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DOWNSEND TIMES

10 May 2019



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A message from the Headmaster

This shortened week has offered the usual mix of successes and opportunities, in spite of the efforts of the weather. We are still trying to work with Surrey Highways to resolve the flooding issue that occurs outside the entrance to our school and are rising up the 'Floodwatch schemes' in the hope that this will be fixed in the near future. This same problem has not befallen us with regards our Planning Permission for the Arts Centre. I am delighted to inform you that, just yesterday, I was informed that this has been granted, allowing us to proceed to the next stage of the project. As I have said all along, we are taking the time to plan all aspects of our development carefully, meaning that we reduce any future hurdles one by one.

This week, Mrs Kirkham and I met with Year 3 at an Informal Coffee Morning to share the Voice of the Parent survey outcomes, along with the details of our summer works and our Pupil Flightpath Programme. We hope that the attendees found the update session useful and look forward to Year 2's version next week, and the older age groups later this term. Please do join us if you can, as we aim to give you as much information as possible about future developments. Tomorrow, we will do the same with the 35 or so families joining us for Open Morning. As always, our pupils will be the stars of the show; they are passionate

advocates for a Downsend education and will be able to expand on Aquathlon success, progress with the Well-being Garden, the residential trips etc. Please do read on to find out more about these for yourself.

Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update



After a chilly and grey Bank Holiday the weather has not really been on our side this week, however, despite that the children have had another full and exciting week. This week was the turn of Year 2 to go off adventuring and, despite the rain, the children had wonderful visits to Bay Pond where they pond dipped with gusto and remarkably all remained on dry land. Music has also been in the air this week as the Lower School Chamber Choir took part in a Choral Day at Charterhouse School. I have no doubt that they represented themselves and the school beautifully and I know that they had a wonderful time. The Year 5's have also been singing this week and I have been enjoying hearing music from the upcoming show 'Pantastic' as I walk around the school. Despite being the first time we've ended the year with a show, I'm sure that we really are in for a treat!

In assembly this week I spoke to the children about mindfulness and the benefits of taking time to be still, calm and reflective. Year 4 and 5 took part in their first mindful meditation session and the feeling in Peterborough Hall was relaxed and still. I look forward to continuing this with the children over the coming weeks.

Well done to Euan J in 3CC for the wonderful Lego Mars Rover he has made. Euan made this alongside making a moving Rover in Design and Technology lessons. I particularly loved the moving camera to capture any exciting images from Mars. Well done, Euan.

Finally, a reminder that the DPA Colour Run is taking place on Sunday 19th May. Please do sign up if you would like to join in the fun!

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update



Thank you to all our Upper School pupils who have volunteered to come in and support our Open Morning on Saturday 11th May. I am so grateful at how many of you are keen to come and participate in guiding, swim squad, tennis, languages, science, drama and rock band! I am so proud of you all and I know our guests tomorrow will all be as impressed with you as I am.

In academic news, our Upper School pupils are preparing well for their end of year exams w/c 20th May, so do please keep on top of your revision and use the notes on the VLE to assist.

Finally, we are staying with our target of smart appearance and organisation in the build up to the exams, but well done to all the Upper School pupils who have looked immaculate and been brilliant role models to the Lower School, as well as being increasingly well prepared for all their lessons in recent weeks.

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

Year 7 Trip to The Tower of London



The Tower of London looked beautiful and impressive as we approached yesterday but as we entered by Traitor's Gate we saw the darker side to this London landmark. In the impressive courtyard we saw where Anne Boleyn was beheaded. The walls in a prison were covered in graffiti carved into the stone - a stark reminder of how many people fell out of favour with the monarchs only to find themselves in The Tower, where they were to live out their last days. The torture chamber was my favourite part, showing the most sinister side of the Tower of London- perhaps what it is most famous for. A rack and various tools to torture the traitors were on display and the reality of the horrors that took place here was evident.

A highlight for many, including Miss Black, (the Queen of all things gory and sparkly) were the Crown Jewels on display. A magnificent collection which dazzled our eyes as we saw the jewels used in the Coronations.

Overall it was a great trip during which we had lots of fun and we learnt how important it was to keep in favour with Royalty in the past!

