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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

19 October 2018



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A message from the Headmaster

As if in the blink of an eye, we have come to the end of another busy but productive half-term. There have been so many highlights for me, as typified in Assembly this morning. At the end of a fantastic #BigDraw week, we saw 426 pupils, separated into their four Houses, working together to complete a 15-metre long piece of artwork based on the music that they were listening to. The behaviour was impeccable, but the sense of collaboration was the striking theme, much has it been in preparation for the Year 8 play, during Year 3 Egyptian Week, in the Rock Band rehearsals and on the sporting pitches. In truth, I have lost count of the number of tournaments that our pupils have won in the past 7 weeks!

Another theme from the past half-term has been how fortunate we are to have so many supportive parents. This week's Parent Engagement Group meeting was hugely energising and has enabled me to consider even more ways in which we can make our plans come to life. Many of you have contacted me with your thoughts about our exciting plans and I know you have enjoyed seeing the visuals in the Turret. I have just

finished a meeting with our architects and Project Manager, as we have now agreed the phasing of the internal improvements to the Lower and Upper school sections. 2019 is certainly going to be a busy year. With record numbers attending our Open Mornings, and enquiries for places at an all-time high, our plans are clearly resonating with local families. The one consistent message from our visitors is how wonderfully engaged and polite our children are. Whilst I am looking forward to a break, I do so in the knowledge that I am fortunate to share the school day with so many delightful, hard-working young learners and supportive staff. I hope that they, and you, enjoy some rest too and look forward to welcoming you all back next month.

Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update

It has been a wonderful start to the academic year in the Lower School and I have been so impressed with the attitude to learning, behaviour, manners and friendship shown by so many of our pupils. Kindness and generosity have been plentiful: be it from one of our Year 4's popping in to my office just to check I was OK, or the generous donations from Year 2 for the food bank.

As regular readers of the Downsend Times will know, one of the highlights of my day is talking to the children about their learning and seeing some of the pieces of work that they are most proud of. This week it was my pleasure to look at some wonderful storybooks, written, constructed and illustrated by some of our Year 2 pupils. A particular well done to Amelia L, Thomas S, Brady J and Martha L whose books were a real treat to read. Well done too to Robert B in Year 3 whose creative writing related to his study of Egypt was not only creative, but entertaining too.

I hope that you all enjoy a wonderful and restful half term break and I look forward to seeing you back at school in November, where our minds will, all too quickly, turn to thoughts of Christmas!

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update

As we approach Half Term I must congratulate the staff and children, including all our new pupils in the Upper School, on an excellent half-term. The pupils have been smart, polite and have been excellent role models to the younger pupils in the school. They have settled into their new timetable and academic routines really well, and have made excellent progress across the curriculum.

Outside the classroom, the pupils have engaged in a wide variety of clubs and enrichment activities, and this has been an amazing sporting term, with great success in both football and hockey. There have been a huge number of fixtures and tournaments for all our pupils to participate in, so many thanks to the Sports

Department for all their hard work, both after school and at weekends, to provide such a wealth of opportunities for our pupils.

Therefore, and understandably, the pupils are very tired and I would urge all our parents to ensure the pupils have a wonderful but restful Half Term break to allow the children to recharge their batteries and return ready for the both the challenges and continuing opportunities during the rest of the term.

However you spend the holiday, travel safely and enjoy the break; we will see you all again on November 5th!

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

Harvest time in Year 2

Year 2 celebrated Harvest Festival this week in an Assembly designed to recognise where our food comes from and how we can share the plentiful foods that we enjoy with those less fortunate than ourselves. The children showed great initiative in applying their Science knowledge to work out what plants need to grow to produce plentiful supplies of fruit and they showed good empathy in recognising that while we are well provided for, others in our community and the wider world are left short. The celebration was rounded off beautifully with a rousing rendition of a modern Harvest hymn, Harvest Samba.

