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DOWNSEND
SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

14 December 2018

A message from the Headmaster

We have come to the end of a busy and productive Autumn Term wondering quite where the time has gone. A reflection, perhaps, of the busy nature of the past few months which has seen plays and nativities, concerts and House events, sporting successes and the Big Draw. This week alone, Years 4-8 have performed their various Christmas Concerts with confidence and panache in equal measure. In typical Downsend style, the teamwork shown by staff and children was exemplary and I know that you shared my sense of pride during the concerts themselves.

Over the next 3 weeks, our attention turns to the festive period as we all look forward to a well-earned break. I hope that the Christmas period is a happy one for you and your family, and that 2019 is as exciting for you as it is going to be for our school.

Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update



This term in the Lower School has been an absolute inspiration and over the last two weeks, as I've watched wonderful performances from all year groups, I have marvelled at the confidence, focus, resilience and team work developed by the children and showcased so fantastically.

This extends, of course, beyond the outstanding nativity and carol performances; throughout the term the children have supported one another in everything that they have done and delivered extremely high standards academically, creatively and sportingly. Right up until today, I have had examples of wonderful work shown to me: festive haiku poems by Jessica L and Rebecca J, crime reports about the death of Tutankhamun from Roya M, D'arcy B, Austen S, Eleanor M and Tileena T; Science work from Caitlin B, Yusuf E, Noah T, Lucas R, Can E and Howard F and a wonderful book of descriptive Christmas poetry written by 2ST. Of course, this work does not happen without guidance and it is the same skills of confidence, focus, resilience and team work that I have seen from our teachers and teaching assistants who inspire our children every day. Christmas is undoubtedly a time for reflection and in so doing I feel incredibly proud of all our Lower School children, teachers and families who have achieved so much this year.

A huge thank you must go to our parents and extended families for all of their help and unfailing support this term and I wish you all a very merry Christmas.

Clare Kirkham

Rebecca J. 4EF 1st December 2018

| Flow | I want a White Christmas I hope it will snow It's snowing It's a White Christmas! | It's Christmas time of the North Pole Elves working hard to make presents Don't forget mine We all deserve them! | Santa on his sleigh Climbs down chimney Eats and drinks Leaves presents |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Line 1 Ideas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (5) Come on snow, snow, snow (5) Soon there will be snow (5) Snow is coming now (5) Where is my white snow (5) Snow falls all around | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (5) At the North Pole (5) Freezing cold weather | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (5) Santa's magic sleigh (5) Crash lands on my roof (5) Lands on snowy rooves (5) He will land on rooves (5) All covered in soot |
| Line 2 Ideas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (7) without snow is it Christmas (7) Another snowless Christmas (7) Snowless Christmases make me sad (7) I hope snow is coming soon (7) No snowless Christmas again (7) Icicles are forming now (7) Long icicles are being formed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (7) Everything is busy (7) Santa will give me a toy (7) Long icicles are being formed (7) Busy at the North Pole (7) The weather is freezing cold (7) I've been so good all year (7) I really need my presents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (7) Stacked high with sacks of presents (7) Santa comes down our chimney (7) He will see our Christmas tree (7) Creep down the stairs and peep in (7) Presents in Santa's hand |
| Line 3 Ideas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (5) Snow is falling now (5) At last here is snow (5) I wish there was snow (5) I want lots of snow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (5) Elves are making toys (5) Lots of toys and sweets (5) we all need some toys | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (5) Flying straight to our house (5) Leaving presents here (5) I will go to bed (5) Not asleep in bed |

1. I want a white Christmas

Come on snow, snow, snow
Without snow is it Christmas
I wish there was snow

I want lots of snow
I hope snow is coming soon
Where is my white snow

Snow is coming now
Snowless Christmases make me sad
Finally white snow

Snow is falling now
A beautiful white Christmas
Snow falls all around

2. The North Pole is busy

Freezing cold weather
Long icicles are being formed
Christmas time is here

Elves are making toys
Busy at the North Pole
Must get them ready

Santa wants them wrapped
In time for delivery
to all good children

Please remember mine
I've been so good all year
Maybe I deserve two

Lots of toys and sweets
I really need my presents
So do all of you

3. Santa Claus is coming

Santa's magic sleigh
Stacked high with sacks of presents
Flying straight to our house

Crash lands on my roof
Santa comes down our chimney
All covered in soot

Not asleep in bed
I creep downstairs and peep in
Who's that by the tree?

