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DOWNSEND TIMES

09 February 2018



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Welcome from the Headmaster

A busy and enjoyable half-term has come and gone. After the rigours of 11+ exams, Year 6 are celebrating the event with a trip to the Globe Theatre, a fitting reward for all of their hard work. Results of the tests are now in; whilst it is clear that competition for places is increasing year on year, Downsend pupils continue to acquit themselves admirably and we are very proud of their achievements.

Our other year groups have been equally busy this week. Year 2's have visited the Living Rainforest and our own Forest School, we hosted a General Knowledge Quiz for Years 3 to 6 and, organised a Maths Quest for Year 5 and enjoyed the usual plethora of House and inter-school matches. Read on for more details.

After half-term, we hope for a move from Winter into Spring and looking to the future. We'll share the final plans for the Arts Centre, announce some new colleagues following interviews this week and start our pupil and parent engagement groups. After the small matter of a well-earned break, of course!

Ian Thorpe

Townsend Warner History Prize - First Round



In January a selection of children from Year 7 and Year 8 took part in the first round of the Townsend Warner History Prize. This competition started over 130 years ago and is one of the oldest institutions in the preparatory school world. It is not linked to any national testing or examinations but aims to provoke interest and delight in historical reading, facts and analysis. It regularly produces winners of remarkable calibre, writing history of much flair and knowledge.

The Prize consists of two papers. The first has 100 questions demanding one-word or one-sentence answers from world history with a strong emphasis on British history. Many are straightforward but some are a little more obscure. Over 1,000 students sat this paper last month and only the top 250 candidates qualify from Paper 1 to sit Paper 2.

I am very proud to announce the following results:

- James C – came 13th overall
- Lucy P – came 202nd overall
- Sophia B – came 224th overall

These three have done incredibly well and I wish them all the very best of luck for Paper 2.

I would also like to thank all those children from Year 7 and Year 8 who took part. I was incredibly impressed with the high quality and range of knowledge that was displayed in what was a tough Paper 1.

Helen Black

Rumble in the Jungle

Earlier this week, our intrepid Year 2 explorers visited The Living Rainforest in Newbury where they discovered an amazing array of plants and tropical rainforest animals including: poison dart frogs, stringrays, armadillo and even a sleepy sloth curled up high in the branches of the canopy. The children impressed their tour guides with their already good knowledge of rainforest conditions, but also learnt how many of the foods and medicines we take for granted originate from rainforest environments which are home to more than half of the world's species of plants and animals. Inspired by their experiences the children returned to school to write poems and stories set amongst the wild and breath taking beauty of The Amazon. Here are the results of some of the children's efforts:

The Amazing Amazon

There are grey elephants stomping loudly,
Slow sloths swinging peacefully,
Red tree frogs jumping quickly,
Beautiful butterflies fluttering quietly
In the hot, steamy and mysterious rainforest.

There are lazy colourful chameleons creeping,
Cheeky monkeys swinging amazingly,
Colourful parrots swooping low,
Sly jaguars stalking sneakily
In the hot, steamy and mysterious rainforest.

There are slimy snakes slithering,
Rainbow coloured toucans gliding,
Dangerous alligators snapping furiously,
Scaly lizards climbing high
In the hot, steamy and mysterious rainforest.

By Eleanor 2LB

Rainforest

Elephants are stomping.
Monkeys are fighting.
Toucans are snapping.
Lizards are lazing.
In the leaves and the trees
Of the jungle.

Snakes are slithering
Around their prey who are sleeping.

Leopards are pouncing.
Sloths are relaxing.
In the leaves and the trees
Of the jungle.

Lions are roaring.
The leaves are swaying.
Monkeys are swinging.
Toucans are squeaking.
In the leaves and the trees
Of the jungle.

By Calista 2CW

In the Hissing and the Croaking of the Jungle

There are tiny geckos gulping
Black gorillas smashing
Sly alligators watching
Camouflaged chameleons crawling
In the hissing and the croaking of the jungle.

