

DOWNSEND TIMES

22 November 2019



DOWNSEND
SCHOOL



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



This week's Artist of the Week is Charlie T in 6CB. Year 6 have been using watercolours and practising their colour mixing skills. Charlie experimented with mixing a wide range of colours and came up with some creative names for his colours! Well done.

A Message from the Headmaster

I am writing today's message from a not so sunny Madrid! The morning has been spent at TEMS School, while the afternoon involves a trip to Hastings: both sister Cognita schools with whom we are planning some fantastic cultural and educational partnerships. More of that anon!

The week will finish on a high note at Downsend, with the second performance of the Year 8 production, Elf: the Musical, while the U11s will contest the Surrey Cup Final at Charterhouse this afternoon. Good luck to all!

Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update

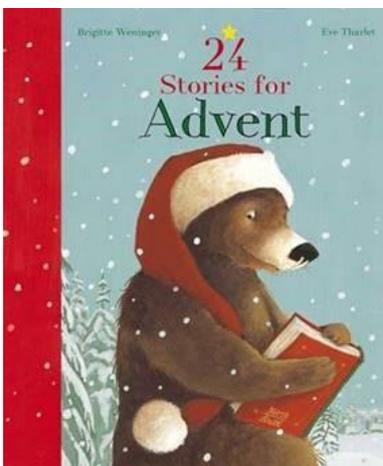
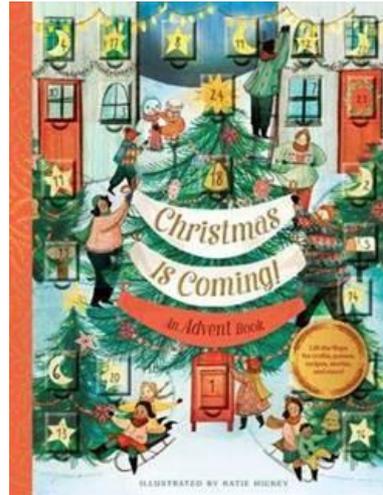
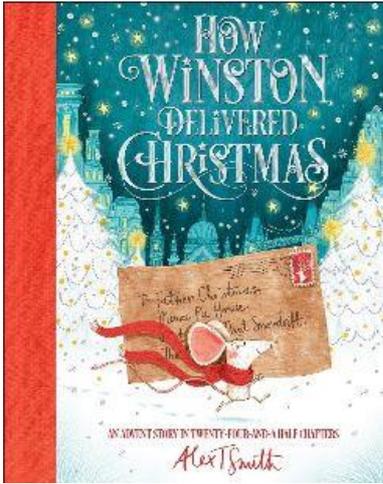
Our hope of making every week an ARK week has come true this week, as I'd hoped it would. I have continued to see great kindness from the children towards each other and the staff team, and visitors this week have remarked upon the feeling of happiness throughout our school. What a truly lovely thing to be able to say, especially as the days become colder and darker and moods can dip – well done!

Year 2 and 3 enjoyed a great, interactive STEAM experience this week, when adults from Pfizer came to visit us to talk, in a superbly age-appropriate way, about the importance of medicine and making it correctly. I know that the Year 2 team will give more details, however, it was wonderful to see and hear the engagement in this subject from our learners. We are very grateful to our visitors, who included one of our own Downsend mums, for providing this experience.

Congratulations to our Year 4 bakers this week for their wonderful contributions to the 'Bake Off'. From snowmen made of mini doughnuts to meringue Christmas trees and edible bobble hats; the cakes were a treat for the senses. I can't wait to see the efforts of our Year 5 children next week. Do remember to list all of your ingredients and include details of all allergens.

Academic congratulations this week are extremely varied! Firstly, well done to Lauren LQ in 5LC for her wonderful drawing of an extremely life-like pug. Congratulations to Charlie R in 3CC for his writing about the Egyptians, which was as artistic and it was factual. A whole-hearted well done must also go to Oliver P and Freyja BW in 5LC whose commitment to their Technology bridge building project has been outstanding this week. As part of our programme of continual academic evaluation, all Lower School teachers looked thoroughly at children's work across the curriculum and age-phases this week. All of the teachers were extremely proud of the academic standards and commitment to learning that they saw in these books – Well done, Everyone!

With Christmas getting ever closer and Black Friday deals pouring into inboxes across the country, I wanted to recommend some reading that can be a daily joy throughout advent, rather than a potential battle. The books below are lovely Christmas literature designed to be shared daily in the run up to Christmas, with each chapter or activity dated and designed to act like a literary advent calendar. Having shared 'How Winston Delivered Christmas' with my children last year, I can personally attest to how lovely this experience can be. Each chapter is short and so it is a manageable way to read daily with your child, even when things start to get extremely hectic. I am looking forward to starting 'Christmas is Coming' before coming to the DPA Christmas Fair on the 1st December.



Have a wonderful weekend.