By Chloe M

Yesterday we went to the Tower of London, which was a truly historical place. I enjoyed the torture chamber the most. For the first time I got to know that they tortured prisoners stretching their limbs or squishing them in small places! I can't imagine how painful and harsh it would have been! They said that there were 22 people executed. We saw the Graffiti the Prisoners did. It would have been so much stressful in such a small place! I had a wonderful experience in the Tower of London today.

By Kelly N





Year 2 Visit Bay Pond

Super-sized worms, scuttling beetles and pond surfing water boatmen were in abundance when Year 2 visited Bay Pond in Godstone this week. Unperturbed by the wet weather, our young explorers ventured into the woods to discover log dwelling minibeasts and to move through the undergrowth using their sense of touch like a woodlouse.

Inspired by their discoveries, several children created some impressive 'minibeast art' using woodland foliage. Undoubtedly, the highlight of the trip was pond dipping and an afternoon spent sweeping nets in the pond yielded a treasure trove of water dwelling larvae, beetles, bloodworms and even a pea mussel.

The children are now set to apply their new-found knowledge of habitats and living organisms in their upcoming Science lessons and to take part in Surrey Wildlife Trust's 30 Days Wild Challenge.

This is what some of the children said about their trip

"I liked pond dipping because we found lots of 'back swimmers'!" *Aaron (2LB)*

"We played a game showing us how blind bats use echolocation to find their prey" *Toby (2YdV)*

"I loved pond dipping and I caught a huge dragon fly nymph that was the biggest that had been found all year! I also caught a stickleback. I loved it!" *Ella (2ST)*

"I found a huge millipede and Lizzie was very impressed!" *Olivia (2CW)*

Year 2 team



House Spelling Bee

Earlier today Downsend went spelling-crazy! Everyone from Year 4 to Year 8 battled to represent their House in the final of the first House Spelling Bee.

Twenty-four brave individuals competed against each other, being eliminated one by one until only one winner in each part of the school remained standing. Congratulations to Horatio M (Year 4, Norbury) in the Lower School and Daniel R (Year 7, Headley) who were the victors. All the finalists were very impressive and thoroughly deserved all the applause. Special mention is due to Edward K (Year 6, Wisley) who was the last member of Year 6 standing and represented his house solo for quite a long time.

Similarly, a special mention should go to Lower School competitors Daniel J O (Year 5) who was the last member for Wisley for several rounds and also to Sienna R (Year 4) who was pipped at the post in the final head to head round. The Lower School finalists impressed with their ability to focus throughout and for their great spelling ability.

Results:

Lower School:

- 1st Norbury
- 2nd Headley
- 3rd Ranmore
- 4th Wisley

Upper School:

- 1st Headley
- 2nd Ranmore
- 3rd Wisley
- 4th Norbury

Christopher Bryant



Downsend Ski Trip 2020



There are a very limited number of spaces available on the 2020 ski trip to Les Menuires. If you would like to sign up for your child to go then please email peter.mitchell@downsend.co.uk by the end of Monday 13th May.

Pete Mitchell

  **Music Update**  

Members of the Chamber Choir joined pupils from 9 other schools in the magnificent chapel at Charterhouse School earlier this week. We sang movements from the Faure 'Requiem' and also Rutter's 'Feel the Spirit'. The sound in the chapel was absolutely magnificent – what an amazing experience for our pupils!



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.



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

Edward K Grade 2 Guitar

Sam M Grade 1 Guitar

Nicole Allison

Artist of The Week

This week's AoTW is Jack P in Year 8. Year 8 have been printmaking and have experimented with blocking out areas and layering colours to create interesting designs and patterns. Jack's intricate designs were particularly successful. Well done!

Julia Ayles



DPA News & Events

**Downsend
Parents'
Association**



Registered Charity No. 1116557

downsendpa@gmail.com

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

This is your last chance to enter the first ever DPA Colour Run/ Walk which takes place on Sunday 19th May 2019 and raises money for The Children's Trust. The **deadline for registration is Monday 13 May**.

The event is aimed at runners and walkers of all abilities and takes you on a 1km circuit around the school grounds. You can choose to run or walk up to 5km, and don't worry we aren't timing you, so you can go at your own pace.

The registration fee includes your donation to The Children's Trust, a white T-shirt, charity wristband and participation medal. Supporters are welcome to come and enjoy a hot or cold drink and a snack whilst they watch. Children can run with or without parents/carers. Friends and family are welcome to sign up too.

