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DOWNSEND
SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

04 May 2018



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Welcome from the Headmaster

This week has been a week of comings and goings, which started with everyone's resilience being tested on Monday as Year 6 braved wintry conditions as part of their Science visit to Nower Wood. As always, the pupils made the best of the conditions, but were grateful to return to the relative warmth of Downsend in the afternoon. Thankfully, Year 2 (Bay Pond), Year 3 (Butser Ancient Farm Park), and Year 7 (Tower of London) all enjoyed more summery conditions for their visits, gaining some valuable experience as a result. Today we welcomed Cognita Group CEO, Chris Jansen, to our school. Mr Jansen has been on a whistle-stop tour of various schools in Europe this week and we were delighted to show him what is so special about our own environment. Suffice it to say that he was incredibly impressed with the atmosphere and approach, and the determination of the children to succeed.

My Assembly this morning centred on finding enough space to clear one's head and think – your children will explain how we used drinking water to demonstrate this! I hope that you have many such opportunities over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Ian Thorpe

8S visit Dover Castle

On Tuesday, Mr Dunning and Mr Murray-Pearce took 8S to Dover castle. We arrived at around 11 and made our way to the light house which was built in the Roman times. Right next to it is a chapel which we also visited. After taking a few photos we went to the castle itself where a guide showed us a medieval map. We all had fun guessing what the strange looking animals on the map were before we left to go to the underground hospital.

This hospital was used in WW2 where soldiers were sent for emergency treatment. Afterwards we were all very tired from the walking and stopped for a well-deserved lunch. When we had finished, we looked around the Princess Wales' Royal Regiment Museum which was very interesting and had army uniform for us to dress up in.

Our last stop was back to the castle which was modelled to look like it did during when Henry II stayed there. We visited the kitchen, living room and bedrooms before heading to the gift shop where Mr Dunning very kindly bought us all an ice cream. We got back in the minibus and arrived back at school at around 5:30pm. I had a great time at Dover castle and I learnt a lot, I'm sure the rest of the scholarship class would agree with me.

Lucy P



Year 7 trip to the Tower of London

On Thursday, Year 7 visited the Tower of London. After the long coach journey we finally arrived and went straight to the Learning Centre. This was an interesting and enjoyable experience as we were given artefacts and had to decipher how old they were and what the artefacts were used for.

Next, we all went outside to have a well-earned lunch. After the break we visited the shop, where most of us bought more sweets than souvenirs!

Following lunch we walked to the Jewel House. It was fascinating to read about the Jewels and to be face to face with many Kings' and Queens' crowns.

The next stop was the White Tower. It was brilliant to see the many Coats of Arms from past royals. We saw a range of things from guns and swords to a Chapel.

Lastly we went to the Torture Chamber. It was interesting and quite breath-taking to hear and see how they tortured people in the Tower. The day was drawing to a close and we got on the coach back to school. Overall it was a very enjoyable day out.

By Katherine V 7MS



Marvellous Minibeasts

This week Year 2 headed off for the wilds of Godstone to visit Bay Pond Nature Reserve as part of their current Science studies about living organisms and their habitats.

Despite experiencing 'fine weather for ducks' during their visit on Wednesday, 2YdV and 2ST showed resilience and pressed on through the drizzle to find an abundance of woodlice, beetles and creatures that love the damp wetness of a typical English spring say. Meanwhile 2CW and 2LB benefited from warmth and sunshine which enticed out a wide variety of pond creatures including several newts, caddisfly larvae, water boatmen and pond skaters to name but a few.

The added bonus for some was the opportunity to meet a young male hedgehog who had been rescued from the wild and weighed in at a hefty kilogram. The children returned to school armed with their own toy hedgehog and a challenge to participate in The Wildlife Trust's 30 Days Wild Challenge which involves undertaking an outdoors activity (no matter how small eg to roll down a hill or how big eg to build an outdoor shelter) during every day of the month of June.

The Year 2 teachers look forward to planning some wild outdoor opportunities around the school and also to hearing about the whacky and wonderful activities the children get up to at home!

The national hedgehog population is under threat from extinction. Surrey Wildlife Trust is currently undertaking a survey of the hedgehog population in Surrey and is asking all Surrey residents to report any sightings of hedgehogs (alive or dead) through the Trust's website:

<https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/record>. This will enable the Trust to better support the survival of hedgehogs in our local area.

Year 2 Teachers



Year 3 Trip to Butser Ancient Farm

On Tuesday, the Year 3 children we were transported back to Celtic times when they went on a school trip to Butser Ancient Farm. They enjoyed a wide range of practical activities such as chalk carving, becoming archaeologists and digging in the soil for artefacts, and making Celtic jewellery. We enjoyed visiting a replica of a Celtic roundhouse, and even had the chance to make daub to construct our own wall! We were incredibly lucky with the weather and even got to enjoy eating our lunch outside. We can't wait for our next trip to Wakehurst Place in a few short weeks!



