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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

08 March 2019



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A message from the Headmaster

It's been another busy yet productive week, with our pupils taking part in Piano Concerts and County Hockey tournaments, Public Speaking Competitions and World Book Day. Thank you to everyone for entering into the spirit yesterday and we enjoyed teaching most of the 101 Dalmatians, Sherlock Holmes and Oompa Loompas, amongst others, as the school resembled more Hogwart's than Downsend! The week started in positive fashion with the first-choice candidates from our drive to recruit new Heads of Science and English accepting our offer of employment. Both have extensive Senior school experience and evidence of high achievement at GCSE level. Most importantly, both are hugely encouraged to be joining Downsend at such an exciting time in our development. This same sentiment was echoed by our 40 or so prospective families that joined us at Open Morning this week, who loved being shown round by our excellent Senior pupils. 'Stretch without stress' was very much the order of the day.

Earlier in the week, I welcomed Chris and Jenny Linford back to Downsend. The Linford family owned our school for generations until selling it in 2002 and were honoured when I informed that we would like, with their blessing, to name the new theatre, the 'Linford Theatre'. Having seen the plans, visual images and even the proposed Senior uniform, they were delighted to accept. Finally, on a sad note, I know that many of the families of older pupils will remember Dave Pizzy, our Caretaker for many years, with huge affection.

Dave lost his battle with cancer on Friday, but will always be fondly remembered as a man for whom nothing was too much trouble. We are currently investigating the appropriate way to commemorate Dave's loyalty and commitment to Downsend as part of the new Well-being Garden, scheduled to be completed in the summer.

Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update



It has been a week focussed on books and the love of reading in the Lower School this week and the children have thoroughly enjoyed the many exciting activities planned for them. There have been performances and workshops with Ken and Iain from The Openbox Theatre Company, book quizzes for all year groups, shared reading between year groups across the school and the first writing published on Pobble...and that's all before you even mention dressing up for World Book Day itself. Huge thanks to Mrs Burns and the Lower School team for all the organisation involved in such a wonderful week. Thanks to parents too for providing such a creative and imaginative array of costumes – they really were terrific.

Despite all the fun and excitement, there has been plenty of academic endeavour in school this week too. Well done to Davide P, Niji S, Zac S, Thomas D, Bobby H and Kian D for their beautifully meticulous Maths work, to Oscar R, Isabella C and Eleanor M for their wonderful poetry and to Sienna A for her visually

wonderful art work. I absolutely love seeing the children's work and equally their faces when they are so proud of their own achievements.

With Pi Day, Revolting Rhymes assemblies, Forest School for Year 2 and the St. Christopher's Music Festival all coming up over the next week, I can only wish you all a wonderfully relaxing weekend in readiness for more excitement.

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update



The Upper School has been buzzing this week and I have been fortunate enough to watch some great lessons and listen to some wonderful language skills in French and Spanish!

The Year 6 pupils have been busy working on the Chemistry based topic of separating mixtures, and I have received some wonderful presentations on a 'Camping Chaos' separation challenge, which have been designed in 'Scratch' and submitted through the VLE; well done!

Miss Black and Mr Mitchell hosted the ski trip meeting this week and I know those travelling on the trip are looking forward immensely to it; the good news is the weather is cooling in the Alps and the Three Valleys ski area is forecast to have over a metre of snow in the coming days!

As you know it was World Book Day on Thursday and I just wanted to say how fabulous our Upper School pupils were during the paired reading session. It was a joy to see both the children's love of reading shine through, as well as the kindness and guidance shown by our Upper School pupils when prompting and listening to the younger children reading.

Finally, well done to our Year 8 Prefects and pupils who toured our Open Morning guests. You were all amazing and the feedback from the prospective parents was unbelievably positive! A particular well done must also go to our Head Boy Jake W, who spoke with passion and pride about his school.

Good luck to the U13 and the U11 rugby squads who are playing tournaments at Feltonfleet and KCS respectively as well as the U12 Netball team who are playing at CLFS this weekend, and well done to all

those pupils who came to the Upper School tennis trials this week, the summer is just around the corner!

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

World Book Week

The Lower School was awash with books, pens and paper this week as the children embraced the wonder of books through dramatic performance, reading and writing. A visit from The Open Box Theatre Company on Monday with their hilarious performance of 'Twisted Fairy tales' not only entertained, but also inspired us all to think what might be the result if we changed the elements of a traditional story to turn it into a completely different narrative.

As Tuesday dawned, Year 2 and 3 joined forces in a head to head Inter-House Book Quiz battle. Wisley clinched the title of Quiz Champions having knocked Headley into second place following a nail-biting tie break decider.

On Wednesday Year 4 and 5 stepped up to the Inter-House Book Quiz challenge. All teams impressed with their knowledge (including some amazingly accurate guesses at how many seagulls it would have truly taken to lift the peach in James and the Giant Peach). This time Headley clinched the title by securing one point more than Norbury.

Throughout the week, the children have been Dropping Everything To Read (DEAR) or to share their favourite books with one another. Simultaneously, we launched 'The Amazing Reading Race' to inspire the children to try books from a range of genres in a bid to complete their reading passports and to earn points for their Houses by the end of the Summer Term.

No Book Week is complete without a dress up day and Thursday produced creativity in abundance. The Faraway Tree and Saucepan Man were spotted rubbing shoulders with The Boy In A Dress and countless wonderful characters from Roald Dahl and David Walliams's books filled the corridors and playground.

While all classes have been digging deep to generate creative rhyming and free verse poems or character descriptions this week, some children in 3MB and 2LB became published authors yesterday as their work was uploaded on to Pobble to be shared worldwide. In the coming weeks, this will be extended to all Lower School classes who will also have the chance to publish their great writing too.