We are delighted to have Josh Evans Soccer School sponsoring the event and leading that all-important warm-up and cool down. A professional photographer will be there to capture all the antics on film.

To register, please click the link for the [registration form](#) or pick one up in the Turret, complete it and return along with the entrance fee to **Reception before Monday 13th May**.

If you have already registered for the event by putting your registration form in your child's bag, please can you contact the DPA Colour Run/Walk team @downsendPA@gmail.com ASAP so we can make sure we have received your form.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with the DPA Colour Run team @ downsendPA@gmail.com

Summer Ball - Saturday 15th June 2019 - Epsom Racecourse



The Summer Ball is the jewel in the crown of the DPA calendar, so come and strut your stuff with us!

Tickets are on sale now at £65 per person. We have already sold over 200 tickets and we are still going strong! As always there is an upper limit on available tickets and we are well on our way to being sold out, so please book your tickets ASAP.

Tickets can be booked by heading to CLASSLIST – look for the notice from Charlotte Staplehurst, open the message and click on the Menu tab, bottom right corner, select 'Events' and you will see the Summer Time Ball.

If you have any difficulty get in touch with the planning team @ downsendPA@gmail.com

DPA Sponsored Coffee Morning's Continue With Gusto!



Don't forget to book in your class or year group Coffee Morning at the Pavilion this term by getting in touch with Doug (doug.turpin@downsend.co.uk) and Colette (Colette.allen@downsend.co.uk). The DPA will cover all the costs of your tea and coffee and Doug will supply some yummy sweet treats!

This week the superb 2ST Class Rep Emily Crease held our first class Coffee Morning, and encouraged us to brave the weather to enjoy good company and of course the amazing flapjacks courtesy of Doug.

It was great to see so many parents and pre-schoolers attending, and definitely cheered up a very dreary day!

The DPA Committee

Uniform Sale



The next Second Hand Uniform sale will be held as follows:

Date: Friday 21st June

Time: 3:45pm - 4:30pm

Venue: Social Area

The next uniform intake is being organised...keep an eye on Classlist for more information.

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

STEAM Day - Friday 24 May



STEAM Day is fast approaching and for one of the activities we are in need of tall Pringles tubes. If anyone has any empty tubes, please save them and bring them to Miss Aylen in the Art Room. Thank you in advance!

Julia Aylen

Downsend+



With only **2** 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.

We have an action packed programme of activities for the Summer Holidays at Downsend + and will be open from Friday 12 July to Wednesday 28 August 2019 (Closed Bank Holiday Monday 26th August 2019). Download a course description [here](#) and a Summer 2019 booking form [here](#).

If your child is a budding Andy Murray, details of our **summer tennis camps** can be downloaded [here](#) and we are offering early booking discounts.

For full details and bookings please contact Rebecca Peek on 07909 861 280 or email downsendplus@downsend.co.uk

[Contact Form 2018-2019](#)

[May Half Term Course Description](#)

[May Half Term Booking Form](#)

[Summer 2019 Course Description](#)

[Summer 2019 Booking Form](#)

Rebecca Peek

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 13 May	All week pm 5.00pm	Common Entrance Mental Maths & Language Orals Week Year 3 Maths Challenge Afternoon @ Halstead Prep Informal Violin Concert (Jon Bayley's pupils), Dining Hall
Tuesday 14 May	All day 5.00pm 6.30pm	Whole School Children's Trust Doughnut Sale Informal Music Concert (Helen Hart & Sam Keer's pupils), Dining Hall Year 5 Upper School Transition Meeting, Tregenna Hall
Thursday 16 May	All day 4.15pm	Yr 3 Forest School visit @ Downsend Year 7 Normandy Trip Information Meeting, Tregenna Hall
Friday 17 May	Assembly All day	Mr I Thorpe 8S Trip to Science Museum Informal Vocal Concert (Hayley Griffiths' pupils), Study Centre

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.

I want to help my daughter be more self-confident

How do I stop my son saying "I'm useless" when he makes a mistake?

I wish I knew how to handle my kids' meltdowns

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



Calendar



DPA



Healthy School



Letters & Forms



Uniform



Term Dates



Firefly



SchoolsSports

Inspiring young minds

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