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**DOWNSEND**  
SCHOOL

## DOWNSEND TIMES

07 December 2018



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### A message from the Headmaster

A week ago, we were preparing for the DPA Fair, and what an event it was! Christmas was welcomed in perfect festive fashion and was very much enjoyed by all concerned. As always, the school and parent helpers worked in harmony and we are extremely grateful for all the endeavor that went into the event. Father Christmas declared that everyone was most certainly on the 'Good List' this year, not least the Mayors of Mole Valley and Epsom and Ewell, who opened the event. We are very grateful for their support. That same spirit has continued into this past week, with Years 2 and 3 starring in their respective nativities. There was confidence, great singing and camaraderie in abundance, and the odd teary-eyed onlooker, with the sense of pride tangible within the Peterborough Hall. Next week, it will be the turn of Years 4 and above, as well as our Pre-Preps, and I look forward to attending those events too.

This week, we have undertaken some additional work in the Car Park. We have added some reminders to drivers about speed restrictions and children crossing, as well as installing some additional lighting by the

pedestrian crossings. We must never compromise the safety of children in our school, so please continue to be considerate when driving around the site.

Next week sees the final school week of 2018; it will be busy, I know, but will be the perfect precursor for what should be a wonderful Christmas for all.

*Ian Thorpe*

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## End of Term Arrangements

Please note that there are **no clubs or sports practices** next week after school. Extended Day WILL operate Monday to Thursday after school but will be **closed on Friday**.

## Friday 14th December Collection

Lower School children can be collected from their classroom at 2 15pm. If your Lower School child has an older sibling in the Upper School, then he or she can be collected from Tregenna Hall at 2 20pm. Please come in and collect.

For the remainder of the Upper School, the collection time is 2 45pm. Please collect in the usual way.

These arrangements have been put in place, in part, to make the car park run more efficiently. If you can arrive on time and leave promptly, it would be enormously appreciated.

Have a good holiday everyone.

*Seb Watts*

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## DPA News & Events

**Downsend  
Parents'  
Association**



Registered Charity No. 1116557

## Christmas Fair Highlights

HO HO HO  
HO HO HO!

The DPA would like to sincerely thank all Downsends parents, children and staff for contributing to the overwhelming success of our Christmas Fair.



Due to the generosity of all, we are pleased to share with you that the Children's Trust took around £75 in donations and sold numerous Christmas cards. The total profit raised by the Downsends Parents' association was £3,675.

Reportage photos of the event are now posted on the school's website in the Gallery section [here](#).

For those who paid a visit to our wonderful session photographer Ed, he is happy to take further orders in

case you wanted to buy some photos but couldn't make up your mind on the day! See this [link](#) for the full rogues' gallery!

As part of their work towards their Downsend Diploma, for the first time our Year 8 pupils hosted their own stalls offering some splendid entertainment with their House table games. The overall winners were Ranmore who made £115 in profit. Thank you to the children and staff for working so hard on their activities.



Another highlight of the event was the Christmas Carol Singalong led by Mrs Allison and her Christmas Angels. It was brilliant to see all our parents, children and staff raising their voices and joining in. Thank you to Mrs Allison and the children for ensuring we enter the festive season in fine voice.



Anecdotal feedback received by the DPA, indicates that the Fair was enjoyed by all, however we would very much appreciate all feedback on things you enjoyed and ideas on how to improve for next year's event. Please get in touch with your Class Rep or email us on [downsendpa@gmail.com](mailto:downsendpa@gmail.com).

The DPA Elves still have some work to do before the end of the year as we are dressing the stage for the Year 4 Christmas performance and sponsoring hot chocolate and cookies for our Santa Dashers at the end of term. We are looking forward to ending the term on a sugary high!