There are long vines creeping
Cheeky monkeys chattering
Scary scorpions snapping
Huge elephants stomping
In the hissing and the croaking of the jungle

There are light leaves swaying
Prowling jaguars jumping
Terrifying tigers pouncing
Slow sloths eating
In the hissing and the croaking of the jungle.

By Finley 2ST

Damp Forest

Tiny bus fly
Huge monkeys lie
Lazy lizard catches
Greedy crocodile snatches

Where creatures lurk deep in the damp forest

Beautiful toucan preens

Sleepy sloth dreams

Small ants steal

Long worms feel

Where creatures lurk deep in the damp forest

Sneaky snake creeping

Spotty cat leaping

Tired toad croaking

Careful bird soaking

Where creatures lurk deep in the damp forest

By Minky 2YdV

Year 2 Team



Scholastic Book Fair



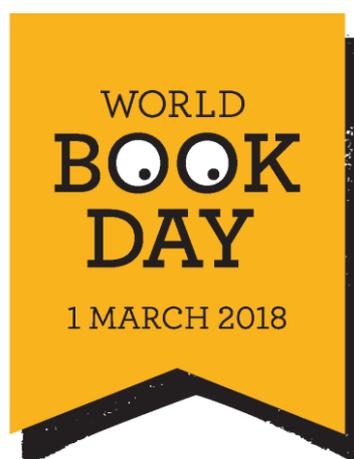
As part of our World Book Day celebrations there will be a Mini Scholastic Book Fair in the Library from Monday 26th February to Friday 2nd March 2018.

Children will have an opportunity to browse and create a wish list to bring home. There will be a variety of ways that books can be ordered and the Book Fair will be open for parents on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 1st from 3.45pm to 5.00pm.

Further information will be given after half term.

Karen Cresswell

World Book Day



This year, World Book Day will be on Thursday 1st March. As we did last year, we will fill this day with fun book-related activities for all Lower and Upper School pupils, to sit alongside their academic timetable.

Once again, we have made it a very special mufti day, in that all pupils (and staff) are asked to come to school dressed up as characters from books. There will be prizes on offer for excellent costumes and we look forward to seeing the variety of ideas represented across the school.

We will be asking for a £2 donation to the school charity on the day.

Christopher Bryant

Upper School Assembly

The Upper School enjoyed hearing about the incredible skills of some of our pupils in their assembly this week; it is a great privilege to be around such talent! Well done to Sofia H, Jack D and Harry M for sharing their knowledge and sporting passions with their peers and staff; well done Harry for beating Mr Dunning in the putting challenge too!

Anna Mercer





Conquerors of the Maths Quest!

This Wednesday was very busy for the Year 5 children as they embarked on a Maths Quest where mathematical problems had to be solved to escape from a castle. The Year 7 pupils thoroughly enjoyed leading the Maths Quest and were fantastic at teaching and guiding the younger ones through the problem solving challenges. Lots of maths discussion was had by all and also many maths riddles were solved in the process - unlocking doors to get to different rooms, escaping from the castle kitchens, working out coded messages to get out of the dungeon!

Thankfully, all the children managed to escape the castle and get their reward with superb guidance from the fantastic Year 7 leaders! The children also enjoyed some physical challenges in their teams to maintain energy levels and were also able to have fun at break times with their buddies. The Year 5 Maths teachers were incredibly impressed with the perseverance and positive attitude of the children and couldn't fault the kind support and teaching given by the Year 7 children.

"I thought the Quest was a fun way of doing normal maths and I think Sonny A was a really good leader as he helped us!" Jamie T. Yr5

"My favourite part of the Maths Quest was the Dragon's Cape and the Dungeon because I liked drawing the mini hexagons into a big hexagon. My favourite Year 7's to work with were Louie P and Matthew Y because they were really kind and helpful." Alex D. Yr5

"Maths Quest was fun because the different activities were all to do with maths but it was enjoyable and challenging. I loved working with the Year 7s!" Eleanor K. Yr5

"I liked the fact that we were able to help the Year 5's when they asked and I enjoyed being able to direct the children in the right way if they got stuck. I liked helping them improve some of their maths if they were not as strong as others." Louie P. Yr7