Pavilion Opening Times



A reminder that the Anniversary Pavilion Cafe is open from 3-5pm on Thursdays and Fridays for the remainder of the Summer Term, serving hot and cold drinks and snacks. Free WiFi is available.

Carole Dickie



Music Update






Upcoming Events

- Friday 18 May - Informal Voice Concert (pupils of Hayley Griffiths) 5.30pm
- Monday 21 May - Informal Piano Concert (pupils of Sarah Cobby) 5.45pm
- Monday 11 June - Informal Violin Concert (pupils of Mr Bayley) 5.00pm
- Monday 11 June - Informal Flute Concert (pupils of Mrs Hart) 6.15pm
- Tuesday 12 June - Downsend Rocks (Band Evening) 7.00pm
- Wednesday 13 June - Informal Guitar Concert (Mr Smith) 5.30pm
- Monday 25 June - Informal Piano and Guitar Concert (pupils of Miss Rob and Mr Keer) 5.30pm



Music Clubs and Ensembles

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

Monday		Music Ensembles		Wednesday	
Year 4 & 5 Choir	10.15 - 10.45 a.m. (Mrs Allison)	April 2018 	Brass Ensemble	8.00 - 8.30 a.m. (Mr Booth)	
Upper School Choir	10.45 - 11.15 a.m. (Mrs Allison)		Lower School Rock Band	10.15 - 10.45 a.m. (Mr Broadfield)	
Tuesday			Upper School Rock Band	10.45 - 11.15 a.m. (Mr Broadfield)	
Chamber Choir (Rehearsal 1)	8.00 - 8.30 a.m. (Mrs Allison)		Whole School Orchestra	1.15 - 1.45 p.m. (Mrs Allison and Mrs Hart)	
Flute Ensemble	10.15 - 10.45 a.m. (Mrs Hart)	Thursday			
US Mixed Ensemble	10.45 - 11.15 a.m. (Mrs Allison)	Lower School Percussion Club/ LS Mixed Ensemble	10.15 - 10.45 a.m. (Mrs Allison)		
Upper School Rock Band	10.45 - 11.15 a.m. (Mr Broadfield)	Upper School Mixed Ensemble	10.45 - 11.15 a.m. (Mrs Allison)		
Lower School Orchestra	12.45 - 1.15 p.m. (Mrs Allison and Mrs Hart)	Chamber Choir (Rehearsal 2)	1.15 - 1.45 p.m. (Mrs Allison and Mrs Bayley)		
Lower & Upper School Rock Band	1.15 - 1.45 p.m. (Mr Broadfield)	Friday			
		Whole School Orchestra	8.00 - 8.45 a.m. (Mrs Allison)		
		Year 2 & 3 Choir	10.15 - 10.45 a.m.		
		US Mixed Ensemble	10.45 - 11.15 a.m. (Mrs Allison)		



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.

We **currently have spaces** for anyone who would like to learn **recorder, clarinet or saxophone**. Please contact Mrs Allison if you would like to find out more.

EAT SLEEP BUZZ REPEAT

theBrassAcademy

Outstanding courses for brass players

2018 9-13 April at Mill Hill School London 30 July-3 August at Yehudi Menuhin School, Surrey 20-24 August at Purcell School Hertfordshire

Book now. Join the buzz. brass-academy.co.uk Find us on   

Nicole Allison

Lower School Surrey Cricket Success

Not only are the girls embracing cricket and making superb progress, but our boys have recorded unprecedented success. Congratulations to the children below for being selected into the Surrey CCC performance program this summer. It is amazing to have so many talented pupils within the Lower School; now all we need is some better weather!

Very well done to all of you for working so hard throughout the winter!

Jon Albert

U10

Ralphie A

Alex D

Sam B

Luca C-S

Issac R

U9

Alex G

Zak S

Rhyen P

Bobby H

Toby D

Theo J-M




News from the DPA

Downsend
Parents'
Association



Registered Charity No. 1116557

You are invited to the
DPA Summer Ball 2018



Friday 15th June
7.00pm – Midnight
The Conservatory at Painshill
Cobham

Fantastic Black Tie Event with a pre dinner drink
Three Course Dinner with Wine
Music, Auction and Silent Auction

Tickets £85.00 per person
To book please email: events@dpaschool.org.uk

Downsend
Parents'
Association



Registered Charity No. 1116557

Tickets Selling Fast

Over 50% of available tickets have already sold!

We still need a lot more of you to get your details in for the Annual Parents Summer Ball, we have sold around 50% of available tickets and some years are still to request tables. Even if you don't have a table, we can allocate you with parents within the same year and make up a table. Whether you just need 1 ticket or 20 let me know and I can sort you out. Our aim is to get at least 2 tables from each year.

The Ball has always been a great event and this year we hope you can join us. Tickets are priced at £85pp and include: welcome drink, three course meal with wine, music, live auction, silent auction and photographer all in the most beautiful walled garden setting at Painshill Park.

