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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

12 January 2018



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Welcome from the Headmaster

The Spring Term is fully up and running and the days are already providing lots of opportunities for our children, as typified by the Year 8 pupils who have braved their River Fieldwork in the middle of the River Tillingbourne this week. At the same time, their parents have received feedback at last night's Parents Evening, in readiness for their final few months at Downsend. This period is very much the entrance examination season and it is imperative that schools manage anxiety levels amongst children and their parents carefully. Our own Year 6 pupils have already started the pre-testing process and we are confident that the extensive preparation will serve them well in the weeks ahead. As always, those parents who take the opportunity to consult with Mr Watts and my senior team as to the suitability of senior school options are the least likely to face disappointment in the weeks ahead.

We have monitored the car park closely this week and are grateful to you all for the adjustments with the Coach Park spaces. Leaving this area free at peak times has assisted flow enormously. In the interests of safety, the rules in our car park are no different than everywhere else: stick to the speed limit, do not use

your mobile phone and park in the designated areas and we should assist with the car park to flow more effectively.

2018 has also seen plans for the expansion project gather pace and I hope to be able to write shortly with an update. This will include details of a Parental Engagement Group, which will meet monthly from February onwards. Gathering support and garnering expertise will be a key component of this group; if you are interested in joining, please look out for more details.

Ian Thorpe

Car Parking

On Wednesday when we were heading off to a gala the coach was unable to manoeuvre round the corner due to the location of a white car (Reg RJ67 CPZ) as it wasn't parked in a space. This caused tailbacks around the car park and nearly a half hour delay in us getting to a fixture. Please park in the parking bays considerately.

Marie Seivewright

Celebrating La Fête des Rois in Year 4

The Languages Department has been busy celebrating the 'Festival of the Kings' with Year 4 this week. Two children were crowned King (Roi) or Queen (Reine) for the day in each class, if they were lucky enough to find the charm (fève) in their 'galette'! The children were given a recipe to take home and try out and they learnt about a tradition that French children celebrate. This links with the topic of festivals that is studied throughout the school and brings to life a French culture and tradition.

Year 4 Kings and Queens

4AOS Toby T and Seren K
4LC Chloe S and James R
4MP Keira and Teddy
4JN Lucy and Archie

Susie Taylor



News from the DPA



UNIFORM SHOP

I am extremely pleased to say we have found a new person to take over and run the Uniform shop and it has been agreed with them that there will be regular end of month sales. Full details and dates to go out to you next week in a school comms and posters of dates will go up on the DPA Boards within the next week. We are also looking to sign up extra volunteers to help at the sales.

QUIZ NIGHT – 23rd FEB 2018

Posters are going up on Monday and a full school comms will be coming out to you all, but if you just cannot wait you can book and pay for tickets by emailing events@dpaschool.org.uk. Tickets are just £15 each and include the Quiz and a fabulous curry meal. There will be a full DPA bar to purchase your drinks by the bottle on the night. Tables are maximum of 6 due to the fact that they all have to share an

ipad/device to play the quiz. NOTE: All profits from this event will be going to the school Charity – The Royal Marsden.

Download further details [here](#).



DPA Quiz Night & Curry

Friday 23rd February 2018, 7:30 – 11:30
Downsend School Leatherhead

Downsend School Summer Ball 2018

I have had lots of you ask when the tickets for this year's ball will be going on sale. Well the answer is we will open the booking link for the ball in March 2018, we have the beautiful venue of Painshill Park, Cobham which can accommodate a larger number than last year's venue. Tickets will be priced at just £85pp.

Many Thanks to you all for your continued support of the DPA, if any of you are interested in helping us, please email admin@dpschool.org.uk

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

Prefects

I am delighted to welcome some new additions to the school Prefect Team this term. Over the course of last term these pupils showed much enthusiasm across the school and stepped up in terms of taking responsibility and have acted as fantastic role models for the younger children displaying strong citizenship and leadership qualities.

Congratulations to Emma B, Roman H-T, Chloe S and Riley H.

Lee Silva



Year 5 Fashion Show 2018

On Thursday the Year 5's strutted their stuff on the stage in front of their year 7 'buddies'. They had all dressed up in either their favourite clothes or, in some cases, comical clothes that were too big. The year 5 linguists spoke beautifully in French to their audience and were confident enough on occasions to add some humour. It was a fabulous opportunity to speak a different language confidently and creatively in front of their peers which they all thoroughly enjoyed. All the pupils had put in 100% effort into the "Défilé de mode". We rounded off the morning singing in French one of the "Rigolo" songs that Year 7 still enjoyed , giving them the opportunity to reminisce about their year 5 French!

