

DOWNSEND TIMES

18 October 2019



DOWNSEND
SCHOOL



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



Our cover picture is by Ameenah in 3ST, who produced this wonderful snail creation as part of The Big Draw this week. Well done!

Julia Ayles

A Message from the Headmaster

We have come to the end of a busy and productive half-term and are looking forward to a well-earned break. The last seven weeks have been filled with a host of new pupils and staff settling quickly into a host of new facilities, bringing our Inspiring Young Minds and STEAM concepts very much to life. Existing pupils and staff have been as welcoming and positive as ever, creating a wonderfully purposeful atmosphere throughout. There have been various curriculum-themed and Charity days, educational visits, sporting successes and preparations for Elf: The Musical. In between, we have had Global Be Well Day to emphasise the importance of balance, something that I think Downsend does particularly well.

That said, our 500+ Duracell bunnies are running low on energy and I hope that the next couple of weeks offer everybody the chance to recharge those batteries. Wherever you are going in the world, I hope you enjoy your travels. For those of you heading to sunnier climes, please remember to bring some back with you!

Ian Thorpe

Upper School Update

As we head towards a well earned break, I wanted to congratulate all our pupils, staff and parents on everything that has been achieved this term thus far. Our focus on literacy and numeracy is evident across the school, and the engagement pupils are showing for their lessons is so exciting to see. Well done to Mr Albert for organising such a brilliant 'STRETCH' programme for our pupils this term; Friday afternoons have seen heart, lung and kidney dissections, sport science sessions as well as a plethora of STEAM based problem solving activities in addition to some additional Reasoning practise for some. This has been a brilliant addition to the curriculum and a lovely way to finish the week, so well done to all the staff who have planned such brilliant activities to further enrich the pupils' experience in the Upper School.



The first Blog from Jersey sounds fantastic, and I know how excited all the children were to be heading off on such a great trip. However, the Year 6 children who have remained at school have had a fantastic time! They have worked together in a fun and collaborative manner and have enjoyed some great activities such as Art and Technology, so well done to all of them!

As I look across the Upper School academic horizon ahead, can I remind parents that the half-term break should provide an opportunity for some well earned R&R, and all our pupils should definitely take the chance to recharge their batteries and return refreshed for another busy half-term in the build up to Christmas. However, the time off from school also provides a chance to do some targeted revision on some key areas to ensure an equally productive academic half term is achieved after the break, and we do have some exams to check progress for both Year 6 and our 8S scholarship form when we return.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish all our families and staff an amazing and enjoyable half-term break, I look forwards to seeing you back at school on the 4th November!

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

Lower School Update

It is a well known truth in primary education that children will always respond better to praise than to anything else, and at Downsend this is absolutely the case. Our system of 'pluses' and 'minuses', visually supported by our 'Target Tracker', has reaped rewards this half term and I am delighted to be able to say that the children have never been more polite, better presented or more thoughtful. What a wonderful thing to be able to say! Well done this week to Hughie H (4JN), Robert B (4JN), Fenton F (3CC), Francesca B (3ST), Louis N (5LC) and Freya P (5LC) who have exemplified this around the school and in Assembly and been awarded some of my stars for their house tubes. I have also been extremely proud of all of our children as I have toured many prospective parents this half term. Visitors have unanimously praised the confidence, assertiveness, friendliness and manners of all of the children they have met – in one case remarking that surely our children are 'staged' for tours! Well done, everyone.

This week a crime report was delivered to my office and, after the initial shock had subsided, I realised that this realistic, well-structured and genre-specific writing was in fact about the death of Tutankhamun. Well done, Francesca B in 3ST for this wonderful work. Well done too to William N-B and Blake T in 2CW who brought me wonderful tourism brochures about London and to Ria S in 4RD who showed me her fundraising box, constructed to raise funds for homeless kittens. I love to see all of these pieces of work and enterprise and adore when the knock on my office door belongs to a proud child!

With Parents' Evenings taking place after half term, please do keep an eye on your inbox and book your slot as soon as possible. Teachers' time before and after school is very limited and so we are always extremely grateful to parents who prioritise this time to meet with their teacher to discuss their child's progress.

Additionally, please can I remind parents that after half term all children should be in their winter uniform. For boys this will mean a change to charcoal grey trousers and for girls a move to a white open neck blouse and their grey tunic.

I hope that you all have a truly wonderful break and enjoy some lovely half term activities alongside some much needed rest time.

