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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

23 February 2018



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Welcome from the Headmaster

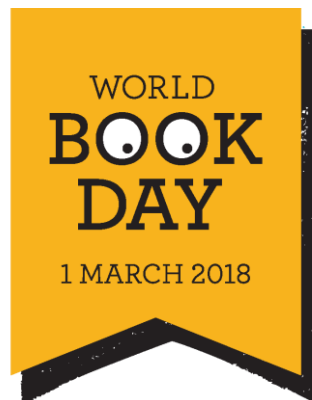
I hope that you all returned from the half-term break refreshed and ready for the challenges ahead. With Year 6 exams out of the way, it was the turn of the Year 8's this week, as they completed their mock exams with a minimum of fuss. As always, there has been a plethora of activities taking place across the year groups and parents, including the Year 4 'The Iron Man' Curriculum Collapse Day, Girls' Cricket Coaching and this morning's House Quiz. On Wednesday, our boys took part in the Surrey Hockey Tournament for the first time, finishing as runners-up in the Plate Competition. Another first for Downsend pupils, something of a theme for the term!

News of Scholarship success continues to roll in; congratulations to the latest recipients below. The week has also seen considerable progress on the Expansion front. I have now received the latest plans for the Arts Centre and this afternoon we completed the interviews for our various staffing appointments. More news on both will be included in February's monthly update letter next week. I look forward to seeing many of you at the DPA Quiz Night tonight.

L. Barras	Academic	Box Hill
L. Barras	Sport	St Teresa's
N. Bourne-Waterhouse	Academic	Reigate Grammar
E. Bell	Drama	Reigate Grammar
H. Coutts	Sport	Manor House
L. Dekker	Academic	Reigate Grammar
L. Dekker	Sport	Reigate Grammar
E. Green	Drama	Epsom College
M. Herbert	Sport	Epsom College
W. Kerven	Sport	Dunottar
A. MacGregor-Todd	Art	Box Hill
A. MacGregor-Todd	Art	Dunottar
B. Roberts	Music	Reigate Grammar
T. Scarry	Sport	Box Hill
T. Stafford	Drama	Box Hill
B. Watkins	Drama Exhibition	Epsom College

Ian Thorpe

World Book Day



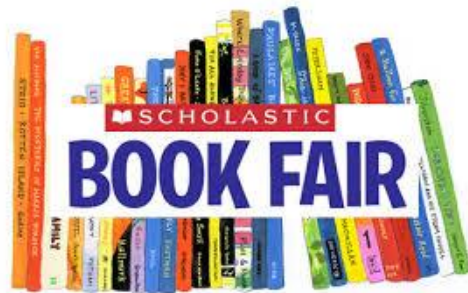
World Book Day is next Thursday 1st March. We will be filling the day with fun book-related activities for all Lower and Upper School pupils, to sit alongside their academic timetables.

Once again, it will be 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

Scholastic Book Fair



We will be holding a Scholastic Book Fair in school next week to celebrate World Book Day. There will be over 200 titles for you and your child to choose from and prices start from £2.99. Your child can also use their World Book Day £1 token towards payment.

The Book Fair will be open every break and lunch time for your child to come along and look at the books, they can also write a wish list of books they would like to buy and bring this home for you to look at.

If you are happy for your child to order and buy some books, there are a variety of ways this can be done:

They can bring in a Scholastic Gift voucher to spend at the Book Fair (which means you are happy for them to make their own choices on what they buy at the Book Fair). Gift Vouchers can be purchased online before the Book Fair at bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents.

or

Books can be ordered and paid for by sending in the correct amount in cash or cheque (made payable to Downsend School) along with the wish list/order form. Please put the payment and form in an envelope with your child's name and form on it addressed to Mrs Karen Cresswell/School Librarian.

or

Books can be ordered and bought by parents (cash or cheque) on Wednesday 28th February or Thursday 1st March from 3.45pm to 5.00pm in the School Library.

We are really looking forward to hosting the Book Fair at school and don't forget that every book you buy rewards our School Library with fantastic new books for the whole school to enjoy.