Year 2 Team



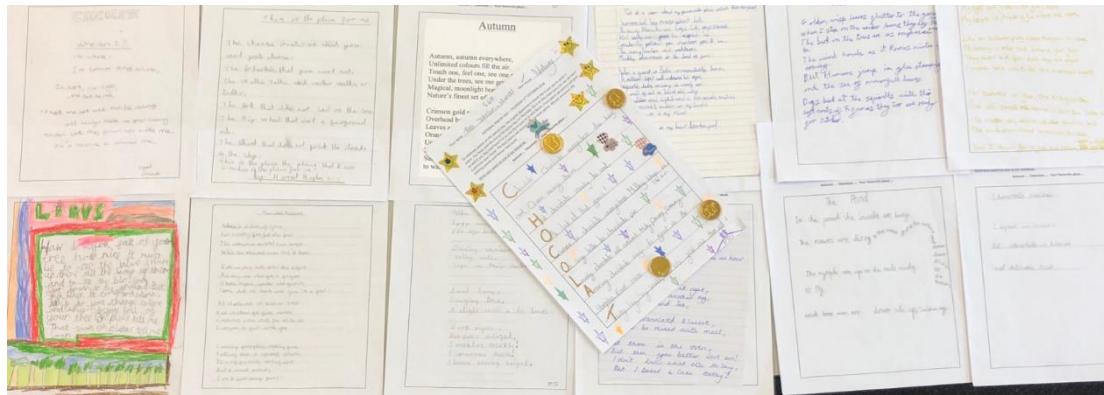
Year 3 Egyptian Week

Last week, Year 3 enjoyed travelling back in time to Ancient Egypt. We had a wonderful dress up day, with a drama workshop from Open Box, which brought to life what it was like to live by the Nile hundreds of years ago. We also carved scarab beetles out of soap and shared our projects with our classes. In English lessons, we went on a Mummy Hunt, based on Michael Rosen's performance poetry. We explored 3D shape and made pyramids out of spaghetti and marshmallows, as well as going on a treasure hunt to look for Tutankhamun's gold!



Natasha Ludlam

National Poetry Day Competition



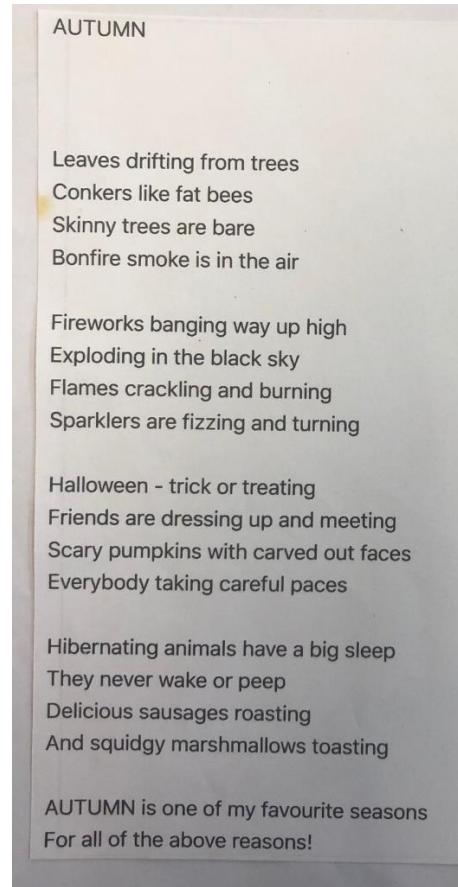
In honour of National Poetry Day, the English department ran a competition to see which house - and which individual pupils - could come up with the most accomplished selection of original poetry.

The Lower School produced a huge number of poems, which was a fantastic effort and congratulations are due to all who participated. Well done also to those members of the Upper School who joined in to support their houses.

The three winners, as announced in assembly last week, were Jessica L (4EF, Wisley), Eleanor M (3VB, Headley) and Noah T (5LC, Headley).

Special mentions went to the following pupils, all from Years 2, 3, 4 and 5: Oscar R, Alex B, Chloe S, Erika S, Theo J-M, Max B, Elliot M, Harriet H, Ayaan M and Alaina M.

The winning house was Wisley, but the competition was fierce.



Chris Bryant, Head of English

PSHE Dates for your diary



Friday 9th November: Odd Socks Day, Sapphire (an up and coming singer delivering an online safety message and taking care of mental health)

Monday 12th November: National Anti-Bullying Week.

Tuesday 13th November 4.30pm: Dr Aric Sigman to talk to staff and parents in the Dining Hall.

Wednesday 21st November 6pm: Public Speaking Competition for Years 5 and 6 in the Dining Hall.

Tuesday/Wednesday 27th/28th November: Year 7 ESB Presentations.

Dee Vanstone

Lower School Charity Christmas Card Project



All orders were sent to the printers earlier this week. Any late orders can be sent directly to Fundraising Creations. Please get in touch with them at info@fundraisingcreations.co.uk to find out more.

