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**DOWNSEND**  
SCHOOL

## DOWNSEND TIMES

11 January 2019



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### A message from the Headmaster

I hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to 2019 with confidence and enthusiasm in equal measure. We should all try to agree to banish the term Brexit and focus more readily on what is happening with our pupils to ensure a successful next few months. After all, 2019 is the year that will see the addition of a Junior Library, Junior Art/DT/Science facility, Staff Car Park and the beginnings of the Arts Centre at our school. So, there is much to keep us occupied as we move from the planning phase into the delivery stage of our enhancements. The updates should certainly get more visual and exciting as the term progresses.



In my assembly this morning, I encouraged our children to start 2019 by trying something new, comparing the fruit we have at school (apples, pineapple, kiwi etc) with rather more exotic fruit, such as rambutan and dragon fruit. We discussed being more adventurous at school lunches and not sticking with pasta all the time, trying out a new sport or instrument and making new friends. Growth mindset is such a key element of success in life and we will be doing our best to encourage this across the Downsend community. The above photo shows our U12 Hockey girls, bronze medallists at the IAPS Nationals, displaying this attitude in abundance, just one of many I could have selected to identify my highlights of the Autumn Term. I love seeing children give their all in the teaching rooms, on stage, in the music rooms and on the sports pitches, at which point this growth mindset is displayed in full. We have designed a series of sessions to support parents too as we work together to negotiate the challenges of raising children in partnership and I hope that you will be able to attend at least one of the forthcoming events on 28 January and 13 February – more details and an invitation to follow next week. Have a lovely, restful weekend!

*Ian Thorpe*

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## **The Roberts Sports League**

As a School, we believe in the values of a 'sport for all' approach within our Games programme. Across the School, we divide every child, in each age group into a school team. Whether it be the U13A team, down to the U7F team, we provide a 'development zone' environment for developing their skills. Every child has

the opportunity to represent the school in sport and develop valuable life skills whilst doing so. (I.e. Teamwork, Respect, Discipline, Sportsmanship).

The Roberts Sports League Trophy is an award that recognises the success of our sports teams each term. It provides us with some healthy competition between all our students; no matter what age, team or sport they play in. During the last assembly before Christmas, we announced the winners of the Autumn Term sports teams, boys Football and girls Hockey. The Sports Department would like to congratulate the following winners:

**U10C Football Team** - William R, Finlay S, Thomas B, Liam D, Theo J-M, William M, George C, Daniel O

**U9C Hockey Team** - Lauren M, Sophie C, Freya VH, Olivia M, Jessica B, Olivia J, Charlotte R, Sienna V, Francesca W



Mr Mitchell, the U10C Team coach, had this to say about their achievement: "They have had a fantastic season and should be proud of not only their results, but their performances along the way. They won every single game they played, demonstrating an excellent standard of football. From their 6 matches, they had a goal difference of 27, having only conceded 3 goals all season. The highlight was the last game of the season, a match against The New Beacon. Both teams had won all of their previous games and this looked like it would be a challenging encounter. The U10C Team came out victors, with a 6-0 win, scoring some excellent team goals. A great season and I look forward to seeing how they get on next year."

Mrs Fitch was the U9C Hockey Team coach and was equally impressed with the girls' unbeaten record. She added "the girls just kept improving each game they played. I saw them grow in confidence and really start

to show each week the skills we had been practising in Games sessions. They were fantastic in front of goal too! scoring 16 goals and only conceding 2 all season. I am really proud of them".

We look forward to the Spring Term sports programme which will see our sports teams compete in Netball and Rugby. I wonder who will be crowned the Roberts Sports League winners at Easter!?

*Jill Oliver*

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## Spring Term Ambassadors



Congratulations to the following Year 7 pupils who have been recognised by the Year 7 team for showing leadership qualities that warrant them being selected as our new Spring Term Ambassadors: Arthur C, Ryan T, Ollie F, Alex T, Alex E-M, Aniyah G, Geraldine H and Jasmine C. We look forward to seeing you working with the children in the Lower School as well as helping out in the Library, guiding and many more roles!

Also well done to Oliver P who has been awarded his first Headmaster's commendation – a great way to start the new year.

*Anna Mercer*

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## Celebrating La Fête des Rois in Year 3

Bonne Année!

This week Year 3 children have been enjoying the French tradition of eating a 'galette des rois' or brioche on 6th January to celebrate Epiphany. Each class was given the opportunity to try a brioche with a hidden 'fève' in it. The child whose brioche contained the 'fève' or charm, was declared to be the 'roi' or 'reine' for the day. The children learnt about a tradition that French children celebrate. This links with our Topic of festivals that is studied throughout the school and brings to life a French culture and tradition. Bon appétit!

