



DOWNSEND
SCHOOL



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

DOWNSEND TIMES

26 September 2019



A message from the Headmaster



We have had to dodge the showers this week, and it is a shame that Magic Week hasn't been able to magic up some more sunshine. This hasn't dampened any enthusiasm however, and it has been another busy

week. Years 4 and 5 enjoyed their trip to the West End to see 'Wicked', the new soft furnishings have been delivered for the new spaces around school, our hockey girls have acquitted themselves at the Danes Hill tournament and our U13s and U11s have made it serenely through the first round of the Surrey Cup. This week has also demonstrated what is great about the DPA. Our Committee works tirelessly in support of the school, as was evidenced at the Circus Family Day on Sunday. Around 400 people were in attendance enjoying the various activities and the DPA AGM on Wednesday evening typified the sense of energy and camaraderie amongst these committed individuals. If you would like to join the DPA team, please let them know; we are very lucky to have them!



We end the week with Global Be Well Day, a Cognita initiative which will be celebrated across nine countries. Sleep and healthy eating are just two of the categories that we are encouraging staff and children to reflect upon and we are looking forward to welcoming CEO Europe, Stuart Rolland, for the day. Keep your eye on our social media outlets for pictures of the day, as nothing is more important than promoting positive well-being amongst our young pupils.

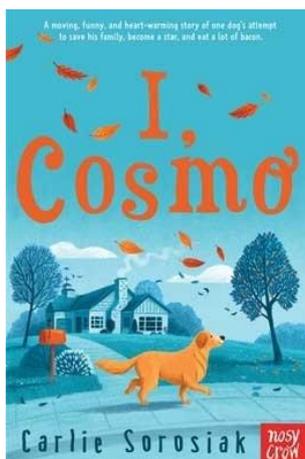
Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update

Downsend's Inspiring Young Minds ethos has been tangible this week in school, from the DPA's wonderful Circus to the Magical Week so brilliantly facilitated by the Lower School staff and community. Whilst to the children these have been exciting and fun-filled experiences, to the educators amongst us the richness that these events have added to the curriculum are clear: the language that the children have been using around these events, the STEAM connections that they have afforded us and the teamwork we have seen have all seen has been outstanding. Thank you, as always, to our DPA parents and to our teaching staff for all of the hardwork put into these events.

Many of you will know that my great passion in life is literature and I can often be found on my proverbial 'soap box' talking about the importance of reading in childhood and beyond. To help parents to choose high quality fiction to read with their children, I have decided to promote the Waterstone's Children's Book of the Month every month. For September this is 'I, Cosmo' by Carlie Sorosiak. This book is about a thirteen year-

old Golden Retriever with a taste for adventure and is a witty, moving tale of friendship and a family in crisis. Well worth a read for our children in Year 3 and above.



Have a wonderful weekend. Perhaps you might choose to spend some of the wetter moments curled up with a book!

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update

This has been another busy week in the Upper School, and it has been great to watch our new facilities being used by the pupils in an increasingly 'senior school' manner. The Learning Resource Centre now has some fabulous new furniture and its been brilliant to watch the pupils work independently and collaboratively in this exciting new area. I have been particularly pleased to see so many pupils reading in their spare time; this was a target I set them in my recent assembly, which is line with one of our whole school targets of raising the standard of literacy this year. Well done! In addition, I do hope your children have ben coming home excited about 'Class Charts' which I have seen used right across the Upper School by staff to reward pupils instantly for good work and participation. The pupils certainly love to see their scores going up in real time, so this is proving to be a great tool for encouraging participation in class.

In terms of setting up the year, it was lovely to meet the parents of both Year 7 & 8 scholarship class pupils this week, and I hope that now, having also had our 'Meet the Tutors'' evening on 17th September all our Upper School parents are clear and excited about the year ahead. If you have any further questions do contact your child's tutor or Head of Year directly. I do have two areas where I would value your parental support. Firstly, the majority, but not all, of our pupils have had their ICT User Agreement signed by parents. Please can I request that if this hasn't been done yet, that you take the time to have a discussion with your child about the contents of the agreement, and why it is important, before ensuring that both you and your child have signed the agreement in line with school policy. In addition, I am slightly concerned about the organisation and tidiness of our new external bag lockers. I will address this with pupils in my assembly on Monday, but this week I have seen bags on the floor preventing movement (and frankly getting wet) as well as items of food and litter, which is at best unsightly and at worst a H&S issue. There is plenty of space in these areas if used properly, so please do ask you children to ensure that they place their bags neatly on the Year group shelves provided.

The rehearsals for the Year 8 production of 'Elf' are going well, and Mr Bryant and his production team are very much looking forwards to seeing as many parents there as possible on the evenings of the 21st and 22nd of November.

