



**DOWNSEND**  
SCHOOL



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

# DOWNSEND TIMES

24 April 2020

## A Message from the Headmaster

This has been a week where the Downsend community has shown all of its qualities in abundance. It has been evident that the children have missed the sense of collaboration and have enjoyed spending time with their classmates and teachers again, albeit virtually. Our parents have worked carefully through the guidance we have offered to ensure that the online programme could hit the ground running. Your patience and support, so sensitively articulated through your many messages of thanks, have been hugely appreciated. Finally, the staff, the majority of whom worked tirelessly over the Easter break to prepare for the onset of this new way of teaching, have adjusted with comparative ease to this new way of working. We mustn't underestimate the need to keep energy levels high, and batteries recharged, so your continuing support will be crucial to the success of our programme during this period of lockdown. In turn, I promise that we will learn and adjust as we go in order to ensure that our pupils receive as much continuity and challenge as possible in the weeks ahead.

Many of you will have joined your own local communities at 8pm last night, showing your support for those in the NHS and care system who are doing so much to save lives during these difficult days. We have continued to provide Key Worker Care this week, and have also started to make PPE, in the form of protective masks, in our DT department. This initiative is led by our colleague Louise Hallam and we are grateful to Ian Winmill, our STEM technician, who has volunteered to operate the equipment this week and support the cause.

The first batch of around 200 items will be delivered to Epsom Hospital in the coming days and it is my hope that we will be able to make and donate one to represent every one of our Downsend families – around 500 units. In tough times, great communities pull together. Thank you for your part in doing just that!

*Ian Thorpe*



## Lower School Update

There is no doubt that it has been a very different start to the term! However, dropping into several registrations, lessons and cross-school practical sessions this week, I have been delighted to see the children's engagement with this new way of working. I have seen Year 4 continuing to do the 'register loop' despite not being in the same room, Year 5 sharing the wonderful novel 'Oranges in No Man's Land', Year 3 working creatively on 'Ottoline and the Yellow Cat', Mrs Allison leading the singing of a personal favourite song of mine, 'Jambo Bwana', and our very own Joe Wickes, Mr Lawrence, leading the school in their fitness. I could go on and on. But, in every session, just like in school, I have seen your children's smiling faces; evidence that they are enjoying their learning and seeing their teachers and friends. Almost without exception, the children have followed the guidelines of the 'Online Learning Agreement', which they agreed to last week, and online etiquette and behaviour have been good. Mr Silva will recap our rules later in this newsletter for clarity, however, please do read and discuss the agreement again, if necessary, over the weekend to enable us to keep the behaviour in our virtual classrooms as brilliant as it is in our physical classrooms.



As always, work completed by Lower School children has been fabulous this week and proud teachers have sent me examples thick and fast. In Year 2, well done to Will L, Reggie B, Frankie L and Edward C for their fantastic work on story mapping 'The Wishing Chair' and on writing clear directions. Well done to Ameenah L, Fin PS, Lottie D, Mary W, Spencer B and Flora H in Year 3 for their wonderful work – more details

below. Congratulations to Kaila K in Year 4 for achieving her silver times tables certificate, to Esme RF for achieving her gold and to Jessica R for achieving her platinum. It's great to see you working so hard in this crucial area of Maths! Well done too to Sam H and George D for their superb History work and to Annabel E and Matys R for their super posters on life processes. Elliot M has also worked superbly on biographies this week. Well done to all. In Year 5, Natalia T's breakfast project has looked particularly delicious and her superfood wrap recipe made me feel very peckish indeed! Gregor D in Year 5 sent me a picture of the car that he is currently building with his dad – I cannot wait to see the stages of its development over the coming weeks – and Max B completed some brilliant Geography work on Global Location Knowledge.

So, whilst things are different to usual, it is wonderful to see the tenacity, verve and determination to learn and succeed still so evident in our children. I look forward to seeing this continue over the coming weeks and to joining more sessions to see the outstanding teaching and learning and pastoral care continue, just as it would in school.

Have a wonderful weekend.

*Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School*

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## Upper School Update

This has been an amazing week in the US, and in my 'Thought for the week' VLOG I alluded to the courage, positive attitude and adaptability that both the staff and the pupils have shown every day. A huge well done must go to Sam M in Year 8, who created an accurate and incredibly detailed summary of the medical and social challenges we all face during the COVID 19 period of lockdown; a powerful piece of work, well done Sam! I am also proud to report that, as you may have seen on your Facebook pages, Mr Winmill has been in school designing, making and delivering PPE to the National Health, so our evening clap at 8pm also goes out to him for his amazing and unselfish efforts!

As the week has developed we have all become more adept and comfortable with the live teaching opportunities provided by Microsoft Teams, and I have seen amazing lessons across the school; astronomy with 7S, French, German and Spanish lessons in MfL, and some incredible Maths challenges set by Mrs Stack and her team.

Form times have been great fun, and I know all the children have been pleased to see each other again after the Easter break. In addition, the online learning platforms have done nothing to stop the positive rewards for good work and, following brilliant work across the curriculum, Alex H, Charlie K, Leo L and Tendo E have all achieved their Purple Headmaster's commendation; whilst Darius GP has achieved his Pink

Headmaster's commendation, the first in Year 7 to achieve that, meaning he has surpassed 900 HP's; a fabulous effort Darius!

I am sure you have all enjoyed the morning sessions on the Timetable this week; whether Daily Doodling with Miss Aylen, singing with Mrs Alison, Yoga with Mrs Hawes or morning fitness with Mr Lawrence. The PE team were delighted with the response to the afternoon Games challenges and a huge well done to Louis K in Yr 7 and to Will S in Yr 6 who both won the PE 'video of the day' following Yr 6 7 &/8 game sessions this week! Awesome skills boys!



I am certain we will all get better at using online technology as we move forwards. However, I must ask those parents who have still not completed their online digital agreements forms to respond to Mr Silva's separate reminder asap, and to remind their children that the 'Chat' function in Teams is only to be used to address the teacher directly, not peers, nor should pupils arrive for lessons early or leave lessons without permission, just as would be the expectations if they were in school.

To finish, I wanted to share a comment from a PSHE lesson this week, in which the pupils were challenged to consider how they could change their perspective during these difficult times from a 'glass half empty' to a 'glass half full' approach. One sage pupil replied, "Well, compare yourself to the poor people in Africa, so when you are feeling sorry for yourself, you should realise that what you're experiencing is what the people in Africa dream of"! A wonderful, youthful statement on perspective; well done to Louie L in Year 7!

Well done to everyone on a brilliant first week back.

Have a lovely weekend and we'll see you all on Monday!

*Karl Newland, Head of Upper School*

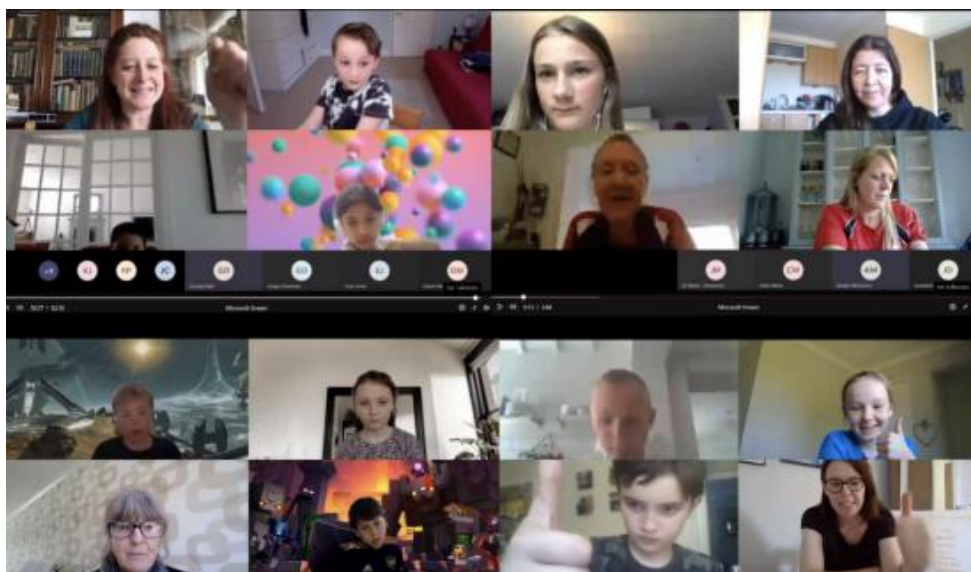
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## Enrichment Update



