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DOWNSEND
SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

01 March 2019



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A message from the Headmaster

I hope that you enjoyed the glorious sunshine last week, and that everyone returned with batteries refreshed after the half-term break. I am certainly pleased to have had a rest, as it has been quite a week. Monday's meeting with the uniform suppliers was productive, and Mr Newland and Mrs Kirkham are looking forward to working with the School Councils to finalise the new uniform, which is hugely exciting. No big changes lower down the school to worry about, but a lovely progression to 16, that we will share with you in the summer months! On Tuesday, we hosted a Consultation Meeting for local residents regarding the building plans, and the improvements to the Lower and Upper Schools. The images of the theatre and the new foyer show the quality of the work that we are about to undertake, and the response to the Consultation was unfailingly positive. I am delighted to inform you, therefore, that the planning application was submitted yesterday. Once the link is live, we will provide it for you; please feel free to support via the online documentation that accompanies the application.

On Wednesday and Thursday, we completed the interviews for our Head of English and Science posts and were blessed with a quality field. Our chosen candidates will add much to the life of our school and will complete the team of GCSE specialists leading our core subjects. On Wednesday evening, we welcomed our Y1 parents from the Pre-Preps for their first welcome sessions of 2019, all of whom proved to be an enthusiastic and supportive group. We are lucky to have them! Today, I got to spend some quality time with the children in judging the Year 5 'Revolting Rhymes' competition; all 4 classes were brilliant and we have recommended that parents wear two sets of socks for their own performance in a fortnight, as the first pair are going to get knocked off! Going on around me have been the usual heady mix of academic excellence, musical ingenuity and sporting successes, as you will gather as you read on!

Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update



As the beautiful weather from half term continued into the start of the new half term, so did the mood around school and it was so lovely to see the children return from their break happy and smiling, as ever.

There was no slow start to the half term in the Lower School and Year 4 kicked things off dynamically with a trip to the Science Museum on Tuesday. Mrs Newberry's challenge to come back with exciting facts that the teachers might not know was met and the children were enthused and inspired by what they had learnt, if rather exhausted. They were wonderful advocates for the school and we look forward over the coming weeks to see how this experience will enrich their learning back in school.

It was also wonderful this week to welcome so many of our Year 1 parents to the Lower School to talk about their children's future journey through Downsend. The work completed by current Lower School children, as well as a video put together by the Year 8 Digital Leaders to show some of our Lower School learners and what they so enjoy about their education here, added richness to the story and it was a great pleasure to be able to showcase this and our school as a whole.

Well done this week to our Year 3 Mathematicians who did some wonderful work on explaining their understanding of how to complete subtraction calculations. Particular mention must go to Eleanor M, Roya M, Ryan D, Kahlan C, Raphaella P, Finley M who came to show me their outstanding work!

Despite the weather taking rather a dip, I'm sure that the mood in school will not and I look forward to another exciting Book Week next week!

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update



The Upper School pupils have returned from half-term refreshed recharged and full of enthusiasm!

This week the Year 8 pupils have sat their mock CE papers and have impressed all the academic staff with their focus and determination, and I'm sure their results will be impressive, whilst setting some target areas for development for the summer exams. In addition, the Year 8 pupils sitting scholarship exams or all-rounder awards have been visiting senior schools to demonstrate their talents, and I look forwards to hearing about their outcomes in the days to come. Congratulations must go to Sonny A for securing his place and a Sport Scholarship to Charterhouse, a very impressive achievement!

On the sporting front, all our Upper School boys have had successful fixtures against Cumnor House in Rugby, with brilliant performances from Toby W who scored 5 tries, and Matthew Y who scored 4! In Netball, the Upper School girls all played brilliantly against CLFS (Year 6), Manor House (Year 7) and Lingfield College (Year 8). The games department are particularly pleased with the teamwork and fluid play the girls are demonstrating, so well done to all of you on your sport this week.

I am delighted to report that, following outstanding first round results Leah F, Geoffrey L, Shihong F and Jacob S are sitting the second round of the National Townsend Warner History competition. Just reaching this stage is an amazing performance, so good luck with your papers everyone.

Finally, good luck to our Upper School public speaking team; Leah F, Imogen G and Zoe S who have reached the third round of the regional competition tomorrow and will be presenting on the merits of 'YouTube and Education'!

