

# DOWNSEND TIMES

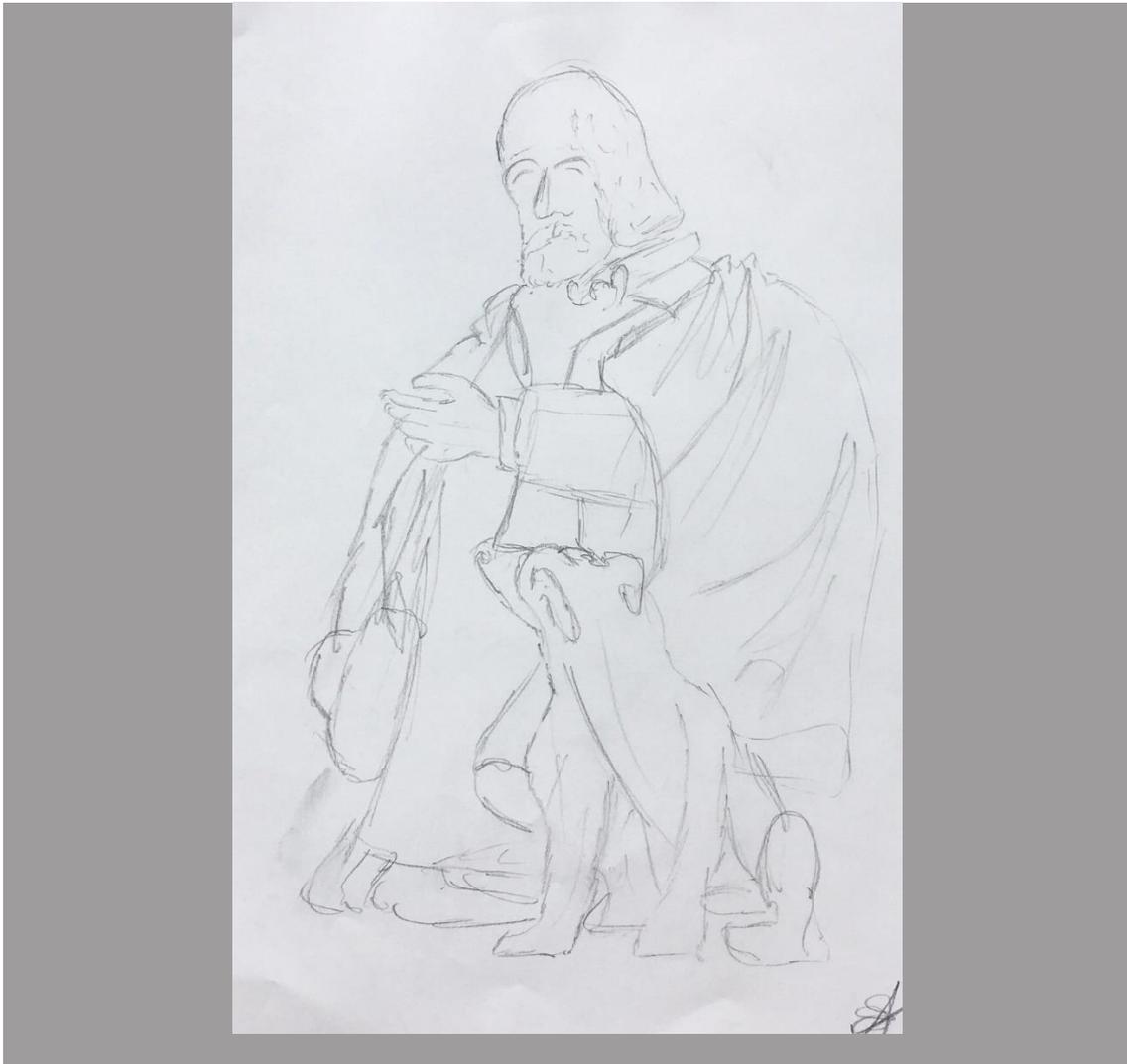
15 November 2019



**DOWNSEND**  
SCHOOL



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



## A Message from the Headmaster

Another Open Morning has come and gone, with around 100 visitors spending the morning with us. The Year 8 pupils were their usual brilliant selves, embodying all that is good about a Downsend education. There was an overriding sense of warmth and realisation that our approach is one that really is nurturing future skills in our pupils and we were overwhelmed with the positive feedback. I suppose we should have expected nothing less during ARK Week and I hope that your children have enjoyed the many positive acts that have taken place this week, with nothing expected in return but a smile. Please can we all ensure that this same courtesy is applied in the Car Park, as there are an increasing number of complaints being received about stopping on zebra crossings, driving through no entry signs and turning right onto the A24? We appreciate that time is precious, but surely not enough to endanger the pupils and adults within the Downsend community?

*Ian Thorpe*

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## Lower School Update

ARK Week in the Lower School has been palpable, with children showing even more kindness than usual, and they were starting from a high benchmark already! I have seen children opening doors for each other, carrying books for each other and wishing each other a happy day. I have seen children letting others go before them to lunch, giving others their turn on the playground equipment and praising each other's work. It really has been a hugely special week. Thank you and well done to all of the Lower School children, and staff, who took part with such energy and commitment. Thank you too to all of the parents and family who helped their children to think of ways to spread kindness throughout our school. I'm sure that the effects of this wonderful week will continue to be seen.

This week was the Year 3's turn to bake to raise money for the school charity. I was amazed once again by the wonderful produce brought in by our Year 3 children. It is so special to see such a range, from lovely cakes made with adult support to wonderful ones clearly made with the minimum of help. Please do remind your children that everyone's contribution is welcomed and valued and we really do love seeing those cakes that the children have made themselves. Please can I remind parents that when making allergen free cakes – such as gluten free or dairy free – decorations must be checked for these allergens too. I can't wait to see Year 4's cakes next week!