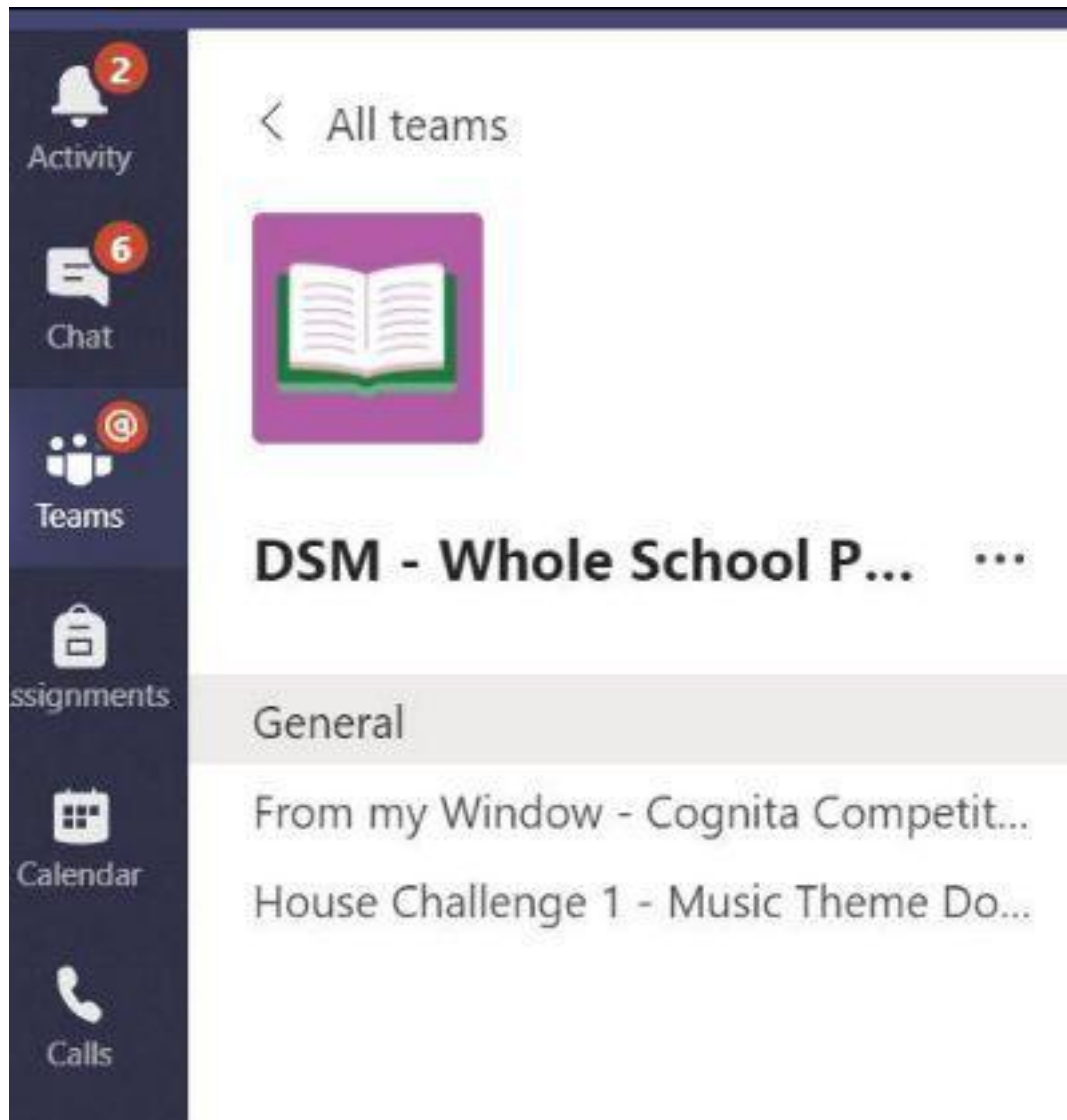
Writing a review of the enrichment this week is slightly strange, primarily because I imagine you as parents will already know what activities your children will have been undertaking outside of their normal lessons; and there have been many! We do hope your children have enjoyed seeing their teacher's faces; as you can see in the screenshots, the opportunities have been extensive. Whether it has been early singing with Mrs Allison, Fitness with Mr Lawrence, Yoga with Mrs Hawes, or afternoon sessions in DT with Mrs Haywood and Mrs Day, Drama with Mr Bryant, Art with Miss Ayles or sport with all the games staff, we hope your children have engaged in learning new skills whilst having fun!

