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DOWNSEND TIMES

07 June 2019



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A message from the Headmaster

Over the course of the last week, the Sacred Lawn has taken on a very fresh view, with a number of tents appearing as the culmination of Year 3's Great Outdoors Week. The Year 3 team, ably assisted by Mr Bristow and Woodland Forest School, have been readying the children for tonight's exciting sleepover, at which point the heavens have opened. In typical Downsend style, we have rolled our sleeves up and embarked upon Plan B, with some outdoor activities. Thankfully, the rain is scheduled to abate before the evening's activities. Residential trips offer up some wonderful opportunities for independence, and I hope that the Year 5 to 8's are looking forward to going on their residential trips in a week's time.

Just before they leave, we will have enjoyed the DPA Ball at Epsom Downs Racecourse; I am looking forward to seeing many of you there, as we celebrate another year of partnership, and the start of the Summer Refurb Programme. It's going to be a busy month!

Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update

The children came back refreshed, revived and ready this week after a sunny half term break. It is hard to believe that we are commencing the final academic half term of the year.

As the week began, I had the pleasure of seeing some wonderful holiday work, including Izzy E's incredible plant project and Amber and Leo W's outstanding acrylic paintings of a rabbit and a turtle. I only wish I had been allowed to hang them in my office, but understandably they were ready to be hung up at home! Work has also started in school in a dynamic way and, despite the excitement of the Year 3 on-site residential, Year 3's 'Great Outdoors Week' has seen some wonderful academic results. I was particularly impressed by Ria and Caiden's senses poems, containing some excellent language choices, and felt as though I had been listening in the school grounds alongside them both.





Preparations for our 'Meet the Teacher' events are well underway and Year 3 are the first to meet their new team on Monday. I am delighted to announce that Mrs Becky Davies will be joining the Year 4 team this year and know that several of you know her from her previous roles in excellent local schools. We look forward very much to welcoming her to the Downsend family. I am also hugely delighted to announce that Mr and Mrs Bayley are expecting their first child in September; we are thrilled for them both. Mrs Temlett will be joining the Year 3 team as Acting Head of Year in Mrs Bayley's absence and I'm certain that she will be greeted warmly by the many families who have already got to know her in Year 2 this year. Finally, Miss Hughes will be leaving Downsend at the end of this academic year. Miss Hughes is moving to a school nearer to her home but I know she will be missed by many here. Mrs Caroline Driscoll will, therefore, be joining the Year 5 team as Head of Year. Mrs Driscoll joins us from Parkside School and I know that she is very much looking forward to getting to know her new Year 5 cohort and their lovely families.

So, despite the busy week this week – Year 2's Trip to Windsor Castle, Year 4's trip to Marwell Zoo, Year 3's on-site residential – next week promises to be just as exciting with Downsend Rocks, the Year 5 trip to PGL Liddington and the DPA Ball to look forward to.

Have a restful and happy weekend.

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update



This week the Upper School pupils have been receiving their end of year exam results and most of them have made good progress in their knowledge, understanding and progress. As always however, there are areas to work on and I would urge all our pupils to ensure they take on board the key focus areas for development in the future.

Congratulations to the Year 8 pupils who have been sitting their Common Entrance exams; you have been calm and focused and I am sure will have written some excellent papers. These academic results will contribute towards your overall Downsend Diploma grades which we will announce in the Year 4-8 Prizegiving on 10th July.

The Year 6 pupils have been rehearsing hard for their forthcoming production of 'A Midsummer night's dream' and I know Mr Bryant is very happy with how the production is looking, so well done to those Year 6 pupils involved, both on stage and in the technical crew. Also can I remind you of a key date for your diary; next Tuesday 11th June at 6:45pm Mrs Allison and Mr Bradfield are hosting the amazing 'Downsend Rocks' event in which pupils across the school will be performing contemporary and classic pieces from the rock genre. This was simply outstanding last year and promises to be another fantastic night of fun and music. If you would like to come along and haven't yet booked tickets please do contact the administration office to check on availability.

