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# DOWNSEND SCHOOL

## DOWNSEND TIMES

26 January 2018



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### Welcome from the Headmaster

Another busy and productive week has come and gone. Despite Year 3's best efforts, Greek Week failed to deliver any Mediterranean sunshine, although the smiling faces during the various activities made up for the gloom! On Wednesday evening, we hosted the Rotary Public Speaking competition again, where teams of young people spoke with passion and confidence to a packed audience. For the sixth successive year, a Downsend team has made it through to the regional round, with both teams performing with extreme confidence. This afternoon, the Science Quiz team will participate in the National Finals for the first time, having qualified as one of the top 12 teams in the country. I am sure that there will be updates on Twitter throughout the afternoon.

This morning, we enjoyed a Charity Assembly, with a representative from the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity in attendance. This wonderful cause is close to so many hearts and you have already been hugely generous at the various end of term events. We are determined to provide a five-figure sum to the Marsden at the end of the year, so do please continue to support the various events that we have planned.

Thank you, also, for your response to my update this week. I, as well as the Pre-Prep Heads, have met with the Project Managers and Innovation company this week and look forward to sharing plans and engaging with you and the pupils next month. We have the capacity to create something truly energising and inspirational for our pupils; I have already received a number of expressions of interest to join the engagement group. This same parental support was in evidence this morning in the Second-Hand Uniform Shop this morning, thanks to a wonderful (and expanding) team of volunteers. I also understand that the DPA Quiz Night is now fully booked, meaning that that likelihood is increasing that a Parent Team will steal the crown from the Lower School Staff Team who have reigned victorious for the past couple of years. Finally, congratulations to the latest round of pupils who have gained Scholarships to their Senior Schools:

Lauren B	Sport	St Teresa's
Hailey C	Sport	Manor House
Alexander M-T	Art	Dunottar
Ted S	Drama	Box Hill

*Ian Thorpe*

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## **Lockdown Drill**

The safety of your child and all children in our school, as well as the safety of the staff, is our highest priority. In order to maintain a safe environment for our children, it is necessary that we practise our emergency and crisis response plans by having drills designed to rehearse our procedures. This year, we have already practiced 2 Fire Drills, which went very well, and will be conducting a Lock Down / Stay Safe drill next week. The purpose of this drill is to keep the children safe from any dangers.

A building lockdown requires that all doors are locked, when the emergency allows, and all movement in and out of the building is restricted. The types of emergencies that could require a school to lockdown are: the presence or possible presence of an intruder; a dangerous situation taking place in the vicinity of the school; a hazardous spill or other type of accident that could pose a threat to the safety of staff and students.

We will be participating in a lockdown drill on Tuesday 30 January. Lockdown drills can be a little scary, especially for younger pupils; therefore, in the week prior to the drill, teachers will talk to their classes and walk the students through the procedures. When speaking to students about lockdown drills, teachers will talk in general terms, stating that "just like we practise fire drills and have to leave the

building, we also need to practise for emergencies that will keep us in the building.” Talking about the drill with your children at home may also help alleviate unnecessary anxiety.

We thank you in advance for your support and understanding with this matter. If you have any concerns please feel free to contact me.

*Jon Albert*

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## House Update

### **Ranmore continue to lead the way!**

Congratulations to our new House Captains Oscar A and Katie M for leading Ranmore to yet another victory in the first House Point collection of the term.



Although Ranmore came second in both the Lower School and Upper School competitions, overall their hard work and commitment paid off as they take the lead over Headley.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ranmore
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Headley
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wisley
- 4<sup>th</sup> Norbury

Congratulations also goes to the following Top Achievers:

#### Lower School

Joshua G  
Ralphie A  
Horatio M  
Charlie K

#### Upper School

Luke W  
Luke C  
Tom Q  
Bronwen R



Let's see if the other Houses can catch Ranmore in the next collection this term.

*Jon Albert*

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## Rotary Club Public Speaking

Wednesday evening saw Downsend host the first round of the Rotary Club's National Public Speaking Competition. There were six teams taking part in the Intermediate section and just two in the Senior section. The teams came from St John's, St Teresa's, Manor House and, of course, Downsend who fielded two teams from Year 8. The boy's team was made up of Chairperson - Meharpal G, - Speaker - Ollie G and Vote of Thanks - Matthew I. The girls' team was Chairperson - Francesca T, Speaker - Alice L and Vote of Thanks - Hannah G. The standard of the speeches and speakers was phenomenal and the topics varied from the 'Use of Palm Oil', 'Put down your devices', 'Make Poverty History' and 'Does money make the world go round?'