With a long white beard
Eating mince pies and laughing
is it Santa Claus?

I see my present
He puts in under the tree
Then Santa is gone

Wow! *This could be your calling!* *Amazingly thought!*

The inn crowd

- The animals were
Feeling lost and annoyed,
Outside of the inn.
- The travellers were
Dancing, singing, drinking and
Having lots of fun.
- Mary and Joseph
Couldn't find an inn so they
Stayed in a stable.
- Baby Jesus was
Born and a star shone above,
It's a miracle!
- Kings, Shepherds and shepherds,
Came to see him from afar
And worshiped him there.
- The inn crowd wanted
To see what happened
In the old stable.
- The cross animals
Had learnt a lesson that that's
Room for everyone!

Jessica Jane, this
is fabulous! Very
well done - you have
thought
very carefully
about each
word

by Jessica L
4EF

Upper School Update



As we approach the end of term I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our Upper School pupils and staff for all the hard work they have put in this term in all areas of their school life. Whether it is academic success, sporting achievements, drama or success in other areas of our wide enrichment programme, each and every one has achieved great progress.

We enjoyed a fantastic Carol Concert in the Sports Hall yesterday and this morning every pupil put in maximum effort in a chilly Santa Dash!

What a great way to round off the term! Have a lovely Christmas everyone.

Karl Newland

Year 7 Round-Up – What A Busy Term!

Headmaster's Commendations: Following the recent successes with Headmaster's Commendations, as promised, here are another group of pupils who have been awarded their first Headmaster's Commendation of Year 7: Honey C, Toby G, Harry McG, Charlie W, Jamie Z, Harry H, Harry McD, Kelly N, Roman A, Teddy G, Isaac N, Evie S, Bijou C-S, Cillian G-O, Lizzy H, Geraldine H, Sam M, Emerson N, Daniel R, Alex T, Alice G, George V, Josie D and Amelie McG. Very well done to all of you!



Ambassadors: The Year 7 tutor team would like to thank the Autumn Term Ambassadors for all of their hard work this term. They have helped others, conducted themselves brilliantly when guiding for Open Mornings and generally being excellent role models for the year group as well as the school. Their commitment to helping out in the Lower School booster classes from 8.00am has been great to see. A quote from Mrs Newberry, Year 4: *“They have been brilliant! All turning up and being really helpful, giving our children tips, supporting them and making their learning fun!”*. Ambassadors – you have been very impressive pupils and are a credit to the year group. Watch this space for the announcement of the new group of Spring term Ambassadors.



School Councillors: Well done to our Year 7 School Council who have met with Mr Newland this term to discuss school matters ranging from plans for a new well-being garden, the pavilion snacks, club ideas, the timetable, and many more! We look forward to hearing about the ideas that you have discussed and will be putting forward for wider debate. Jasper G, Alice G, Safa A and Emerson N.



Top Achievers: The following children are to be commended on being awarded their form's Top Achievement Award for this term. These are awarded to pupils who have accumulated the largest number of Housepoints from both their academic profile and their contribution to school life. Congratulations to Jasmine C, Mia K, Gracie N and Ryan T; an excellent achievement and a great attitude to life in Year 7! (Sadly Ryan was absent for the photo)



Phew! Lastly, congratulations to all Year 7 pupils for surviving their first term – it has been incredibly busy and you definitely deserve a well-earned break! Enjoy your holidays and festive activities; we look forward to seeing you back in the Spring term, refreshed and ready to go!