Karen Cresswell

Lower School Update

We are delighted this week to welcome Lauren Albert to the Lower School team. Lauren joins us from Epsom Pre-Prep in the role of Lower School Administrator. We are sure that everyone will give her a warm welcome here at Main Site and know that Lauren will enjoy working with all of our families and staff. Please do feel free to contact Lauren with any queries related to the Lower School at LowerSchoolAdmin@downsend.co.uk

Clare Kirkham



Year 1 Welcome Evening

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome so many of our Year 1 families to the Lower School for our 'Welcome to Year 2' event on Wednesday night. Mrs De Vries, Mrs Burns and the whole Year 2 team loved being able to show off the wonderful work of our current Year 2 pupils and to meet some new faces in advance of next year. I hope that those of you who did attend found this evening a useful and enjoyable event. If you were unable to attend and would like a copy of the information that was given out please contact Lauren Albert at LowerSchoolAdmin@downsend.co.uk

Clare Kirkham



Year 6 Visit the Globe Theatre

On the Friday before half term, Year 6 travelled to London to spend an exciting and informative day at the Globe Theatre. Once there, we were divided into three workshop groups and were given a tour of the theatre by some resident actors. The tour was really informative and took us from the entrance to the pits and the gallery to the stage where we later got to act too! Fortunately nobody descended to hell through the trapdoor.

Next we were taken on our groups to some drama studios where we spent an hour working on some drama exercises related to both the plays 'Macbeth' which we have been studying in class and 'Twelfth Night', the Year 6 Drama Production this term. The actors were brilliant and some budding young actors were spotted!

After lunch in one of the studios, it was off to watch the sword fighting demonstration where a couple actually fought as they would have in Shakespearian times and plays using a variety of swords, daggers and long wooden poles. This was great fun and some of us even got to hold the swords. A short trip to the very expensive but excellent shop followed and finally we looked around the Exhibition Hall where we had to focus on answering some questions.

All in all an excellent day to finish off our Shakespeare project.

Quotes from Year 6 on the Globe:

'I loved the drama workshop. It was really fun and interesting'. Rhianna P

'The Globe theatre was an amazing trip, as when you walked into the theatre, it felt like a different world'
Ben B

'I loved the sword fighting because you got to learn about the different swords.' Anita B

'An incredible theatre. Very impressive!'. Ines M

Dee Vanstone



Year 4 Curriculum Collapse Day

Year 4 enjoyed taking part in an 'Iron Man' themed curriculum collapse day on Wednesday, to bring to life the book that they are studying in English. They planned their own Iron Man stories, designed and built Iron Men out of junk materials and took part in a fantastic robot dance workshop! All of the Year 4 tutors were very impressed to see how hard everyone worked, demonstrating excellent teamwork and problem solving skills throughout the day.

Reuben B summed up the day perfectly in his tweet: Iron Man Day was a great success @ Downsend! I really enjoyed building the Iron Man out of junk and I had great fun at the dance workshop. #inspiringyoungminds #year4 #awesome😊

Amy O'Toole



General Knowledge House Quiz

Before half term, each child in the whole school, completed a general knowledge quiz in form time. The results of this were used to make up teams for the final round of a University Challenge style quiz. This morning, during whole school assembly, each team from the four houses met. Mr Watts asked 10 starter

questions (each worth 10 points) where the first to answer would then answer two following bonus questions (each worth 5 points). A big thank you to the Heads of Department who helped me put this final round together by suggesting some challenging question. This was such a fun event and congratulations to all the teams and especially to the winning house Wisley!

The teams were as follows:

Wisley – Ethan S, Brandon G, Shihong F and Elliot M

Ranmore – Chloe C, Matthew Y, Emma F and Freyja B-H

Headley – Joe R, Amy N-J, James R and James S

Norbury – Jonny P, Thomas M, Alex G and Grace H

Helen Black





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.