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update

In last week's Upper School review I omitted to say how pleased and impressed I was with the kindness and positivity shown during ARK week. It is always a pleasure to spend time with our older pupils, but they went the extra mile to return lost property, wipe each others places down at lunch and tidy lockers over the week, so well done to all of you, it really was uplifting to see how supportive you were of each other. In addition, although I thanked all the guides for their brilliant work on Open Morning, I must give a special mention to Anita B (8MSg) and Arthur C (8DK) as I received emails from the parents they guided saying how impressed they were with the knowledge and enthusiasm for their school shown by those two children; simply amazing! In terms of House points and credits a huge well done to Emerson N ((8AD) for being the most improved pupil in Year 8, along with Mia K ((8AD) for being the highest achiever in Year 8 with a total of 288 House points, along with Thomas U (8AD), Alexa EM (8MSw) and Alice G (8MSw) all of whom

have achieved over 250 House points and so are very close to receiving their Bronze medal commendations from Mr Silva; impressive stuff!

As you know the Year 8 cast have been working hard on their performance of Elf, and did brilliantly when presenting yesterday to our Year 2,3 4 pupils, then parents last night; so good luck to Mr Bryant and the all the cast with the show to Years 6&7 this afternoon and the final show to parents tonight!

I have had the pleasure of taking some English and PSHE lessons across the Upper School this week and was very impressed with Harry's McG (8DK) reading of the Hound of the Baskerville's; he showed great intonation and emphasis in his delivery, and a fabulous and mature conversation with the pupils in 8X about tolerance, inclusivity and celebrating difference. Uplifting stuff boys and girls; well done! I must also mention the achievement of the U.11 1st team soccer squad for winning their Surrey Cup semi-final against Kings House, good luck in the final today boys!

A couple of Housekeeping messages to finish; the weather has turned much colder so please do make sure your children are wrapped up warm for school, but do please also ensure they are in coats that comply with the Downsend uniform colour scheme. Finally, please do try to come along to support the DPA Christmas Fair on Sunday 1st December. The DPA team have planned an amazing set of activities and stalls and it promises to be great fun for children and adults, and your support is very much welcomed. Have a wonderful and warm weekend!

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

Year 2 and 3's Marvellous Medicine Morning





Excitement was brewing in the classrooms of Year 2 and 3 on Tuesday of this week. STEAM ambassadors from a local company visited the children for a morning of scientific enquiry. The children were thrilled to have a 'hands on' experience experimenting with different quantities of ingredients to imitate the magenta slime shown by our visitors – not an easy task – before creating the right packaging to send their 'medicine' across the world. The children learned the importance of using the correct hand washing technique to keep wintery bugs at bay using the classic song, 'Happy Birthday' and a splash of glitter.

As ever, the children behaved brilliantly and asked lots of thoughtful questions. The ambassadors were very impressed with the maturity of the children, how well they all worked in their groups and their STEAM thinking.

Here is some of the feedback the children gave later that day.

Kamran in Year 2- it was great fun washing our hand to Happy Birthday, the glitter was very sticky.

Olivia in Year 3 - My job was adding the colour to the slime, it was hard to know how much red to add to make the slime purple. it was awesome.

The Year 2 and 3 Teachers

Year 4 Bake Off





This week, Year 4 made a superb effort with their wintery themed cakes and biscuits. Over £240 was raised, which will fund food vouchers for the Merstham Mix café.

The overall house winner was Norbury for their excellent range of entries and the individual winners were:

Norbury - joint winners Dollie B, Robert B

Wisley - Sam B

Headley - Sophia M-B

Ranmore - Tilly H

Mrs Ludlam

So far there have been 3 Bake Offs and there is one to go.

All Bake Offs have gone very well so far and hopefully the Year 5's will too. The Year 2 and 3s were firework themed and the year 4 and 5s are Christmas themed. The weekly Bake Offs are for raising money for one of our school charities, the Merstham Mix Café. You get 5 house points for entering and 10 more if you win. Year 5 Winter -themed bake off is next week during morning break on Tuesday 26 November 2019 – hopefully there will be lots of yummy cakes!!!!

Flora H and Francesca D, Year 3

RAISE Writers

Please see below some wonderful recent articles from our busy RAISE writers in years 3 and 4.

Bags to school

Hello my name is ella w, I am going to talk to you about bags to school. all we had to do was

Put some clothes in a bin bags to take school. all the clothes you donated has gone to the school charity. all your kids all got 1 house points per bag, the winning house was wisely!

All about Forest School

Hello our names are Isabella and Raffaella. We have interviewed some children about what they like about Forest School. Here are some people who we have interviewed.

- Katerina, Making forts Year 4
 - Francesca D, Finding bugs and making mud cakes Year 3
 - Emma, Making bug houses Year 4
 - Edward Getting muddy Year 2
 - Amy, Making mud pies Year 4
 - Tileena, Making swings and clay animals Year 4
 - Eleanor, Making things with wood Year 4
 - Jessica, Building dens with the class Year 5
 - Ella, Digging out clay from the mound Year 3
- In conclusion a lot of people like Forest School!