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Rainbow Trust Carol Concert - Tickets Available



The **Chamber Choir** will be performing at a Carol Concert in aid of the Rainbow Trust on 3 December at St Nicolas Church, Bookham at 7 p.m.

Tickets are £7 each and children under 5 go free.

You can book tickets using this link:

<https://rainbowtrust.org.uk/events/bookham-carol-concert>

Nicole Allison, Head of Music

Year 1 and 2 Discovery Morning



The Year 1 children from our Pre-Preps visited Main Site to join forces with the Year 2 children and embark on a morning of discovery and fun. The day started with great anticipation and excitement for what lay ahead. The children explored a Woodland theme through Art, a computing activity and stories. The Year 2 children thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the younger children and seeing their 'old teachers'. They were perfect hosts and great ambassadors for the Lower School.

The Year 2 Team

Lower School Council News

We are proud to announce the Councillors for 2019-20 are:

Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Kaan E	Fin P-S	Baylen B	Sophie M
Scarlett S	Flora H	Kaila K	Katie C
Reggie B	Grace A	Darcey J-M	Aidan H
Robert P	Harry W	Jessica R	Robin C
		Harriet H	

Congratulations to the newly selected Council representatives and a huge thank you to all Lower School classes for their incredible ideas thus far put forward during our first meeting this term.



Ljubica Carmody, Yvette de Vries and Chelsea Wilby on behalf of the Lower School Council

Artists of the Week and House Art Competition



This week we have been celebrating The Big Draw with a dose of daily doodling... so we have lots of artists of the week! Particular mentions go to 3NL, 4MP and 4RD who have delivered a wonderful selection of drawings to the art room every day, and to Ameenah in 3ST and Leo in 4EF for coming to show me their amazing creations! If you would like to continue creating over half term, then please enter the House Art Competition – please see below for details.

HOUSE ART 2019

Autumn Planet Earth Viewpoints

Choose one of the themes above and create an imaginative response. The themes are just starting points and can be interpreted in many ways.

Draw, paint, print, collage or **sculpt** your piece of art (no photography please as we will be holding a photography competition later in the year).

Please label your work with your name, class and house.

5 housepoints for every entry.

Entries to Miss Ayles by Monday 11 November

Charity - Harvest and Bake Offs



A huge thank you to all who donated to our Harvest festival last Friday. We sent a staggering 900 items to the Merstham Mix Community Café to help the chef and volunteers provide hearty and nutritious meals. The café is open to all, so pop along and see for yourself the part your donations will make to the local community.

Our assembly focused on fairness within our community and playing our part in supporting others who are less fortunate than ourselves. We also heard from pupils with global connections about harvest celebrations around the world before finishing our assembly with a rendition on "Let it Grow".

The Year 7 bakers have also been hard at work, with their stunning cake creations gratefully received by the Upper School pupils on Tuesday breaktime, raising £116 for the Merstham Mix Community Café. Congratulations to Headley for the most entries as well as Izzy W - N, Alexander H - R, Harvey B - W and Seb T - H for their winning house entries.



Year 2 will have their House Bake Off on the first Tuesday back after half term (5th November) with a Firework theme - happy baking! All proceeds will be donated to the Merstham Mix Community Café.

The other year group bake offs are:

Year 3 - 12 November

Year 4 - 19 November

Year 5 - 26 November

Year 8 - 10 December

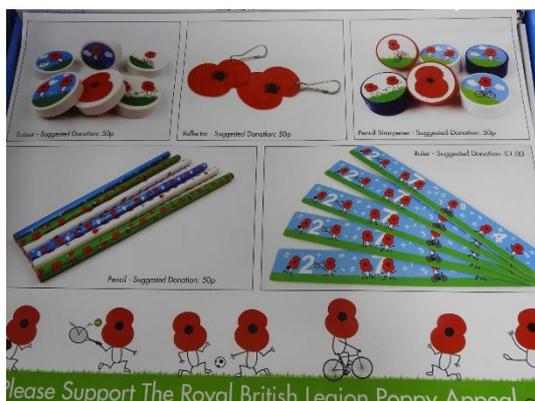
Year 6 - 11 February 2020

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Day

Charity Co-ordinator

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



We will have poppies available, as well as small stationery items and keyrings, after the half term break from Monday 4th November.

Please remember to bring some change to school, to support of this very worthwhile cause.