*The DPA Christmas Elves*

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## **Inter-House Hockey and Football**

Throughout the term all the children have been taking part in their House competitions, from House Bake Off to Art & Design and Sport. The results of these competitions will be added to the end of the term collections to find our Autumn Term 2018 winners. On a sporting front, this term we have completed the highly competitive Inter-House Hockey and Football and the results can be seen below. It is great that all the children get a chance to represent their House with such passion and determination; we look forward the Netball and Rugby next term, where clearly Ranmore will be the target!

Congratulations to all the pupils in Ranmore and to their House Captains.



Inter-House Football Autumn Term 2018				
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
Year 2 (14 <sup>th</sup> Sept)	Norbury	Ranmore	Wisley	Headley
Year 3 (5 <sup>th</sup> Oct)	Norbury	Headley	Wisley	Ranmore
Year 4 (10 <sup>th</sup> Sept)	Ranmore	Headley	Wisley	Norbury
Year 5 (6 <sup>th</sup> Sept)	Ranmore	Headley	Wisley	Norbury
Year 6 (16 <sup>th</sup> Oct)	Ranmore	Norbury	Headley	Wisley
Year 7 & 8 (7 <sup>th</sup> Nov)	Headley	Ranmore	Wisley	Norbury

**Overall Points**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Ranmore (19)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Headley (16)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Norbury (14)**

**4<sup>th</sup> – Wisley (11)**

Inter-House Hockey Autumn Term 2018 (Year 2 Girls did Inter-House Netball)				
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
Year 2 Netball (30 <sup>th</sup> Nov)	Ranmore	Wisley	Headley	Norbury
Year 3 (30 <sup>th</sup> Nov)	Headley	Norbury	Ranmore	Wisley
Year 4 (26 <sup>th</sup> Nov)	Ranmore	Wisley	Norbury	Headley
Year 5 (29 <sup>th</sup> Nov)	Norbury	Ranmore	= Wisley = Headley	
Year 6 (27 <sup>th</sup> Nov)	Ranmore	= Norbury = Wisley		Headley
Year 7 & 8 (28 <sup>th</sup> Nov)	Norbury	Ranmore	Wisley	Headley

1<sup>st</sup> - Ranmore (20)

2<sup>nd</sup> - Norbury (17)

3<sup>rd</sup> - Wisley (14)

4<sup>th</sup> - Headley (11)

Mr Albert & Miss Black

## Lower School Update

The Lower School has been swathed in tinsel and bathed in light this week as our Christmas performances got well underway. The children shone and enjoyed their dramatic achievements fully as they told the story of the nativity and shared the true meaning of Christmas with their families and friends. I remarked to some parents that many educational colleagues think we're mad at Downsend School for running four individual Year 2 plays and two combined Year 3 plays in one week, but I'm sure that the parents, grandparents and friends in attendance this week really loved seeing their child get their moment in the limelight in whichever role they were awarded. Thank you to Year 2 and 3 parents for such wonderful generosity this week, not only in their support of the performances and for providing such superb costumes, but also for the donations in excess of £375 for The Children's Trust. I'm sure that the Year 4 and 5 performances next week will be just as wonderful.



Miss Black and I also had the pleasure of meeting with the Lower School Council this week to discuss the important issues of the playground and the rewards and sanctions system over a lovely hot chocolate. The children were passionate and articulate in their views and we have generated some wonderful ideas for tweaks, improvements and enhancements...watch this space.

