

[View this email in your browser](#)



DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

19 January 2018



Website



Twitter



Facebook



Menu



Email

[Download](#)

Welcome from the Headmaster

This morning we welcomed 30 Year 2 pupils, and their families, looking to secure Year 3 places at Downsend in September this year. We hope they enjoyed their morning with us and are sure they will fare well when they sit their assessments in the morning. Our Year 8 pupils were, yet again, the most wonderful ambassadors for a Downsend education: polite, enthusiastic and knowledgeable at all times, something that was commented upon consistently by our visitors. This allowed me to explain the breadth of opportunities on offer here, as evidenced by the work on display in the various teaching rooms and the busy nature of school life.

This week, we have enjoyed House sporting competitions, Class Assemblies, Cross-Country, Rugby and Swimming Festivals, IAPS Badminton, a History Competition and success for the U11 Netball team. Next week comes the turn of Public Speaking, Year 3 Greek Week, trips for Years 3 and 8, the National Science Quiz Finals and the Charity Assembly.

Life is certainly never dull! I hope that you enjoy reading about the events below and, more importantly, seeing your children take part in them in the week ahead.

Ian Thorpe

Upper School Update

As we come to the end of the pre-testing season I must congratulate the Year 6 pupils on how well they have conducted themselves during the interviews and tests. The feedback from the senior schools is that the children were polite, well behaved and focused on doing their very best, so well done to them and to the staff here at Downsend who have worked so hard to prepare them.

As is normal after the pre-tests Mr Temlett will be redrafting the homework timetable for Year 6. After such an intense period of preparation, I am keen that this new timetable works well for both our pupils and parents and facilitates a more balanced school week particularly for those pupils who have lots of extra-curricular commitments and who may be involved in the Year 6 production this term.

I would also like to wish good luck to the Year 8 pupils who are about to sit scholarship exams to their senior schools. As always the field is very competitive and this week in my Upper School assembly my message to the Upper School was steeped within the subjective nature of the Golden Globes, Oscars & the New Year's Honours decisions during the film industry's award season. Similarly, decisions on school places and scholarship awards is equally subjective and I want all our pupils to know we are very proud of them and their efforts and talents.

Once again, well done to pupils and staff alike on all your hard work and enjoy the rest of the term.

Karl Newland

Toolkit for Raising Resilient Children

On Tuesday 20 February Downsend will again be hosting the 'Toolkit for Raising Resilient Children' programme in our Pavillion. This is a four-hour workshop for parents, exploring resilience and how to use specific techniques in order to develop more positive and resilient behaviours in our children. With an apparent increase in the pressures on young people we see this more and more as something that our children need our support with.

Feedback from our parents on previous workshops has been extremely positive and we encourage you to attend if you think that this will be of value to you.

You can book directly by following this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/toolkit-for-raising-resilient-children-downsend-school-tickets-41920429132>

For more information please contact Julia Philpott on 07967 497779 / Julia@jpparentcoaching.co.uk or visit www.jpparentcoaching.co.uk.

Clare Kirkham and Karl Newland

Site Security

We are constantly reviewing ways in which we can make the Downsend site as safe and secure as possible. Over recent months, we have been progressing the installation of the door access control system across the Main Site, which is now complete. The system has been extended to include gate access to the playing fields. The pedestrian gate on to the field is time controlled and should only be used to access the playing field, pavilion or Astroturf. The lock will be released to allow access during fixtures and school events. Access at other times should be through the Admin Block entrance or the Turret.

Key timings are as follows:

The Turret door lock will be released:

- Between 8.00 and 8.40am
- At the end of the school day, from 3.45pm until 6.00pm, when the Turret will be manned

The Admin Gate door lock will be released:

- Between 8.00 and 8.30 am
- At the end of the day from 3.45 until 4.45pm

At all other times access should be through the Main Reception in the Admin Block. The Reception is manned from 8.00 am until 5.30 pm.