"The children were very good at listening to what we were explaining and they were very easy to teach. I thoroughly enjoyed watching the Year 5's unscramble and solve the maths tasks." Jules T. Yr7

"I liked the Maths Quest because it was fun being the leaders and being able to teach the younger ones."
Jo H. Yr7

Anna Mercer





Young Voices 2018

When I stepped into the O2 arena I felt like I was entering a fairy tale castle because it felt like everyone was looking at me. When the lights turned off, all the torches flickered on. I felt like I was in space with stars all around me. It felt magical! When everyone started singing it just got better. it was so much fun, everyone thought so. The best part was the music, it made me feel alive and I couldn't help dancing. At the end I was sad to go but pleased that I could tell my parents all about it.

So my final conclusion is that Young Voices is a fantastic opportunity, if I were you, I'd take it!

By Eleanor K, 5JAy





House Textiles Competitions



Years 2 & 3

Design and make a HOUSE banner or mascot using fabric and fabric glue, no stitching necessary. All entries must be submitted on the first day back after the Easter Holidays to the Textiles Studio. Judging will take place in the following week.

All entries must have your **name**, **form** and **House** attached.

All entries will receive house points and prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place.

Years 4 & 5 and Upper School

Design and make a HOUSE banner or mascot using fabric and textile materials and a range of textile techniques.

All entries must be submitted on the first day back after the Easter Holidays to the Textiles Studio.

Judging will take place in the following week.

All entries must have your **name, form** and **House** attached.

Year 4&5 will be judged together and Upper School separately.

All entries will receive house points and prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place.

All entries must have your **name, form** and **House** attached.

Melanie Grimshaw-Smith

Year 8 Commendations

Bronze Award

I'm delighted to award the next batch of Year 8 Commendations. The following pupils have been working hard to top up their House Points, Credits and Commendations and have reached the threshold for their Bronze award:

8JH

Oscar, Hannah G, Ollie G, Adam H

Matthew I, Matt K, Alice L, Hannah M

8AD

Fraser L, Aimee M, Charlotte M, Dan P, Ethan S

8MT

Emma B, James C, Ollie C, Meharpal G, Alex H,

Eve J, Teddy K, Emily L, Ted S, Amelia T

8TG

Cameron B, Lauren D, Marco H, Jonny P, Kitty S, Tate S, George T

Silver Award

A special mention goes to Lucy P who is the first member of Year 8 to be awarded her Silver award for a stunning performance so far this year. Lucy picked up her Bronze award whilst still in Year 7 and has continued to work hard and consistently throughout this year. Huge congratulations, Lucy!

Lee Silva



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

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 20th 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, 07967 497779 and at www.jpparentcoaching.co.uk

Below is a quote from a delegate who attended the workshop a few weeks ago:

"I just wanted to say thank you for yesterday, we really enjoyed the course and found that so many of the experiences you shared resonated with us. We've already put into practice some of your tools with great success. Bedtime, which is often a problem in our house, went really well. We set out the ground rules beforehand and explained consequences for not staying in bed. Although two of our boys came back down after being settled they accepted the consequences, there was no shouting from us or them and they went back off to bed and slept until morning (unheard of!)."

Artist of The Week

This half term, Year 4 have been learning how to make clay moulds and plaster casts. Here is a test piece created by Sadie and Jemima in 4LC.

Well done both.

Julia Ayles



RAISE Writers Club



If you could only choose one author to read for the rest of your life which one would it be ?

What

In raise writers Bella, Sophie, Maria and Octavia asked to interview Mr. Thorpe and he said yes so the girls thought of questions to ask!

How

Mr. Thorpe had some free time and managed to book us in for an appointment!



Who

Mr. Ian Thorpe Head of Downsend School always does the best assemblies.

Where

At Downsend School, Ashtead, Surrey,KT22

When

At lunchtime break!

Answer

"I like two authors but I think the best one would be CJ Sansom (historical thrillers)when I was a kid I wasn't too keen on history but then as I grew older I started to like it and look how far I got. "

By Maria B, 3NL

News from the DPA



VOLUNTEERS

We have a couple of events coming up in the next few months that we need some volunteers for:

LIBRARY BOOK SALE

- **Wednesday 28th February & Thursday 1st March** from 3.30pm – 5.10pm, we need 3 volunteers on each day to help Karen Cresswell in the Library for the Annual Sale.