We wish you a very Happy Christmas!

Anna Mercer and the Year 7 Tutor Team: Beth Day, Julia Ayles, Rupert Howe and Fiona Fitch.

Year 8 Round-Up

Year 8 pupils have had a typically hectic term but have finished it off in style with superb performances in both 'The Addams Family' a couple of weeks ago and last night's Carol Concert. I am so proud of their achievements over the course of the term and I look forward to seeing further successes as the year progresses. Pupils have performed well in their assessments this term but on top of their academic progress, they have been busy on the sports fields, swimming pool, music rooms or with their other interests and hobbies. They have been a wonderfully delightful group of pupils who continue to astound and amaze me.

From all of the Year 8 tutor team, we wish them and yourselves a Merry Christmas and a fantastic 2019.

Lee Silva

Year 8 Headmaster's Award – Bronze Commendations



Congratulations to the following recipients of the Headmaster's 'Bronze' Commendation. These pupils have done brilliantly well to all achieve over 300 points (a combination of Housepoints, Credits and subject Commendations):

Luke C, Ava U, Ben W, Chloe B, Zoe S, Rhianna D, Sophie B, Sofia H, Warren H, Lexi M, Louie P, Jules T, Matthew Y, Katherine V and Joanna H.

A special mention also goes to Joanna H for being the top achiever in Year 8. Well done to everyone and we look forward to awarding the next batch of 'Bronze' Commendations very soon.

Lee Silva

Buddy Christmas Card Swap



The Year 7 and Year 5 Buddies enjoyed a short session together to swap Christmas cards and wish each other a merry Christmas and happy holidays. There was a lovely buzz in the air as they tried to find each other in the melee, chocolate coins and tinsel! Big smiles all round.

Happy Christmas!

Mrs Mercer and Mrs Hughes





Wisley claim the Autumn Term 2018 by just 2 points!

Congratulations to all the Wisley team for winning the Lower & Upper School last House point collection (behaviour and academia) this term in style! Also a big well done to the Top Achievers below for this collection; their hard work in amassing the most House Points for a combinations of their citizenship and hard work in class has be rightly rewarded.

Final Collection:

Lower School

Wisley
Headley
Ranmore
Norbury

Position

1st
2nd
2nd
3rd

Top Achiever

Lauren M – Y4
Henry J – Y4
Joseph B – Y4
Sophie M – Y4

Upper School

Wisley
Headley
Norbury
Ranmore

Position

1st
1st
2nd
3rd

Top Achiever

Katherine V – Y8
Ryan T – Y7
Oliver F – Y7
Emma F – Y6



Whole School

Wisley
Headley
Ranmore
Norbury

Averaged Totals

127
122
119
119

Position

1st
2nd
3rd
3rd

The House point collections throughout the term are added to various House competitions to decide upon a final winning House. Prior to adding the collections, the House results for competitions alone (House Design, Sports, Singing, Languages etc) saw Wisley in bottom place, therefore the commitment to their studies and to the all-important values we expect to see in a Downsend child have assisted Wisley immensely this term.

House Competitions – Autumn Term 2018

| | Scores | Place |
|----------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Ranmore | 113 | 1st |
| Norbury | 109 | 2nd |
| Headley | 85 | 3rd |
| Wisley | 84 | 4th |

Overall scores

So when adding all the scores together the final results are as follows:

Overall House Scores – Autumn Term 2018

| | Scores | Place |
|----------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Wisley | 144 | 1st |
| Norbury | 142 | 2nd |
| Ranmore | 136 | 3rd |
| Headley | 120 | 4th |

Congratulations to Wisley! Mr Michel and Mrs Hawes are delighted with all the pupils commitment to their House this term and look forward to a House treat and further success in the Spring Term! We wish you all a wonderful Christmas!

