

# DOWNSEND TIMES

11 October 2019



**DOWNSEND**  
SCHOOL



Proud to be nominated in the  
**Independent Schools of  
the Year 2019 Awards**



This week's Artist of the Week is Reggie in 6MD. Year 6 have started their 'Food' project with great enthusiasm and have created some mouthwatering depictions of cakes and biscuits! This week they created mixed media collages, inspired by the work of Wayne Thiebaud. Well done!

*Julia Aylen*

## A Message from the Headmaster

The week started with an action-packed Open Morning, attended by around 200 visitors. Our pupils, as always, proved to be the perfect hosts and took enormous pride as they showed prospective families around our school. This same sense of pride was felt on Monday evening, at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, when we rubbed shoulders with some of the biggest names in independent education. Winners included Rugby School, Dulwich College and Sedbergh and, whilst we were unsuccessful in joining them, we were honoured to have made the Finalists stage. As if to emphasise this, the U11 and U13s promptly won the ISFA Regional and Charterhouse football tournaments on Wednesday afternoon. Well done all!

Charity MUFTI was a great success on Friday, as we continue to reflect on promoting positive wellbeing amongst our pupils and staff. The Lower School pupils have demonstrated their adaptability and creativity this week, in the form of the Year 3 Egyptian Week, Year 5 Science Trip to Herstmonceux and the Year 3 Forest School sessions. Next week promises to be another busy week before we all enjoy a well-deserved fortnight off at half-term.

*Ian Thorpe*

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## Upper School Update

I would like to start this week's Upper School update by congratulating all the pupils who attended and supported last week's Open Morning. The school looked and felt amazing, but as always the real stars of the show were our pupils. Your enthusiasm and pride in the school shone through, and the parents I spoke to were incredibly impressed by the guides who showed them around, as well as the behaviour and enthusiasm of the pupils taking part in the various activities that we ran. We had over 55 families attending this event, so couldn't possibly run it without your support. We do have another Saturday Open Morning next year, on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, so if you weren't able to attend this time, please do make a note in your calendar and perhaps come along to that event if you can.

Well done to all the Upper School pupils for the improvement in the tidiness of the lockers and the reduction in lost property. Keep it up!

Under Mr Duffield's direction I'm delighted to say that our focus on Literacy at school has gained real momentum this term and it was a joy to hear him read out the winners of the National Poetry Day competition. Congratulations go to Hassan A of 7JA (1<sup>st</sup> place), Luna May of 6 MSK (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and Gracie N of 8 MSW (3<sup>rd</sup> place). I have also been delighted to see so many of our pupils choosing to read a novel of their choice in the lovely new booth in our Upper School Learning Resource Centre at breaktime. A

particular well done to Alice W who was having a lovely time reading the Golden Compass by Phillip Pullman when I chatted with her earlier in the week. Please do encourage your child to find a genre/biography or author they enjoy, as there is a huge benefit to be had in the wider access to the curriculum for those pupils who develop their literacy and language through regular reading habits. Just a reminder also, we have secure lockers for e-readers in the LRC if your child would like to bring in a Kindle or e-book to use.

Year 7&8 have some assessments next week, and the week after half-term, so do encourage your children to check their Timetables on the VLE please so they are ready and prepared for each day. These are not assessments that need a huge amount of revision, but a good look through the first half-terms notes in advance of these tests would be advisable.

Finally, after another enjoyable week of sports fixtures across the Upper School, I must say a huge well done to the U.11 Boys A team who won the ISFA (Independent Schools Football Association) Hampshire Region at Bedales School; they will now go on to represent the school on the National stage at St George's Park in May. In addition, more congratulations must go to the U.13 Boys A team who won the prestigious Charterhouse 7-a-side tournament beating Horris Hill School (from Newbury) 4-1 in the final.

I know the 57 Year 6 tourists are very much looking forwards to their football Jersey trip next week, so good luck to Mrs Cooper-James, Mr Lawrence, Mr Albert, Miss Ceci, Mr Evans and Mr Moore and all the pupils with the tour!

*Karl Newland, Head of Upper School*

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## Lower School Update

I wanted to begin with a thank you this week to the many, many Lower School children who attended the Open Morning last Saturday. Whilst our Upper School guides toured the parents with knowledge and brilliant articulation of what makes Downsend special, our Lower School children showed it to them. From our speakers, Arabella B, Hughie H and Maria B, who so confidently and engagingly spoke about their Downsend journey so far, to the children working on the lovely activities set up by the teachers. All of the children were the most wonderful embodiment of the Downsend ethos, how we are as learners and the community which we have. I was extremely proud of them all. Thank you for loaning them to us on the weekend!

