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## DOWNSEND SCHOOL

# DOWNSEND TIMES

15 February 2019



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## A message from the Headmaster

It's fair to say that we are all ready for half term and looking forward to a well-earned break. As always, it has been a very busy and productive few weeks, with too many highlights to mention in this short introduction.

In many respects, you have done our talking for us over the past few weeks and I am indebted to you for completing almost 240 surveys over the past few weeks. With your 'satisfaction' rating having increased by almost 30% since last year, you have declared Downsend to be in good health, where happiness and high standards, coupled with a broad enrichment programme, ensure that your children literally skip into school each day. You have described Downsend as a 'lovely school, staff are exceptional and fantastic facilities' and a school with 'stretch without stress'. As we discovered during the Heads' Q&A on Wednesday evening, this is a crucial balance to achieve in order to promote positive well-being amongst young people. With our Year 6 pupils having gained places at CLFS, KCS Wimbledon, Guildford High, Reed's, Epsom College and St. John's this term, it is clear that the local senior schools are certainly impressed with what our children can achieve; and always with a smile on their faces!

Enjoy the break!

*Ian Thorpe*

## Lower School Update



It has been another jam-packed and educationally rich week in the Lower School this week starting with our inaugural trip to the Europa Centre in Essex where our Year 5 pupils shone in their ability to speak French in a variety of real life situations. They ordered food, talked fashion in boutiques and seemed like French nationals as they moved around the 'town'. Mr Skitt was thrilled with their engagement, skills and behaviour – well done Year 5!

Year 2 were also emerging themselves in their learning this week on their visit to the Living Rainforest where they were guided through the rainforest learning about edible plants and food chains whilst walking amongst exotic animals such as toucans and lizards. The Year 2 team were again delighted will all of the children and came home smiling and proud of all that was achieved.

It was my pleasure this week to attend Mr Newland's Upper School Showcase Evening for our Year 5 parents. The Upper School children spoke with clarity and passion about their journey through our wonderful school and parents were reassured of our ongoing commitment to give our pupils a first rate education and to help them in their next steps, whether that be at Downsend or at another competitive Senior School. If you have any further questions about this please do feel free to come and speak to me or Mr Newland at any time, we would love to see you.

Despite the trips and visits taking place in school this week, learning has remained at the heart of everything and I was thrilled to see some work from our fantastic Lower School ‘Maths Detectives’ this week. Well done to Annabel E, Rebecca J and Maxwell G who showed me their wonderful mathematical investigations set in real life situations proudly – superb work. Well done too to Emeline M in 3NL whose writing was inspiring, well-structured and ambitious. It was a joy to read!

We end the half term today on a high with Year 4’s ‘Iron Man Day’ and Year 2’s Swimming Gala and so our momentum continues to the very end. I wanted to finish with a thank you to our wonderfully supportive Lower School parents who have given feedback, through the survey and face to face, which enables us to celebrate the strengths of our team and community and to make positive changes for the benefit of all. I am hugely grateful for your support and wish you all a fantastic holiday. I look forward to welcoming you all back raring to go again – get those World Book Day costumes at the ready!

*Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School*

## **Upper School Update**



Well done to all the pupils in the Upper School for their hard work and progress this half term. Since Christmas, I have been so proud of the Year 6 pupils who have tackled the pre-tests sensibly and calmly,

and once again produced some outstanding results despite fierce competition for places. Thanks also to the staff who have worked so hard to help the pupils achieve their potential, and prepare the children for their interviews with our senior school partners. Further up the school the Year 7&8 pupils have also made great academic progress as well as mentoring the younger pupils. We have seen Upper School pupils show great leadership and citizenship; reading to the younger pupils, assisting the sports staff at Saturday morning sports club and in their buddy meetings and lunches. After such a busy and productive term can I take this opportunity to wish all our pupils, parents and staff an enjoyable and restful half-term break.

*Karl Newland, Head of Upper School*

## **Jungle Explorers**

As life in Leatherhead turned to frost earlier this term, Year 2 escaped the chill to discover the dangers and delights of the world's tropical rainforests. Inspired by their Humanities topic, 'The Rainforest', the children delved into the delights of Lynne Cherry's book, "The Great Kapok Tree". This not only inspired some great poetry and story writing, but has also introduced the children to the idea of a balanced argument about the needs of nature and man.