Many of you have been asking after our lovely Head of Year 3, Mrs Bayley, and I have been hugely remiss in not sharing the wonderful news that on 26<sup>th</sup> September, Mrs Bayley gave birth to a beautiful little boy, Oliver Arthur Bayley, who weighed in at a very healthy 7lbs 2 oz. Both Mr and Mrs Bayley are smitten with their new addition and Mrs Bayley and Oliver are doing tremendously well. The staff here have been

enjoying updates are waiting in eager anticipation for some hugs soon. Huge congratulations to you both, Mr and Mrs Bayley – what a treasure!



I felt this week that I would benefit from having a revolving door into my office, as the number of children coming in to share good work has been so high – what a total joy! Work ranged from a stunning piece of Art from Ethan M in 5LC in response to Mr Watts' Remembrance Day assembly last week, to 3ST's Charlie A and Francesca B's outstanding Maths work on 'near number addition'. Well done too to Sophie M in 5AG for her sensitive and thought-provoking work about the feelings of soldiers in WWII and to Cem E in 2SB for his wonderful mathematical problem solving. I also loved the 'Wanted!' posters made by Summar K and Robert P in 2YdV which showed a maturity of language far beyond age related expectations. Finally, congratulations to Elodie B, Max A and George M in 3VB for their wonderful storyboarding about Egypt – what wonderful use of fronted adverbials, conjunction and similes. Do keep this lovely work coming in and I look forward to seeing even more on Pobble over the coming weeks.

Finally, do please make a note of the date of the DPA Christmas Fair which will be on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December. This is a gorgeous event and a super opportunity to get some lovely, unique Christmas presents for family and friends. There is also lots for the children to do so do read your e-mail from our wonderful DPA members carefully and pop the date in your diary. I look forward to seeing many of our Lower School families there.

Have a very happy weekend.

*Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School*

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## Upper School Update

This week there have been some outstanding individual performances by particular children, so a huge well done to Gemima J and Martha G for achieving their Grade 3 ballet awards from the Royal Academy of Dance, as well as Amy J and Olivia B for their impressive Grade 4 awards. In addition, Chloe S has been awarded both a Diamond and Sports Blue Peter badge, which she achieved partly by trying a new sport, Sailing, with Polly GG during the holidays. Well done to all those pupils both for their achievement as well as their 'Growth Mindsets'! The final stages of rehearsals are in place for the Year 8 production of 'Elf'. The Year 8 cast will be performing to the Year 2,3&4 pupils on Thursday afternoon, and the Year 5,6&7 pupils on Friday afternoon. All of that practise is of course for the big shows to parents on Thursday and Friday evenings (21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> of November) so please do book your seats for what promise to be great shows. The Year 7 pupils visited the Watts gallery in Compton on Thursday and Miss Aylen and the Year 7 team were so impressed with how our Year 7 pupils engaged with the subject matter and tasks. A special well done to Charlie K and Alice U for their sculpture work, and to Finlay G and Leo L for their brilliant artistic questions!

It was a pleasure to see so many of our Year 6 parents at Parents evening this week, and I hope the feedback and 'next steps' targets you will have received crystallise the focus areas for the Year 6 pupils for the remainder of the term. We look forwards to seeing the rest of the Year 6 parents at next Tuesday's Parents evening.

Our Year 8's will be starting to think about which routes they would like to take in their learning, with possible future careers in mind. Please see the article below for information on our Year 8 careers fair, which will take place in January. As always we are hugely grateful for support from parents who may be able to offer their time to talk to children about their roles, industries and valuable personal learnings and experiences at this event.

Finally, can I say a huge well done to our Year 8 Guides who were so impressive at Open Morning today. I know I have said this before but you are our greatest advocates and, once again, the parents who visited today were so impressed with you all; so well done!

*Karl Newland, Head of Upper School*

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### **Year 8 Careers Fair Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2.20-4.20pm**

As part of our Careers education and to support our children in thinking about life beyond school, we are planning a Careers Fair for Year 8 to take place on the afternoon of Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January. This will be an opportunity for the children to hear from adults from a wide variety of industries and workplaces and to hear

both about their jobs, but also the journey that they have taken to reach their current positions. We are therefore looking for volunteers from amongst the parent body and friends of the school from all working backgrounds who would be willing to take part and are available on this date to help. If you are able to help please could you contact Mr Skitt ([martin.skitt@downsend.co.uk](mailto:martin.skitt@downsend.co.uk)) by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

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## ARK Week



We planned an Act of Random Kindness Week (ARK) as a link to the fact that it was Anti-Bullying week. The aim of the week was to secretly perform acts of kindness for a secret friend. All the children and the staff were given a secret friend for the week.

The lengths that both staff and children have gone to make their secret friend feel special this week, have been amazing. What has also been equally fantastic to see are the acts of random kindness that have happened to staff and pupils who are not their secret friend. It has truly been an uplifting week.

Here are a few examples from the staff:

*It has been brilliant thus far. My ARK friend has been amazing; the thoughtful acts of kindness have put a smile on my face. Mrs Carmody*

*Chocolates and a message in Welsh were such a nice gift given and so thoughtful. Mr Popham*

*I have felt truly spoilt all week, by my secret friend, as well as staff and children; even my puppy Pippin got treats. Miss Black*

Here are a few examples from the children:

*This week has been extra special because of the kindness and generosity my ARK friend and others have shown.*

*My secret friend has been extremely kind and thoughtful. I loved reading the notes left for me and enjoyed the little treats. I also made sure I was a very caring ARK friend and used my creative skills to make something special; seeing the smile on my ARK friend has been amazing.*

*WOW!! I can't believe that my secret friend got me this. I wonder who it is?*

*I loved ARK week because we thought about showing kindness to children who weren't our friends. I will be kind to lots of people now.*

*I think my secret friend is Harry. He is always smiling at me and doing nice things:)*

*It was really fun seeing lots of people being kind and having smiles on their faces.*

*My ARK friend kept holding the door open for me which was really nice.*

The key aim of the week was that 'every week should be an ARK week'.