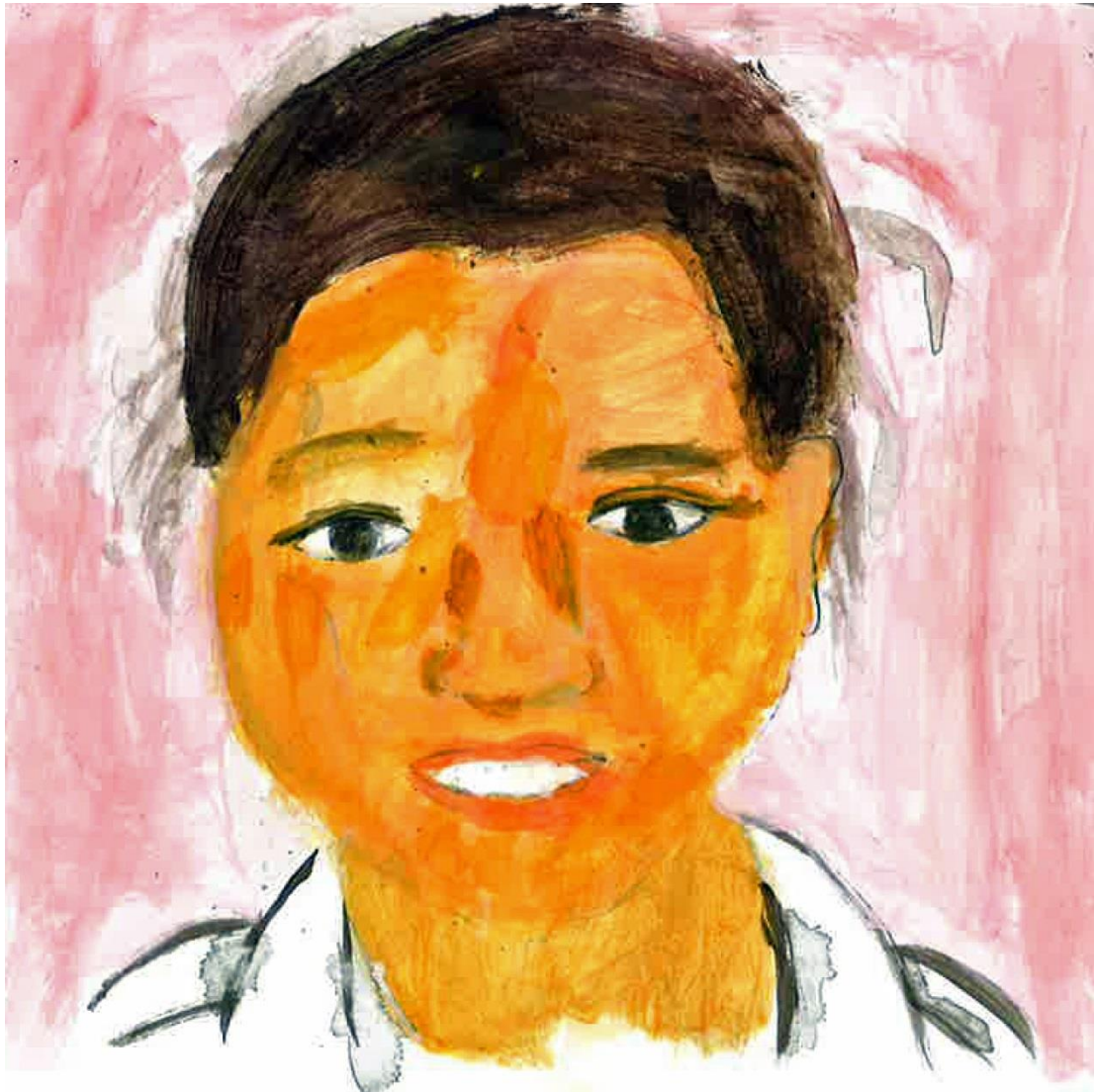
All entries must have your **name, form** and **House** attached.

Melanie Grimshaw-Smith

Artist of The Week

Well done to this week's Artist of The Week Ines M. As part of their Portraiture project, Year 6 have painted their self-portrait. This is a fantastic example by Ines in 6DV.

Julia Ayles



News from the DPA



QUIZ NIGHT – TONIGHT !!

We are really looking forward to welcoming over 70 of you to tonight's DPA Speed Quiz it is sure to be a really funny night. Adrian and Doug the Downsend Chefs are cooking us all an Indian banquet that we are all looking forward to. I have a great supply of alcohol ready for those parents who want to have a Cobra or glass of vino with their meal. The Quiz guy James is poised with some really tricky questions to even test the brain power of the teachers!