Julia Aylen

Artist Of The Week

This week's AOTW is Theo in 5GH. Year 5 have been working really hard to develop their 3D drawing skills and have learnt how to use the horizon line and vanishing point to draw a street scene in perspective. This is an excellent example by Theo in 5GH.



Julia Aylen

The Big Draw

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our 'One Drawing A Day' challenge this week. Miss Aylen has been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm with which pupils have approached this and the amazing drawings they have produced.

Keep drawing over half term!



Julia Aylen

House Art Competition

The House Art Competition was launched this week. After all the amazing drawing that was seen throughout this week's Big Draw, Miss Aylen has high expectations for this competition! Please see the poster below for further details.

The deadline for entries is Monday 12 November.

House Art Competition

This year, we would like you to respond to the theme of the Big Draw Festival: 'PLAY'



This theme is just a starting point and can be interpreted in many different ways. You might think about playing a game, playing a musical instrument, playing with your friends or playing, experimenting and having fun with weird and wonderful materials of your choice!

Draw, paint, print, collage or sculpt your piece of art (no photography please - we are holding a separate photography competition later in the year).

Please label your work with your name, class and house.

**5 housepoints for every entry
Prizes for the winning entry from each year group**

DEADLINE: Monday 12 November

Julia Aylen

Leatherhead Art Club – Annual Autumn Exhibition

20 October – 28 October 2018

10am – 4pm daily

Free parking and admission

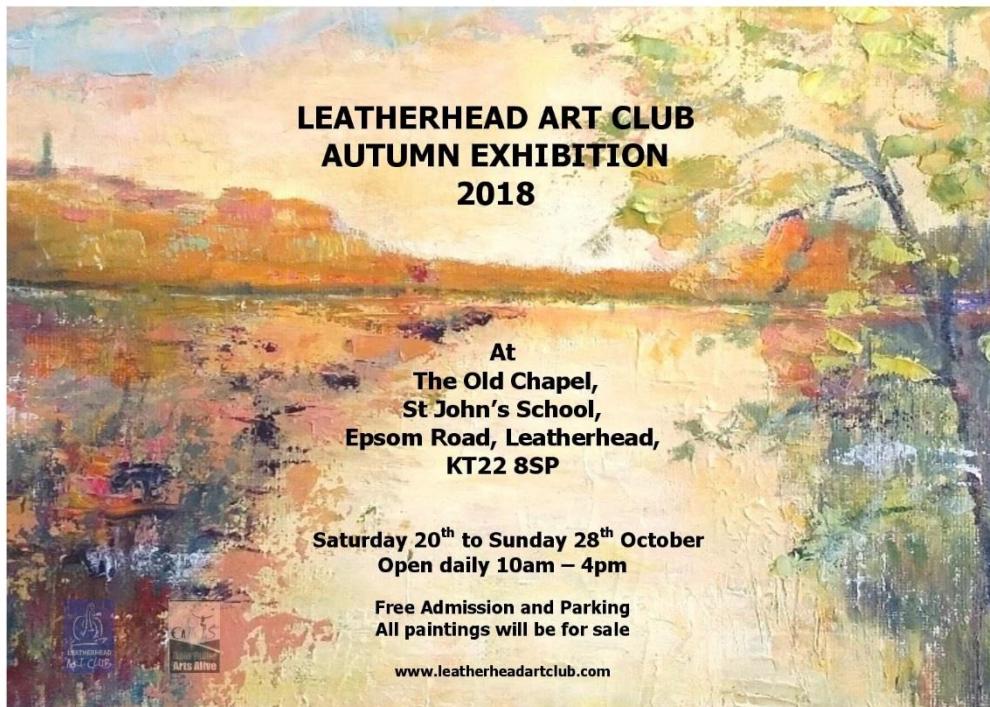
Leatherhead Art Club, in association with the Mole Valley Arts Alive Festival, will again be holding their annual Autumn Exhibition at The Old Chapel, St John's School, Leatherhead, KT22 8SP.

The Old Chapel, a beautifully restored Grade II listed building provides the perfect backdrop for a variety of members paintings and greetings cards all of which will be for sale.

The works of art feature a diverse range of subjects in a variety of styles and mediums, both traditional and contemporary in style. Their affordability provides an excellent opportunity to buy an original gift for Christmas.

Do support our local community by visiting this exciting and colourful exhibition.

www.leatherheadartclub.com



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



CALL OUT FOR HELP:

Are you in the digital design space? DPA are looking for some help to redesign some the DPA communications and create template designs for events such as the Christmas Fair. This would be a voluntary activity and a great way to contribute for someone who wants to get involved but doesn't have a lot of time. If you feel you can support, please contact the DPA Co-Chairs Leanne & Louise at admin@dpaschool.org.uk.

