



DOWNSEND
SCHOOL



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

DOWNSEND TIMES

7 May 2020

A Message from the Headmaster

As we end the midway point of this half-term, the feedback has been very much the theme of the past few days. Our pupils, who have demonstrated such adaptability and independence in adjusting to online learning, are responding to the advice offered to them by their brilliant teachers. They, in turn, have completed the pupil survey, for which we received over 200 responses; I hope that you enjoyed reading the summary yesterday – we are already making the adjustments needed to make the programme even more effective. Thank you for taking a couple of minutes to complete the parent survey, which we will analyse next week and use to inform us further. We have certainly been humbled by words of kindness and support to individual teachers, Heads of School and myself – they are appreciated more than you know! We have tried to mirror that outward facing approach by continuing to supply PPE masks to local hospitals and care homes; next week, we will exceed our 1 mask for every Downsend family target. In addition, we delivered 2000 overshoes (normally used on poolside) to East Surrey Hospital, for which they were incredibly grateful. We hope that these testing times are bringing out some supportive traits in Downsend!

My Thought for the Week was directed at the Lower School this week as we reflect on the events of 75 years ago, and VE Day. After some testing, war torn times, communities were able to come together again and look forward to the future with optimism. Over the weekend, we are likely to hear more of HM Government's plans for the partial reopening of schools – I will report back on what such plans might mean for Downsend next week. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy a sunny Bank Holiday weekend with your families. Keep well!

Ian Thorpe

As we continue to be a remote community at present, it has been lovely to be able to connect with the children through my assemblies each week on Seesaw. Last week, I talked about the idea of a 'Looking forward' jar and I have been touched this week to hear that many of you have made your own jars, packed full of exciting things for the future. Thank you so much for sharing your ideas with me. These ideas included looking forward to birthdays (Anna H, 2CW), exciting holidays (Teagan, 5AG) and adventures like swimming in open lakes (Charlie R, 3CC). 3NL sent me a picture of the jar they filled as a class, which included looking forward to Doug's amazing chicken katsu when we come back to school and attending Mr Bristow's forest school. All the jar entries I have seen across the Lower School, without exception, involve seeing other people safely and, as we turn our thoughts to VE Day and remembering and celebrating all the men and women who lost their lives to keep us all safe and to give us a wonderful future, there is clearly a parallel to be seen with our current situation. I am certainly looking forward to when we really will meet again.



Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update

I wanted to start my Downsend Times report this week with a big well done to all those pupils in the Upper school who took the time to search through my 'Thought of the Week' VLOG on 24th April to identify the 5 quotes from Sir Winston Churchill that were embedded in my message about a positive attitude and adapting to change. You did really well to find them and lots of House points have been awarded to you as an apt reward, with a particular well done to Josh G in Year 6 for being the first person to correctly send back the correct answers!

On a similar 'Churchillian' note, this week Miss Black and Mrs Day have worked incredibly hard to set up a fabulous VE themed for Thursday 7th May, in anticipation of the Nation's celebration of 75 years since the

end of war in Europe. From time today was full of 'bunting' and amazing retrospective video clips, and the lessons across the curriculum have been VE themed, with a particularly impressive effort from Mr Skitt and the language team, who have been assisting the pupils to understand the atmosphere of that period. They have been asked to imagine that they were a Pathe news reporter stationed with the British Army in Germany, or that they were a newspaper journalist in post at that time and have even taken on the roll of a German child writing a diary of how their lives changed as the war finished; brilliant innovative stuff everyone, well done!

To finish the week off appropriately Miss Black has set this week's 'Thought for the Week' Vlog as a task for the Upper School pupils, so do please encourage your children to complete that fun history based task for her.

Year 6 have been working hard again this week, and I know Mrs Hawes has been really pleased with Rhyen P for his engagement and quick answers in his lessons and Mrs Hayward has awarded Ben L a 'citizenship' award in Class Charts for his consistent maturity when using the new Century tech platform for the first time in English, as well as 'critical thinking' award to Alex B for his resilience and perseverance. A huge well done must also go to Hope D, who has only just started at our 'virtual' Downsend and yet has kept smiling and calm despite all the technical challenges of online learning. Well done to all those Year 6 pupils! There are some new commendations to be awarded this week, and congratulations to Louis S (who I also enjoyed watching as he worked on his batting technique with Mr Moore in games this week), Alfie A and Aizere Z all of whom have received their red Headmasters commendations for passing 500 House points!

