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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

05 October 2018



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A message from the Headmaster

The Lower School has returned to normal having resembled a Circus last week and the Year 4 and 5 pupils clearly enjoyed their trips to Fishbourne and Herstmonceux respectively. As always, they were the perfect Downsend ambassadors, much as our Upper School guides will be tomorrow for our first Open Morning of the year. Record numbers are already registered to attend, a sure sign that the excitement surrounding our move to a GCSE offering is spreading further afield. We will also be hosting our own U9 Football Tournament tomorrow, so good luck to all those taking part. Here's hoping our boys can be as successful as our U11 hockey girls and U8 and U10 boys, who completed a clean sweep of tournament wins last week, the U8's for the fourth year running at the Cranmore tournament.

On Sunday, I will be flying out to Barcelona to attend the Cognita Global Conference, where the focus will be on pupil well-being. I have been asked to present on Downsend's Approach, including the provision of an ELSA and a School Councillor, as an example of best practice within our 67 schools worldwide. We are

very proud that our integrated strategy, aimed at promoting such positive attitudes to school life, has been recognised in this way. Mr watts and my excellent SLT will be holding the reigns next week, so please do contact them if you need any assistance, as I will have only sporadic access to emails. I will however be sending an update letter as we end the first month of the new academic year. It contains information on our IT refresh, the Arts Centre, new teachers and refurb plans for the Lower and Upper Schools. Later this morning I will be heading off to Milton Keynes to sign off the project. The first monthly update promises to be an exciting one!

Ian Thorpe

Open Morning



With our first open morning of the academic year tomorrow **Saturday 6th October 9.15am-12 noon**, we wanted to remind existing parents, and inform new parents, that we like to see as many of our pupils as possible attending school in smart uniform for open morning. Here they will be able to take part in some amazing and fun educational activities and to be on hand to discuss their school life with prospective parents and pupils. As our greatest advocates, our current pupils provide invaluable insight and information to prospective parents considering Downsend for their children, as we are sure you can appreciate! Mrs Kirkham and Mr Newland are planning a full range of activities available for your children, and refreshments will be served. As always, we are grateful for your ongoing support, and we hope to see as many of our pupils as possible in the morning.

Clare Kirkham and Karl Newland

Red, White & Blue Day



A sea of red, white and blue children greeted Mr Thorpe on the turret this morning, as we began our special day of events to commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War. The whole day commenced with a Whole School House competition; each House had to create three flags from the Triple Entente Alliance. The Sports Hall became covered in tiny bits of red, white and blue paper as the children frantically created their flags. Judging the winning flags was incredibly tough, but Norbury just narrowly won. Next all the children rotated round activities gaining insight into different aspects of the war; from it's causes to experiencing trench warfare and from creating poppies to learning songs from WW1. The morning was rounded off with a giant street party in the Dining Room.

My thanks to all the staff for their amazing enthusiasm and support this morning. Special thanks to Pete Mitchell for helping me to coordinate the Lower School Events.

Helen Black, Head of History





Anti-Bullying at Downsend

**STOP
BULLYING**

Over the past two weeks, I have given separate assemblies to Years 4 and 5, and to Years 6, 7 and 8 on the topic of Bullying. Mrs de Vries has given a similar assembly to Years 2 and 3. The assemblies have focussed firstly on what bullying is. We have emphasised to the children that bullying is any deliberate, repeated, unkind behaviour.

The three words deliberate, repeated and unkind are important. We followed this up with examples such as name calling, deliberately hiding someone's things, repeated teasing and so forth. The second part of the assembly focussed on what to do if you felt you were being bullied. The key bit of advice was to tell someone, ideally your parents or your form teacher, but any member of staff, and not to keep quiet because unkindness will continue until it is stopped.

On Tuesday of this week we had a very informative online safety evening for parents and children (Year 6 and above) at Downsend. It very much focussed on the dangers posed by online bullying and what to do. Later in the term we will be supporting National Anti-Bullying Week (12-16 November) with a programme of assemblies and talks for the children.

We like to believe that we have created a caring and supporting culture at Downsend. That said, we are always aware that acts of unkindness can break out at any given time and it is our aim not to be complacent. If, for any reason, your child is unhappy, please share this with their form tutor as soon as possible.