To round off our work, this week we visited 'The Living Rainforest' in Berkshire to experience first-hand the climate, plants and some of the creatures that inhabit the world's hottest and wettest regions. Here are some of the things our children had to say, together with some of their work:

"It was exciting when we found the sloth asleep. I spotted some grey hair in the leaves and knew she was there." (*Ella, 2ST*)

I liked the bright green snakes. I'd never seen snakes before and they were curled around the branches."  
(*James, 2LB*)

"I loved the trip to the rainforest! It was really hot inside with lots of leaves and animals everywhere. I liked the tarantula the best!" (*Charlie, 2CW*)

"I liked the rainforest because I imagined what it would be like and now I know. There were amazing animals and plants and it was sticky and humid." (*Spencer, 2YdV*)



## Year 2 Rainforest Poems

**Smooth, colourful tree frog spitting and leaping  
Burrowing, furry anteater sniffing and digging  
In the leaves and the trees of the jungle**

**Tiny, venomous tarantula creeping and crawling  
Starving, sharp-clawed jaguar hunting and searching  
In the leaves and the trees of the jungle**

**Hovering, singing hummingbird fluttering and eating nectar  
Slow, elegant sloth hanging and swinging  
In the leaves and the trees of the jungle.**

*(Noah, 2ST)*

**Snappy, scaly caiman swimming and creeping,  
Stripy, yellow tree frog darting and jumping,  
In the steamy, gloomy rainforest.**

**Spotty, fierce jaguar prowling and strolling,  
Colourful, pretty macaw flying and squawking,  
In the steamy, gloomy rainforest.**

**Smooth, black toucan swooping and screaming,  
Scaly, green iguana climbing and hunting,  
In the steamy, gloomy rainforest.**

*(Charlie, 2LB)*

**Small, bouncy frog leaps everywhere  
Deep in the humid forest.**

**Dangerous, giant leopard jumps everywhere,  
Deep in the humid forest.**

**Fragrant, squawking toucan singing everywhere,  
Deep in the humid forest.**

**Scaly, slimy snake slithers everywhere,  
Deep in the humid forest.**

**Cheeky, furry, swinging monkeys howling everywhere,  
Deep in the humid forest.**

**Sticky, slippery frog darting everywhere,  
Deep in the humid forest**

*(Elyssa, 2YdV)*

**Hairy, scary tarantula crawling and scuttling  
Cheeky, sneaky monkey swinging and howling  
In the leaves and the trees of the jungle.**

**Beautiful, colourful butterfly flying and fluttering  
bright, blue parrot squawking and flowing  
In the leaves and the trees of the jungle.**

**Scaly, poisons snake slithering and sliding  
Stripy, sleepy tiger hunting and chasing  
In the leaves and the trees of the jungle.**

*(Olivia, 2CW)*

*Lisa Burns*

## Year 4 Iron Man Day



Year 4 was abuzz with excitement today as they completed a range of activities centred around this term's English text - *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. A menagerie of amazing 'iron' animals and children have been designed and created in class, ready to use in an extended piece of writing after half-term. The children also came up with some excellent word banks ready to support their writing about each character. Not to be missed, Mr Popham's robotic dance workshop was also a real highlight of the day!

*Jodie Newberry*



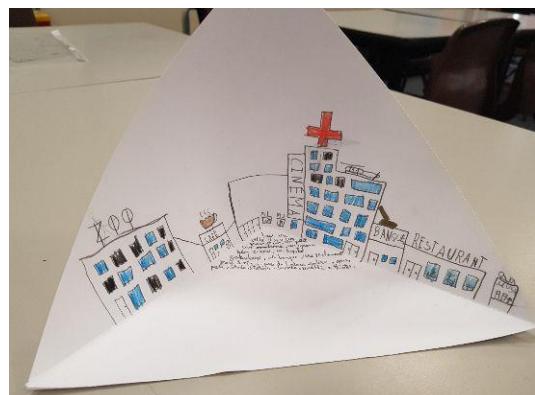
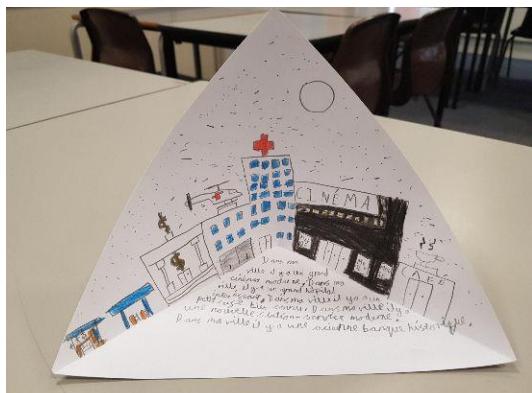
## Year 5 visits to the Europa Centre



On Monday and Tuesday, Year 5 all spent a day at the Europa Centre in Essex. The Europa Centre is an indoor French village, run by French native speakers, where the children were able to visit the shops, order food in the café and engage in conversation with the assistants. The Year 5 children have been preparing for this trip for the last term in their French lessons, and their preparation paid off, as they talked with increasing confidence during the course of the session. The centre staff complimented the Downsend children on their effort and resilience in speaking French, but were also impressed with their outstanding behaviour and good manners. Well done, Year 5!