*Helen Black, Deputy Head of the Lower School*

*Lee Silva, Deputy Head of the Upper School*

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## Peer Mentoring Launch in the Lower School



Last Wednesday, I had the very great privilege of training eight Year 5 pupils to become Peer Mentors in the Lower School. This Wednesday, they then delivered an assembly to the children in Years 2 to 5 to explain their role and how they can help.

Peer mentoring is about supporting another young person; it is concerning informing the other children in the school about how to get help and to assist in solving small conflicts. They provide the pupils with opportunities to discuss their concerns and any kinds of issues that are bothering them. There will be two peer mentors each Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning breaktime in 5LC. Any pupil can turn up at any point to discuss any concerns they may have.

I know that the Peer Mentors that the Year 5 tutors have chosen are going to do a fantastic job this year.

*Helen Black, Deputy Head of the Lower School*

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## Year 2 - Fire of London workshop



On Thursday, Year 2 were treated to an adventure back in time. With the help of the theatre workshop group 'Open Box' they flew back to 1666 and experienced the 'Great Fire of London'.

Bringing to life the different characters that would have been found on the streets of London during 1666, the children created a busy London scene. They cleaned up the filthy streets and helped extinguish the raging fire.

The children were immersed into life in the days of Old London Town. Many found the thought of living in London at that time quite disgusting!

The highlight of the workshop was the re-enactment of the events which took place on 2nd September 1666 and the following four days when the Great Fire was to savage through the streets of London.

All the children were buzzing with excitement following the workshop and keen to use their wonderful English skills to retell all their new found knowledge.

The Year 2 Team

## Year 3 Bake Off



Our Year 3 Firework themed Bake Off was a great success, raising £220 for the Merstham Mix Cafe. The children brought in a wonderful selection of delicious iced cakes and biscuits, full of dazzling colour and sparkle. Congratulations to the winners:

Anna H – Ranmore

Zac – Headley

Dianna – Wisley

Mary and Lottie - joint winners Norbury

The Year 4 Bake Off will be held on Tuesday - the theme is Winter and Christmas. All entrants will be awarded 5 house points.

Please remember, no nuts or marzipan. Gluten free cakes need to be labelled clearly and not have gluten in the decorations. Children in the Lower School can bring in 50p or £1 to buy cakes. Thank you for your ongoing support for these events.

*Mrs Ludlam*

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## Year 7 Art Trip and Artists of The Week



Our Year 7 are this week's artists of the week, for the amazing sketches and sculptures they created at yesterday's visit to Watts Gallery.

Hasaan A and Harvey B wrote this short summary of the day:

"The trip to Watts Gallery was phenomenal. The paintings in the gallery were beautiful and just made me think of how G.F Watts became such a good painter in such a short amount of time. The part that I enjoyed the most was the studio where we made sculptures of a horse. It was exciting and fascinating, and overall a wonderful experience!"

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## Crisp Packet Recycling Scheme



As part of our ongoing charitable efforts and supporting worthy causes, we will be collecting empty crisp packets for recycling. Rather than being sent to landfill, this otherwise non-recyclable waste can be used to raise funds for Air Ambulance Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

Although we do not encourage our pupils to eat crisps on a daily basis at school, we are able to recycle packets from the healthier options of baked crisps and popcorn which are encouraged. We are also very aware that at home, crisps are consumed as part of the healthy and action packed lifestyles your children lead.

If you wish to support this charitable initiative, please bring in your empty crisps packets for collection on MONDAY MORNINGS ONLY. Charity pupil representatives will be at the Turret with the recycling bin.

PLEASE DO NOT give these packets to your child's form teacher.

The recycling bin will also be available at breaktimes for the pupils to deposit any empty packets of crisps eaten as a snack.

Alternatively, you can send your empty packets directly. Please follow this link: <https://www.aakss.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising/recycle-schemes/>

If you have any questions or are interested in supporting the logistics and organisation of this recycling effort, please contact me directly on [beth.day@downsend.co.uk](mailto:beth.day@downsend.co.uk), your help and support would be much appreciated.