Jon Albert & Helen Black

House Logo Competition

This term, Mrs Day launched a House Technology competition where the children had to design a logo for the token collection tubes that are located in Peterborough Hall. We had so many outstanding entries from each House and both Mrs Day and Miss Ayles had a really tough time trying to choose a final winner for each House. However, the winners were finally selected and they are:

Headley: Zac D

Ranmore: Alaina M

Wisley: Ella W

Norbury: Toby H

As you can see from this photo, Mrs Day has spent some time using the children's logos to create these fantastic new toppers to our token tubes.



Jon Albert & Helen Black

Artist Of The Week

Our Artist of the Week is Amelia B in 4AS.

Year 4 have worked hard this week to finish their Autumn into Winter Forests. They used pencil, paint and oil pastel to create their mixed media masterpieces. Here is a wonderful example by Amelia in 4AS.

Julia Aylen



  **Music Update**  

Well done to our singers and instrumentalists who represented the school at a beautiful carol concert in aid of the Rainbow Trust Charity last week. The children sounded like angels, and friends and family had a wonderful evening followed by mince pies and mulled wine.



Well done to Octavia M who got 87% in her Grade 5 music theory exam, and has been offered a place in the U10 National Children's Orchestra on orchestral percussion (and the U14 South East regional orchestra). A great achievement, especially as she auditioned a year early! Congratulations Octavia.

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

Downsend Lower School Santa Dash



On Tuesday morning, hundreds of miniature Santas could be seen arriving at Downsend School, ready for our Santa Dash in aid of The Children's Trust. The Santas enjoyed getting into training for a hectic schedule of present delivery, by running laps around the Astro on a beautiful, crisp, winter's morning. They then enjoyed delicious hot chocolate with cream, marshmallows and biscuits, kindly provided by the DPA. Thank you for all the donations - the current total stands at just over £1,300. Please could any remaining sponsorship money be returned at the start of the new term.

Natasha Ludlam





Downsend Upper School Santa Dash



The Upper School were able to keep toasty and warm during their Santa Dash for The Children's Trust this morning. Following a warm up of 'Reindeer Lunges' and 'Santa Squats' they completed several laps of the Astro. Afterwards they enjoyed a delicious hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows served by the DPA. Thank you for all the donations - the total stands at just over £345. Well done to all!

Beth Day





Festive Leggings!



And she did it! For two whole weeks now Mrs Fitch has worn her festive leggings **EVERY SINGLE DAY!** Thank you for everyone who has sent in donations in support, she has raised £49.45 for the Children's Trust.

Well done and now the big question is - will she still be wearing them at her Christmas Party this evening?!

DPA News & Events



It's been a busy old December, but the DPA have not hung up their elf hats just yet! Here's what we've been up to this week...

Buddy Bench

The DPA are delighted with the popularity of the wonderful new buddy bench. The DPA sponsored the purchase of this bench for our children to enjoy, especially if they're in need of a friendship boost at playtimes. As you can see, it is being very well used!



Our local Hospital

Following Santa's visit to the Christmas Fair recently, he left a few presents with the DPA in case we needed them. After much thought, we asked some of our pupil representatives to deliver the leftover presents to the Casey Ward at Epsom Hospital, to spread some festive joy to children spending the Christmas period on the ward. It is great to spread some Downsend cheer to those who need it at this time of year.



Santa Dash

The DPA were proud to support our sporty Santa Dashers this week as they made great efforts to raise funds on behalf of the Children's Trust this week. Conditions were bracing, perfect for enjoying a DPA sponsored luxury hot chocolate and a delicious biscuit.



**New Year, New Fun:
DPA Dates For Your Diary 2019**



On behalf of the whole DPA team, we would like to wish all parents, staff and children a very merry Christmas and hope that 2019 is a wonderful year for all. We have really enjoyed your support and participation in activities this term. We are looking forward to bringing you more fun in 2019! If you would like to get involved as a volunteer in any of the coming activities, please get in touch with your class rep or contact us on downsendPA@gmail.com.

