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DOWNSEND
SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

26 April 2019

A message from the Headmaster

What a warm, positive start to the Summer Term! In this morning's assembly, I reminded our pupils of the story of England's patron saint, as we celebrated St George's Day, which took place earlier in the week. This is essentially a story of valour, with George (in our case George V in Year 7, slaying the dragon (Mr Popham) who was about to eat the princess (Kristy M, our Head Girl). With our school motto meaning 'Nothing is an obstacle to valour', it was a very timely message. We discussed that fear comes in many forms, with our pupils giving great answers: spiders, the dark, enclosed spaces. We also considered the fear of failure and not standing up for what you believe in, which can be equally debilitating! We have all been tasked with showing just how brave we are this term, and I have already seen this with the children having been outside in the fresh air; the cricket pitches and tennis courts have been full of boys and girls honing their skills and the Year 6's have already started rehearsals for this term's Drama production. Thank goodness we have had the chance of a rest in order to ready ourselves for the opportunities ahead!



This weekend is going to require a little bit of bravery and hard work of its own. We are installing 30 new large, interactive or W-Fi screens classrooms on Saturday and Sunday, meaning that your children will have the very latest technology available to support their learning on Monday. They will also have a Wellbeing Garden cleared and ready for the installation phase of the project. We are grateful to the DPA for their support and partnership in completing the Garden, which will bring a welcome oasis of calm to our busy school. I hope you enjoy seeing these changes impact positively on your children in the weeks and months ahead.

Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update

After a wonderfully sunny Easter holiday, it was lovely to welcome all of the Lower School children back this week in their summer uniform. They all seemed revived and ready to learn – even those who had spent a portion of their holidays on the slopes with Miss Black and her Ski Team!

Happiness is the theme of the half term in the Lower School and I introduced this in assembly with Year 4 and 5 this week. We talked about how happiness and a good community starts with each of us and they generated the word cloud below with their thoughts about what makes Downsend a happy school. I'm sure you'll agree that their choice of words was excellent and I look forward to seeing the children continue to embody this over the coming weeks.



Academic congratulations this week go to Lucas R in Year 5 who brought me some wonderful English work to see this week, and to Alexander C, also in Year 5, who brought me a wonderful example of a traditional handmade Macedonian Easter Egg that he had painted over the holiday. Well done, boys.

Well done also to Joshua G in 5GH who along with his mum has been training to be a radio presenter since January and they are now presenting a weekly show on a community station in Merstham!



Finally, a reminder that class lists for 2019-20 are currently being constructed. I'm sure that you appreciate that this is a hugely challenging task and we appreciate your support with this. Please remember that lists, once published, are final and so if you would like to inform us of anything pertaining to these, please do so by Friday 3rd May.

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update

May I take this opportunity to welcome all our pupils and parents back to school; I had the pleasure of doing Turret duty on Wednesday morning and it was an absolute joy to see so many happy (and sunburnt) faces after such a wonderful Easter break and I do hope you all enjoyed the weather and time with your families.

On the academic front we now move forwards into a busy summer term ahead, with end of year exams just 3 weeks away so it is key that we make the most of every learning opportunity in lessons so our Upper School target is to be organised and prepared for school at all times. In particular, Upper School staff will be checking that pupils have the correct books and equipment, as well as submitting all Preps on time.

Outside the classroom, we have already had two early morning tennis sessions, and it was lovely to see how many pupils attended both the mornings this week; the standard of play is looking very impressive and we have fixtures starting next week, so good luck with those! We are also looking forwards to a warm and enjoyable cricket season for both the boys and the girls, and congratulations must go to the 1st XI who got the season off to a brilliant start with a comfortable win over Dorothy Stringer school from Brighton, with 25 not out batting figures from Mihir, Sonny and George V, as well as some impressive bowling from Harry H with a three wicket haul!



So, well done one again to all our Upper School pupils for a brilliant start to the term; lets work really hard now to ensure we finish the term with some brilliant exam results as a just reward for all your hard work and progress this year!

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School



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.