It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and I was incredibly proud of both teams who equipped themselves beautifully and spoke eloquently and confidently. Public Speaking at Downsend has come a long way in 6 years - the original club attracted just 4 pupils. There are currently 42 pupils attending the club! It is such a great life skill and wonderful to see how many pupils have grown in self-confidence through their involvement in Public Speaking.

After a long wait whilst the judges deliberated, we listened to the Senior teams from St Teresa's who were unbelievable and were given valuable feedback from each judge on each role of the team, it was time for the results. All teams were congratulated on their high standard, but the winners were St John's and the runners-up - Downsend (Boys' Team). This team has now qualified for the second round to be held at the end of next month! Congratulations boys!

*Dee Vanstone*



## Year 7 Ambassadors

Many congratulations to this term's Ambassadors who have been selected by their tutors to lead the way this term and help in the Lower School and to manage the library before school, amongst other leadership roles: Jack P, Lexi M, Luke C, Ben M, Jules T, Katherine V. This is the first opportunity we've had for a photo as there has been a lot of illness this term!

*Anna Mercer*



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## Coaching in Mathematics and the Sciences

Occasionally, we recommend approved support for pupils in key subject areas. In such cases, it can be useful to work with a tutor who will work alongside the school to support an individual. If you feel your child needs extra support in Maths, Biology, Chemistry or Physics, we would recommend the services of Jamie Graham, an ex-scholarship pupil here at Downsend. He is an experienced SATS, CE, GCSE and A-Level coach and comes highly recommended by previous Downsend clients.

Jamie can be contacted on 07598 269715.

*Ian Thorpe*

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## Year 3 Greek Week

Year 3 were transported back in time for Greek Week this week through an array of exciting cross-curricular learning opportunities. On Tuesday, the children enjoyed their first school trip of the year to Painshill Park, in which they re-enacted several Ancient Greek Myths with the park's scenery as their stunning backdrop. On Wednesday the school was awash with Ancient Greek Gods and Warriors as the children prepared for their Ancient Greek day. They enjoyed having the opportunity to demonstrate their artistic flair through creating Greek masks and terracotta pots as well as enjoying a drama workshop and their very own mini Olympics! We have been hugely impressed with their enthusiasm throughout the week and hope they have enjoyed Greek week. Their teachers certainly have!

*Marian Bayley*



## 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](mailto:Julia@jpparentcoaching.co.uk) or visit [www.jpparentcoaching.co.uk](http://www.jpparentcoaching.co.uk).

*Clare Kirkham and Karl Newland*

### A Toolkit for Raising Resilient Children



A four-hour workshop for parents, hosted by Downsend, exploring resilience and how to use specific techniques to develop positive and resilient behaviours in children

I want to help my daughter be more self-confident

How do I stop my son saying "I'm useless" when he makes a mistake?

I wish I could be more patient with my kids

Learn how your children can:

- become emotionally resilient
- have really positive self-talk
- demonstrate confident body language
- be responsible and accountable
- solve problems resourcefully



**Facilitator: Julia Philpott**

Julia Philpott has a background in corporate executive development and is qualified in both coaching and psychology. She combines these skills with her experience as a parent to offer a range of tools and techniques, so that parents can help their children navigate the primary school years with confidence.

**Details:** Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 9am – 1pm, Downsend School

**Price:** £50 per person

For more information and to book contact the School Office, or get in touch with Julia Philpott on [julia@jpparentcoaching.co.uk](mailto:julia@jpparentcoaching.co.uk), 07967 497779 and at [www.jpparentcoaching.co.uk](http://www.jpparentcoaching.co.uk)

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## Reminder on Haircuts

Please can we remind all parents regarding the school policy on haircuts which states that:

'Long, girls' hair should be tied back neatly to keep it out of the eyes. Boys' hair should be off the collar, out of the eyes and should not cover the ears. No pupil should have a haircut which in itself draws attention to the child concerned. Dyed or gelled hair is unacceptable.'

We have seen an increased number of pupils, particularly Boys in the Lower School coming into school with haircuts outside of these guidelines.

Many thanks.

*Clare Kirkham and Karl Newland*

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## Meeting Theresa May

I was going to my friend Rhyen's house. As I was driving down his road I saw a few people gathering around someone. When I got out of my car I saw Theresa May. I called Rhyen and we ran down the road to see Theresa May.

As we approached we saw the figure coming towards us. We shook her hand and she asked, "Do you want a photo?" We said, "Yes!"

*Zac S, Year 4*



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## News from the DPA



### **QUIZ NIGHT – 23<sup>rd</sup> FEB 2018**

#### **TICKETS ARE NOW FULLY SOLD OUT**

Due to an amazing response from all the parents, especially year 3 we have totally sold out of spaces for next month's quiz and curry night. Many thanks for all you support.