Finally, I know all the Upper School pupils are very much looking forwards to their week away at either Wye Valley (Year 6), Normandy (Year 7) and Mimizan (Year 8). These trips are going to be absolutely wonderful; full of fun, culture and team building and the Year 7 trip this year is particularly poignant as the area celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Normandy invasion. Certainly the images from Arromanches this week were highly moving and I know the pupils and staff are looking forwards to visiting this part of France. The value of these trips is huge, and in advance may I take this opportunity to thank all the staff attending for giving up their time to make these end of year events happen.

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

Year 2 Trip to Windsor Castle

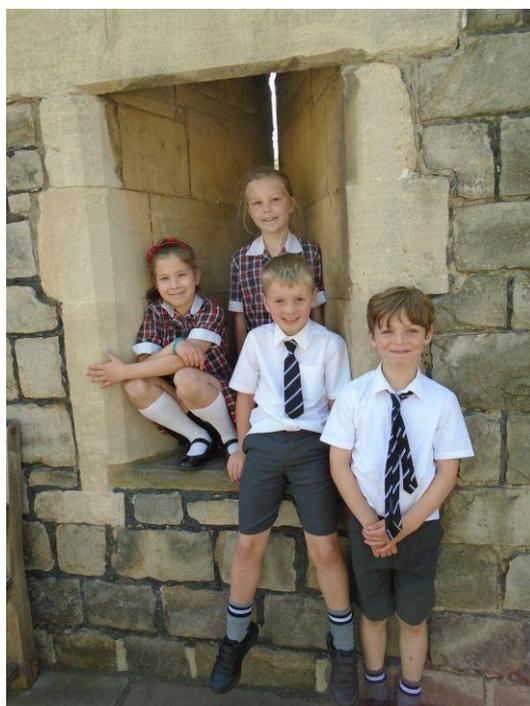
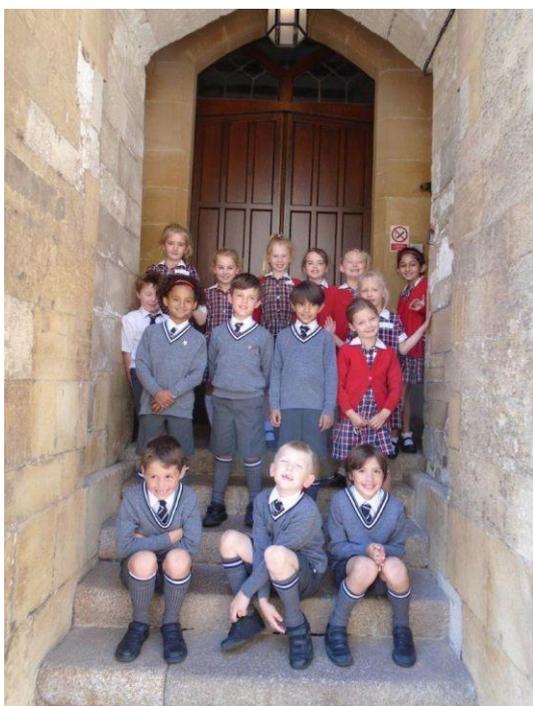


This week the Year 2 children visited Windsor Castle, the ultimate monument to English tradition. On approaching the castle all eyes were fixed on the flag above the Keep to establish whether the Queen was in residence. The children were enthralled by the complex defences offered by this impressive castle. In the Royal Apartments the children were fascinated by the magnificent works of art, tapestries, and treasures. They took in the splendour of St George's Chapel, one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in England.

Some of the children were fortunate to see the Guards march up to the top of the of Castle Hill, which they loved.

We thoroughly enjoyed the day!