Science News



The Downsend Science Department currently runs a club to support students who have an artistic flair and love of biological specimen drawings (Upper School: Tuesday lunchtime; Lower School: Wednesday after school). The competition run by the Royal Society of Biology reopens in March 2020, just in time for Science Week! The closing date will be the first week of July for the students to hand to Dr Kirby. The top three runner-up entries (highly commended), and the winner for their category will be invited to an experience day at the Royal Veterinary College in October 2020. If you son/daughter would like to attend the club, please feel free to come along. Alternatively, they are more than welcome to work on a piece themselves and see Dr Kirby more advice along the way!



In time for British Science Week in March, Downsend has 2 teams entered for the Schools Science and Innovation Competition.

Students will need to submit their formal entry to the competition by **mid-January**. Entries are shortlisted and successful teams notified at the beginning of February. The final event takes place in March, before the Easter holiday. However, there is no limit to the number of teams, so if anyone in **Year 7 or 8** fancies solving

a global problem over Christmas (globalgoals.org), please let Dr Kirby know before the end of November (final registration is Monday 2nd December)!

Please see more details below:



The competition focuses on the UN's Global Goals for Sustainable development. Teams are asked to select a specific goal and to come up with a new and innovative scientific solution in response to this.

To enter, teams must create a 5 minute film that: briefly outlines the goal they have selected; describes their innovative solution; explains the science behind the idea; and illustrates how their idea would address the goal.

The best teams will be invited to present their idea at a showcase event at Imperial College in front of a live audience and a panel of VIP judges on 18 March 2020.

Dr Kirby, Head of Science

Elf - The Musical



This week, Year 8 got Christmas 2019 off to an energetic start with their production of "Elf".

This musical adaptation of the film featured Noah B-W as the human raised in the North Pole as an elf by Santa Claus (Marcus H) and a bunch of happy, singing elves. He sets off for New York City to meet his Dad (George V) and his new family (Alice G and Roman A). Along the way, he gets a job, angers his father's boss (Jacob S) and falls in love with the seasonally-allergic Jovie (Gracie N).

The cast gave entertaining performances and were ably backed up by the backstage team, also made up of Year 8 pupils. Thomas U headed the crew as Stage Manager while Harry H and Bijou C-S led the technical team.



As director, I would like to praise all the children who took part and also thank the many colleagues and other adults who worked so hard to bring the vision to life. Thanks especially to Mrs Nicole Allison, the musical director, who has worked so hard to get the singing in the show up to scratch.

Christopher Bryant, Head of Drama

Reminder - Water Bottles

Just a reminder to children in all year groups to bring a named water bottle into school each day.

Ski Trip - Limited Spaces Available

There are a very limited number of spaces that have opened up for the ski trip to Les Menuires in April. The dates are 11th -18th April 2020. If you are interested in your child going and they are currently in years 5-8, please E-mail Mr Mitchell (peter.mitchell@downsend.co.uk). With very limited space left, these spaces will be awarded on a first-come, first served basis.

Christmas Post Boxes



On Monday 2nd December the Christmas Post Boxes for the Lower School will go out. They will be located in the Turret and each year group has their own box.

Please make sure that all the envelopes are labelled clearly with first names, surnames and classes. The boxes will be emptied daily.

Helen Black, Deputy Head of Lower School

Year 8 Careers Fair

Friday 31st 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 31st 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) by Monday 2nd December.

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

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
Parents'
Association



Twas the weekend before the Fair, when all round the school....

..... DPA Elves were all planning for Yule....

The jolly bags, chocolate & bottles are needed,

On Monday or Tuesday, the DPA pleaded!

The kids are excited to visit St. Nick,

The slots are quite rare, so book now ... quick!

Hand your raffle tickets in to admin by Wed,

We bet you need this like a hole in the head!

Don't forget, register in Class List today,

And we'll get catering plans squared away.

Our team is so focused, our eyes on the ball,

Remember the event is free and open to all.

The team are so grateful for all that you do...

.... And want to extend a MASSIVE thank you!

If you have any questions about the Christmas Fair, please get in touch with your Class Rep or the DPA team via Class List or If you have any questions about the Christmas Fair, please get in touch with your Class Rep or the DPA team via Class List or [@Downsend Parents Association](#).

When/where	What
Monday 25 & Tuesday 26 November Turret	Bring in: Luxury Bottle tombola donations Chocolate tombola donations (no nuts) Filled & sealed jolly bags (no nuts)
Wednesday 27 November 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 deadline for collection (spares in the Turret)
Thursday 28 November 12 noon	Final bookings for Santa’s Grotto
Sunday 01 December Downsend School	Christmas Fair kicks off at 11.00am – 2.30pm

INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

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