Whilst one group were in the centre enjoying their session, the other group were with me working on their knowledge of places in town in French, and producing beautiful 3D street scenes with some very detailed descriptions. The scenes they have produced are fantastic, and we are looking forward to displaying them around the school after half-term.

*Martin Skitt, Head of Languages*



## Year 6 Trip to the Globe Theatre

What a beautiful day we had for our trip up to London! After a rather tricky journey up to London, we assembled in the Globe foyer to split into three workshop groups. Each group was then given a guided tour of the theatre, bringing to life what we have been studying in the classroom. This involved sitting in the gallery to discuss the theatre in Elizabethan times and I was extremely proud of the knowledge displayed

by the children, as were the theatre staff! They certainly have learnt a lot about both Shakespeare himself and the theatre in his times. After convening backstage in the tiring house, it was onto the stage to act out a line from 'The Scottish Play' – Macbeth's 'Is this a dagger I see before me? Which raised a round of applause from the other visitors!

From here each group met in one of the Globe's drama studios where various acting skills were practised culminating in paired presentations of the awkward conversation between Macbeth and his lady before the murder of the king. I certainly witnessed some excellent acting!

After lunch, it was onto the shop where many purchases, some more valuable than others, were made! From here we were involved in an Elizabethan dress workshop and the sight of some of our boys and girls dressed in these costumes gave us a real understanding of the dress of both poor and wealthy people in Shakespeare's times as well as a laugh! Half an hour was then spent looking around the exhibition which included costume, musical instruments, the Frost Fair that used to take place on the Thames and the gruesome sight of Macbeth's head on a spear which delighted most of the boys!

It was a fun but educational day and was an excellent way to round up the project that we have been studying in Year 6 this half term.

*Dee Vanstone*



## General Knowledge House Quiz 2019



At the beginning of the Spring Term, each child in the whole school, completed a general knowledge quiz in form time. The results of this were used to make up teams for the final round of a University Challenge style quiz. This morning, during whole school assembly, each team from the four houses met. Mr Watts asked 10 starter questions (each worth 10 points) where the first to answer would then answer two following bonus questions (each worth 5 points). A big thank you to the Heads of Department who helped me put this final round together by suggesting some challenging questions. A massive thank you also to Mr Albert who helped set up this event and to Mr Silva, Finlay M and Harrison H-J for the tricky job of trying to spot who buzzed in first. This was such a fun event and congratulations to all the teams and especially to the winning house Headley, who only just pipped last year's winners Wisley.

The teams were as follows:

**Headley** – Eleanor M, Toby T, Imogen G and Amy N-J

**Norbury** – Annabel E, Maxwell G, Marcus H and Zoe S

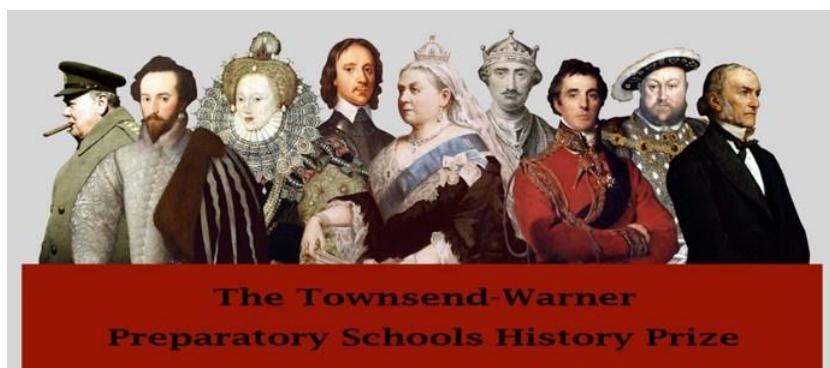
**Wisley** – Isabella C, Alexander B, Geoffrey L and Jake W

**Ranmore** – Jackson C, Freyja B-W, Jacob S and Matthew Y

*Helen Black*



## Townsend Warner History Prize 2019



### First Round

In January a selection of children from Year 6, Year 7 and Year 8 took part in the first round of the Townsend Warner History Prize. This competition started over 130 years ago and it is one of the oldest institutions in the preparatory school world. It is not linked to any national testing or examinations, but aims to provoke interest and delight in historical reading, facts and analysis. It regularly produces winners of remarkable calibre, writing history of much flair and knowledge.