Before you head off for the holidays, we would like to remind you of a few key DPA dates for your diary, and look forward to seeing you all at our events in 2019:

DPA Valentines Mufti Day – Thursday 14 February

DPA Quiz Night – Friday 15 February

DPA Summer Ball - Saturday 15 June @ The Queen's Stand, Epsom Racecourse

The DPA Christmas Elves

Library Update

Winter Wonders

2018

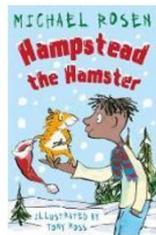
Below are some suggestions for books which will also be available in our library from January 2019.

Fiction



The Book Tree by Paul Czajak (Younger Fiction)

Description: When young Arlo accidentally drops a book on the Mayor's head, the Mayor decides books are dangerous and destroys all the books in town! But thanks to Arlo's imagination and perseverance, the Mayor finds that suppressing stories cannot stop them from blossoming more beautifully than ever.



Hampstead the Hamster by Michael Rosen (Younger Fiction)

Description: Christmas is coming, and what Leo wants more than anything in the world is a pet hamster. And guess what? He gets one on Christmas morning! Leo names his new pet Hampstead, after an autocorrect mistake on his wish list. Everything is great, that is until Leo realises that Hampstead is miserable. What can Leo do to cheer Hampstead up?



The Train to Impossible Places by P.G. Bell (Younger Fiction)

Description: Join the journey to Impossible Places, where there's magic at every stop. Suzy is surprised to find a grumpy troll building a railway through her house - especially when a gigantic steam train crashes into her hallway! This is the Impossible Postal Express, the trusty delivery service of the Union of Impossible Places, and Suzy becomes its newest recruit. She has an unusual package to deliver and an impossible adventure to go on.



The Chocolate Factory Ghost by David O'Connell (Year 3/4+)

Description: When Archie and his mum are summoned to Honeystone Hall in the remote Scottish village of Dundoodle, they find Archie has inherited not only the enormous hall, but the whole of the world-famous McBudge Confectionery Company from Great-Uncle Archibald. That's a new home, a fortune and a lifetime's supply of treats rolled into one! But all is not well in Dundoodle, and when Archie reads the mysterious letter his great-uncle left him, he finds himself on a quest to save his family's company from ruin.



The Missing Barbegazi by H.S. Norup (Year 3/4+)

Description: Barbegazi are fabled creatures who live in the Alps, rather like gnomes. Tessa knows that they exist because her beloved grandfather told her about them. So she sets out to prove to her family and friends that her grandfather wasn't confused. Soon she finds not only a family of Barbegazi but also a dastardly plot to kidnap one and keep it captive. But Tessa realises that uncovering the truth carries great responsibilities.



Have Sword will travel by Garth Nix and Sean Williams (Year 3/4+)

Description: Odo (seventh child of the village miller) and Eleanor (always looking for adventure) stumble upon a sword in a dried-up river outside their village. Eleanor (strong and able) tries to extract the sword but is unable to, and it is Odo who is surprisingly successful. It is even more surprising that the sword starts to talk. It is also annoying that the talking sword turns out to be rather grumpy, stubborn, and, at times, catastrophically wrong. Odo and Eleanor have unearthed Biter, a famous knightly sword from earlier times. By finding Biter, Odo instantly becomes a knight which is a role he is exquisitely unsuited for. Eleanor, however, is desperate to become and would be the perfect knight but she's not the one with the sword. Finding Biter is only the start - reluctant knight, reluctant squire, and determined sword must go on a quest to save their kingdom from threats in both human and dragon form.



Terror train by Terry Deary (Year 5/6+)

Description: A mysterious tower. A girl in a glass case. A stolen phone. A door to an old wax world. And Boy. All things considered, things weren't going too well for Boy in Wildpool. Not only are the police looking for him, but the worrying Arfur Loaf is on the warpath too. He can look after himself, can Boy, but going to Wiggott's Wonderful Wax World to lie low for a while might be the worst decision he's ever made. No - getting on the Terror Train - that's the worst decision he's ever made. Now Burke and Hare are after him as well! All Boy has to do is get back to his own time, escape the Terror Train and rescue the girl all before it's too late!