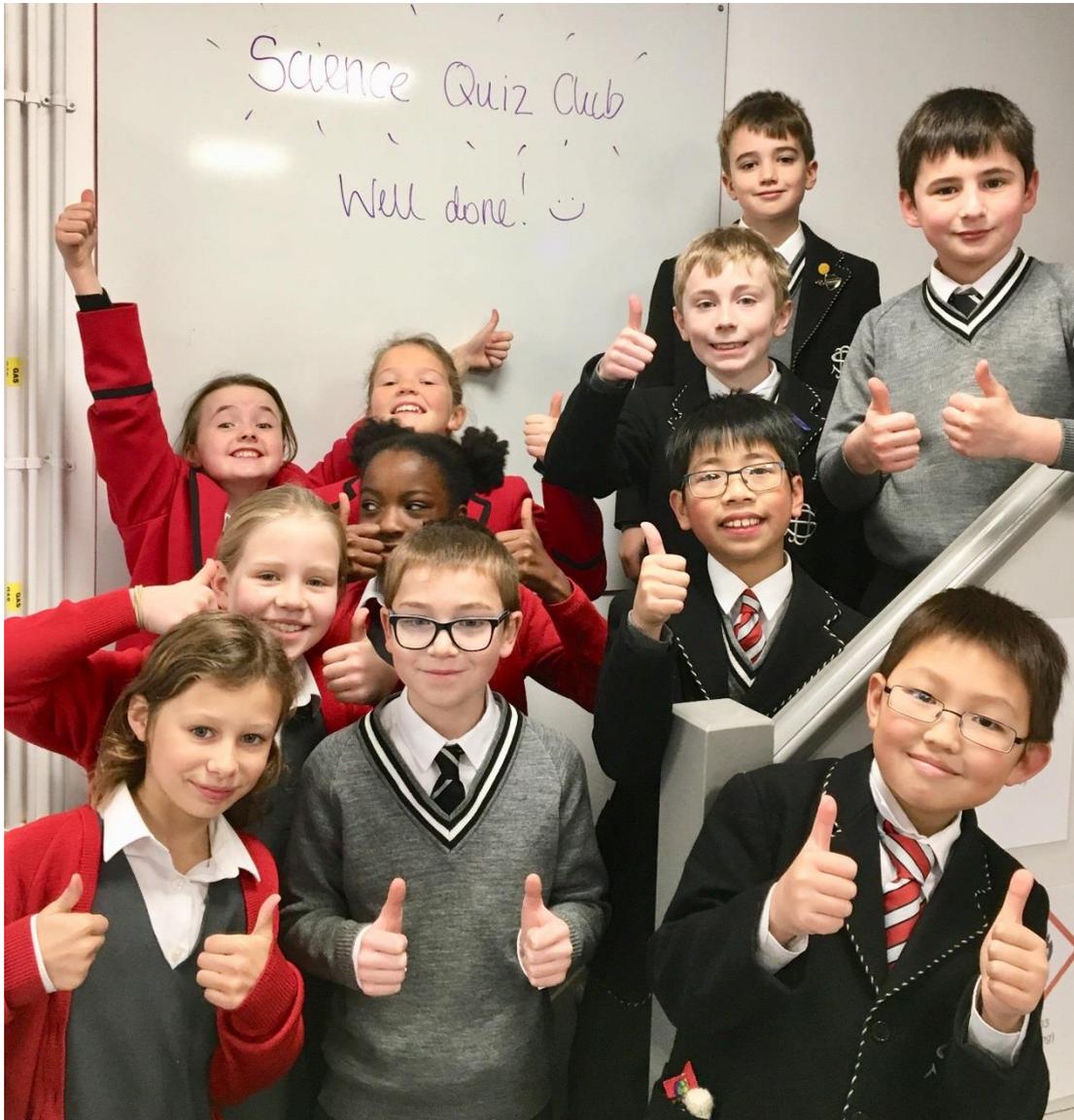
I also had some wonderful work brought to me this week with particular highlights being Annabel E, Niamh B and Dollie B's amazing reading projects. These included a 3D light up Faraway Tree that was simply breath-taking! Very well done. Congratulations must also go to Kian D and Erika S for their wonderful poetry which contained wonderful seasonal imagery! It is fantastic to still be seeing work of this quality so close to the end of term.

With lots of events taking place next week, including the Year 4 play, the Year 5 Carol Concert, the Santa Dash, Christmas Lunch and the Open Box Theatre Company performances please do keep an eye out for updates and reminders. It promises to be a fantastic final week of term.