The Year 2 Team



Great Outdoors Week



Year 3 have had a very exciting week celebrating 'The Great Outdoors!' The children have been immersed in a range of creative cross curricular lessons, including sensory poetry, a special Forest School session and measuring the perimeter of different areas of the school. On Tuesday we enjoyed an action packed day at Wakehurst Place. The children were immersed in a variety of exciting activities themed around our Science topic 'Plants'. We investigated plants growing in different conditions in Wakehurst's very own laboratory, created ephemeral art pieces based on Andy Goldsworthy's famous works and even had the opportunity to take away our very own 'story sticks' home.

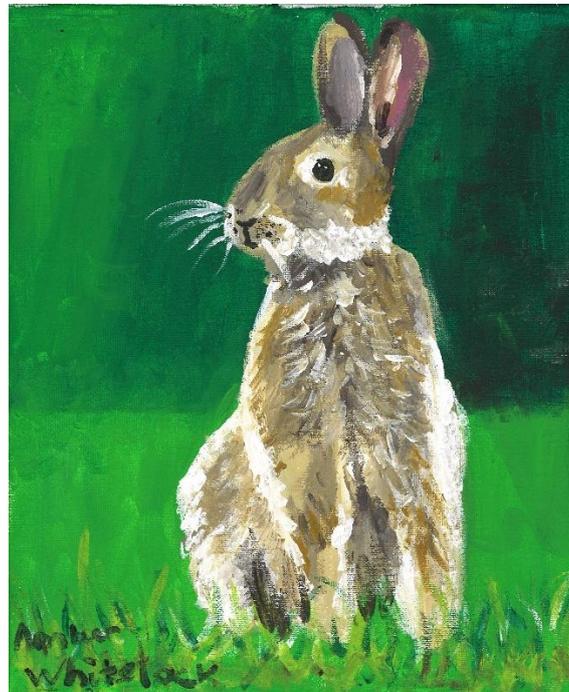
The most exciting event of all is yet to come - our first ever Year 3 sleepover! The Sacred Lawn has been transformed into an amazing campsite and the children can look forward to an array of exciting outdoor activities tonight. They can't wait!

Marian Bayley



Artist of the Week

This week's Artist of the Week is Amber W in 3MB for this wonderful painting she has been working on at home. She has mixed accurate colours and demonstrated skillful use of the paintbrush – well done, Amber!



Julia Ayles



Instrumental Lessons at Downsend School



We Have Vacancies!!

Would your child like to learn to play the flute or cello? Trial lessons are available, please contact nicole.allison@downsend.co.uk.



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.

We also 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

DPA News & Events



downsendpa@gmail.com

Summer Ball - Saturday 15th June at Epsom Downs Racecourse



It's a sell-out! Thanks to the amazing response from Pre-Prep and Main Site parents and staff, we are guaranteed to have another wonderful Downsend community event.

This year the DPA are proud to support the local charity Action for AT (<https://actionforat.org/>), who will be running an auction to raise funds to support their important work to help find a cure for children with this rare condition.

Final instructions have gone out via Classlist this week. See you on the dancefloor...

Sports Days



Yr 4/Yr 5 – Thursday 27th June

Yr 2/Yr 3 – Friday 28th June

Yr 6-Yr 8 – Wednesday 3rd July

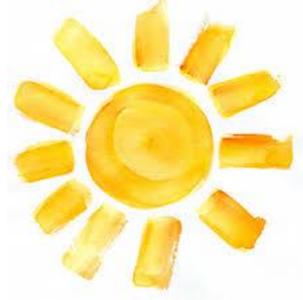
The DPA will be selling Pimms and soft drinks in the pavilion. Snacks will be available too, as well as ice pops for our competitors.

We would be grateful for any volunteers to help serve refreshments and/or set up/clear up afterwards.

If you can spare any time between 1.30pm and 5pm, please email downsendpa@gmail.com. You can volunteer in between your child's events: its not an arduous job and you get to enjoy the sparkling company of the DPA committee members!