Year 7 have also had another great week and have demonstrated some fabulous creativity. James W recorded a brilliant rendition of a Vivaldi classic, played on a homemade water/glass xylophone (which you can see on Downsend Facebook pages); great work James! Jack M, Joseph C and Alex T have all received Maths commendations for their excellent presentations on Special Number Sequences and Fibonacci investigations, and Joseph has also achieved his next Headmaster's commendation for achieving over 900 House points; impressive stuff Joseph!

In Year 8, Mr Silva has introduced a 'virtual' Common Room this week and I thoroughly enjoyed listening to him wax lyrically about the Super Moon last night and the Space X projects and satellites visible in these lovely pollution free skies we're all enjoying! In addition, it was great to have an informal chat with Jasper G about his guitar playing (Thunderstruck by ACDC) and Thomas U about his baking successes!

Well done to Matthew B, who despite having only joined us in January has already achieved over 300 house points so receives his Bronze commendation, whilst Silver commendations (over 600HP's) are awarded to

Jasper G, Cillian G-O and Noah B-W.

As I look back over the week, I am reminded what a strong sense of community we have at Downsend, and how proud we all are of our History. The resilience you are all showing is fabulous, and I know this will stand us all in good stead do deal with challenges in the future. Until next week, I wish you all a warm and happy Bank Holiday weekend!

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

Enrichment Update

Although only a four-day week, the opportunities just keep coming. This week I have particularly enjoyed my new role as form teacher to 6CB, which has given me a greater insight into the online life of our older pupils. The timetable was created to provide a balance between synchronous and asynchronous teaching and therefore I hope your children are engaging in the numerous enrichment opportunities outside of their lessons. Whether it be through Language sites, STEAM projects, Century Tech, Competitions or House Challenges, there is plenty to enjoy. All the morning practical sessions have been a real success and this week I have loved singing along to 'Jambo Bwana' and 'Chippewa'. For our musically minded children, please read the information below about the very exciting projects: 'Purcell Rondeau Performance Project' & 'One and a Million Vocal Performance Project'. Reading some of your very kind and supportive emails to those staff that have gone above and beyond for your children is heart-warming and very much appreciated. Another real pleasure this week has been seeing your children respond to the first House Challenge and 'From my Window' competitions; below are some results and samples of some amazingly creative individuals! Lastly please check out what is coming up over the next couple of weeks, we will continue to focus on wellbeing, especially with additional activities on 'Wellbeing Wednesdays' and the exciting news of the Cognita Home Games which we hope all pupils will engage in!

Music Ensembles

There are two Music Performance Projects that pupils and parents can get involved with

- **The Rondeau by Purcell for instrumentalists**
- **One and a Million choir piece (with band hopefully!)**

Please read the details below and have fun preparing for these. The instrumentalists can ask any questions about their parts and practise playing them to each other during their Tuesdays and Friday 2.30 p.m. ensembles.

Our goal is to have a video of our pupils performing together in a special effort to stay connected even though we're apart.

Purcell Rondeau Performance Project

- Find the instrumental part that is best suited to your ability level in the files of the Whole School Orchestra Team.
- Find the audio track of that part in the audio tracks folders.

· Practise the part until you are ready to play it at the speed of the audio track, play alongside the track until you are really comfortable with it.

THEN:

Send in a video of yourself *playing the part.

YOU MUST LISTEN TO THE YOUTUBE TRACK WHILE YOU ARE PERFORMING SO THAT WE ARE ALL IN TIME WITH EACH OTHER. *Either by emailing nicole.allison@downsend.co.uk or by uploading the video to the chat of the Whole School Orchestra Team.

Any questions - contact *Mrs Allison*

One and A Million Vocal Performance Project

SINGERS

Listen to this youtube link below which is the song with words

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZoi_JvRnuQ

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Listen is this link to the backing track of the instrumental parts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moHQ7KRMBFo>

*****Practise your vocal and/or instrumental part ***
(you're welcome to submit both)**

THEN

Send in a video of yourself *playing the instrumental part or singing the vocal part.

YOU MUST LISTEN TO THE YOUTUBE TRACK WHILE YOU ARE PERFORMING SO THAT WE ARE ALL IN TIME.