Seb Watts

E-Safety Evening



Tuesday evening this week saw families from the Upper School attend an important E-Safety evening hosted by Childnet, the country's leading provider of internet safety in education. The workshop is designed for both parents and children as one of the most vital ingredients of a healthy and safe online environment is communication between parent and child. With this in mind, the session opened with a conversation between parent and child about their online habits! The evening covered areas such as online reputation where everyone looked at a fake profile with a critical eye, how to use various aspects of the internet whether it be for entertainment, communication or for any other reason.

I have many resources for those parents that missed the meeting ranging from 'Information and Online Resources', 'Young People and Social Networking Services' and 'Supporting Young People Online'. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like any of these resources. Alternatively, I will leave them in the Admin Office for collection. There are a wealth of resources on the Childnet website too www.childnet.com or www.saferinternet.org.uk

Dates for your diary

Other PSHE activities this term:

Dr Aric Sigman will be giving a **talk** to both parents and staff on **'Preventing Mental Health issues in Children'** on **Tuesday 13th November at 4.30**. This will form part of our anti-bullying week here at Downsend. Dr Aric Sigman travels abroad frequently to study child wellbeing and development, and these observations, combined with his PSHE work, have provided some clear insights on this issue. He is a member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on a 'Fit and Healthy Childhood' and a contributing author to the new Parliamentary Group Report on Mental Health in Childhood.

There is little attention on actually *preventing* mental health issues. While a child's life and family circumstances as well as genes are obvious factors influencing their mental health, there are additional lifestyle and family factors that we do have some control over and that can make an enormous difference to a child's wellbeing.

This talk will spell out practical and achievable, yet under-acknowledged, steps that parents, schools and pupils can take to strengthen children's mental health and reduce the risk of mental health problems developing.

Sapphire – Sapphire is an upcoming singer who will sing some of her latest compositions as well as delivering a clear message after safety online, cyberbullying and mental health issues. This is to take place on **Friday 9th November** during school- time. If you would like to take a look at her follow the [link](#).

Dee Vanstone

Downsend House Bake Off



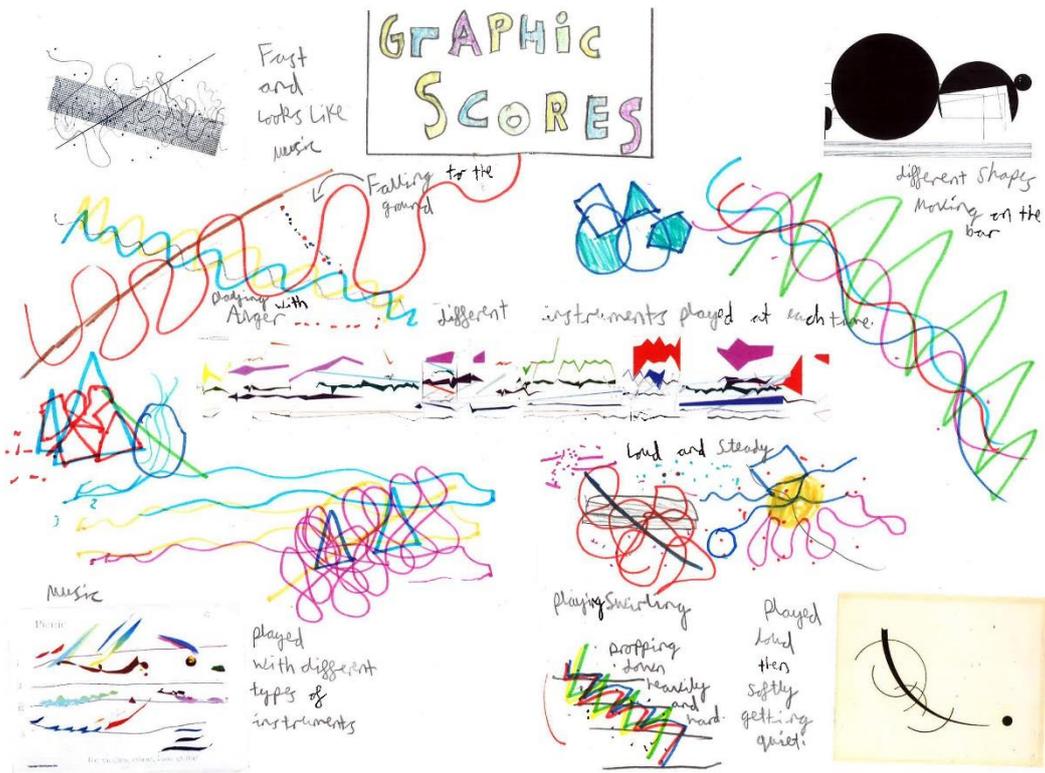


Artist Of The Week

This week's AOTW is Alexander T in 6ST. Year 6 have been learning about Graphic Scores and how music can be 'drawn'. This week, we had fun drawing along to a variety of music and this is one of

Alexander's scores.