Kings and Queens:

3VB Finley and Eleanor

3CC Gregor and Alice

3NL Baylen and Ria

3MB Jackson and Esme

*Susie Taylor*



## Year 7 Storytelling

For an English project, Year 7 spent the end of last term writing their own original picture books aimed at children aged 6-7 years old.

This week, they went over to visit Year 2 to show them their finished books and read them to one of the Year 2 classes.

Year 2 really enjoyed the stories of bunny rabbits, funny monsters and magic lands and Year 7 proved to be very good storytellers!

*Chris Bryant*



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## Lower School Update

Happy New Year from the Lower School team and warm and heartfelt thanks for your many generous Christmas gifts and cards, they really are so appreciated.

Having had a wonderful holiday, we were hugely excited to welcome a new young man to the Downsend team this week. William John Sutton was born yesterday and Mrs Sutton and her husband are absolutely delighted with their lovely little chap. Congratulations to them both from us all - we cannot wait to meet him!

I would also like to formally welcome Ms Charlotte Coulson to the Lower School team. The children and the 4AS parents have already made her feel very welcome and I'm sure that she will enjoy Downsend life enormously.

With the weather now taking a real turn, please can I take this opportunity to remind parents that children should be appropriately dressed for playtime. This should include the Downsend coat or waterproof.

Have a wonderful 2019!

*Clare Kirkham*

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## Artist Of The Week

This week's Artist of the Week is Chloe in 7BD. Using a technique learnt during their trip to Watts Gallery, Year 7 have been working with modroc to take casts of their hands. Wearing a rubber glove to protect their hand, they built up layers of plaster and smoothed it before carefully lifting the cast off the glove. Next week, they will take a cast of the other side of their hand and join them together.

*Julia Ayles*





## 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, Cello 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.



Congratulations to the following pupils who achieved exam success in their drum exams before Christmas:

Luca M Grade 1 Percussion Merit

Luca C-S Grade 2 Drum Kit Distinction.

Well done also to Peter Precious who, as an examiner for London College of Music, has been asked to write 18 new Grade 1 to 8 Level exam pieces for the new 2020 Syllabus.

*Nicole Allison*

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## Saturday Sports Club

A reminder that Saturday Sports Club recommences tomorrow.

*Jon Albert*

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## DPA News & Events

**Downsend  
Parents'  
Association**



Registered Charity No. 1116557

[downsendpa@gmail.com](mailto:downsendpa@gmail.com)

Hello all Happy New Year and welcome back!

**Quiz Night Friday 15 February 7.30pm – 11pm**



Is lean, mean January giving you the blues? Well be glum no more, because the DPA are now taking bookings for our annual Quiz and Curry Night!

Tickets are still just £15 per person – this pays for the quiz and delicious curry. There will be a bar to purchase your drinks by the bottle on the night.

Our Speed Quizzing host is providing Kindle Fire devices this year, so you can leave your electronics safely at home.

The quiz works best if the number of players on each team is between 4 and 8. Round up your brainiest buddies (or, at least, the most entertaining ones) and book by emailing [downsendpa@gmail.com](mailto:downsendpa@gmail.com)

Please pay for your tickets by BACS at the time of booking. **Please use the reference QUIZ along with your surname.**

**DPA  
40-20-24  
81479040**

### **Valentine's Mufti**



**Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
Let's all show some love  
And raise money too!**

On Thursday 14 February we're asking all pupils to wear red and bring £2 in aid of the British Heart Foundation