All profits from this event will go to the school charity of The Royal Marsden.

*Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair*

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## Uniform Shop



I am extremely happy to announce that we have a new parent volunteer, Lynn Godwin a Yr 3 mum, has kindly agreed to take over the running and organisation of the Uniform Shop.

With this in mind, future regular sale dates and intake dates will be set.

## **NEXT UNIFORM SALE**

### **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb – Social Area**

3.45pm – 5pm

Access via the turret

### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Social Area**

3.45pm – 5pm

Access via the turret

## **NEXT INTAKE OF UNIFORM**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb – Turret

8.30 – 9am

Any queries re the uniform please email [admin@dpschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@dpschool.org.uk). If you are interested in volunteering to help in the uniform shop we always need help.

*Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair*

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## **'Woman in black'**

Tuesday afternoon saw the Year 8's venture up to the Fortune Theatre in London to see a production of the infamous 'Woman in Black' which we have been studying. We purposefully had not read the ending of the book! On entering the theatre some of our pupils were escorted to the stalls whilst the others were taken to the Dress Circle. Silence fell, the lights faded and the play began. The story follows that of a lady whose child had died in the marshes and how she takes revenge on people in the village every time someone sees her. The play relies very heavily on the tension, making clever use of lighting and sound effects. There were definitely some Year 8 boys squirming in their seats! In my opinion, this was one of the best productions I have seen in 10 years – whether that was due to the fact of being in the stalls making it even more tense or the fact that the acting was superb I am unsure!

Anyway, the Year 8's were a credit to Downsend and it was a lovely way to end the study of the book.

*Dee Vanstone*

## **'Woman in black' Play Review**

On Tuesday year 8 went to watch The Woman in black, in London. It was very dramatic and there was a lot of tension. There were 2 main actors and the woman in black. She kept scaring everyone in the audience and making people jump and scream in terror. The start of the play was very funny and slow moving which lured you into a false sense of security, making you even more frightened at the scares. There was a little amount of scenery which made the play even more effective as the actors used great expressions. The actors used their hands and bodies to create props for example a horse and cart. The theatre was rather small which made you feel very close to all the action and this created a lot of suspense. There was a lot of clever, dramatic lighting which created a creepy atmosphere. Overall it was a great play and although it scared a lot of people it was good to watch.

*Chloe S (Year 8)*



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## **2018 Ski Trip**

Reminder: Please can all ski trippers ensure that their completed medical form is returned to Mrs Susie Taylor as soon as possible.