All profits from tonight's event will be going to the Schools charity of The Royal Marsden.



VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to those that have come forward to help out at next week's book sale in the Library, we are now full. We are still in need of some volunteers to help out the Lower School children in their end of term Easter Planting activity.

If you are interested in getting involved in the DPA committee we would love to hear from you as a number of us are Yr 8 parents therefore will be leaving the school in July. We therefore are looking for a new Chair and a number of key new committee members. We are also in need of a co-ordinator for stall bookings for the Christmas fair and someone to help get us a sponsorship and advertising for the fair. CAN YOU HELP??

If you are able to commit to help or want to chat through, please email admin@dpschool.org.uk and I will contact you.

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

Uniform Shop



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

Updates at Stevensons

Latest News...

CHANGES AT LESTER BOWDEN

As part of a continuing range of improvements at the Lester Bowden store in Epsom, we have initiated a refurbishment of the entire store.

Soon the Schoolwear department in the store will be re-branded as 'Stevensons School Uniform Outfitters' to bring it in line with our other high street branches.

We are a family run, specialist uniform and sportswear provider who were originally established in St. Albans, Hertfordshire back in 1925. We currently operate seven other retail branches, 15 on-campus shops and over 400 online school shops.

Changing opening hours for Schoolwear

In line with all other Stevensons shops, the schoolwear department in Lester Bowden will now close on Sundays. This reflects the exceptionally low demand that we have seen both since taking over Lester Bowden last year and our other Schoolwear shops. However, the rest of the store will remain open on Sunday 10.30am – 4.30pm.

Improved online school shopping

We have recently transferred online purchasing of your Schoolwear onto our main 'Stevensons' website (www.stevensons.co.uk), which includes the benefits of low cost postage and packing and FREE returns. Once registered, parents are able to download the most up-to-date uniform price lists for their school and browse by year group and gender to find exactly what they need. Purchasing online is a quick and hassle free and we also offer a FREE 'Click and Collect' service for customers who wish to order online and collect in store.

Unrivalled 120 day returns

Parents can buy Stevensons schoolwear with confidence, knowing that they can take advantage of our unrivalled 120 day returns policy to exchange unused items, if a child has a sudden growth spurt before starting school.

STEVENSONS

EST. 1925

SCHOOL UNIFORM OUTFITTERS

2018 Ski Trip to Prato Nevoso

It is now only just over a month to go before we depart for the slopes in Italy. The great news is, as many of you will know, that the snow is the best it has been in years!

On Wednesday 7th March at 4.30pm there is an information evening in the Tregenna Hall which I would be grateful if everyone could attend. At this meeting, you will see where the children are staying and given information on everything from the skiing to the apres-ski activities. It is very important that you all attend if possible as I will be giving out an information booklet which contains all you need to know about this trip. I will hopefully be giving out the ski hoodies to the children too!

Last checklist:

Passports and EHIC forms to Dee Vanstone by Friday 16th March 2018.

Pocket money – 50 euros in small notes to Jon Albert by Wednesday 21st March 2018

Medicines to Susie Taylor either before the departure day or on the morning if necessary.

Dee Vanstone



Trekathon Update

I have decided to join Miss Black on her 26 mile challenge in support of our fabulous school charity, The Royal Marsden. I will be strapping on my walking boots to challenge myself to the hilt to walk over hills and dales on the South Downs Trekathon on 26th May. This truly is a huge challenge for me as usually the most walking I do is a leisurely stroll in the park! As you can see from my pictures below - the training has started in earnest!

If you would like to support me please follow the link to my just giving page.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sally-temlett1>

Sally Temlett



Music Update



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)

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 Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 26 February	All Week	Book Week 8CE Mock Language Orals Week
Tuesday 27 February	6.30pm	Yr 4 Parent-Teacher Interviews, Peterborough Hall
Wednesday 28 February	pm	Yr 8 SATRO Problem Solving Event
Thursday 1 March	All Day All Day All Day 2.30pm	World Book Day U11 IAPS Netball Yr 3 Forest School Visit @ Downsend Yr 5 Inter-House Netball
Friday 2 March	am All Day	Open Morning 1 st VII IAPS Netball

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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