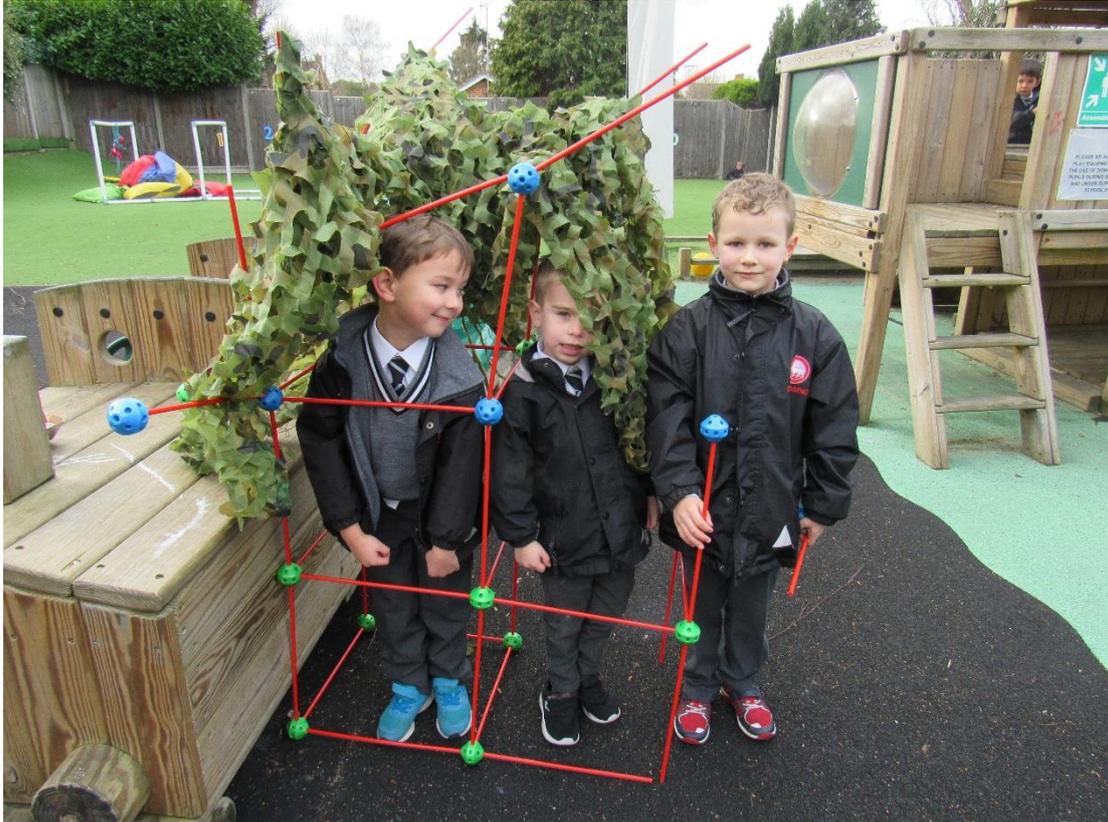
Disclaimer: participating in this event may not win you all the admirers of a young Sofia Loren, but it might make you feel all warm and fuzzy!

*The DPA Committee*

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## News from our Pre-Preps

### Full STEAM ahead!



At Ashted Pre-Prep we are delighted to announce that we are a fully fledged STEAM school. Over the past twelve months our Senior Leadership Team have attended seminars and read a variety of educationalists' research about the best way to educate our young children for the future. It has raised many questions and stimulated plenty of staff discussions. Our children are growing up in an increasingly technological world which is constantly changing, developing and diversifying. What will the workplace be like for our two year olds when they leave school in 2035? The superior sophistication of machines and robots will replace many jobs that exist today so it is essential that we teach our children to use skills unique to humans. These are problem solving, critical thinking and the ability to empathise with people. We feel that the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) curriculum is the perfect base from which to develop and strengthen these skills in our young children. As the children are not only learning to apply these subject skills, they are also collaborating, communicating and problem solving as well as being critical thinkers whilst challenging their creativity through the activities. STEAM is perfect for us as it works alongside our current curriculum by enhancing the children's learning experiences through our programme of planned play. At the end of this month we are holding our annual themed curriculum week which will focus on STEAM. We can't wait!

*Tessa Roberts*



Pre-Prep Epsom were both delighted and excited to welcome Elli Woollard, an author and the schools Patron of Reading for 2019 to assembly and then a Q&A with Reception and Year 1 on Thursday. A Patron of Reading is a school's special children's author, poet, storyteller or illustrator. Everything the patron does is related to helping encourage and develop a reading for pleasure culture in the school. We feel we already have a great reading for pleasure culture but we continue to strive to continually improve and enrich our children's learning even further!

*Vanessa Conlan*



# Downsend+

Downsend+ has finalised the activity programmes for February Half term, Easter and May Half Term 2019. Please do remember bookings must be received 10 working days in advance to receive the pre-booked rate.

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**

**February, Easter and May Course Description**

**February Booking Form**

**Easter Booking Form**

*Rebecca Peek*

## Next Week @ Downsend

### School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 14 January	All day	8Y geography Fieldwork trip to Juniper Hall
Thursday 17 January	All day 5.30pm	Year 2 Forest School visit @ Downsend 8CE Parent-Teacher Interviews, Dining Hall
Friday 18 January	am 3.45-4.30pm	7+ Welcome Morning Uniform Shop Open for Sales
Saturday 19 January	am	7+ Assessment Morning

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### Perform Drama Classes

Perform would like to offer a special £50 discount for any Downsend child who joins their classes during January 2019. They can go for a Free Trial Session first to see if they like it and if they sign up by 31st January using discount code JANU31-01019, they're entitled to £50 off too.

To book a Free Trial Session, parents can call 020 7255 9120 or email [enquiries@perform.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@perform.org.uk). Class locations can be found on their website [www.perform.org.uk](http://www.perform.org.uk).



Calendar



DPA



## Healthy School



Uniform

## Letters & Forms



Term Dates



Firefly



SchoolsSports

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# Inspiring young minds

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