*Either by emailing nicole.allison@downsend.co.uk or by uploading the video to the chat of the Morning Singalong.

Any questions – contact Mrs Allison.

And the winners are Aiden M in Year 7 and Harry E in Year 2. These have now been entered into the global Cognita 'From my window' competition. Good luck boys!

Upper School

The Scene from my window-Aiden M Year7

The sun hits my face interrupting my dreams. It's warm and reminds me of a lazy afternoon nap on a warm beach. The birds' chorus fills my ears, as I rub my eyes. What day is it? Who knows! I draw back my curtains, reality hits. My foggy memories start to clear like clouds on the horizon and all is not as perfect as it seems. I take in how calm the road is outside my house, no cars, no people, just the beautiful weather and the signs of spring, nature at its best, budding flowers, cheerful birds and leaves in bloom. It is eerily calm today; I don't like it as it reflects a crisis in our world. I miss the odd car going past and the commuters rushing to the station. Suddenly, a dog barks and a man appears chasing him down the road, this makes me smile and a jogger basks in the sun on their way by. I remember how lucky I am, while we might have temporarily lost our routines and freedom, the scene from my window is beautiful and mother nature is having a wonderful rest.

Lower School

Harry E Year 2



House Challenge 2 – VE Day Celebrations

Lovely to see entries already coming in to celebrate the VE Day Celebrations. Mrs Day intends to use these to support Bletchley Park in their celebrations as well as duplicate for our own Wellbeing garden.....what a lovely idea.....We look forward to seeing many more. The deadline is.....

Polly G G Year 6



Sienna V Year5



What's coming up?



Cognita Home Games

Coming soon.....

Please look out for a specific School Comms relating to the Cognita Home Games. We hope all pupils will take part in these unique games, set up to connect us around the world with all other schools in the Cognita group. We will represent Europe in undertaking the variety of skills to be announced by Mr Lawrence and his team for the week commencing 18 May.

Wellbeing Wednesdays

Wednesday 13 & Wednesday 20 May – New Mindfulness morning sessions!

In recognition of Wellbeing Wednesdays, Miss Black has kindly offered to run a 'relax with Miss Black' mindfulness morning slot from 9-9.30am. Mrs Allison's usual 'Singalong' morning slot will not run on these Wednesdays, giving her a well deserved break and chance for some mindfulness herself! On these Wednesday Miss Black will also be introducing the pupils to some wellbeing activities they could work on independently throughout the day or in the afternoon if they have time. At a time when we are all ready to experience some normality, I am grateful to Miss Black for offering her time and expertise.

Mr Albert



VE DAY CELEBRATIONS AT DOWNSEND



The Downsend staff have excelled themselves with their levels of creativity and collaboration in creating a themed day to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Despite our current restrictions the children have had a day to remember learning about all aspects of events that led to VE Day as well as the day itself, from code breaking to speeches and street parties to inventions. Below is a flavour of what the children have been learning and investigating across the school:

YEAR 2

The pupils explored what VE day is all about, then organised a street party writing invitations and calculating what they would need. Photographs from the time prompted discussions about how the people might have felt, and they identified the Allied and Axis forces on a map. Scenes from a Street Party or WW2 battle were recreated using different mediums of art or craft. A fun quiz rounded off the day!

YEAR 3

Flags from WW2 were used to help learn about the fractions within them in Maths lessons and then special VE Day Fraction Flags were created, as well as a code breaking activity. In the History activity, the children either imagined they were at a VE Day celebration when writing a postcard to a friend or wrote and recorded a radio broadcast announcing the end of the war, some even pretended to be Churchill.

YEAR 4

A mixture of activities throughout the day kept the Year 4 pupils in the VE Day spirit: a diary entry as a soldier and a recount of VE Day; how to use Morse Code and building their own periscopes. A virtual street party was planned with decorations created.

YEAR 5

Radio broadcasts were drafted and recorded a radio broadcast in English lessons whilst Morse code was explored in Maths. Flight featured in Science, learning about pilots and planes, more specifically the Spitfire. A video about RAF pilots and their importance in the WW2, especially the battle of Britain, truly brought home the significance of the invention. They

investigated flight, making, and flying their planes, recording distances travelled, making modifications, and testing again. All of which was written up with a conclusion on the effect of their modifications.