Susie Taylor





Music Update



Exam Results

Congratulations to the following pupils who took music practical exams last term.

Sophie S Grade 2 (Clarinet) Merit

Mihir R Grade 3 (Piano) Merit

Jack P Grade 2 (Trinity Rock Pop) Distinction

Niji S Initial Grade (Trinity Rock Pop) Distinction

Oliver G Grade 3 (Trinity Rock Pop) Merit

Shihong F Initial Grade (Trinity Rock Pop) Merit

Ben W Grade 2 (Trinity Rock Pop) Pass

Adam V Grade 1 (Piano) Distinction

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

News from our Pre-Preps - Alert! Engineers in Ashtead!

This week saw the start of our spring term clubs programme. Engineering Club was off to a great start when Miss Hill produced marshmallows! Our budding engineers used these sweet treats to design and create a house. The finished buildings were then challenged to an earthquake test. I think you can see from these pictures that the club was a great hit!

Tessa Roberts



Healthy Snacks

May we remind parents of our healthy eating policy and expectations. Downsend is a nut aware school. Some pupils at Downsend have life threatening allergies to foods, especially nuts and peanuts. We ask parents and pupils to refrain from sending or bringing in snacks which contain nuts of any sort, in order to avoid any accidents.

Please see below our list of recommended snacks:

Food	Recommended Choice
Breads:	Sandwiches with savoury fillings, pitta pockets, bread sticks, pizza slices - especially wholemeal, multigrain, high-fibre white and granary breads
Drinks:	Milk Water
Fruit:	Fresh fruit Raw vegetables
Bakery items:	Crispbreads, crackers, rice cakes, oat cakes, crumpets, pikelets and scones, fruit loaf, tea cakes, currant buns
Dairy Products:	Natural yoghurt with added fruit low-fat/diet yoghurts Diet fromage frais Reduced-fat cheese portions
Savoury Snacks:	Plain popcorn

Helen Ferguson

Ski Trip 2018

Please could all ski information forms be returned by **Monday 15th January**. We have had very few back so far and this information needs to be forwarded to the company.

The letter is available to download [here](#).

A letter re ordering a hoodie will be going out by the end of the week.

Dee Vanstone

South Downs Trekathon For Royal Marsden



On Saturday 26 May, I will be taking part in the South Downs Trekathon to raise money for the school charity which is the Royal Marsden. This is a tough event over rolling downs and cliffs and at 26 miles, it forms an enormous challenge! I have set up a page on Just Giving for any donations, the address is below or click the link [here](#).

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Helen-Black15>

Many thanks.

Helen Black

Request to Interior Designers

Pupils in Year 7 are designing and making model bedrooms as their project this term. If you have out of date wallpaper or fabric books that we could use as design inspiration, please send in for the attention of Mrs Beth Day, Head of Design and Technology. Many thanks.

Beth Day

RAISE Writers Club



by Shihong F.,
Algie B.
and Geosyrey L.
All from 57A

SCIENCE LIFE

ISSUE ONE

FREE!

One day, in the lands
DOWN SEND

12

MR. NITWIT

3 BUT THEN...

4

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LAB

Fit in any explosive atmosphere

Good News: There is (almost) no writing.

BAD NEWS: There will be no more GOOD NEWS SECTIONS THEY WILL BE REPLACED BY A WARRING...

BAD NEWS 2: There is a BORING SECTION. Just look!

BORING SECTION: ALKALI ELEMENTS!
LITHIUM, SODIUM, POTASSIUM, RUBIDIUM, CAESIUM, FRANCIUM

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 16 January	2.30pm	Yr 6 Inter House Rugby
	6.30pm	8CE Parent-Teacher Interviews
Wednesday 17 January	8.45am	5HB & 5JA Class Assembly
Thursday 18 January	8.45am	5MS & 5JAy Class Assembly
Friday 19 January	am	7+ Introduction Morning
Saturday 20 January	am	7+ Assessment Morning
Sunday 21 January	7.30pm	Downsend Singers perform at Epsom College

Downsend+

With just 4 more weeks to go until half term, places are filling up fast so if you would like to book the booking form is below.

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](#)

[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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