Congratulations to George V in Year 8 for his 3 goal hat-trick in a splendid 7-2 victory over Cranmore in the week, along with great wins for the majority of U.11 sides in Football and Hockey and sterling performances from the senior girls against strong Danes Hill teams as well.

Thank you in advance to all those Upper School children who are attending and supporting the Open Morning on 5th October. As always, we are grateful for your ongoing support, and we hope to see as many of our pupils as possible on the day.

As I write we are all looking forwards to the Global Well Being Day tomorrow, along with School photos as well, so all in all this has been another brilliant week across the school.

I do hope you all have a wonderful weekend and look forwards to seeing you all at school next week.

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

Lower School Magical Week

The objective of this week was to enrich and excite the children's learning with the theme of 'magic' and this has definitely been achieved. I had the most delightful assembly with all of the Lower School on Wednesday, and the children were so excited to share all the things that they have been doing this week.

The following provides a taster of some of the things the Lower School have been getting up to:



Years 2 and 3 have enjoyed a busy but wonder-filled week, which started with a 'BANG' (quite literally) as they were treated to an amazing science show and have also enjoyed some wonderful tricks and surprises in a magic show with 'Magic Martin'.

Year 2 have enjoyed exploring lots of the Winnie the Witch stories and were inspired to create some wonderful magical writing in the form of noun phrase poems. Their 'friendship potions' were a wonderful way to think about what ingredients make a good and kind friend. Dress up day was certainly a highlight for lots of us. Unicorns, wizards, fairies and even Mary Poppins made an appearance!

Year 3 also got into the 'magical' spirit this week, writing magical potions and spells, creating fabulous colour-changing potions in science, and wonderful magic carpets whilst discovering how magic played an important role to the Ancient Egyptians!

Years 2, 3 and 4 have even been using their French language skills in creating magical potions and describing a wizard.

In Year 4, the children have made slime, written secret messages in invisible ink, explored a magical circus story (and even eaten some popcorn to inspire us!), created our own magical currency to sell items at a fair and explored what the Romans believed about magic. Their circus themed Maths activity has been a huge hit. Working in small groups, children created their own circus stalls, along with rules and even their own currency to use. At the end of the week, the children will get to play each other's games, which they are most excited about.

In Art, Year 4 have enjoyed creating some amazing 'magical' sun prints using leaves and flowers, whilst Year 5 were inspired by the illustrator Lizzie Mary Cullen and her wonderful 'Magical Cities' illustrations. We looked at famous buildings and reimagined them in a magical setting!

In RS, the theme this week has been Magic in Nature and children have been encouraged to think about what they would consider to be "magical" in the natural world and how we should care for the world. Using this quote as our starter "People are always looking for magic, when the natural world holds true miracles" (Avery Williams), we looked at pictures of the natural world such as acorns, baby chicks hatching, apple blossom and thought about how magical they are; for example inside the acorn is an oak tree. We read the book "if I could paint the world" by Sarah Massini.

Year 5 have among other things enjoyed designing and making dioramas and will be using them to write a descriptive paragraph. The dioramas are truly magical, original and creative! They also enjoyed staining parchment paper and writing magical spells to rid the world of evil.

Today has seen the most magical array of some wonderful costumes from both the children and staff throughout the Lower School.





Some of our favourite quotes from the week were:

"The Science Genie assembly was epic!"

'The Science show was magical'

"I can't wait to get to Maths to finish our circus stall games"

'Dress up day was the best!'

"Is there really a place where all of the magic is kept?"

'I really enjoyed the Winnie the Witch comprehension'

A massive thank you to all of the Lower School staff for their enthusiasm and amazing creative ideas over the last few days. A special thank you also to Mrs Temlett and Mr Mitchell who have helped me so much with the planning of the whole week.

Helen Black

Year 4 & 5 Trip - Wicked The Musical

On Wednesday afternoon, Years 4 and 5 went to the Apollo Victoria Theatre in London to see Wicked.



"It was an excellent show with amazing lighting. My favourite part was when they entered the Emerald City. The lighting in the theatre changed to green and they had some awesome costumes and props. The best song was defying gravity, where the main character Elphaba was flying in the air. Overall it was a great trip and I we all had an enjoyable time."

Bella Year 5

Junior Book Reviewer in Year 4



Jessica R in Year 4 has been busy over the summer holidays as a book reviewer. She was given a proof copy of a book written by Chris Riddell that has not been published yet, so that she could read it and send in a review of the book.

4JS were lucky enough to hear all about what Jessica did and see the actual book (there are only 8 copies in the world at the moment!) in their weekly library session.

