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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

17 May 2019



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A message from the Headmaster

I had the pleasure of leading a second whole school Assembly of the month and, as always, the children were wonderfully responsive. During my last Assembly I had tasked them to be brave, and they came up with a host of examples when they had done so: improving sporting results in competitions and speaking in front of an audience at Open Morning, to name but a couple. With around 140 visitors on Saturday morning, this is no mean feat for an 8 year old! This morning's challenge was to recognise that we are all a little like the Mr Men and Little Miss Characters at times: Little Miss Stubborn or Mr Lazy, for example. However, with the right mindset, we can also be like Little Miss Sunshine or Mr Strong. It's all a matter of perspective.

There have been lots of sessions this week when you have been able to enjoy seeing your children display this positive mindset for yourselves. I hope that you have enjoyed the various Music Concerts, Coffee Mornings and sporting fixtures. Particular congratulations go to the U11 Boys' Swim Team, who qualified for the National Finals on Saturday. Please read on, and you will find out more details about the busy week we've had at Downsend.

Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update



This week it felt as though Summer had arrived at last, as Monday heralded warmer weather and blue skies. This matched the Lower School's sunny smiles and disposition and we have been so impressed by the wonderful manners that all staff have been observing in around the classroom. This has been our focus this term and so is lovely to see.

Some Year 3 Mathematicians were given the chance to participate in the Maths Challenge at Halstead Prep this week. Mrs Temlett was extremely proud of their performance and they were wonderful representatives of the Lower School. On Tuesday we were excited to be able to participate in 'National Doughnut Week' which is linked to our school charity, The Children's Trust. The Lower School children raised over £120 and very much enjoyed happily munching on delicious Krispy Kreme doughnuts and even making up doughnut songs in support of the day! That evening the Year 5 parents had a very informative evening about the Upper School transition and my thanks to Mrs Hawes and her team – please do not hesitate to contact her if you need any further information or advice.

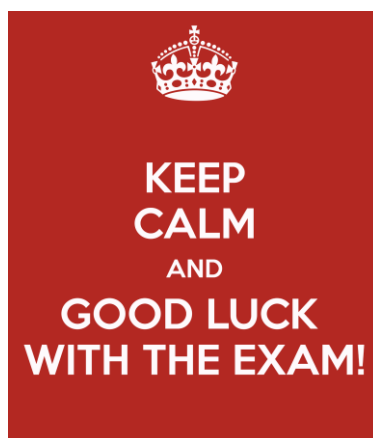
On Thursday the Year 3's were delighted to see that a tent had been erected on the Sacred Lawn by Mr Bristow. This was to help to prepare them to be brave as they begin to get ready for their overnight stay at school after Half Term – we know that they will have a wonderful time and look forward to joining them for this adventure.

Well done this week to Lucas R in 5LC who came to show me his wonderful writing – I really was so excited to read his fantastic story. Congratulations too to the Year 4 children to date who have been awarded their 'Pen License'. Seeing the maturing of their writing in preparation for their transition into Year 5 is fantastic.

Finally, we look forward to seeing many of you at the DPA Colour Run this weekend and are keeping our fingers firmly crossed for wonderful sunny weather!

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School and Helen Black, Deputy Head of Lower School

Upper School Update



As we enter our end of year examination week, I would like to take this opportunity to say how impressed all the staff are with the Upper School pupils' hard work and commitment in the final stages of their preparation. One final reminder; do remember to bring a fully stocked pencil case (with calculator, ruler, etc).

The very best of luck to all our pupils in your assessments and exams next week.

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

Maths Challenge

On the afternoon of Monday 13th May, four intrepid Year 3 mathematicians took part in a Maths Challenge afternoon at Halstead Prep School. Full of enthusiasm and excitement, they set about answering some very tricky problem solving activities including Magic Squares, challenging tessellations and a problem solving relay race!

They demonstrated some amazing maths skills as well as impressive resilience, quick thinking and fantastic team work. They were an absolute pleasure to take and a real credit to our school. Well done all!

Sally Temlett



Sponsored Spell



Congratulations to our wonderful Year 2 and 3's who spent part of their Easter break learning up to 50 common exception words that children of their age are expected to be able to spell correctly. Dozens of children not only impressed their teachers by scoring full marks, but also for their sterling efforts to collect sponsorship for the spelling challenge.