Before this week I would not have thought that 'The Egyptians' was a very STEAM-based subject, however, having seen tomatoes being mummified, soap being carved and amazing projects such as Oliver S' time travel stop motion project, my opinion is altered irrevocably! Well done to all of the Year 3 children and

teachers for embracing this topic so entirely. Well done too to Year 5 who were fantastic on their trip to The Observatory Science Centre at Herstmonceux this week. Mr Mitchell remarked that their behaviour and attitude to learning were fantastic.



This week in my Lower School Assembly, and with the help of Harry in 2CW and Kaila in 4JN, I have been speaking to the children about the fact that words can harm us, despite the old adage. This links with the current Internet Matters campaign 'Sticks and Stones' but also follows some behaviour we have been seeing in school. I would be grateful if you could follow this up at home with your children in an informal way, reminding them that whilst some terms, such as 'baby', 'geek', 'ginger' and 'shorty' might seem harmless, they can cause real upset to others. As an aside, please could I also remind parents that cards (such as Disney cards and Match Attacks) must be left at home. These invariably lead to disagreements on the playground, which we are rarely able to resolve to everyone's satisfaction.

Following on from last month's Waterstones Book of the Month, 'I, Cosmo', I have been delighted to see so many children reading this around school. Well done to all of you who have chosen to do so. I have spoken to many of you, all of whom have said it was a really great read.

This month's book is Frostheart by Jamie Littler about which Waterstones says ' Glittering with wintry wonder, this debut children's novel takes a sleigh ride into the heart of a magical adventure. A young boy called Ash and his disagreeable yeti guardian find themselves on an explorers' expedition, where his special powers could come in very handy.' Recommended for children aged 8 and above who enjoy 'How to Train your Dragon' and 'Nevermore', this is certainly one going on my half term reading list.



Finally, I wanted to say a huge well done to all of the Year 2 children who brought contributions for the Year 2 Harvest Festival this week. It was my pleasure to join this assembly celebration and I was very impressed with the children's generosity. See below for more information.

Have a super weekend, despite the disappointment of the Rugby cancellation.

*Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School*

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## Harvest Time in Year 2

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October, Year 2 had a Harvest Assembly to celebrate this year's harvest and to bring the children's attention to those less fortunate than themselves.

This was a huge success largely due to the enthusiasm of the children and generosity of so many parents. Thank you for all your food contributions, which were collected by volunteers from Epsom and Ewell Foodbank. Our gifts were gratefully received and the volunteers were thrilled with the generous donations and how polite the children were. We were ensured they would make an invaluable contribution to the charity's work. It was really uplifting to see the children show such empathy to help others. Emily in 2CC said 'Giving food to others makes me feel happy inside.'



*The Year 2 Team*

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## Egyptian Week - Year 3



Year 3 have had an amazing week learning about all things 'Ancient Egyptian'! From mummifying tomatoes, to carving their own scarab beetle amulets, to sharing their simply incredible projects, to enjoying a wonderful workshop with Ken and Ian from Open Box. The children's enthusiasm for their learning has been infectious and they have discovered so many new things. The rest of the school were slightly surprised to see a multitude of pharaohs and mummies roaming the corridors, but were very brave! Wow – what a fantastic week!!

*Sally Temlett Acting Head of Year 3*

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## U11As qualify for 2 National Finals!



Huge congratulations to the U11A Football Team for qualifying for the IAPS (Independent Association of Preparatory School's) Football Finals to be held at Queens College in Taunton in November. Having once again played some excellent football, we were unlucky not to reach the main Cup Final and seek revenge over a narrow 1-0 victory from Royal Russell, who went on to win the event. What was really pleasing to see was our incredible determination to come back from behind to win 3rd place on a penalty shootout.

Well done to all the squad again - keep believing and being positive!

Mr Albert

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## House Bake Off 2019



The theme is '**Change**'.

YEAR 7 - Please remember to bring in your autumnal showstoppers next **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October**.  
House points for all entries and winning cake/cupcakes.

Years 6 & 8 – please remember some change to buy your yummy cakes at breaktime. All proceeds will go to the school charity.

*Beth Day*

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## Individual and Form Photographs

A reminder that the last date for ordering individual and form photographs for free delivery to school is Sunday 20 October.