Julia Ayles





Music Update

An updated timetable of music ensembles is as follows:

Music Ensembles September 2018



<u>Monday</u>	
Year 4 & 5 Choir (Mrs Allison)	9.45 - 10.15
Upper School Choir (Mrs Allison)	10.45 - 11.15



<u>Tuesday</u>	
Chamber Choir (All pupils) (Mrs Allison)	8.00 - 8.30
LS Guitar Ensemble (Mr Smith)	9.45 - 10.15
Upper School Rock Band 1 (Mr Bradfield)	10.45 - 11.15
Lower School Orchestra (Mrs Allison and Mrs Hart)	12.45 - 1.15

<u>Wednesday</u>	
Upper School Rock Band 2 (Mr Bradfield)	8.00 - 8.30
Lower School Rock Band (Mr Bradfield)	9.45 - 10.15
Upper School Rock Band 3 (Mr Bradfield)	10.45 - 11.15
Whole School Orchestra (US pupils) (Mrs Allison)	1.15 - 1.45
Whole School Orchestra (LS pupils) (Mrs Allison)	3.15 - 3.45



<u>Thursday</u>	
Brass Ensemble (Mr Boote)	8.00 - 8.30
Lower School Recorder Ensemble (Mrs Morse-Glover)	9.45 - 10.15
Upper School Scholarship/rehearsal (Mrs Allison)	10.45 - 11.15
Chamber Choir (Lower School pupils) (Mrs Allison)	12.45 - 1.15
Chamber Choir (US pupils) (Mrs Allison)	1.15 - 1.45

<u>Friday</u>	
Whole School Orchestra (All pupils) (Mrs Allison)	8.00 - 8.45
Lower School String Ensemble (Mr Bayley)	12.15 - 12.45



If you were in an ensemble last year it is assumed you will participate this year. Please sign up on the What's On board to show that you will be continuing. Pupils should see Mrs Allison if they have any questions.

An M-Tech Club timetable can be downloaded [here](#).

Instrumental Lessons at Downsend School



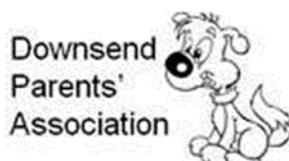
If your child would like to learn an instrument at Downsend with one of our tutors then please email the Head of Music at nicole.allison@downsend.co.uk. Currently we have tutors for the following instruments:

Flute, Recorder, Oboe, Clarinet, Cello, 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

DPA News & Events



DPA Annual General Meeting

Thank you to all who took the time to attend the 2018 DPA AGM including parents, existing committee members and staff. Following the completion of her tenure as Chair, Maxine Homewood handed over to our two new Co-Chairs Louise Clark (Y2 parent) and Leanne Van Der Hoeven (Y4 parent). We are grateful for Maxine's significant contributions during her tenure and wish her well in her future endeavours.

Leanne and Louise are already working closely with the existing Committee team Alex (Secretary) and Laura (Treasurer) to ensure we continue to deliver thoughtful DPA activities that enrich our children's experience at Downsend, and continue to build our DPA community. If you see Leanne or Louise at school, do stop and say hello.

We would love to hear your thoughts on activities that you would like to see the DPA focus on in the coming years, get in touch with the DPA at admin@dpaschool.org.uk

The AGM also saw us welcome several new committee members who are working to support the delivery of events such as the Christmas Fair. Parent participation is a really important part of the DPA's ability to be successful, so it is wonderful to see so many new people engaging in the Committee. If you would like to get involved in any of our activities, do get in touch – the more volunteers, the merrier!

For an overview of items discussed at the AGM, please click [here](#) for a copy of the outgoing Chair's report. The treasurer's summary of our fundraising activities and expenditure for 2017 will be provided following the completion of the annual audit.