**FILL or PHIL YOUR BAGS OVER THE HALF TERM
PLEASE.....**

Phil The Bag:

Wednesday 07 November 2018 – 8.15am-9.15am

Our annual clothes recycling event takes place just after half term. A great chance to have a clear-out while helping to raise funds for your school. House points and donuts for the house that collects the most!

DPA CLOTHES RECYCLING DAY
Wednesday, 7th November 2018
From 8.15am – 9.15am
At the Sports hall side entrance

DONATE YOUR OLD CLOTHES AND HELP FUNDRAISE FOR YOUR SCHOOL!

Have a good clear out over the October holidays and bring in your bags of unwanted clothing, handbags and shoes! Recycle your old clothes, care about the environment and raise funds for the school.

FILL YOUR BAGS WITH
**ALL KINDS OF ADULT AND CHILDRENS'
CLOTHING, HATS, SHOES, BELTS,
HANDBAGS**
**HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES INCLUDING
SHEETS, PILLOW CASES, DUVET
COVERS, CURTAINS AND TOWELS**
**The more we weigh, the more we
FUND RAISE FOR THE SCHOOL**
**BLACK BAGS ARE BEST TO USE BUT
YOU CAN USE AND FILL ANY PLASTIC
BAG**



**Please do NOT include: wet clothes, ripped
clothes, duvets, pillows, sleeping bags,
blankets, carpets, rugs, tents or canvas
material, soft toys or Bric-a-Brac.**

**Bring your bags to the SPORTS HALL
SIDE ENTRANCE by the school lower car
park Wednesday 7th November
AT MORNING DROP OFF**

SAVE THE DATE.....

**DPA Christmas Fair – Saturday 1st December 2018 - 11am-
2pm**



The jewel in the crown of the DPA Calendar is this year's Christmas Fair which will take place at school on Saturday 1st December between 11am - 2pm. Last year we raised £6,500 and we are looking to smash that target this year. This is an important fundraising event for our school community and we need as many of you as possible to be involved.

This time of the year is very much about giving to those who we love or need our support most, and therefore this year the DPA Committee have chosen not to charge an entrance fee, but ask that all parents contribute to the Children's Trust fundraising efforts on the day. More information to follow....

Note to Class Reps: You are critical to our ability to connect with parents, and support the smooth running of the Xmas Fair. This year, as in previous years, we will be allocating responsibilities to you for your class relating to the Xmas Fair. Please ensure you factor this into your plans for November, as we need to mobilise support from parents in each class. We will provide you with guidance following the half term holiday and look forward to your involvement – thank you.

Please let the DPA know if you can contribute: admin@dpaschool.org.uk.

Second Hand Uniform

Thanks to all those of you who brought uniform to the intake on Thursday. Printed uniform labels are now available, at any time, from the turret entrance for your convenience, or they can be downloaded from the school website [here](#).

Please remember to label all items correctly if you are selling rather than donating. Once we receive your correctly labelled uniform, Lynn and the team will allocate prices.

Many of you asked for clarity on what is needed, therefore please see here for an example:



Alex Dale, DPA Secretary

Downsend+

With Half Term now almost upon us, places are filling up fast! If you are looking for childcare over the next two weeks, we still have a few spaces. 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](#).



Downsend+ are pleased to announce that in addition to the existing October Half Term programme, they will now be running '**Josh Evans Football**' courses on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd November, 9am–1pm for Years 1–4 and 12noon–4pm for Years 5–8.

The Josh Evans sessions are for all abilities who want extra football from our specialised coaches. Tactical, technical and small sided games are taught throughout the day in a positive environment.

A [contact form](#) for each child booked will need to be completed for the new academic year.

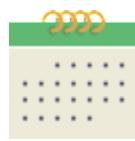
Please contact downsendplus@downsend.co.uk if you have any queries or call 07909 861280.

Rebecca Peek

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Wednesday 7 November		Yr 6 Mock Exams begin
Thursday 8 November	All day	Yr 2 Forest School Visit @ Downsend
Friday 9 November	Assembly	Mr S Watts Odd Socks Day Yr 6 Mock Exams end



Calendar



DPA



Healthy School



Uniform

Letters & Forms



Term Dates



Firefly



SchoolsSports

Inspiring young minds

Download School Notices

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