*Dee Vanstone*

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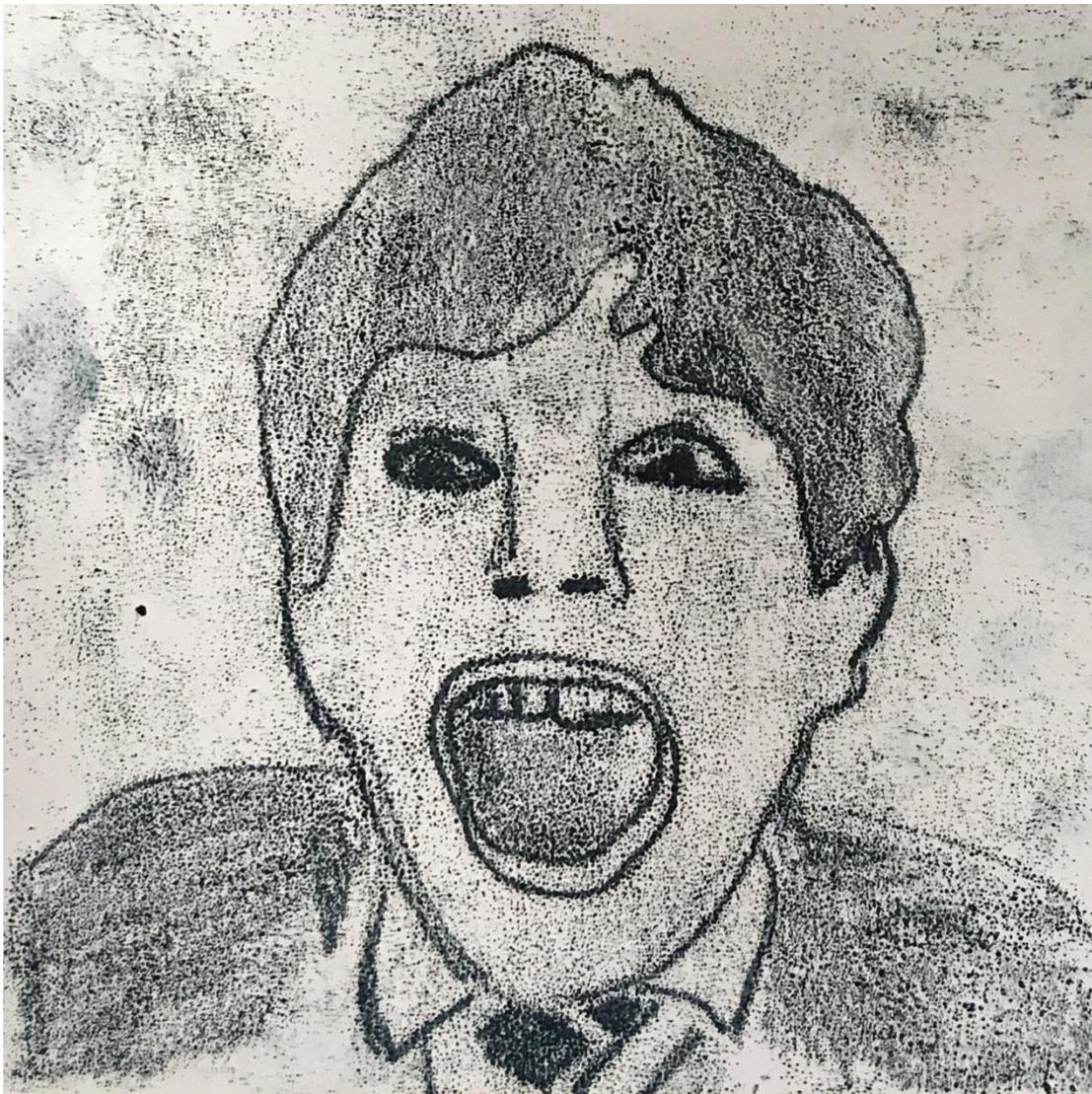
## Artist Of The Week

This week's Artist of the Week is Joel W.

Year 6 have been creating self portraits capturing different expressions. This is a great example of a monoprint by Joel W in 6ST.

Well done!

*Julia Ayles*



## News From Our Pre-Preps

This term in Reception at Leatherhead Pre-Prep, our topic is 'Transport'. This week we have been looking at how we travel by air. Some of the children made their own paper aeroplanes and we tested how far we could throw them. We also sent off a helium balloon to see how far it would go!

*Gill Brooks*





## Music Update



### Choral Concert at Epsom College

Some of our singers participated in a performance of Ian Assersohn's *Dies Irae* last Sunday evening. This is a work scored for an adult choir, mens' choir, soprano and baritone soloists and childrens' choir. We sat right in the middle, in between the orchestra and the Epsom Male Voice Choir. We were surrounded by whistling, foot stamping, timpani and we could hear the magnificent soloists and orchestra clearly. The children sang absolutely beautifully and many parents commented that it had been a very moving and memorable experience. Some pointed out that Downsends pupils looked like a little field of poppies. Well done to all, may it be the first of many more performances in the community.



### Music Clubs and Ensembles

For a full list of Music Ensembles please see [here](#).

### Instrumental Lessons at Downsends School

If your child would like to learn an instrument at Downsends with one of our tutors then please email the Head of Music at [nicole.allison@downsends.co.uk](mailto:nicole.allison@downsends.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*

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## Parents Early Morning Swimming Sessions

It is great to see some of you taking the opportunity of using the swimming pool in the mornings, however there is a change to Friday's timings. From now on the Friday session will operate at the same time as Wednesdays from 8.00-8.30am. To maintain the safety of all children we need to ensure a secure site by 8.45am, therefore anyone wishing to swim must leave before then. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

**Wednesday 8.00-8.30am**

**Friday 8.00-8.30am**

*Jon Albert*

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## Year 5's Wonderful Winter Descriptions

While the snowflakes have not made it as far south as Surrey yet, the Year 5 children have been using the wintry landscape as inspiration to write setting descriptions. Here are a few examples of their work:

It was magical, a snowy winter wonderland. The snow was a thick white blanket covering the ground. Icicles fell from the trees like daggers and the bridge stood proudly, gazing down at the frozen river below. The snowflakes were settled on the ground shimmering like the sun as others gathered to create a perfect picture on the ice. The bridges' reflection shone, adding to the great picture. The trees were decorated with a thin coating of icing sugar and cold, translucent crystals glittering like stars. The sun gave a glow to the beautiful scene. It was truly amazing!