A total of £2,085.63 has been collected so far and this will be added to the monies already raised for our nominated charity, The Children's Trust.

Many thanks to parents for their support and please return any outstanding sponsorship money by Monday 20th May.

Lisa Burns

Poetry Recital



Before the Easter holidays, Year 6 were asked to learn a poem. They then recited these at the start of term in their English classes and those who remembered them most accurately and performed them most effectively were invited to perform in the final this week.

The three Upper School Heads of Year acted as judges and found it very difficult to choose from seven excellent performances of poems by writers as diverse as T S Eliot and Roger McGough.

Finalists were Emma F, Shilong F, Imogen G, Arya K, Alexander T, Alice U and James W. The judges selected James for 3rd place, Emma for 2nd and Alexander in 1st. Shilong was also singled out for special praise.

Well done to everyone!

Chris Bryant, Head of English

Mental Health Awareness Week



This week has been Mental Health Awareness Week nationally and, with growing concern over the numbers of the young suffering from mental health issues, it is something that we should all support.

The focus this year has been on Body Image, especially related to social media. How many of us recognise our teenager attempting to take the perfect selfie? Well on Friday, the Year 8's were given special dispensation to bring in their phones. Having watched a short film, 'Body Image and You', small discussion groups chatted about the film. It was then time to get the perfect selfie, taking note of the advice given in the film. Following this, small groups brainstormed ideas on a concept map about body image, social media and online stress.

Hopefully, sharing concerns and any anxieties may help those who are finding the whole idea of having to live up to a certain body image, useful.

Dee Vanstone



STEAM Day - Friday 24 May



Next Friday 24 May, we will be running our annual STEAM curriculum collapse day.

Pupils should be dressed in their house polo shirt, black leggings or shorts and trainers (not skorts or very short cycling shorts). If it's cold they can wear their tracksuit bottoms.

For one of the activities we are in need of tall Pringles tubes. If anyone has any empty tubes (with lids), please save them and bring them to the Art Room. Thank you to those who have already bought some in!

Thank you for your continued support of the STEAM initiative.

Julia Aylen

House News - Wisley may be too fast to catch!



Wisley have once again won the first collection of the term. Congratulations to Norbury in the Upper School, however adding both schools together Wisley win the first of the three collections this term. Having already won the Spring Term competition and received their prize of hot chocolate and Krispy Kreme doughnuts, the other houses need to up their game if they are to stand any chance of winning the next House winning treat!

Well done to all the children, but particularly the Top Achievers below for their efforts.

| Lower School | Position | Top Achiever |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Wisley | 1 st | Jessica Jane L – Y4 |
| Ranmore | 2 nd | Ethan L-T – Y3 |
| Norbury | 3 rd | Henry M – Y3 |
| Headley | 4 th | Ana-Maria H - Y4 |

| Upper School | Position | Top Achiever |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Norbury | 1 st | Marcus H – Y7 |
| Wisley | 2 nd | Adam V – Y6 |
| Ranmore | 3 rd | Jack P – Y8 |
| Headley | 4 th | Amelie M – Y7 |

| Whole School | Position |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Wisley | 1 st |
| Norbury | 2 nd |
| Ranmore | 3 rd |
| Headley | 4 th |

Jon Albert



Music Update





Well done to all the pupils who performed this week in the violin, guitar and flute concerts and also those who will be performing this evening in the vocal concert and on Monday in the piano concert!. We have had a wonderful time listening to some of the pieces these pupils have been working on in recent weeks.



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 pupil who has recently achieved music exam success:

Eleanor K Grade 5 Trumpet - Distinction

Nicole Allison

Artist of The Week

This week, our Artist of the Week is Jasmine in 7BD. Inspired by the work of Alberto Giacometti, Year 7 have created wire armatures of the figure and then used their experience of working with modroc to build up additional layers. Jasmine has worked meticulously to construct a well-proportioned figure... Well done!

