject Commendations:

8AD: Sophia B, Chloe C and Roman H-T

8MT: Francesca T, Turkey C-S and Amelia T

8JH: Sophie E, Riley H and Hannah G

8TG: Chloe S, Katie M and Kitty S

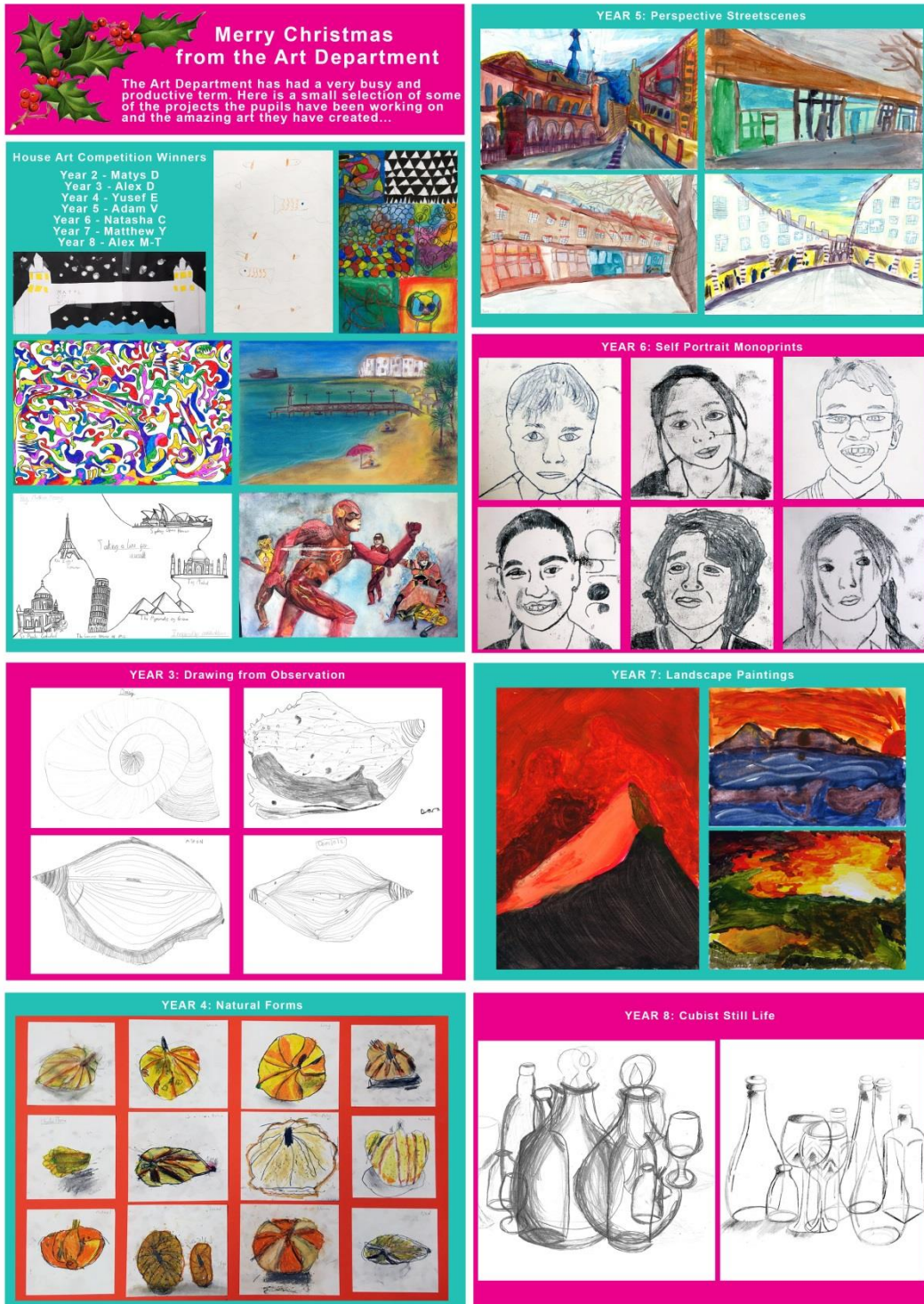
All in all, a fantastic term for the Year 8 pupils and I wish each of them, as well as yourselves, a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all back in January.

Lee Silva

Art Update

Please find the update below which can also be downloaded [here](#).