Carole Dickie

NSPCC Assembly

An assembly was given yesterday by members of the NSPCC. There was one assembly given to Years 3,4 and 5 and the topic of the assembly which you may have seen advertised on TV was 'Speak Out, Stay Safe'. The children were introduced to 'Buddy', a speech bubble who clearly represented the need for them to talk about any worry they may have. They then discussed what sort of worries they may have and the children were given the opportunity to share. These worries were represented by bricks that were placed in a sack and then carried around. This gave a clear message about how difficult it is to carry around a lot of worries. The children were then invited to discuss which trusted person they might turn to in order to share this worry and, as they did so, a brick was removed from the sack, eventually leaving it empty. The end of the assembly saw them memorising the Childline number using sign language. 0800 1111.

This was clearly a very important message delivered in a most child-friendly way. I hope the children all now realise how they can share a worry and who with.

Dee Vanstone



News from the DPA





DPA Quiz Night & Curry

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

The DPA Quiz on Friday 23 February, now has quite a number of teams attending for what looks to be an exciting night. Mr Thorpe tells me that there will be a few teacher teams ready to take on the challenge and retain the first place title from the last 2 years.

Team size: Any size between 1 and 6! Remember you are sharing a device

Are you brave enough to go solo?

Will couples compete or join forces? - It's up to you!

Tickets are now on sale now! email events@dpaschool.org.uk to confirm your booking once paid. You can email as individuals and you do not need to gather a team to come along - we can always create teams on the night.

Smart phone quiz night £15 per person - Payment via bank transfer

Sort code: 40-20-24 Account Number 81479040

Please bring your own ipad or iphone/smart phone and download the app in advance from:
<http://www.speedquizzing.com/software/app/>

(compatible with IOS and Android devices) NOTE you can only use only one device per team.

To book please email no later than Friday 16 February 2018.

It is always a hugely fun night full of laughs and a lot of competitiveness, mainly between the teacher teams. There is a pay bar on the night. All profits from this event will go towards the schools charity The Royal Marsden.

Ticket prices are just £15 Inc. the quiz and curry

Looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

Year 6 Class Captains

It is that time of the year when we welcome a new wave of Class Captains to the Year 6 classes. A huge thank you to the outgoing captains who were brilliant helping out with various year group activities as well as helping Mr T with his assembly to the whole school.

Congratulations go to the new Class Captains for the Spring Term:

6CB - Jacob Sr & Eva R

6ST - Natasha Co & Alex W

6SG - Chloe M & Harry M

6JT - Josh B & Josie D

6DV - Charlie W & Aniyah G

Rob Temlett

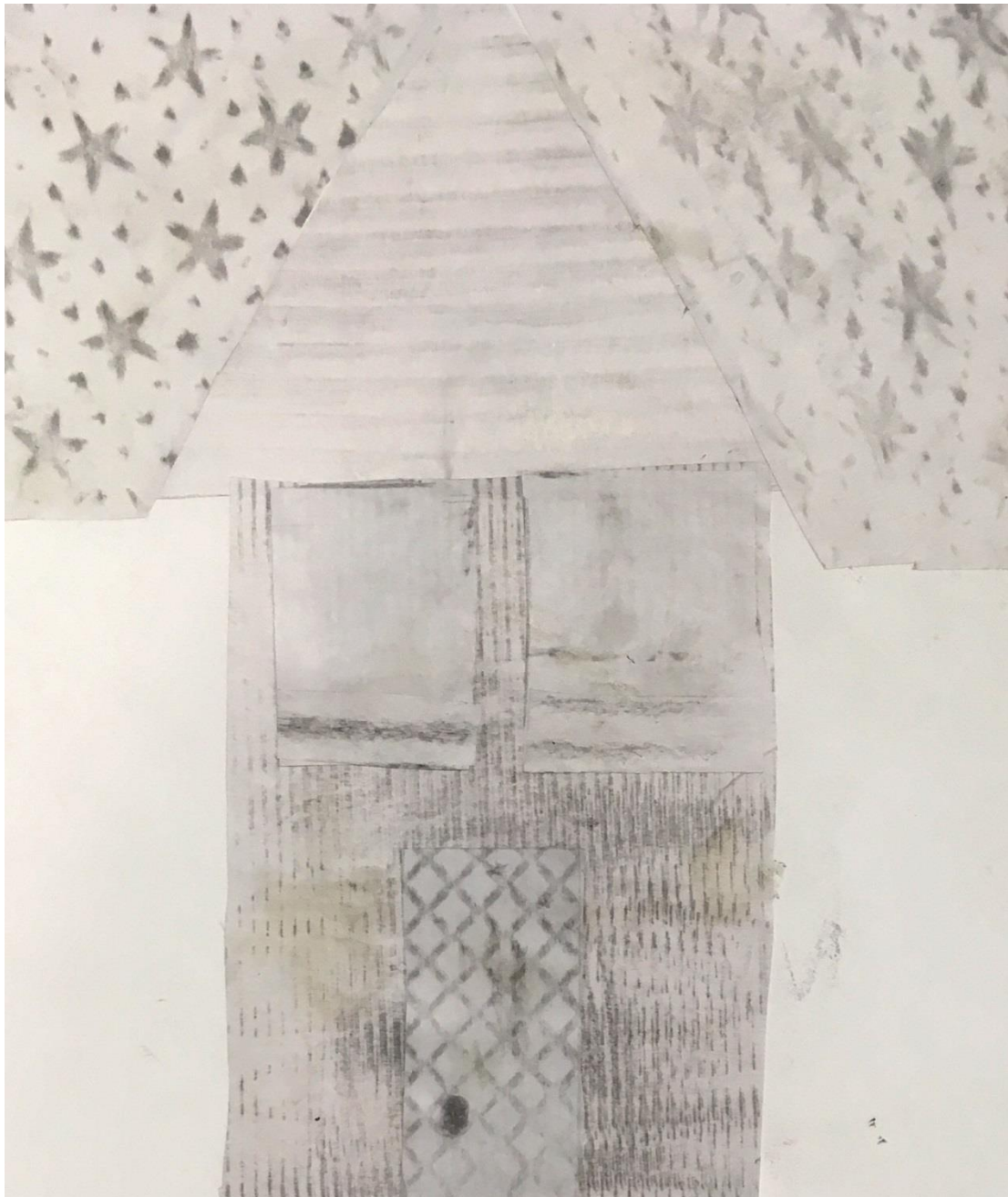


Artist Of The Week

This week's Artist of the Week is Felix A for his collaged house, experimenting with a variety of different textures.

Well done Felix!

Julia Aylen



News From Our Pre-Preps

At Epsom Pre-Prep the whole school theme this half term is 'All About People' with every year group learning about different things around the theme. We love to bring learning to life at Epsom and already in the last two weeks have enjoyed lots and lots of real and different experiences to motivate the children and to support, broaden and deepen their learning. Some examples of these opportunities are a visit from a 'real' baby to First Steps as part of their work on families, Rising Reception visiting the Polka Theatre to see the show 'My brother, my sister and me'. Rising Reception also enjoying playing in their igloo thinking about different places in the world people live, Reception have been role playing people who help us and Year 1 have had the opportunity to actually play with toys from the past as part of their visit from Chertsey Museum.

Vanessa Conlan







Music Update



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

Ski Trip 2018

- 1) The deadline for the ski information regarding height, weight etc is now past. It is paramount that I have these details to pass on to the ski company.
- 2) Please remember to return both your hoodie form and accompanying cheque to Mr P Mitchell by February 1st at the latest.

Dee Vanstone

Woman in Black Trip

Anyone who has not completed a signed slip for their child to attend this trip will be unable to go unfortunately.

Dee Vanstone

Globe Trip

The letters regarding the Globe trip went out yesterday. Please ensure these are returned to Dee Vanstone via form tutors as soon as possible.