*Beth Day, Charity Coordinator*

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## Cancelled - Public Speaking Competition

A reminder that the Public Speaking Competition which was due to be held at Downsends on Wednesday 20th November is cancelled. This event will now take place in the Spring Term - date to be advised.

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## Instrumental and Singing Lessons

Please could parents of pupils who take instrumental and singing lessons read [this letter](#) from Mrs Allison.

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## 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*

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## Instrumental Lessons at Downsends

**We Have Vacancies!!**

If your child would like to learn an instrument at Downsends with one of our tutors then please email the Head of Music at [nicole.allison@downsends.co.uk](mailto:nicole.allison@downsends.co.uk)

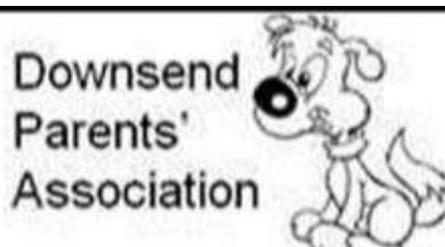
We have tutors for the following instruments:

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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**Bag2School – The fundraising total is in.....**



Thank you so much to everyone for your mammoth efforts in the Bag2School fundraising activity – we can confirm that we just received a cheque for a whopping **£388!**

This is a huge total for a recycling event, and we can't thank you enough for getting behind this initiative with such gusto! Congratulations again to Wisley for your winning performance.

These funds will go towards our fundraising efforts for the Performing Arts Centre equipment for next year.

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## Walking in a Winter Wonderland at the DPA Christmas Fair this year....



This year, the DPA are trying something a little different at the Christmas Fair! Instead of doing what we think is going to be fun, we asked the children across the school to give us ideas, validate our thoughts and plan for some Christmas fun together!

There were some crazy ideas.... Many of which would be Downsend firsts.... So we booked them! Our DPA Elves are looking forward to bringing these ideas to life on Sunday 01 December including....

- **Giant Snow Globe** – don't miss the opportunity to get your 2019 Festive Family Photograph taken in a massive blow up snow globe
- **The Snow Cube** – Fancy yourself as a bit of a wannabe snowboarder? Test your skills in the Snow Cube, and try to top the leader board!

We have also got some old school favourites on hand....

- **Santa's Grotto** – Make a date with the man in red, book before Thursday 28 Nov! Limited spaces are available!
- **Pre order your Christmas Tree** – This year, Jay Bristow of Woodland Forest School is offering us the opportunity of pre ordering wonderful trees at amazing prices. Don't forget to order yours.

There is still lots for the DPA to do in order to get ready for the best Christmas Fair ever, and of course we have asked parents to do their part too – if you haven't had time to read the Christmas Fair planning letter yet, here is a short overview of key deadlines for parents activities to help you out:

<b>When/ where</b>	<b>What</b>
<b>Friday 15 November</b> Your child's bag	2 x packs of raffle tickets & an empty jolly bag will be sent home with children  Bring in:
<b>Friday 22, Monday 25 &amp; Tuesday 26 November</b> Turret	Luxury Bottle tombola donations Chocolate tombola donations (no nuts) Filled & sealed jolly bags (no nuts)
<b>Wednesday 27 November</b> Class Reps or Admin Block	Raffle tickets – please complete and provide with ££ to your class rep or leave at Admin block Decorate a bauble for Santa's grotto
<b>Thursday 28 November</b> 12 noon	Final bookings for Santa's Grotto
<b>Sunday 01 December</b> Downsend School	Christmas Fair kicks off at 11.00am – 2.30pm

Whilst the event is free to attend, in order to ensure we have enough turkey baps and mulled wine on tap, we would like to remind all parents to **register** themselves and their guests **via the event invitation on**

**Class** **List.**

If you have any questions please get in touch with the DPA Elves at [downsendPA@gmail.com](mailto:downsendPA@gmail.com).

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**INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS**

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