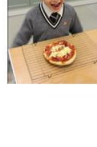
Julia Ayles



Design and Technology Update

Please find the update below which can also be downloaded [here](#) (p1) and [here](#) (p2).

Beth Day



Design and Technology Autumn Term 2017—Lower School

YEAR 2—MOVING MONSTERS

Pupils in year 2 have completed their moving monster.



What a roaring success!

Year 3—LUNAR BUGGIES

Using the tool to build a stable chassis and axle for their unique lunar buggy designs.



Year 3—FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Year 3 pupils have made bread and butter puddings, short crust pastry, mini quiches and learnt about what happens when some foods are heated and cooled.



Year 4—FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Year 4 pupils have investigated the history of bread making, created their own bread rolls, pizzas as well as learning how to create stunning cupcake designs.



Year 4 - FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Cake Christmas cup cakes and festive decorating



Year 5—EMERGENCY SHELTERS

Are now in production!



Design and Technology
Autumn Term 2017—Upper School

Year 6—FOOD TECHNOLOGY
We are delighted with the fabulous Christmas
cake designs



Year 7—MEMPHIS CLOCK

Finished Memphis Era inspired clocks cut on the laser
cutter.



Year 8
Micro:bit, Food Technology, Textiles

TECHNOLOGY CLUB

Years 4-6
Model making—a shoe box house or room.



Library News – Winter Wonders 2017



The Winter Wonders 2017 Book List is available [here](#). Have a look for some suggestions for books which will also be available in our School Library from January 2018.

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas break.



Karen Cresswell

News from the DPA

**Downsend
Parents'
Association**



Registered Charity No. 1116557

Myself and the DPA committee would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and to thank you all so much for your support this term.

We will have lots of exciting things happening in 2018 and will post the next event when we return in January.

Many of you probably do not know, that there are only 6 of us on the DPA committee in a school of 400 children, we really need some more people to volunteer in 2018, especially as 3 of us are leaving the school in 2018 as it's the end of our time at Downsend. We know that juggling commitments with home and work is tricky but most of the committee work, some full time, and are still able to be a part of a great social team, where we've made some really great friends.



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

If you still have Christmas shopping to do you could raise money for the school without spending an extra penny, just buy your items via the [Easy Fundraising](#) link and the school gets a percentage of spend. [Easyfundraising](#)

Best wishes for 2018 and we look forward to seeing you all at our events next year.

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

Primary Maths Challenge Update



STOP PRESS! I have just heard from the Primary Maths Challenge competition organisers - There were over 68,000 pupils from almost 1700 schools around the world taking part in the competition this year and pupils scoring **20 and above** will take part in the Bonus Round on 7th February 2018. The competition was very tough so huge congratulations to all those who took part but especially to Ovee D, Ollie B, Luke W, Noah B-W and Brandon G who will be going on to the Bonus Round.

Anna Mercer

House Art Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered the House Art Competition and well done to pupils in Headley and Ranmore who contributed the most points to their House totals.

As always, it was incredibly difficult to choose just one winner from each year group. However, the decisions have been made and congratulations go to the following pupils:

Y2 - Matys D

Y3 - Alex D

Y4 - Yusef E

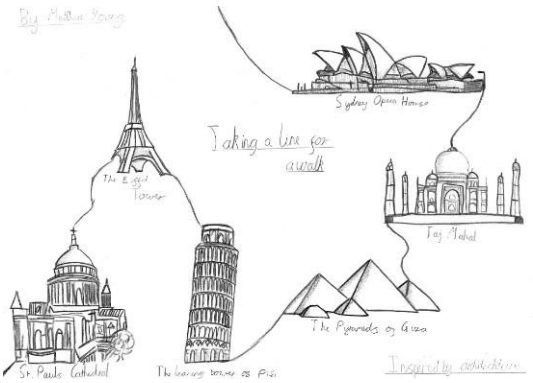
Y5 - Adam V

Y6 - Natasha C

Y7 - Matthew Y

Y8 - Alex M-T

Julia Ayles



Year 6 Commendations

Congratulations to the following children who have achieved their first Headmaster's Commendation.