Karen Cresswell, School Librarian

School Photographs



A reminder that Individual photographs of all pupils will be taken tomorrow. There will not be the opportunity for sibling photographs.

Children should wear the following uniform:

Lower School (Years 2, 3, 4, 5)

Girls: summer dresses, red cardigans, white ankle socks and hair bands appropriate to school uniform

Reminder: jewellery, other than watches, is not permitted in the Lower School

Boys: short trousers, school socks (or short grey socks), white shirts, ties, grey jumpers

Upper School (Years 6, 7, 8)

Girls: winter kilts, white blouse, white ankle socks, black jumpers and hair bands appropriate to school uniform

Boys: long trousers, white shirts, ties, grey jumpers

Seb Watts

School Charity Mufti Reminder - 4 October

Wear something **GREEN**



This year we are supporting **Love Me, Love My Mind**, kick starting our fundraising with a mufti day on *Friday 4 October*, when a representative from the charity will be talking to the children in our whole school assembly.

Please make a diary note to wear something **green** eg socks, T-shirt, hair band in acknowledgement of the charity.

Class and form teachers will collect £2 from each pupil during registration on Friday 4 October.

Beth Day - Charity Co-ordinator

Reminder - No dogs allowed on school site

Can I take this opportunity to remind all parents and anyone visiting the school to drop off or collect pupils that dogs are not permitted anywhere on the school site. The DPA event run last Sunday on the sports field where dogs were present to participate in a dog show was a specific, one off event. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Craig Simmons, Business Manager

Music Ensembles

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

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.



DOWNSEND MUSIC DEPARTMENT

WHOLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

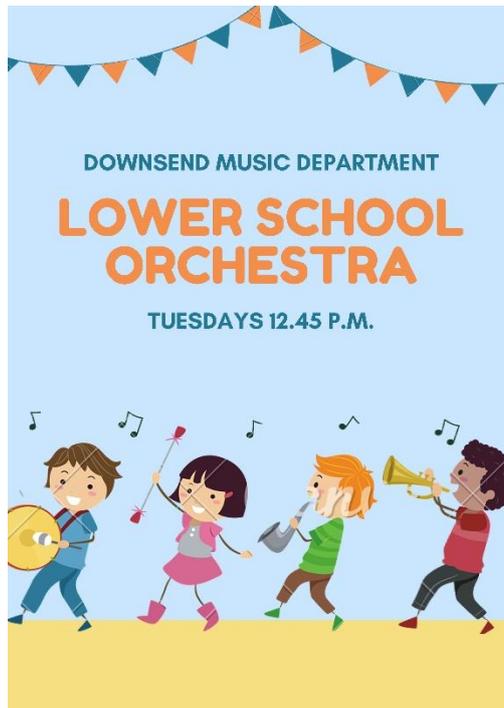
Monday 12.45 p.m. Lower School
Thursday 1.45 p.m. Upper School
Friday 8.00 a.m. ALL



DOWNSEND MUSIC DEPARTMENT

LOWER SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

TUESDAYS 12.45 P.M.



DOWNSEND SCHOOL

LOWER SCHOOL GUITAR CLUB



Thursdays
12.20 p.m. in the
MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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 now 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.

Downsend Parents Association



Hundreds Turn Out to Celebrate at our First Ever Festival – Despite the Rain



Hundreds of intrepid Festival go-ers and their furry friends from across the Pre Preps and Main site braved the British weather to celebrate the start of the new academic year at our first ever Downsend

Festival.

The sports field was awash with bunting, balloons and glitter, as festival go-ers enjoyed everything the event had to offer. We loved hearing the raucous laughter coming from the crowd in the Big Top as the brilliant Circus Sensible led circus skills workshops and gave us a treat with their hilarious show. We were also lucky enough to indulge our inner Bear Grylls, with loads of forest skills fun with Jay and Carol Bristow from Woodland Forest School.

The inaugural Downsend Dog Show was also a huge hit with a whopping 31 absolutely pawesome dogs entering a variety of categories with special congratulations to the gorgeous Bailey who came away with our first ever Top Dog accolade. All the dogs and their owners behaved impeccably, for which we are all also very grateful!

Feedback from festi go-ers has been overwhelmingly positive and we collected a lot of great ideas on how to make the next one even better! So thank you to everyone who took time to provide feedback, we very much appreciate your thoughts.

The DPA team would like to say a MASSIVE thank you to all volunteers, staff, parents, children and pooches for making this event a roaring success, we are totally in awe of your resilience, flexibility and good will. As a team we are invigorated by the support of the Downsend Community and looking forward to channelling this renewed energy into bringing you an awesome Christmas Fair on Sunday 01 December (no apologies for the shameless plug!).

INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

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