*Clare Kirkham*

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## Science Quiz Club 2018



On Monday 19th November Downsend School took two teams to compete in the National Science Quiz Club competition. The first area heat was held at Surbiton Boys where twelve teams fought it out for a place in the semi-final. Both teams did very well, achieving 2nd and 6th place. The scores were high meaning that our 2nd place team were offered a semi-final place. With only one week to prepare the team continued to focus on communication and strategy.

On semi-finals day, last Wednesday, the team arrived at Tormead with fire in their belly, ready to give it their best shot. The competition was stiff and the questions were extremely challenging. Although we took an early lead, the final round saw us battle it out, jostling for a place. We eventually finished in a very commendable 4th place. I was extremely proud of the team's achievements.

Well done to all the members of the Science Quiz Club this term who have been working hard to further their already broad scientific knowledge. You continue to amaze me with your passion for the subject.

*Michelle Sehgal*

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## Christmas Online Safety

In this age of digital advancement and in order to keep the I Generation happy, many of your children will be receiving digital gifts this Christmas. Take a moment to reflect on the more traditional ideas associated with Christmas and make time for family. Listen to the song produced by [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) to remind us of what's important this Christmas.

Happy Christmas everyone!

*Dee Vanstone*

**DIGITAL GIFTS UNDER THE TREE?  
PARENTS - WATCH THIS!**

NOS National Online Safety

**Xboxes and Smart TVs, tablets,  
sounds good to me!**

What's important this Christmas?

## Year 3 Update



What an incredible week it has been in Year 3! The children have continued Downsend's festive celebrations by performing their Christmas Nativity to their Parents and Grandparents this week. They have all put in lots of hard work and dedication to learn their lines and perform their songs beautifully and professionally. The teachers are so proud of all they have achieved, and the children have had lots of fun. Well done Year 3!

*Marian Bayley*

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## BIG DOG challenge

The Upper School Girls were set a challenge back in September to improve their fitness. Every two weeks, at the start of their hockey lesson, they took part in the BIG DOG challenge trying to improve their individual

time and see their name on the Top 10 list for their year group. The fortnightly results were published and on display on the sports notice board and it was great to see all the girls rise to the challenge, new names appear on the list as well as change positions.

Mrs Cooper-James and Miss Ceci collated the results from across the whole term and the final overall fastest times were announced in the whole school assembly this morning. The three winners were presented with a gorgeous, talking Big Dog, as pictured. Now on everyone's Christmas wish list! A full list of the top 10 times can be seen on the sports notice board.

Well done to all the girls' across the Upper School. We were really proud of how you challenged yourself to get fitter across the term. Keep this up ready for netball!