6CB - Jack M, Bronwen R, Kyle R, Jacob S, Sophie S, Alex T, Gracie N, William K, George V, Teddy G, Honey C, Elizabeth H, William K and Eva R

6SG - Roman A, Oliver B, Noah B-W, Ed G, Brandon G, Chloe M, Bibi W, Archie S, Bijou C-S, Ovee D, Alex K, Harry M, Emily M and Michelle M

6JT - Josh B, Marcus M, Millie M, Aryana M, Khalil V, Daisy W, Sam W, Deen B, Josie D, Oliver B, Jaspar G, Emerson N, Rupert P and Findlay S

6ST - Harry H, Mia K, Evie S, Joel W, Amelie M, Alexa E-M, Jude G, Geraldine H, Daniel R, Nastia N and Thomas U

6DV - Aadam M, Damla S, Charlie W, Ryan T, Daniel R, Rhianna P, Aniyah G, Ben B, Hailey C, William E, Isaac N and Ines M

Well done on a fantastic term!

Rob Temlett

Year 8 Commendations

Congratulations to the following recipients of the Headmaster's 'Bronze' Commendation. These pupils have done brilliantly well to all achieve over 400 points (a combination of Housepoints, Credits and subject Commendations):

Sophia B, Chloe C, Tom D, Lukas E, Roman H-T, Tom Q, Sophie E, Rylie H, Turkey C-S, Francesca T, Katie M and Chloe S.

A special mention goes to Francesca T for being the top achiever in Year 8. Well done to everyone and we look forward to awarding the next batch of 'Bronze' Commendations very soon.

Lee Silva



Music Update



Well done to our music pupils on the following exam results:

Thomas M ABRSM Grade 2 - 127 merit and Jonny P Trinity Grade 5 merit.

Congratulations to Joel W in Year 6 who played his first gig last Saturday. He played in the British School of Rock Christmas concert. Joel rocked an energetic and engaging performance to a packed audience at the UCA in Epsom. His band covered tracks from Van Halen, The Jam, Jet, Puddle of Mud, and Hole.

Well done Joel!



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 Emily L in Year 8 for her well composed Cubist Still Life.

Well done!

Julia Ayles



Years 2 & 3 Autumn Sports Award Winners

Well done to the winners from the Years 2 & 3 sports award assembly earlier in the week.

House sportsmanship winners were:

Thomas C and Darcey D

Riley N and Olivia J

Certificates awarded for super swimmer, super gymnast, progress in swimming, football, hockey and netball (Yr2 girls).

Fiona Fitch



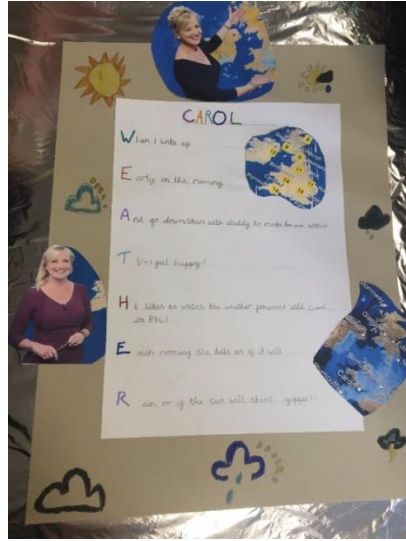
Revolting Rhymes

Congratulations to 5MS who won the Revolting Rhymes speaking competition in Year 5 last Friday. All the classes looked the part and spoke well in spite of some disruption by absent pupils. A full performance of this will be given to the parents at a special assembly next term on 18th January. Photos will be taken at this event.

Dee Vanstone

Weather Project

Well done to Alex M in Year 3 who had an inspired response to our weather project this term. Look at his ode to Carol Kirkwood!



2018 Ski Trip

All pupils going on next year's ski trip to Italy, please return the form giving sizing and ski ability information as soon as possible to Mrs Taylor. The letter and forms are being sent out today!

Dee Vanstone

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Wednesday 3 January	All Day	Staff INSET
Thursday 4 January	All Day	Term Starts
Friday 5 January	Assembly 2.30pm	Mr I Thorpe Yr 3 Inter House Tag Rugby

Downsend+

Downsend+ is gearing up for next week's holiday; spaces are available on all days. For the more adventurous we have Dry Slope Skiing, Mini Ringo's & Sledging, Fencing and Mini Cricket courses. All day courses are available for Chessington Zoo and Alice Holt Cycling and for last minute Christmas gifts Paint a Plate, Card & Soap making and Chocolate making courses, together with festive Christmas Cooking courses. Spaces are also available for Ballet and Chess courses and we will finish the week with a Christmas Themed Day.

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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