The Prize consists of two papers. The first has 100 questions demanding one-word, or one-sentence, answers from world history, but with a strong emphasis on British history. Many are straightforward, some

a little more obscure. Over 1000 students, from the top prep schools in Britain, sat this paper last month and only the 250 candidates qualify from Paper One to sit Paper Two.

I am very proud to announce the following have made it through to Paper 2:

- Leah F
- Jacob S
- Shihong F
- Geoffrey L

These four have done incredibly well and I wish them all the very best of luck for Paper 2 which will be held towards the end of this month.

I would also like to thank all those children from Year 6, Year 7 and Year 8 who took part. I was incredibly impressed with the high quality and range of knowledge that was displayed in what was the toughest Paper One I have seen yet!

*Helen Black, Head of History*

## Artist Of The Week

This week's Artist of the Week is Ben M in Year 8. Ben worked really hard to finish sculpting his clay head and has created a very interesting character! Well done.

*Julia Aylen*



## Music Update



Last Sunday members of the Chamber Choir performed in a concert with eight other schools to raise money for The Children's Trust. They sang beautifully and it was lovely to be part of a community event like this.



### 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.

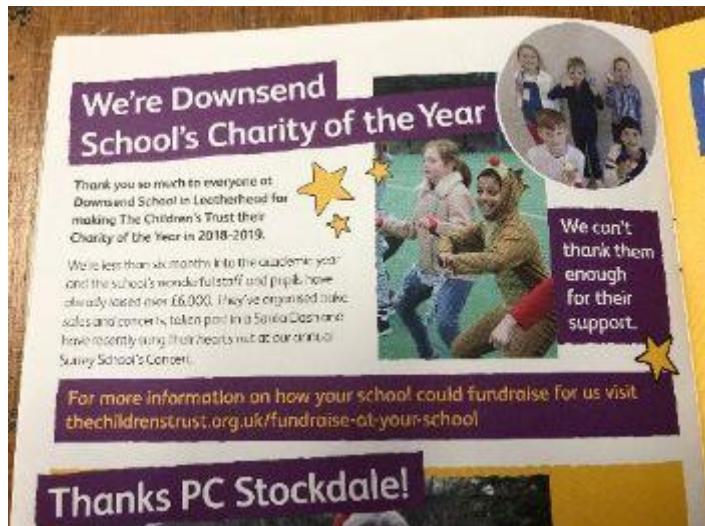
Year 3 are enjoying their cello lessons.



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*

## The Children's Trust Update



Beth Day

## DPA News & Events

**Downsend  
Parents'  
Association**



Registered Charity No. 1116557

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

## Quiz and Curry Night

**Tonight**

**7.30pm – 11.00pm**

**SpeedQuizzing**

The Quiz is nigh! The DPA will be manning the bar, offering beers, wines, soft drinks and water. For the first time, we will be trialing a card payment system alongside the usual cash purchases. Fingers crossed!

If you have not already paid for your ticket, please do so via BACS. Please use the reference QUIZ along with your surname

**DPA  
40-20-24  
81479040**

## **DPA Funding**

We're chuffed to see our young sportsmen and sportswomen enjoying some extra pitchside comfort in these splendid new school coats, purchased by the DPA. Watch this space for news on our future projects and purchases.



## Pavilion Coffee Mornings

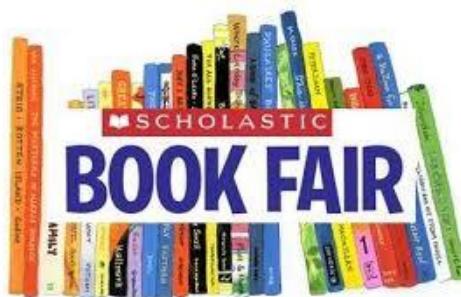
A reminder that the DPA will sponsor one coffee morning per class per term in our very own pavilion. Book as a single class or larger year group. Class reps can contact [doug.turpie@downsend.co.uk](mailto:doug.turpie@downsend.co.uk) to book.