Congratulations to the following pupils who have recently achieved music exam success:

Warren H Grade 3 Drums
Monty H Grade 2 Drums with Distinction
Hector M Grade 6 Alto Saxophone
Katherine V Grade 5 Clarinet
Octavia M Grade 3 Clarinet
Kahlan C Grade 1 Piano with Distinction
Amy N-J Grade 2 Violin
Lisa N-J Grade 2 Piano
Lisa N-J Grade 4 Flute
Isabella C Singing Prep Test
Freya P Singing Grade 1
Alexa E-M Singing Grade 2

Nicole Allison

Artist of The Week

This week's AOTW is Elliot M in 4EF. This week Year 4 have been inspired by Quentin Blake's illustrations and have created their own imaginative birds. Watch this space as we turn these designs into spectacular sculptures!

Julia Aylen



DPA News & Events

Downsend
Parents'
Association



Registered Charity No. 1116557

downsendpa@gmail.com

DPA Colour Run/Walk – Sunday 19th May 10.30am



A perfect partnership of fitness and fun! Join us for the first ever **DPA Colour Run**.

This event is open to all children, their friends and families from Reception through to Upper School. Walk or run around the 1km course (up to a maximum of 5 times). Each lap is celebrated with a splash of powder paint!

All entrants will receive a white t-shirt, wristband and participation medal. The registration fee includes all this, with all profits donated to **The Children's Trust**, so there's no need to get extra sponsorship.

Download a registration form [here](#).

The DPA Committee

Downsend+

With only four weeks to go until May Half Term, Downsend+ has an exciting programme of activities planned. Details are available on our [website](#) or can be downloaded below.

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](#)

[May Half Term Course Description](#)

[May Half Term Booking Form](#)

Rebecca Peek

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 29 April	All day	8S Geography Fieldwork Trip to Juniper Hall Yr 4 Boys Inter-House Cricket
Tuesday 30 April	3.45pm	Yr 4 Parents: Your route to Senior Schools
Wednesday 01 May	All day	Yr 3 Trip to Butser Ancient Farm
Thursday 02 May	All day am	Yr 2 Forest School visit @ Downsend Yr 4 Trip to High Ashurst departs
Friday 03 May	Assembly	Hymn Practice Yr 4 Trip to High Ashurst returns

Head Lice

We have had a case of head lice reported this week. Please check your children carefully and treat any signs of head lice using products twice.

Joanne Maddison, School Nurse

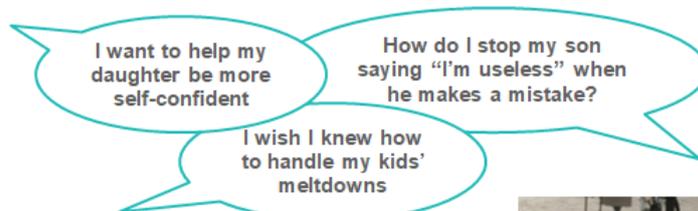
Raising Resilient Children Workshop

Following on from the successful talk to parents in February, we have arranged for Julia Philpott to run a 'Toolkit for Raising Resilient Children' workshop for Downsend parents on Wednesday 22nd May. Book your place at the workshop [here](#).

A Toolkit for Raising Resilient Children



A four-hour workshop for parents, hosted by Downsend, introducing simple and practical tools to increase children's confidence and problem-solving skills.



The workshop provides tips on:

- How to encourage your children to come up with their own solutions to problems
- How to give children the chance to 'take it from the top' if things don't quite go right
- How to have some fun with your children to make them feel strong and have great self-belief



Facilitator: Julia Philpott

The workshop is run by Julia Philpott, a parent of two herself and qualified in both psychology and executive coaching. Julia combines her personal experiences as a mum with her more formal qualifications, to run a lively and interesting session, giving parents practical tips to take back into everyday family life.

Details: Wednesday 22nd May, 9am – 1pm, Downsend School

Price: £60 per person

To find out more and to book please visit www.jpparentcoaching.co.uk or contact Julia Philpott on: julia@jpparentcoaching.co.uk or 07967 497779

Perform Drama Classes

Perform have visited our school with their drama, dance and singing workshops for 4-12 year olds. They currently have a £40 introductory offer for children at our school if you join before May 12th. Perform uses a mix of drama, dance and singing - specially developed to bring out every child's true potential. As well as having fun, the children will enjoy real benefits such as greater confidence, improved concentration and increased awareness of what they can achieve.

For further details and to book a Free Trial Session please visit www.perform.org.uk and quote **DRAM12052019**.

Inspiring young minds

Download School Notices

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