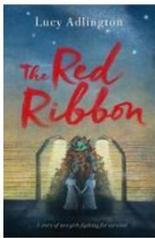
The Glass of Lead and Gold by Cornelia Funke (Year 5/6+)

Description: In a land of elves, mermaids and trolls, true magic is where you least expect it. In the snow-covered city of Londra, young Tabettha survives by finding treasures in the mudbanks of the river Themse. On Christmas Eve, a sinister stranger asks her to keep her eyes open for a priceless, long-lost magical object: the Glass of Lead and Gold. As word of the Glass spreads across the city, Tabettha finds herself with some unlikely companions, not least a one-armed girl and a rather impressive soup chef. But will Tabettha discover that there are even greater fortunes to be found than the magical Glass?



Snowglobe by Amy Wilson (Year 5/6+)

Description: This is a story of a thousand magical worlds. When daydreamer Clementine discovers a mysterious house standing in the middle of town that was never there before, she is pulled towards it by the powerful sense of a mother she never knew. The place is full of snow globes, swirling with stars and snow and each containing a trapped magician, watched over by Gan, the keeper of the house. One of these is Dylan, a boy who teases her in the real world but who is now desperate for her help. Clem ventures into the snow globes, rescuing Dylan and discovering her own powerful connection to the magic of these thousand worlds. Vowing to release the magicians from the control of their enchantments, Clem unknowingly unleashes a struggle for power that will not only put her family, but the future of magic itself in danger.



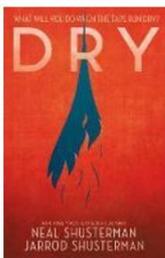
The Red Ribbon by Lucy Adlington (Year 7/8+)

Description: As fourteen-year-old Ella begins her first day at work she steps into a world of silks, seams, scissors, pins, hems and trimmings. She is a dressmaker, but this is no ordinary sewing workshop. Hers are no ordinary clients. Ella has joined the seamstresses of Birkenau-Auschwitz. Every dress she makes could mean the difference between life and death. She is faced with painful decisions about how far she is prepared to go to survive. Is her love of clothes and creativity nothing more than collaboration with her captors, or is it a means of staying alive? Will she fight for herself alone, or will she trust the importance of her friendship with Rose? One thing weaves through the colours of couture gowns and camp mud - a red ribbon, given to Ella as a symbol of hope.



The Key to Flambards by Linda Newbery (Year 7/8+)

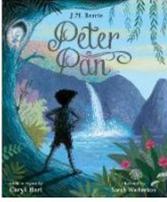
Description: Grace Russell, at fourteen, has already had to adjust to a devastating accident from which she'll never recover. Now she and her newly-single mother are leaving their suburban home for Flambards house, out in the Essex countryside. The house has a long history, and Grace's mother is to work there for the summer - an exciting new opportunity. But, for Grace, everything feels wrong. She's doesn't want yet another change. However, in spite of herself, she find herself becoming involved with two boys: Jamie, who leads her down a path of thrilling freedom, and the deeply troubled Marcus, who is dealing with his difficult, potentially violent father. Over time, Grace discovers her own links to the house and landscape she has just arrived in, and in turn, her own place in the world.