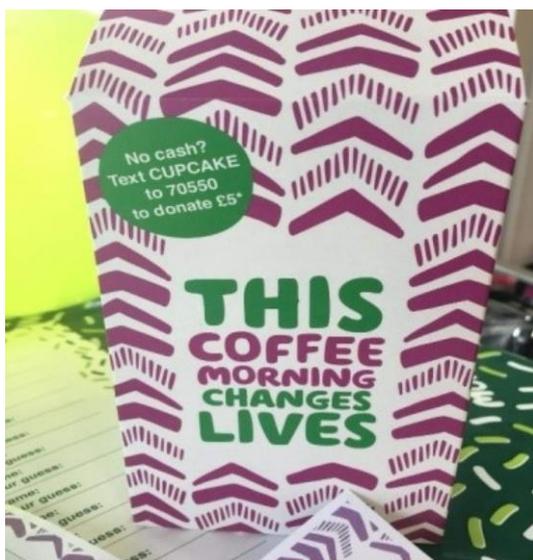
Lou & Leanne, DPA Co-Chairs



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who supported the Macmillan coffee morning on Friday. It was wonderful to see so many people help with event arrangements, bake delicious cakes and biscuits and attend the event. We are thrilled to say that this coffee morning raised a total of **£306.60** for Macmillan.

Alex Dale, DPA Secretary



Dates for Your Diary

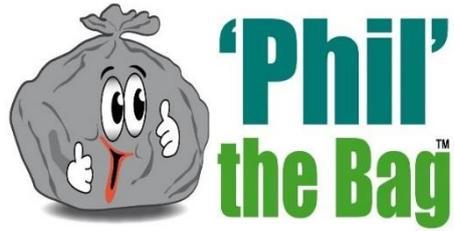
Please note a full DPA events calendar will be issued shortly.

Phil The Bag: Wednesday 07 November 2018

It's that time of year again. Restore your Feng Shui and be kind to the environment by clearing out those unworn or unloved clothes that someone else could make use of. Phil The Bag will even take our old logoed uniform which we can no longer sell, aiming to send it to schools in developing countries. The more clothes we donate, the more money we earn for our school.

DPA CLOTHES RECYCLING DAY

Wednesday 07 November 2018



From 8.15am – 9.15am
At the Sports hall side entrance

Alex Dale, DPA Secretary

Uniform Sale



The next uniform **intake** is:

WEDNESDAY 17th OCTOBER

Drop off at the Turret Entrance from 8am
Each item needs to be cleaned, labelled and in a bag.

PLEASE NOTE:

We no longer accept old logo uniform, grey trousers/shorts, swimwear and trainers/football boots - if any of these items are received they will be returned back. Any items that do not have labels attached we will presume are for donation. Labels can be found on the website [here](#).

We are in the process of sorting the cheques relating to items sold within the last financial year so please bear with us whilst we do this, we will try our hardest to send these out asap.

If you have any questions, please send me an email at admin@dpschool.org.uk

DPA

Downsend +

Details of our action packed October Half Term and Christmas 2018 **activity programmes** are available to download [here](#).

Download a booking form for **October Half Term** [here](#), and for **Christmas 2018** [here](#). A [contact form](#) for each child booked will need to be completed for the new academic year.

Please contact downsendplus@downsend.co.uk if you have any queries or call 07909 861280.

Rebecca Peek

News from our Pre-Preps



Rhymetime Fun - National Poetry Day

We were in the 'zone' on Thursday as poetry, rhythm and rhyme could be heard in every corner of the school. National Poetry Day gave us a wonderful opportunity to share some favourite poems. Each class performed their 'Poem of the Week' to the rest of the school and we really giggled at the poem we chose as Ashted Pre- Prep's favourite, [The Worm that wouldn't Wiggle](#) by Steve Attewell.

Tessa Roberts



School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 10 October	All week All day	Yr 3 Egyptian Week Yr 3 Forest School Visit @ Downsend
Tuesday 09 October	All day	Yr 3 Ancient Egypt Day
Thursday 11 October	4.15-4.45pm	Jersey Sports Tour Final Meeting, Pavilion
Friday 12 October	Assembly	Rev C Moloney, Chaplain, St John's School



Calendar



DPA



Healthy School



Letters & Forms



Uniform



Term Dates



Firefly



SchoolsSports

Inspiring young minds

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