Over the past 3 years tickets have sold out quickly and in the interest of fairness we will book places on a first come first served basis. Please complete the [booking form](#) and return it to us at events@dpaschool.org.uk to confirm your place. You do not need to fill a table to book a place and we recommend that you do not hold back on sending your form whilst waiting for a group booking.

Note: Each round table is for maximum of 10 people. (I have 2 Tables of 12 available too – On request)

Please have a look at the wonderful venue we have managed to secure this year
www.painshillevents.co.uk

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the night.

Auction Prizes – URGENTLY NEEDED



Do you have a villa you want to lend us, or own or work for a company that could offer a prize to be auctioned at the Ball? We never make money on selling the ball tickets, this year we are selling at cost, so all of the fund raising on the night is from the auction. Without some really cracking auction items we simply will not make any money. Remember that every bit of profit we make on the night goes towards EXTRAS for your children. In the Past we have paid for musical instruments, the playground fort, The Pavilion, extra sporting equipment and much more over the years.

If you can offer something such as sporting tickets, spa packages, experiences, hotel/holidays or anything you feel we could auction to parents on the night please email me at admin@dpaschool.org.uk

Umbrellas for sale



We know its May and it's supposed to be lovely and sunny, but we know that rain always shows up when you least expect it, normally when standing watching your child on the sports pitch! Well the DPA can come to the rescue and offer you the Downsend Umbrellas. In Limited Edition (Black & White) and Standard (Red & White) Priced at £25 and £20. If you would like one please email Nicola Burger at admin@dpschool.org.uk and she can arrange collection from Reception.

Many Thanks hope you have a lovely long weekend.

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

Ski Trip 2019



Following on from a very enjoyable and successful trip to Prato Nevoso in Italy this year, we have decided to change venues and head higher to Les Trois Vallees; basing ourselves in the popular village of Les Menuires in the French Alps. This a wonderful opportunity for the children to stay away from home with their friends for a week, enjoy a great sport and take part in a wide programme of suitable après-ski activities under careful staff supervision.

For the first time having combined with other Cognita Schools with children of the same age, we will have sole occupancy of the hotel, providing us with an incredibly safe and exciting experience. If you have any questions about our plans or about your child's suitability for this venture, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In order to secure our preferred accommodation on the piste, we need to book early. We hope to be able to take whoever wishes to come but places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please send your completed slip to me by **Friday 25 May** to secure your child's place on DownsendSki 2019.

Helen Black

J'ai du Talent

Having sat their scholarships, the 8S groups having been having fun preparing little sketches to perform. Today our plays consisted of a French Talent show, some robots who malfunctioned quite badly, a bad tempered waiter and some ill-mannered children! The 8S group performed with great aplomb and the Lower School joined in the spirit of the performance'

Sarah Gregory



South Downs Trekathon For Royal Marsden



On Saturday 26 May, Helen Black and Sally Temlett will be taking part in the South Downs Trekathon to raise money for the school charity, The Royal Marsden. This is a tough event over rolling downs and cliffs and at 26 miles, it forms an enormous challenge! Helen and Sally have set up a page on Just Giving for any donations, the links are below.

Many thanks,

Helen Black and Sally Temlett

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

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

Saturday Sports Club



Tomorrow's Saturday Sports Club (5th May 2018) is on as normal.

Jon Albert

Artist of The Week

Well done to this week's Artist of The Week Charlie in 4JN.

This week, Year 4 have been putting their tonal shading skills to the test. Here is Charlie's excellent study of the inside of a red pepper.

Julia Ayles



Head Lice

There has been a recent incidence of Head Lice. We would ask that parents/carers please read the following advice regarding detecting and treating head lice. The best way to stop head lice infection is to do detection combing regularly.

Head lice are small parasites (about the size of a sesame seed when fully grown) that live very close to the scalp. Nits are not the same as head lice – they are empty egg cases which stick to the hair and they are harmless. You only have head lice if you find moving lice (not a nit).

Anyone can get head lice, adults and children, and they do not care if the hair is dirty or clean, short or long. Regular hair care may help to spot lice at an early stage and the best way to stop infection is for families to check their heads regularly using detection combing. Never use insecticidal liquids or lotions to prevent infection, or just in case and do not treat unless you are sure that you have found a living, moving louse.

If you would like further information on Head Lice, please contact the School Nurse nurse@downsend.co.uk.

Helen Ferguson

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 07 May	All Day	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 08 May	All Day 4.30pm	8S Legal Challenge Yr 7 French Trip Meeting, Tregenna Hall
Thursday 10 May	All Day	8S Trip to The Globe
Friday 11 May	Assembly All Day	Dominic Mott, Head of Senior School, Hurstpierpoint Lower School Open Box Theatre Visit
Saturday 12 May	am	Open Morning



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

[Contact Form 2017-2018](#)

[May Half Term Description](#)

[May Half Term 2018](#)

[Summer 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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