#### Winners

Y5 - Lily B 1.35.89 mins

Y6 - Isabelle B 1.36.21 mins

Y7/8 - Elizabeth H 1.24.00 mins

*Fiona Fitch*

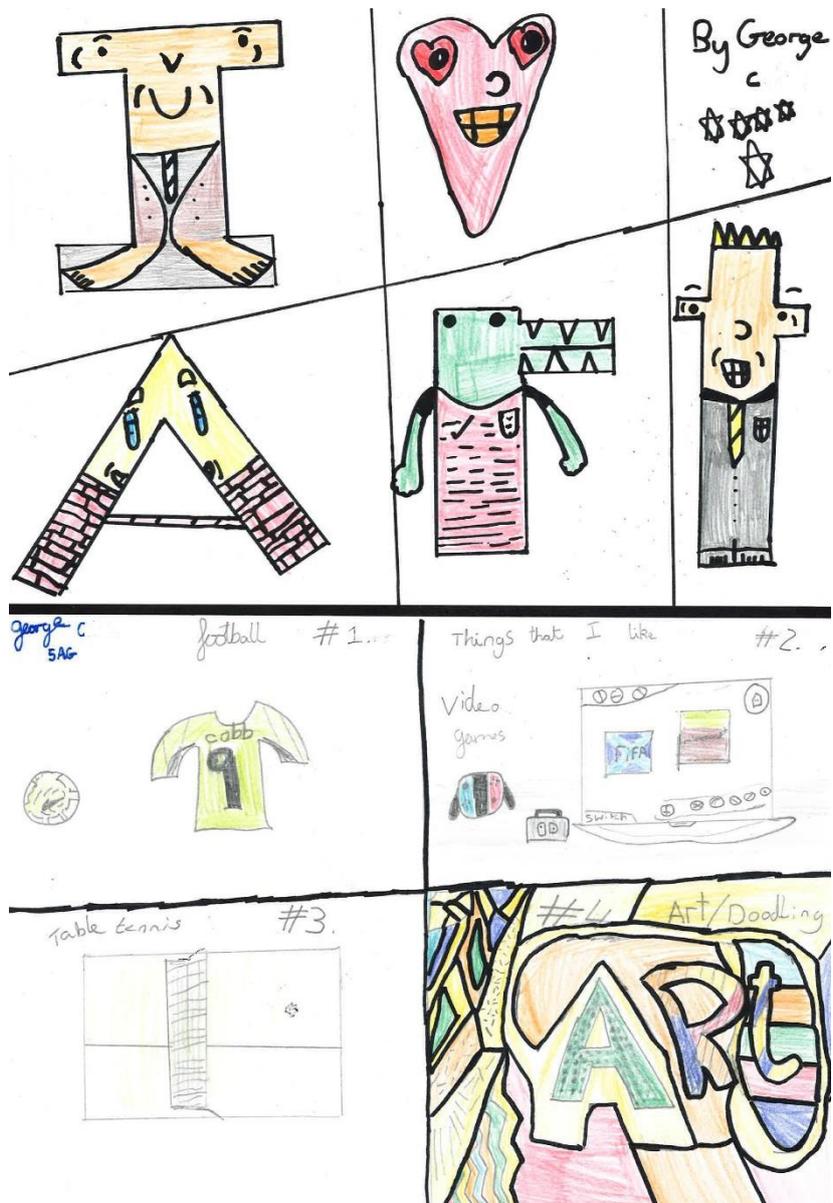
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## Artist Of The Week

Our Artist of the Week is George C in 5AG.

George loves Art (and football and video games and table tennis)! Here are a couple of wonderful drawings he has created in his own time. Well done, George!

Julia Ayles





## Christmas Performance Dates



### Year 4

Monday 10 December, 2.30pm, Sports Hall - **Please note the venue location is different to the published venue in the School Calendar.**

### Year 5

Carols by Candlelight, Wednesday 12 December, 5pm, St George's Church

### Years 6-8

Upper School Carol Concert, Thursday 13 December, 5pm, Sports Hall



The Chamber Choir, Upper School Choir and Whole School Orchestra perform at the Upper School Carol Concert. (**Please note** some of the members of the Chamber Choir are in Years 4 and 5 – they will be singing at this event)

- The Carol Concert starts at 5pm.
- The children are required to wear full winter uniform i.e. jumpers, blazers, tights for girls and long trousers for boys.
- At the end of the school day on Thursday, all Upper School children who are involved in music ensembles are expected to go straight to the Social Area where refreshments will be provided.
- Lower School pupils who are in music ensembles and who finish at 3.45pm must go to the Music Room where they will be supervised by a member of staff.

- Children can be collected from the Sports Hall at the end of the Carol Concert at approximately 6.00pm.
- All parents of participating children are welcome to attend.
- This is a ticketless event.

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## 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](mailto: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.

\*\*\*\*\*



Well done to the following pupils who have recently achieved exam success:

Samantha C who has passed her Grade 5 ABRSM music theory exam with a merit.

Grace H completed her Piano Prep Test.

Warren H was successful in his grade 1 piano exam.