Dry by Neal and Jarrod Shusterman (Year 7/8+)

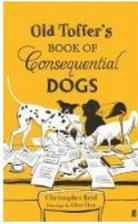
Description: When the California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, one teenager is forced to make life and death decisions in this harrowing story of survival. The drought - or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it - has been going on for a while now. Everyone's lives have become an endless list of don'ts: don't water the lawn, don't fill up your pool, and don't take long showers. Until the taps run dry. Suddenly, Alyssa's quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbours and families turned against each other on the hunt for water. And when her parents don't return and her life - and the life of her brother - is threatened, Alyssa has to make impossible choices if she's going to survive

Classics and Poetry



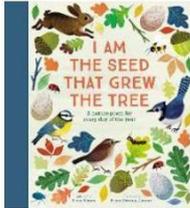
Peter Pan retold in verse by Caryl Hart

Description: When Peter Pan flies into the Darlings' room one dusky evening, he convinces Wendy and her brothers to come with him to the magical world of Neverland, where children never grow old. It's the beginning of an amazing adventure featuring a cast of classic characters, from the mischievous Lost Boys and jealous fairy Tinker Bell, to the villainous Captain Hook and his pirate band. But will the Darlings choose to stay in Neverland or return to London to grow up like other children?



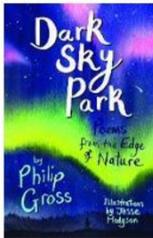
Old Toffler's Book of Consequential Dogs by Christopher Reid

Description: T. S. Eliot's collection of cat poems now has a companion volume with poems about dogs! Christopher Reid explains "I've rounded up a rowdy assembly of my own Consequential Dogs As counterparts to Eliot's mogs. Mine are a rough and ready bunch: You wouldn't take them out to lunch. But if they strike you as friendly, funny, full of bounce and fond of a romp, forgetful of poetic pomp, I trust you'll take them as you find them and, at the very least, not mind them."



I Am the Seed That Grew the Tree selected by Fiona Waters

Description: I Am the Seed That Grew the Tree is a beautifully illustrated collection of 366 nature poems - one for every day of the year, including leap years. Filled with familiar favourites and new discoveries, written by a wide variety of poets, including John Agard, William Blake, Emily Bronte, Charles Causley, Walter de la Mare, Eleanor Farjeon, Robert Frost, Thomas Hardy, Roger McGough, Christina Rossetti, William Shakespeare, William Wordsworth and many more, this is the perfect book to share at the beginning or the end of the day, or just to dip into.



Dark Sky Park by Philip Gross

*Worm dreaming
dreaming root and branch
and whale and ant
and dinosaur and
dreaming
you and me*

*Black smokers, glacier worms and tardigrades... arctic terns, snow leopards and the Aleppo cat...
living in the Abyss, conquering Everest, marvelling at the Northern Lights.*

Description: An exciting and thought-provoking celebration of all that is extraordinary in the natural world. Includes fascinating information about the creatures depicted. These are poems that look at the world with a scientist's eyes.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas, Karen Cresswell December 2018

Well Done

Well done to Alex D (4AS) who has just finished his two years in Beavers and was awarded the Bronze Chief Scouts Award this week, the highest award for Beavers, he will be moving up to Cubs in the new year.



Clare Kirkham

Downsend+



Downsend+ is here for the Christmas holidays from Monday and has space available on all courses and all days. 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](tel:07909861280) or email downsendplus@downsend.co.uk

[Contact Form 2018-2019](#)

[Christmas Course Description](#)

[Christmas 2018 Booking Form](#)

Rebecca Peek

Chicken Pox

Please be aware that we have had a confirmed case of chicken pox in the Lower School. If you are pregnant and have not had chicken pox before you should contact your GP or midwife if there is a risk you have been in contact with Lower School children.

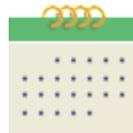
School Nurse

Next Term @ Downsend

School Events



| Date | Time | Event |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 07 January | All day | Staff INSET |
| Tuesday 08 January | All day | Term Starts |
| Wednesday 09 January | 8-8.30am | Uniform Shop Intake |
| Friday 11 January | Assembly All day am | Mr I Thorpe/Charity Assembly 8Z Geography Field Trip to Juniper Hall Townsend Warner History Prize – Paper 1 |



Calendar



Healthy School



Uniform



Firefly



DPA



Letters & Forms



Term Dates



Inspiring young minds

[Download School Notices](#)

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