ENGLISH

In Year 6 English, they have been doing a study of inventions. For VE Day they watched a short film based on inventions during WW2 such as the plane, tank, and ship which inspired the children to create an infographic fact page of their chosen invention. Year 7 are currently studying 'Animal Farm' which lead perfectly to today's study of Orwell's political diaries before writing two diary entries of their own (1 for during the Blitz and 1 for after or on VE day). A poetic response came from Year 8 pupils who studied the thought-provoking poem, 'Unmentioned in Despatches' by Peter Wyton.

MATHS

Critical thinking skills came into force in Maths with Code Breaking: the children worked hard to crack codes and make their own ones. They investigated how Maths helped us to win the war and learnt about the Enigma machine.

LANGUAGES

Following a presentation to the children, they had a menu of activities to choose from:

- Imagine you are a Pathe news reporter stationed with the British Army in Germany – send a report home either video or audio.
- Imagine you are a newspaper journalist – write a newspaper report outlining what you have seen.
- Imagine you are a German child – write a diary entry about what your life is like now the war is over.
- Create a memorial designed to promote peace in Europe.

GEOGRAPHY

The children learnt to name and locate all the capital cities of countries involved in some way in WW2.

SCIENCE

Both Year 7 and 8 scholar groups covered the invention of the radar that helped win the Battle of Britain, and how to write their names in Morse code.

TECHNOLOGY

Rationing and its impact on baking featured in Food Technology lessons whilst developing a RWB celebration muffin recipe for a street party. War/VE Day themed board games and games/toys played by children in the 40s helped inspire "battle" board game designs in Product Design. Please upload photos of celebratory bakes to Teams or email: beth.day@downsend.co.uk

RS

The Declaration of Human Rights, which came into being in 1948, after the United Nations was formed in 1945, following the atrocities of WWII generated some profound thoughts and questions in RS lessons.

HISTORY

Pupils studied the day itself – the announcement on the 7th May that the 8th will be known as VE Day; the scenes of celebration – Buckingham Palace, street parties etc; Churchill's speech and the fact that though the war was over in Europe it would be more than 3 months before

the war ended in the Far East. Some memories of that day from people who are still alive today were also shared with the pupils.

ART

Across all year groups, children created artwork for a collaborative Street Party, with many pupils creating an illustration of a plate of party food. Finished plates are being emailed to Miss Aylen to start adding them to our big street party table! Please forward completed pieces to: julia.aylen@downsend.co.uk

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

I had the great privilege of creating the 'Thought for the Week' for all the Upper School. This was an explanation of why we commemorate VE Day and to get the children in Y6-8 to reflect upon this. Mr Thorpe had the same lovely opportunity, but this time with the Lower school.

RWB BUNTING

The House challenge to create a RWB bunting design resulted in some high quality designs. Mrs Day will sublimate, and heat press the entries on to fabric and create a string of bunting to send to Bletchley Park

for their celebrations. She will also make a set for the Wellbeing garden. Please continue to send entries in via Teams or email to beth.day@downsend.co.uk

VLE – Downsend Life

We are currently creating pages on the VLE, in the 'Downsend Life' section, of some of the children's work. There is also a page of parent contributions; please do email us if you would like us to add anything from you.