Julia Aylen



DPA News & Events

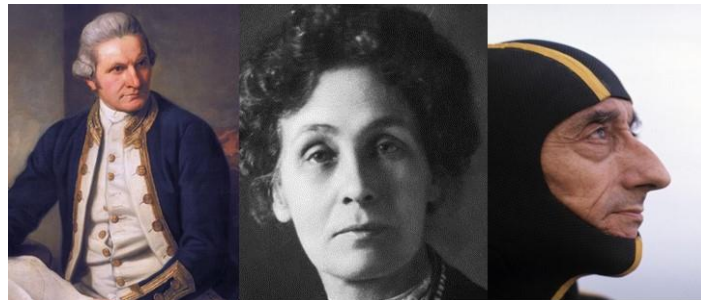
**Downsend
Parents'
Association**



Registered Charity No. 1116557

downsendpa@gmail.com

DPA Colour Run/Walk in aid of the Children's Trust



What do Captain Cook, Emmeline Pankhurst and Jacques Cousteau have in common with Downsends you might ask? Well, like 100 Downsends Colour Run/Walk participants, they embraced their pioneering spirit!

Yes, this Sunday over 100 brave Downsends pioneers will turn out in force for the First Ever DPA Colour Run/Walk in aid of The Children's Trust!

We are so grateful to all the parents, children, staff and their families and friends who have taken the plunge and are joining us for a morning of colourful fun. All participants should have received their [information letter](#) and have all the information they need to come prepared. As a reminder on timings:

DPA Colour Run/Walk Timings:

| Time | Activity |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 09.30am | Registration opens 09.30am |
| 10.15am | Warm up with Josh Evans Soccer School |
| 10.30am | Colour Run/Walk start time |
| 12noon | Colour Run/Walk event closes |

For those bringing their children, don't forget to bring **plastic goggles or glasses and your reusable water bottle** with you on the day!

If we fall prey to the forces of nature and the weather is bad, we will get in touch on Classlist, by email and social media on the morning of the run – so please check these places before you set out.

Haven't registered yet, but want to take part? No problem, we will be accepting registrations on the day – so if the mood takes you, come on down you will be very welcome!

Refreshments will be made available on the day for participants and their army of supporters, and our wonderful photographer Ed will be onsite to capture your special moments – with all proceeds going to the Children's Trust too!

Got a question? Get in touch with the team at downsendPA@gmail.com

Summer Ball – Saturday 15 June



Get ready for the time of your life... This year's ball is shaping up to be an unmissable event! To book tickets, please go to the Events section of Classlist.

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

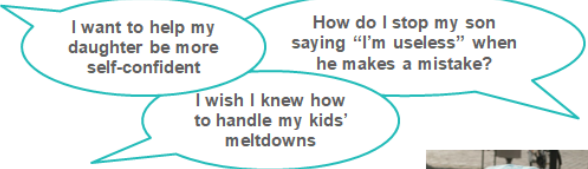
Raising Resilient Children Workshop

Don't miss out on the chance to book your place onto Julia Philpott's 'Toolkit for Raising Resilient Children' workshop for Downsend parents on Wednesday 22nd May. Book your place [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

News from our Pre-Preps Skipping Superstars



Wow! What a brilliant morning we had on Tuesday, learning to skip with Lee Collinson-James. Everyone really worked hard to learn the new skills. We were so impressed by the way the children persisted at the task, listening carefully to Lee's instructions. The double-dutch, long rope and partner skipping was a sight to behold and we were amazed how even our three year olds could master most of these skills. The demonstration at the end just showed how far the children had come in one morning. Watch out! I think this weekend your children will have you all outside for a family skipping session. Good luck!

Tessa Roberts

Downsend+



With only **1** week 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](#)

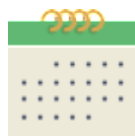
Rebecca Peek

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



| Date | Time | Event |
|------------------|--|---|
| Monday 20 May | All week All week 3.00pm 5.30pm | Yr 5 Assessment Week Yrs 6 & 7 Exam Week U11 Surrey Starburst Competition @ Banstead Prep Informal Piano Concert (Sarah Cobby's pupils), Dining Hall |
| Tuesday 21 May | All day 9.45am 4.30pm 6.00pm | 8S Trip to National Maritime Museum Year 1 Assembly Yr 8 Residential Trip Meeting, Social Area Learning Support Parents Evening, Dining Hall |
| Wednesday 22 May | 9.30am 4.00pm | Yr 8 Girls HPV Vaccinations Yr 3 Brass Showcase (George Boote), Music Room |
| Thursday 23 May | All day | Yr 2 Forest School visit @ Downsend |
| Friday 24 May | Assembly All day | Whole School House Assemblies STEAM Day |



Calendar



DPA



Healthy School



Letters & Forms



Uniform



Term Dates



Firefly



SchoolsSports

Inspiring young minds

[Download School Notices](#)

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