LOWER SCHOOL EASTER PLANTING EVENT

- Every Year the DPA do an Easter activity on the last day of term in the school for both Lower and Upper school. The Upper School is already sorted, but we need 18 volunteers to help with the Easter planting event for Lower School. This will be in classrooms and you will need to sign in at reception and be in Peterborough Hall by 11am. You then go in pairs into a Lower School classroom to help the children with their activities. The activity will last around 1.5hrs. This is a lovely event that both parents and grandparents can help with.

If you are able to commit to help at any of these events, please email admin@dpaschool.org.uk and you will added to the helpers list for your chosen event.

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

Uniform Shop



NEXT INTAKE OF UNIFORM

Thursday 22nd Feb – Turret

8.30 – 9am

NEXT UNIFORM SALE

Friday 16th March – Social Area

3.45pm – 5pm

(Access via the turret)

Any queries re the uniform please email admin@dpaschool.org.uk. If you are interested in volunteering to help in the uniform shop then we always need help so please let us know via the same email address.

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

2018 Ski Trip to Prato Nevoso

There will be an important information meeting to be held at 4.30pm on Wednesday 7th March in Tregenna Hall. At this meeting there will be a presentation given of the trip and an information booklet handed out that has all the important details in it. I shall hopefully be giving the hoodies out to the children so I am hoping that they can attend too.

See you there!

Dee Vanstone



Head Lice

Please can we ask all parents to be vigilant and regularly check their children for head lice and treat them if necessary.

School Nurse



Dates for your diary:

Thursday 15 March 9.15 am - Year 2 Choir perform as part of St Christopher's Music Festival

Wednesday 21 March 6.00-7.00pm - Informal Drums and Guitar Concert (Mr Precious and Mr Bradfield)

Wednesday 28 March 7.00-9.00pm - Spring Concert 7pm (Sports Hall)

Pupils who would like to perform in assembly please see Mrs Allison to sign up.

Rock Band

Well done to our Year 7 and 8 Rock Band who played 'Clocks' by Coldplay in assembly this morning.



UPDATE ON MUSIC ENSEMBLES

The **Lower School Choir** has got too big - this is a wonderful problem to have!

From now on we will have

- a **Year 2 & 3** Choir (they will meet at **10.15am on Fridays**)
- a **Year 4 & 5** Choir (they will meet at **10.15am on Mondays**)

Next week will be the last time that pupils can join one of these choirs before we begin to prepare seriously for the Spring Concert at the end of term. All they have to do is come along.



Also, please note:

The **Lower School Orchestra** meets at **12.45pm on Tuesdays**. All instrumentalists in **Years 3, 4 and 5** should be playing in this orchestra. All they need to do is come along.

The **Whole School orchestra** meets at **1.15pm on Wednesdays**. Participation in this ensemble is by invitation.

***NEW* Flute Ensemble** starts after half term. All flutists in the Lower School are welcome. The group will meet on Tuesdays at 10.15am Please see Mrs Allison to sign up.



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

Next Half Term @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 19 February	am pm	Townsend-Warner History Prize – Paper 2 Yrs 3 & 4 Girls Cricket Coaching
Tuesday 20 February	All day 9.00am – 1.00pm	8CE Mocks begin Toolkit for Raising Resilient Children Parent's Workshop
Wednesday 21 February	All day 6.30pm – 7.30pm	Yr 4 Curriculum Collapse Day Yr 1 Welcome Evening, Peterborough Hall
Thursday 22 February	6.30pm	Yr 4 Parent-Teacher Interviews, Peterborough Hall
Friday 23 February	Assembly All day 2.30pm	House Quiz (Mr S Watts) 8CE Mocks End Inter House Hockey

Downsend+

Please 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

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Our mailing address is:

Downsend School
1 Leatherhead Road
Leatherhead
Surrey
KT22 8TJ

www.downsend.co.uk

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