Plans for Book Week 2020 are about to begin!

Lisa Burns



World Book Day

Another colourful World Book Day at Downsend, thankfully less snowy than last year's!

All week, events have been going on in the Lower School, including a visit from Open Box theatre company and two Book Quizzes, which were won by Wisley and Headley.

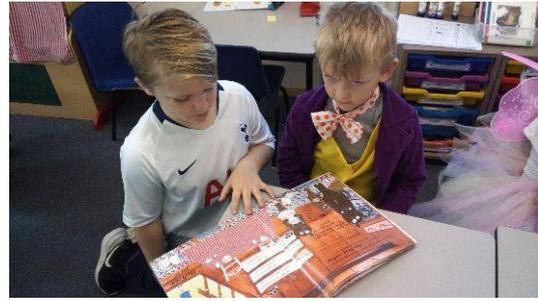
On Thursday, almost all our pupils and staff were dressed as characters from books and they all looked very impressive...and in some cases, hilarious!

We started the day with our shared reading activity. Years 5-8 went to visit Years 2-4 and sat with them to share in their reading books. This was a calm, yet barmy way to kick off proceedings as interesting mixtures of fictional characters came together to experience books!

Later, we had the Upper School book quiz, which was harder than it might have looked from the audience! Congratulations to Wisley, who won by a comfortable margin.

Thank you to everyone for joining in so enthusiastically.

Chris Bryant, Head of English



Rotary Public Speaking Competition



The Public Speaking team competed in the third round of the Rotary Public Speaking Competition at St Teresa's on Saturday. There were five teams who had all won their first two rounds who spoke on a variety of topics from 'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life' to 'I don't know - kids these days!' All the teams were exceptional and the speakers were so eloquent they could give many people in the public eye a run for their money! Unfortunately, in spite of an excellent performance from all three girls - Zoe S (Chairperson), Leah F (Speaker) and Imogen G (Vote of Thanks) they did not win through on this occasion. Nevertheless, I am extremely proud of what they have achieved as a team this year. Well done girls!

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.

The Best of Rock Musicals is at the Hammersmith Apollo on Sunday 12th May 2019 at 4pm and 8pm and is going to be an amazing family event showcasing the most popular hits from much loved musicals.



The Charlie Waller Memorial Trust was set up by his family in 1997 in memory of Charlie who took his life whilst suffering from depression. The trust's vision is of a world where people understand and talk openly about depression where young people are educated on the importance of staying mentally well and where treatment is available to everyone who needs it. For more information on the forthcoming event please click on the link www.thebestofmusicals.com

Nicole Allison

2019 Ski Trip to Les Menuires



As we get closer to the ski trip, please can you ensure you have provided the following:

- Passports and EHIC cards to Jon Albert by Wednesday 20th March

- 50 Euros to Lee Silva by Friday 15th March
- Medication, clearly labelled to Marc Popham or Pete Mitchell

Should you have any queries, please contact us.

Helen Black and Jon Albert

DPA News & Events



downsendpa@gmail.com

Uniform Sale



The next Second-Hand Uniform sale is today!

Friday 8th March

3:45pm - 4:30pm

Social Area

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

Colour Run!

Sunday 19th May 2019 10am - 12pm



We're pleased to announce the first ever Downsends **Colour Run!** Join us on the sports field on Sunday 19th May where we invite children from reception upwards, and their families and friends, to run or walk the school running track and get splatted with a different **colour** for each lap completed!

All proceeds go to our school charity, The Children's Trust. More details to follow.

*****Save the Date – Summer Ball – Saturday 15th June 2019 –
Epsom Racecourse*****



Tickets will be going on sale soon... watch this space!

The DPA Committee

Artist of the Week

Our Artist of the Week is Sienna A in 4MP for her wonderful collagraph print. This week, Year 4 have inked up their textured collages and run them through the printing press. The results have been brilliant!

Julia Ayles



News from our Pre-Preps

To celebrate World Book Day 2019, each Pre-Prep Epsom class immersed themselves in a particular book for the day including dressing up as a character from that book and taking part in a wide variety of different activities linked to the book. The children's costumes were fantastic and really helped them to feel like they were part of the story!

The books we focused on were:

First Steps – We're going on a bear hunt

Squirrels – Shh! We have a plan

Hedgehogs – Owl Babies

Reception – Tidy

Year 1 – Room on a Broom

We were also lucky enough to connect with St Andrews School Sathorn in Bangkok as part of the

#Cognitacalling project on the day. The children at Sathorn gave us a tour of their school and shared their favourite books with us.

Vanessa Conlan



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 Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 11 March	11.45am 12.15pm	Upper School House Public Speaking Competition Final Yrs 7 & 8 Team Photos
Tuesday 12 March	8.45-9.15am	5PM & 5LC 'Revoluting Rhymes' Assembly
Wednesday 13 March	8.45-9.15am pm 4.00-4.45pm 5.00-6.00pm	5GH & 5AG 'Revoluting Rhymes' Assembly Yr 6 Junior Citizen Event @ Epsom Racecourse Lower School LAMDA presentation, Dining Hall Upper School LAMDA presentation, Dining Hall
Thursday 14 March	All day All day 9.15am 12.15pm 5.00pm	National Pi Day Yr 2 Forest School visit @ Downsend Yr 2 Choir @ St Christopher's Music Festival Yr 6 Team Photos Yr 5 Parent-Teacher Interviews, Dining Hall
Friday 15 March	Assembly All day	Mr S Noble Yr 7 trip to London Zoo
Saturday 16 March	All day	Schools Biathlon Finals
Sunday 17 March	All day	Schools Biathlon Finals



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

www.downsend.co.uk

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