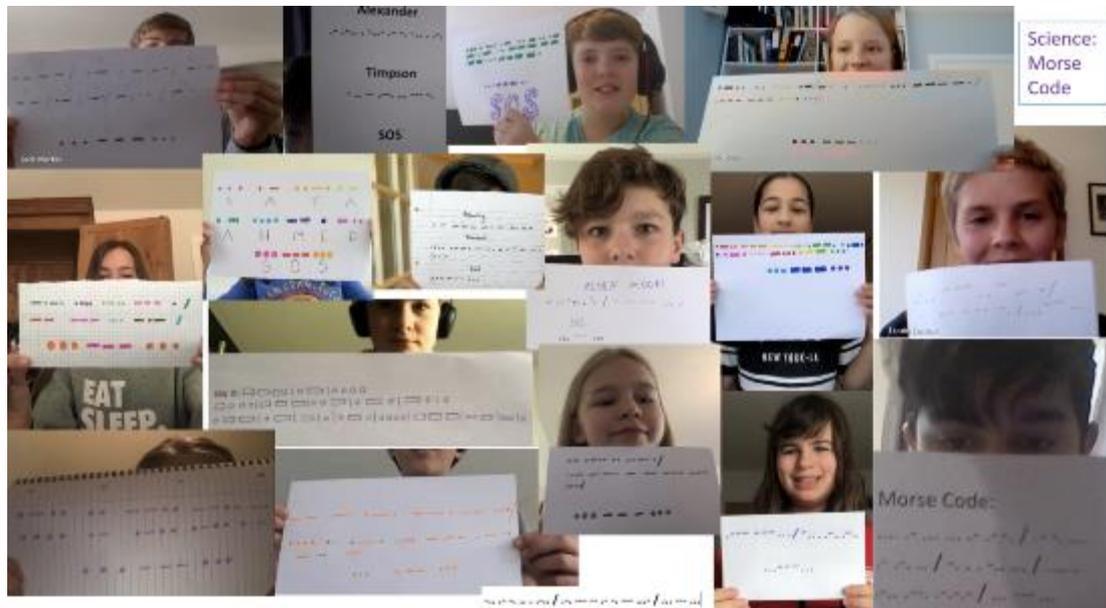
Helen Black - Head of History (helen.black@downsend.co.uk) and Beth Day - Head of Technology

(beth.day@downsend.co.uk)

Science News and VE Day

On VE Day, the Year 7 and Year 8 Scholars learnt about Morse Code. They then wrote their name and SOS in Morse Code to make this fantastic collage!

Dr. Kirby

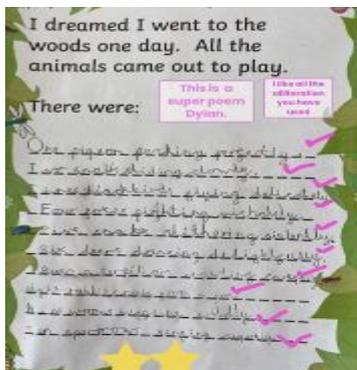


Year 2 News

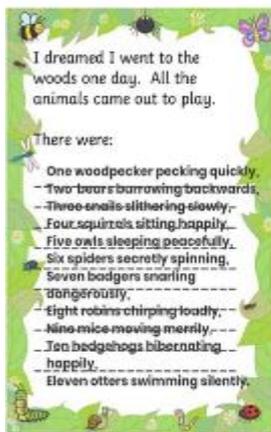
Year 2 share their incredible work.

Brilliant work has been submitted by our Year 2 children, we would like to share a few examples of what they have been up to this week. They have written descriptive poems about woodland creatures and added alliteration, in Science they have resourcefully constructed microhabitats in their gardens and will be observing them to see which insects these habitats attract and in Humanities the children have created their own volcanic and continental islands.

The Year 2 Team :Mrs Butcher, Miss Wilby, Miss Coulson and Mrs de Vries



Jack C



This is amazing, you used alliteration and excellent choices for verbs and adverbs.

Jack J-H

Harry - made a volcanic island



Tara



A brilliant poem, Tara! You have used some really interesting verbs and adverbs. Well done for including some alliteration.

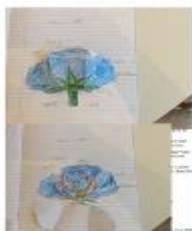
Year 3 News

Well, what can we say? Year 3 have done it again! It has been another busy week full of fun and fantastic work which all the Year 3 teachers continue to be incredibly impressed by. Fractions have been added and subtracted, Celtic round houses have been created, Mystery stories have been written and plants have been dissected among many other amazing things. This all in three days, as we also celebrated VE Day today with lots of wonderful activities which included designing VE Day flags with a fractions theme, radio broadcasts, postcards and code breaking. We hope that all the children have a relaxing long weekend and enjoy the sunshine; they certainly deserve the rest!

The Year 3 Team



Like any other day, Othello was having breakfast with Mr Marco when the newspaper came through the letter box. He picked it up and looked at it.
 "Oh dear!" he said. "Mr Marco."
 "What is going on in there?" asked Othello.
 "Come and look at this!" replied Mr Marco, "they've all been left in their classes!"
 "Wow, how disappointing!" Othello said sarcastically.
 Mr Marco changed into his coat and checked the newspaper in the full bin. Then they went back to breakfast without noticing the teacher in the newspaper.
 Suddenly the lead radio came on by itself.
 "That's unusual," said Othello.
 "What's unusual?" asked Mr Marco.
 "Did you hear the radio coming on by itself?" exclaimed Othello.
 They both turned the radio around then the radio burst out with two pieces of extremely news. Firstly, a monkey had escaped from the zoo and secondly there had been kidnappings.
 "That's funny!" said Othello. "I wonder if the monkey could be the kidnapper of the children..."