The DPA Committee

Downsend+



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](#)

[Summer 2019 Course Description](#)

[Summer 2019 Booking Form](#)

Rebecca Peek

Camp Wilderness

Did you know that Camp Wilderness is part of the Cognita family and that they run magical woodland-based summer camps for children aged 6 to 15?

Camp Wilderness operates to the same high standards of health and safety and safeguarding you receive from Downsend School and is a trusted partner.

Camp Wilderness runs immersive summer camp experiences throughout the school summer holidays. Each camp is residential and you can choose between 3-day and 5-day camps, at six beautiful locations across the UK.

This summer, activities include bushcraft, swimming in lakes, learning how to cook over campfires, archery and Animal Encounter sessions with their partner, Zoo Labs.

As a Cognita parent you are entitled to a **20% discount** on the prices below on any booking with Camp Wilderness, using code: **COGNITA19**

Prices

3 Day Camp: £175 per child (£140 with Cognita discount)

5 Day Camp: £300 per child (£240 with Cognita discount)

For more information or to book online, visit www.campwilderness.co.uk.

LET THE
ADVENTURE
BEGIN

ACTIVITIES

- Wilderness Cookery
- Fire-Lighting
- Shelter-Building
- Tribes' Got Talent
- Bushtucker BBQS
- Scenario SOS
- Archery
- Swimming in Lakes
- Camping

**20% OFF
FOR COGNITA PARENTS**

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5-DAY CAMPS ALSO AVAILABLE IN OXFORDSHIRE EVERY
WEEK OF THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

TRUSTED PARTNERS OF

COGNITA
An inspiring world of education

News from our Pre-Preps



Wednesday was World Environment Day and Pre-Prep Epsom were spurred into action! We focused on reducing plastics through the eco-committee initiative to remove all plastic straws and googly eyes from our school, reminded children about waste and recycling through creating our own World Environment Day collage using waste materials and also went meat free with our roast dinner to acknowledge the impact that agriculture has on the environment. In assembly on Thursday we also read 'The Journey Home' by Frann Preston-Gannon, the Y1 key text for this half term, which has a very strong message about conservation and the impact the actions of humans have on animals and their habitats.

Vanessa Conlan



Leatherhead Pre-Prep Summer Fair



DOWNSEND PRE-PREP
SUMMER FAIR

SUNDAY 23RD JUNE
2PM TILL-4:30PM

BAR

RAFFLE PRIZES

BARBEQUE

Face Painting

BEAT THE GOALIE

THE Little Gym

The poster features a blue background with colorful triangular bunting at the top. A woman in a pink dress carrying shopping bags is on the right. Icons include a teapot with people, a raffle ticket, a barbecue grill, a paint splatter, a soccer ball in a net, and a colorful play structure with children.

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 10 June	All day pm	Yrs 5-8 Boys and Girls London Athletics Meeting @ Thames Valley Stadium Yr 3 'Meet Your Teacher' Event
Tuesday 11 June	6.45pm	Downsend Rocks, Dining Hall
Wednesday 12 June	am	Yr 5 Residential Trip to PGL Liddington departs
Thursday 13 June	All day All day 1.00-6.30pm	Yr 8 After Common Entrance programme begins (ACE) Yr 3 Forest School visit @ Downsend Yr 6-8 Drama Workshops Yr 8 ACE School of Rock Trip
Friday 14 June	Assembly All day 10.30am-12noon pm	Lower School Assembly School recognition Day – The Children's Trust Year 2 'Meet Your Yr 3 Teacher' Event Yr 5 Residential Trip to PGL returns
Saturday 15 June	pm All day 11.00am-2.00pm 7.00pm	Yr 8 Trip to Mimizan departs ESSA National Finals – Sheffield Yr 6 Play Rehearsal DPA Summer Ball, Epsom Racecourse



Calendar



DPA



Healthy School



Letters & Forms



Uniform



Term Dates



Firefly



SchoolsSports

Inspiring young minds

[Download School Notices](#)

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