Zoe S in Year 8 was successful in her Year 4 singing exam.

*Nicole Allison*

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## Downsend Lower School Santa Dash

The Lower School is looking forward to our first ever Santa Dash on Tuesday 11th December.

Please remember to come into school wearing outdoor multi, Christmas jumpers and a Santa hat if possible!!

Hot chocolate and treats will be kindly provided by the DPA. We would be grateful if all sponsorship money could be returned by Friday 14th December.



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## Downsend Upper School Santa Dash



**JOIN ME FOR A...**  
**FESTIVE FRIDAY FUN RUN**  
**IN SUPPORT OF**  
**THE CHILDREN'S TRUST**

**FRIDAY**  
**14TH**  
**DECEMBER**  
**PERIOD 4**

The Children's Trust  
or children with brain injury

**Donations towards the school charity : The Children's Trust**  
**Bring a Festive outfit and change of shoes**  
**Hot chocolate and cookies in the pavilion thanks to the DPA**



**QUICK, LET'S RAISE MONEY FOR**  
**The Children's Trust**  
For children with brain injury

**Think about running in  
house colours around the Astro.....**

**Norbury—Father Christmas,**  
**Headley—Christmas Trees, Ranmore—Stars,**  
**Wisley—Christmas Puddings**



**Friday 14th December—p4**

**Donations towards**  
**The Children's Trust**

## News from our Pre-Preps



Pe-Prep Epsom Reception and Year 1 wowed the crowds in the Ashley Centre in Epsom on Thursday with their beautiful singing and outstanding behaviour. They sang a combination of Christmas carols, fun songs and songs from our play 'Present for the Baby'. Both parents and shoppers commented on how fantastic our children were.

*Vanessa Conlan*





## Festive Charity Leggings



Mrs Fitch's festive leggings were such a hit last week on our Christmas Mufti Day that she has been challenged by a number of staff members to wear them every day until we break up for Christmas!

So, in aid of our school charity, The Children's Trust, Mrs Fitch has been wearing her leggings every day this week and will be wearing them every school day until Friday 14th December. (with the odd wash here and there!)

If you would like to support Mrs Fitch then donations can be brought into her via reception where we have a Children's Trust collection bucket.

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# Downsend+



With only one week to go before the Christmas Holidays Downsend+ has space available on all courses and all days, but please do remember bookings must be received 10 working days in advance to receive the pre-booked rate. Our Christmas Special day is Wednesday 19th December and Downsend+ is also open on 2nd,3rd & 4th January 2019.

For full details and bookings please contact Rebecca Peek on 07909 861 280 or email [downsendplus@downsend.co.uk](mailto:downsendplus@downsend.co.uk)

**[Contact Form 2018-2019](#)**

**[Christmas Course Description](#)**

**[Christmas 2018 Booking Form](#)**

*Rebecca Peek*

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## Next Week @ Downsend

### School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 10 December	2.30pm	Yr 4 Christmas Performance, Sports Hall
Tuesday 11 December	am	Lower School Charity Santa Dash
Wednesday 12 December	8.45-10.45am 5.00pm	Rehearsal for Upper School Carol Concert Yr 5 Carols by Candlelight, St George's Church Ashted
Thursday 13 December	8.45-10.45am Lunch 11.45am-12.45pm 1.45-2.45pm 5.00pm	Rehearsal for Upper School Carol Concert Christmas Lunch Open Box Christmas Show for Yrs 3-5 Open Box Christmas Show for RR, Reception and Yrs 1-2 Upper School Carol Concert, Sports Hall
Friday 14 December	am am 2.15pm 2.45pm	Lower School and Upper School Christmas House Activities Upper School Charity Santa Dash Term Finishes for LS Pupils Term Finishes for US Pupils



Calendar



DPA



Healthy School



Letters & Forms



Uniform



Term Dates



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# Inspiring young minds

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## Download School Notices

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