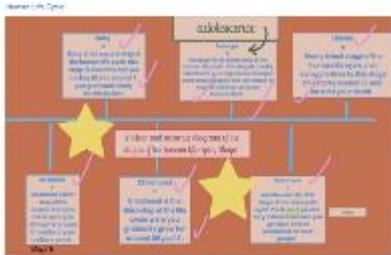
*This is wonderful!
 Love Harry, 5 stars!*



I am so impressed with your diagrams and reasoning. Amazing!

Year 5 News

Some great examples of work this week by Alex M, Bella T, Alex Y , Maya B, Benji S and Katie C. Well done.



Today we were commemorating 75th anniversary of the VE Day, Freya P sent us this inspiring picture wearing red, white and blue for her online lessons.

Sports News

Boys Games



Over the past week the boys have been working on their rugby & cricket skills. We've had a range of rugby passing, cricket bowling and batting skills for the pupils to work on and once again the pupils have risen to the challenge. The video's that have been submitted have been fantastic and we are really impressed with the quality that keeps coming in. If there is one EBI (Even Better If) from the PE department it would be for the pupils to concentrate at improving their skill level at the same time as completing the challenge rather than just focusing on completing the challenge.

The performers of the week go to the following pupils – year 2&3 – Freddie C, year 4 – Robert B, year 5 – Archie B, year 6 – Seb B & year 7&8 – Luca C-S. Well done to everyone who submitted a video. Every video receives at least 1 House Point and the performers of the week get 10 House Points.

Early morning yoga and fitness have once again been enjoyed by many. As we roll through week 3 Mr Lawrence and Mrs Hawes are keeping things fresh and fun by changing up the activities and exercises each day. We both want to say a HUGE thank you and well done for so many of you continuing to take part. It starts the day off in a great way and the happy smiling faces that we get to see really help with the energy and buzz of the workout.

The male sports staff would like to point out that whilst everyone has been superb, year 4 have been exceptional! Well done to everyone for all the hard work that you continue to put in each day. Keep it up, stay active and stay safe.

Mr Lawrence

Girls Games

Well done to all the girls across the school who have continued to engage in the afternoon sessions, we are delighted to see you all and catch up alongside providing you with some online challenges and skill

development. Today's session with the Year 7 & 8 girls started off with a discussion about baby photos, we loved the hair cut that Mrs Fitch showed us!! We are sure there are a few lockdown hair cuts that might not have gone completely to plan, we have certainly seen some from the male PE staff!!

The netball shooting video's have continued to come in over the week along with cricket videos as the week has progressed. It is great to see the girls taking the time to practice their skills before rushing to complete the challenge - keep up the good work, remembering you don't have to send the video straight away. The kahoot quiz has once again been a popular addition, the girls have come extremely close to knocking the staff off the top position, maybe next week will be your turn. Brushing up on your hockey general knowledge over the weekend may help!

Our bonus house points of the week go to the following pupils - Polly-Rose A (Year 2), Flora H & Taylor S (Year 3), Darcey J-M (Year 4), Freya P (Year 5), Ella P-K (Year 6) and Natasha C (Year 8).

Well done to the following girls for their fantastic efforts in the Run for Heroes Challenge. Where they ran/jogged/walked 5km then donated £5 to the Run for Heroes Charity and nominated 5 others to take on the challenge. A great achievement for all.

Freya VH, Freya P, Summer A, Natalia T, Francesca W, Bella T, Sienna V and Maya B from Year 5 and Sienna R from Year 6.

We would love to see more of the older girls in the sessions so please do come along!
Have a great weekend, we look forward to seeing you all next week.

Miss Seivewright



Artist of The Week

The enthusiasm for the Daily Doodle continues and I am overwhelmed by the brilliant work that comes my way every day! Here is a small selection of this week's creations...

Julia Ayles



Message to Parents:

We would like to keep in touch with all of you, we will be active on all our social media channels and would love you to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. Here are the links:



Inspiring Young Minds

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