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

Year 7 Commendations



Congratulations to the following children who have successfully started this half term by receiving their next Headmaster's Commendation badge:

Magnus F, James G, Mia K, Thomas U, Gracie N, Luke W, Ryan T, Natasha C, Joel W, Jasmine C, Ollie F, Jacob S, Anita B and Damla S.

Well done to all of you!

Anna Mercer

Rotary Pubic Speaking Competition



Well done to the Public Speaking team who won the second round of the Rotary Competition before half term with their speech on 'You tube is essential to modern education'. We wish them good luck as they compete in the third round at St Teresa's on Saturday. The team is comprised of Leah F (Yr 8), Zoe S (Yr 8) and Imogen G (Yr 6).



The Rotary Club also organises a National Young Writer's Competition. The title given this year was 'My Inspiration'. I am really pleased to announce that we had four successful Runners-Up in the Intermediate section of the competition: Leak F, Jack P, Zoe S and Ava U.

Congratulations!

Dee Vanstone



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, 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.

Nicole Allison

2019 Ski Trip to Les Menuires

Ski Meeting – Wednesday 6 March



It is now only just over a month to go before we depart to the French Alps!

Just to remind you that this Wednesday 8th March at 4.30pm there is an information evening in the Tregenna Hall which we would be grateful if everyone could attend. It is very important that you can attend if possible, as we will be giving out an information booklet which contains all the information that you need to know about this trip. We will hopefully be giving out the ski hoodies then too!

Helen Black and Jon Albert

DPA News & Events

Downsend
Parents'
Association



Registered Charity No. 1116557

downsendpa@gmail.com

Quiz and Curry Night - Friday 15th February



Congratulations go to the Middle-Aged Drinkers who emerged victorious, whilst the coveted Wooden Spoon Award went to the Macdonalds!

What a great atmosphere! With your support, the DPA raised £556.24, which is over £300 more than last year!

We also trialled our new card payment device and it worked without a hitch. Hooray! You can expect to see electronic payment options being offered across our fundraising efforts moving forwards.

Thank you to everyone who came to Quiz night, we very much appreciate your support.



Uniform Sale



The next Second-Hand Uniform sale is on:

Friday 8th March

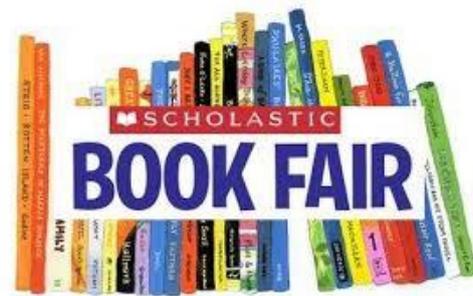
3:45 - 4:30pm

Social Area

If anyone has any questions or would like to volunteer, please send Lynn Godwin a message at 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.

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

News from our Pre-Preps

DDDDDD....Dinosaurs!

There have been lots of loud noises coming from the Reception classrooms this week, including roaring and volcano explosions! It must be because the children have begun their new topic 'Dinosaurs!' The classrooms have incorporated new role play areas where the children have enjoyed digging for bones and fossils or hiding in the explorer's tent from those scary dinosaurs! There are many exciting activities to come including fossil making, dinosaur creating and pterodactyl flying... We can't wait!

Melanie Chipperton



Downsend+

Downsend+ has exciting programmes of activity planned for **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

[Contact Form 2018-2019](#)
[February, Easter and May Course Description](#)
[Easter Booking Form](#)
[Summer Tennis Booking Form](#)

Rebecca Peek

Next Half Term @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 04 March	All week All day	Book Week Begins Open Box Theatre Company 'World Book Day' performances to Lower School
Tuesday 05 March	All day 5.00pm	Lower School Inter-House Book Week Quiz Yr 4 Parent-Teacher Interviews, Peterborough Hall
Wednesday 06 March	4.30pm	Ski Trip Meeting, Tregenna Hall
Thursday 07 March	All day 8.45-9.15am	World Book Day Whole School Shared Reading
Friday 08 March	9.15am-12noon	Open Morning



Calendar



DPA



Healthy School



Letters & Forms



Uniform



Term Dates



Firefly



SchoolsSports

Inspiring young minds

[Download School Notices](#)

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