Please send us pictures of your coffee mornings too! [downsendpa@gmail.com](mailto:downsendpa@gmail.com)

*The DPA Committee*

## Book Fair



We will be holding a Scholastic Book Fair to celebrate **Book Week** and **World Book Day** in school from Monday 4th March to Friday 8th March. There will be over 200 titles for you and your child to choose from and prices start from £2.99. Your child can also use their World Book Day £1 token towards payment.

The Book Fair will be open every break and lunch time for your child to come along and look at the books, they can also write a wish list of books they would like to buy and bring this home for you to look at.

If you are happy for your child to order and buy some books there are a variety of ways this can be done:

They can bring in a Scholastic Gift voucher to spend at the Book Fair (which means you are happy for them to make their own choices about what they buy at the Book Fair). Gift Vouchers can be purchased online before the Book Fair at [www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers).

### Scholastic Book Fair Gift Vouchers

Save money with our Book Fair Gift Vouchers! Book Fair Gift Vouchers are the simple, secure way to ensure your child gets the books they want when the Book Fair arrives.



Even better, you'll get an extra 20% for free when you buy online – that means you'll get a £6 voucher for only £5, a £12 voucher for only £10, a £30 voucher for only £25 and so on.

- Your school will earn Rewards for free books on the full value of the voucher, rather than the discount price.
- Once a purchase has been made, you will receive the voucher in an email which can be printed and given to your child to take into school.
- Vouchers can be purchased up until midnight on the day before the Book Fair closes – Friday 8th March.

or

Books can be ordered and paid for by sending in the correct amount in cash or cheque (made payable to Downsend School) along with the wish list/order form. Please put the payment and form in an envelope with your child's name and form on it addressed to Mrs Karen Cresswell/School Librarian.

or

Books can be ordered and bought by parents (cash or cheque only) on Wednesday 6th March or Thursday 7th March from 3.30pm to 5.00pm in the School Library. Additional copies of books may be bought at this time. Book orders will be sent off so that books arrive as soon as possible.

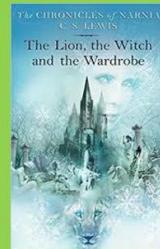
We are really looking forward to hosting the Book Fair at school and don't forget that every book you buy rewards our School Library with fantastic new books for the whole school to enjoy.

Many thanks,

Karen Cresswell, School Librarian

## Library Update

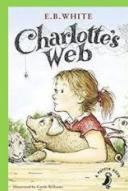
# Book Week House Competition



Turn a classic book into a comic or mini book

or

Design a poster describing your favourite character from a  
classic book.



Prizes across all year groups

House Points  
for all entries

Prizes for Winning  
and Highly  
Commended entries



Closing date: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019

# Downsend+

Downsend+ has exciting programmes of activity planned for **February Half term**, **Easter** and **May Half Term** 2019. Details are available on our [website](#) or can be downloaded below.

We also have details below of our **Summer Tennis Camps** and are offering early booking discounts. We are also working on finalising details of our summer programme which we hope to publish shortly so watch this space! The summer dates that Downsend+ will be open are Friday 12 July to Wednesday 28 August 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](#)

[Summer Tennis Booking Form](#)

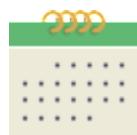
*Rebecca Peek*

## Next Half Term @ Downsend

### School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 25 February	All day am	Yr 8 Scholarship Exams Townsend-Warner History Prize – Paper 2
Tuesday 26 February	All day All day	8CE Mock Exams begin Yr 4 trip to the Science Museum
Wednesday 27 February	7.00-8.00pm	Your Child's Journey Through Downsend: Lower School Open Evening for Yr 1 Parents
Thursday 28 February	All day All day 5.00pm	U11 IAPS Netball @ Cranleigh Yr 3 Forest School visit @ Downsend Yr 4 Parent-Teacher Interviews, Peterborough Hall
Friday 1 March	Assembly All day All day	Mr J Albert 8CE Mock Exams end U12 & U13 IAPS Netball @ Cranleigh
Saturday 2 March	10.30am	Yrs 2 & 3 Internal Hockey Tournament



Calendar



DPA



Healthy School



Letters & Forms



Uniform



Term Dates



Firefly



SchoolsSports

## Inspiring young minds

### Download School Notices

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**Our mailing address is:**

Downsend School  
1 Leatherhead Road  
Leatherhead  
Surrey  
KT22 8TJ

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