Dee Vanstone

Rotary Public Speaking Event

The annual Rotary Public Speaking Intermediate event takes place at Downsend in the Dining Hall next Wednesday 24 January 5.30pm prompt start. Obviously our teams will be looking forward to their supporters attending, but if anyone else would like to learn more about a public speaking event, you are more than welcome to attend.

Dee Vanstone

Year 5 Revolting Rhymes

This week saw all the Year 5 classes perform their ESB pieces taken from Roald Dahl's 'Revolting Rhymes'. Wednesday was the turn of both 5JA who performed 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' and 5HB who performed 'The Three Little Pigs'. Both classes did extraordinarily well, although the not so little 'Red Riding Hood' (Mrs Vanstone), who had to fill in at the last moment, probably did little to add to their performance! There were some stand-out performances from both Sophia as the queen and Jeffrey as the wolf. A special mention must go to Shi-Hong who stood in for a sick classmate at the eleventh hour and learned the lines!

Thursday was the turn of 5MS and 5JAy performing 'Cinderella' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk' respectively. Again both classes equipped themselves really well and nobody forgot their lines! The stand-out performances from these classes were Cinderella and the Ugly Sisters (Louise, Jacob and Jamie) whose comic timing was excellent and Sam who played a very cheeky Jack!

Year 5 have been working hard on their poetry performance skills and I am sure the parents were as proud of their achievements as I was!

Dee Vanstone



RAISE Writers Club



Miss Black's Trekathon

As you may have read in last week's Downsend Times, this year Miss Black (Head of History and Deputy Head of Lower School) will be taking part in the South Downs Trekathon. The Trekathon is 26 mile walk over the South Downs, involving lots of hills and mountains. It will be a humongous challenge and is in aid of the school charity, The Royal Marsden.

Miss Black said, "I'm really excited but so scared at the same time. I am hoping to raise over £500 for the Royal Marsden."

If you are interested in sponsoring Miss Black, visit <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Helen-Black15>. Please consider donating - it could save someone's life.

Imogen G and Emma F (Year 5)

Peer Mentors

On Monday, the Peer Mentors did an assembly on how they can help you at school.

Peer Mentors are a group of Year 5's who can help, alongside your teachers, if something is troubling you. Two people have been picked from each Year 5 class to be trained with Mrs De Vries and Mrs Topa. They will be available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday break time in 5JAY to speak to anyone who has worries, however big or small.

Eleanor Key, a recently trained Peer Mentor, said, "I think this scheme is a great idea because if something is troubling someone and their teacher is not available, they will always have someone to talk to."

So, if anything is worrying you, feel free to pop into 5JAY to see the Peer Mentors and they will be ready with a listening ear. Don't forget that you can also talk to your form teacher or other adults at school.

Megan R (Year 5)



Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 22 January		Yr 3 Greek Week
Tuesday 23 January	All day pm	Yr 3 visit to Painshill Park Yr 8 visit to 'Woman in Black'
Wednesday 24 January	All day 6.00pm	Yr 3 Greek Day Rotary Public Speaking Competition
Thursday 25 January	All day pm	Yr 3 Forest School Visit @ Downsend St John's Orchestral Play Day
Friday 26 January	Assembly Lunch	Charity Assembly 'Australia Day' Themed Lunch

Downsend+

With just 3 more weeks to go until half term, places are filling up fast so if you would like to book the booking form is below.

Please also find below details of the Easter and May Downsend+ programmes which we are now taking bookings for.

Also below are details of this summer's Tennis and Cricket courses, please note the early booking discount available on all bookings received and paid for in full by Friday 6 April.

For all enquires please email downsendplus@downsend.co.uk or call 07909 861 280

[Contact Form 2017-2018](#)

[October, Christmas and February Course Description](#)

[February half term 2018 Booking Form](#)

[Easter and May Half Term Description](#)

[Easter 2018](#)

[May Half Term 2018](#)

[Summer 2018 Tennis Cricket 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

Copyright © Downsend School 2017, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Downsend School
1 Leatherhead Road
Leatherhead
Surrey
KT22 8TJ

www.downsend.co.uk

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