*Seb Watts*

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## Music Ensembles

Please take note of timings for music ensembles. Pupils should see Mrs Allison if they have any questions.

DOWNSEND SCHOOL

# LOWER SCHOOL GUITAR CLUB



Thursdays  
12.20 p.m. in the  
MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Four cartoon children are shown from the waist up, playing various instruments. From left to right: a boy with brown hair playing a yellow drum, a girl with black hair playing a pink violin, a boy with orange hair playing a green saxophone, and a boy with black hair playing a yellow trumpet. They are all smiling and appear to be in a festive setting with a blue sky and a yellow ground. A string of colorful triangular bunting hangs across the top.

DOWNSEND MUSIC DEPARTMENT  
**LOWER SCHOOL ORCHESTRA**  
TUESDAYS 12.45 P.M.

DOWNSEND MUSIC DEPARTMENT

# WHOLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

Monday 12.45 p.m. Lower School  
Thursday 1.45 p.m. Upper School  
Friday 8.00 a.m. ALL



AUTUMN TERM 2019

## YEAR 2&3 CHOIR

FRIDAY MORNING BREAK, 10.00 A.M.

## YEAR 4&5 CHOIR

MONDAY MORNING BREAK, 10.00 A.M.

## US CHOIR

MONDAY MORNING BREAK, 10.40 A.M.



# Instrumental Lessons at Downsend

## We Have Vacancies!!

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](mailto:nicole.allison@downsend.co.uk)

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, Piano and Voice.

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*

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## Downsend + Holiday Club



We are taking bookings for October Half Term and Christmas holidays 2019. Course information and booking forms are available to download from our website. If you would like any further information on our holiday club at Downsend, please contact Rebecca Peek on 07909 861280.

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Downsend  
Parents'  
Association



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**Out With The Old... Donate unwanted clothing and shoes at the DPA Bag2School event, Friday 08 November**



How can you stay on top of your home decluttering goals, and help support the DPA fundraising targets for this year? We have the answer .... You can donate any unwanted clothing and shoes to the DPA Bag2School event ([www.bag2school.com](http://www.bag2school.com)) being held on **Friday 08 November at the Pavilion.**

So... how can you get involved? Its simple, bag up any unwanted clothes and shoes over the half term holidays, pop them into a bin bag and drop them off at the Pavilion between 08am-09am on Friday 08 November, and the DPA will do the rest.

Why should you support this? Apart from contributing to supporting a sustainable circular economy, each bag donated will gain a house point for your child's house. In turn that will convert to a treat for the house that collects the greatest number of full bags.

Will last years' winners Norbury triumph again, or will one of the other houses prevail?

For more information on how to get involved and the types of clothing and shoes that we are able to accept, please check out the event invite from Charlotte Staplehurst on Class List, or get in touch with the DPA team at [downsendPA@gmail.com](mailto:downsendPA@gmail.com).

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**Save the Date: DPA Christmas Fair, Sunday 01 December!**



The DPA Christmas Elves can barely contain their excitement as there are only **50 days** until our Christmas Fair! Yes, in 50 short days the DPA team will help kick off the festive season, bringing you joy, laughter and more importantly..... jolly bags, mulled wine and turkey baps!

This year the Christmas Fair will take place on a Sunday so that we avoid most of the sports matches, dance classes and the like, as well as any clashes with other school fairs in the area. We hope this change will encourage even more of our community to attend.

Once we come back from the half term holidays, we will give you more information on the Fair and how to get involved.

In the meantime all you need to do is add the date to your diary – **Sunday 01 December 2019, 11am-2.30pm @ Mainsite.**

Got a question, suggestion or want to get involved? Get in touch with the team at [downsendPA@gmail.com](mailto:downsendPA@gmail.com).

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## **News from Ashtead Pre-Prep School Space Week**

This week has been Cosmic! World Space Week has had us all zooming off into outer space and having adventures of a lifetime. The climbing frame became a rocket one day and a space station the next. Astronauts roamed 'Planet Playground' and discovered some incredible new heavenly bodies, inhabited by aliens! Thank you to everyone who bought in cardboard boxes for our creative design engineers. Rockets of different shapes and sizes circumnavigated the outdoor area, adorned

with buzzers, buttons, homemade computers, maps and satellite dishes. Our children could well be the first generation to be frequent flyers in outer space!.....3,2,1 Blast Off!!!



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## INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

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