*Olivia B*

As night drew closer, an eerie silence fell and not a person was out of bed. A bitter wind burnt my face and felt like a winter storm. The trees were rustling like autumn leaves and I swore I heard a wolf howl faintly in the distance. I crunched through the crisp snow which was falling as thick as a blanket. The moon rose and watched over my house. As the river rushed along the bank, I stopped to feel how cold the water was and gasped, it was as cold as ice.

*Louise M*

Going over the desolate landscape, I felt a warm sense of wonder and curiosity. Interested, I headed down the steep snowy slopes, breathing in the cool night air. I could faintly hear the sigh of the wind and occasionally the call of an eagle. The slight glow of the snow drew me in...

The sun was only just peeping over the snow-covered walls. Suddenly, snow began to cascade down in flurries! The wind blew and whipped my hair around my head and blew its frost up my nostrils. My eyes sparkled and shimmered like deftly carved diamonds. You know the feeling when you get tingles up your back? Well, that's how I felt. Slipping and sliding, I rolled and rumbled all around. The frozen lakes glimmered like luminous moons on the ground. Frost wound up trees in glittery spirals. Icy daggers hung from rocks. Freezing breezes blew around the trees, creating a gentle hum.

*Eleanor K*

Looking out of my window I saw the sun rising behind a row of ghostly looking trees that were covered in sparkling frost. I could hear the sweet, shrill sound of birds tweeting and I could smell pine needles in the fresh cool air.

I walked briskly along the frozen, shimmering river and I could hear people laughing and chattering amongst each other. I was as cold as a fridge-freezer but excited at the same time as my break smoked in the freezing air.

Driving home the red, orange sun was setting over the mountains which glittered like a diamond necklace. The grass between the tall, spiky fir trees was a white blanket. Entering the village I could smell chestnuts crackling on a barbecue fire outside the frosted shop windows.

*Alexander T*

Opening the door, an odd sensation tingled like pepper in my nostrils. The ground was filled with white, sparkling, soft snow glittering like thousands of shimmering stars. I could not believe my eyes. Icicles like stalactites shone in the light. I took one step into the snow and the crispy crunch of snow sounded like a cookie being eaten. Looking back at my house, it looked cold. Crystals were making sharp patterns on the windows and smoky cold steam floated from the roof. Mesmerised, I gazed at the towering trees covered in beautiful patches of snow.

*Jacob G*

Opening my curtains, I was excited to see a white blanket of snow. I sprinted outside. The savage cold took my breath away as I leapt in the white, winter wonderland. Then, I looked up and the pond was encrusted in white, sparkling hard ice. As I strode to the pond, the snow crunched beneath my feet.

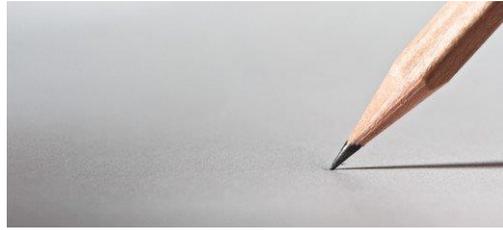
Hanging from the trees was sparkling frost, but it was not only on the trees, it was everywhere. Icicles dangled like pillars glistening in the early morning sun.

*Louie S*

*Year 5 English Teachers*

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## RAISE Writers Club



In the RAISE Writers Club this week we have been focusing on the different types of books we enjoy in preparation for World Book Day in March.

*I enjoy David Baddiel stories. This author has written The Parent Agency, Animacolm, The Person Controller and Birthday Boy. I like this series of books because they are very funny and force you to use your imagination in where you are, what you are going to do and how you get there.*

*My Favourite book of the series is Birthday Boy and I really recommend you read this. It's about a boy who wants his birthday to be every day so he wishes upon a star. Will his dream come true?*

*Mr Thorpe Question Time*

*Q. What book gets you up in the morning?*

*A. Clive Cussler. He writes adventure novels, often locating historical treasures.*

*Bella T, Year 3*

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## Next Week @ Downsend

### School Events



Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 30 January	2.45pm 6.30pm	Yr 6 Inter house Netball Yrs 2 & 3 Parent - Teacher Interviews, Peterborough Hall
Thursday 01 February	2.30pm 6.30pm	Upper School Sports Scholarship Assessments Yr 7 Parent - Teacher Interviews, Dining Hall
Friday 02 February	Assembly 11.00am - 11.00pm	Mrs C Kirkham Yr 5 perform @ Young Voices, O2 Arena



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# Downsend+

With just two 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](mailto: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*

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## School Notices

### Contact Details

Please email [office@downsend.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@downsend.co.uk) to be added to the distribution list.

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# Inspiring young minds

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