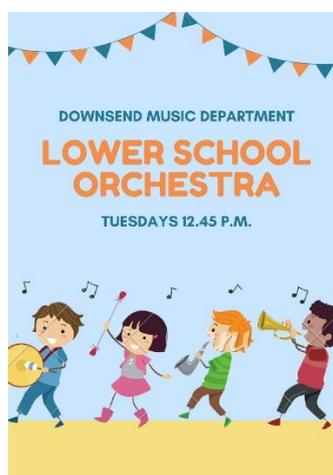
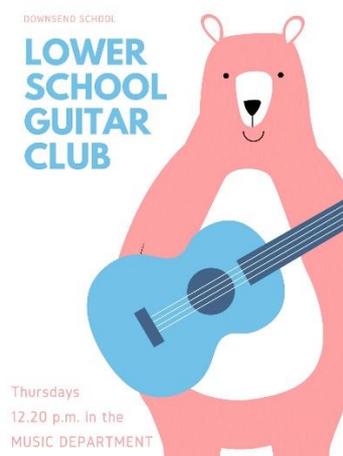
Individual and Form Photographs

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

Seb Watts

Music Ensembles

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





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

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

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.

We still have spaces on some of next week's courses such as Dry Slope Skiing, Junior Go-Ape, Fencing and Mini Ringo's and Sledging together with lots of Cooking and Art & Craft courses.

If you would like any further information on our holiday club at Downsend, please contact Rebecca Peek on 07909 861280.

Downsend
Parents'
Association



Clear out your clutter this half term ready for Bag2School – Friday 08 November.



Don't forget to clear out your clutter this half term holiday and bag up your old clothes, shoes and soft toys ready for the DPA Bag2School event being held from 08-09am on Friday 08 November at the Pavilion! Every full bin bag will add to the total for your child's house, and the winning house will get a lovely DPA treat later in the term.

Now... we're not saying you guys are a competitive lot or anything....so we will just leave it out there that Norbury won last time.....

If you need any more info, check out the event invite from Charlotte Staplehurst, or drop the DPA team a line at downsendPA@gmail.com

Let the competition begin!!!

DPA Christmas Fair – Sunday 01 December – calling all small businesses!



Santa's DPA Elves are really motoring along with arrangements for this years' Christmas Fair and we cant wait to share some of our exciting plans with you after half term! We are looking at lots of innovative ideas to keep things as fresh as the snow on Santa's beard, and we hope you will love what we are have in store for you.

Speaking of stores..... one of our core elements of the Fair is the fabulous Christmas Market, that provides the opportunity for small businesses to come and show their wares to our lovely community. We currently have 12 stallholders confirmed already which is brilliant, and we very excited to announce that Jay Bristow from Woodland Forest School has just confirmed that he will be selling Xmas Trees again this year! What a wonderful way to start the festive planning season!

If you own or operate a small business or know someone who does, we would love you to consider booking a stall at this year's Fair. We have a very high footfall-to-sales conversion rate and our stall holders are really happy with their investment! We are looking for a range of high quality stalls to fill our remaning places, with the exception of ladies clothing and jewellery, where we are now full.

Drop Jo and Lou from the DPA a line at downsendPA@gmail.com for more information.

DPA Funding Grants update:



The new academic year kicked off the DPA funding request cycle and we are proud to announce that the DPA have provided funding grants for the following excellent initiatives:

Purchased:

1. Phase I Performing Arts Centre Technology project – The DPA awarded £5,000 to purchase a laptop, software, portable Bluetooth speakers and a cello rack. These items will be used in music lessons prior to the Performing Arts Centre being built, which is brilliant news.
2. Digital signage for the Upper School – A new digital signboard was purchased for use in the Upper School and will be used to both display students work and update on key information for pupils and parents to be aware of.
3. Clothing rails for the Drama room – 3 new robust, high quality clothing rails, costing a total of £475, have been purchased for use to hang costumes used in Downsend School productions and in lessons.

We know there are many other great ideas being worked up by the school counsel and staff alike, in addition to some brilliant ideas put forward by parents themselves. The DPA are working through the proposals, providing feedback on viability and looking at how we can create a sustainable fundraising programme so that we can continue to provide opportunities to continue to enrich our children's school experience.

Its been a busy year so far, but we love it! Thank you to you all for your continued support and we look forward to bringing you more updates on funding grants awarded soon!

INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

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Our mailing address is:

Downsend School
1 Leatherhead Road
Leatherhead
Surrey
KT22 8TJ