In the same way, as your children are developing new ways to learn and interact via Teams, having been in numerous sessions myself, I could not be more proud of the way our staff have embraced this new approach. Of course, it will take time to perfect lessons and there will be bumps along the way, however, we are very grateful to you as parents for your support in helping us and your children over the first few days. As time passes, we hope that not only our lessons will be planned to reduce parental input, but also your children, who are wonderful sponges, will become more confident using this new technology.



## What's coming up?

Over the coming weeks we will be introducing a sequence of weekly challenges and competitions. All information can be found within the DSM – **Whole School Pupil's Team**:



## House Challenges:

Each week we will announce a House Challenge linked to the new Cognita Home Olympics, where Downsends aims to win the GOLD MEDAL and 1st Place on the Podium, competing against all other Cognita Schools around the world. Further details of the Olympics will be announced in due course, however, the first House Challenge next week will be a call for our creative musicians! Details can be found in the 'House Challenge 1 – Channel in the DSM Whole School Pupil's Team (as per the photo),

however, in brief, can you help us create a Downsend Theme Tune to represent us at the games?

### Cognita Competition – ‘From my Window...’

For those equally creative individuals, we are looking for a pupil to represent Downsend with an imaginative piece to compete against all Cognita schools worldwide. Our winner’s work will be included in the global competition, where they stand a chance of winning an important donation for a charity of our choosing. All details are again located in the ‘DSM – Whole School Pupils Team’ and entries should be uploaded to this channel when complete.

*Mr Albert, Assistant Head (Enrichment)*

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## Year 4 News

Year 4 put on their journalist hats this week and wrote news reports based on their knowledge of the Lindisfarne monastery attacks by Viking raiders. They used Purple Mash to create the format for their Viking news - here are some super examples by Kaila, Frank and Jamie in 4JS.



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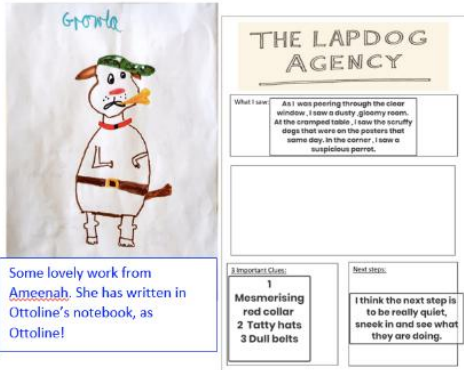
PPE

We are very proud of one of our Teacher's initiative Louise Hallam and we are offering full support.

## Year 3 News

Wow! Year 3 have been amazing this week and have adapted to our new live teaching sessions and timetable brilliantly! We are so proud of all of the children and have loved seeing the wonderful work they have produced. Keep it up Year 3!

*The Year 3 Team*



**THE LAPDOG AGENCY**

**What I saw:** As I was peering through the clear window, I saw a dusty, gloomy room. At the crumpled table, I saw the scruffy dogs that were on the picture that same day. In the corner, I saw a suspicious parrot.

**Important Clues:**  
 1 Mesmerising red collar  
 2 Tatty hats  
 3 Dull bolts

**Next steps:**  
 I think the next step is to be really quiet, sneak in and see what they are doing.

Some lovely work from **Ameenah**. She has written in Ottoline's notebook, as Ottoline!

As he peered through the window, Mr Monroe had no idea what was going on. So, his plan is to ask Ottoline.

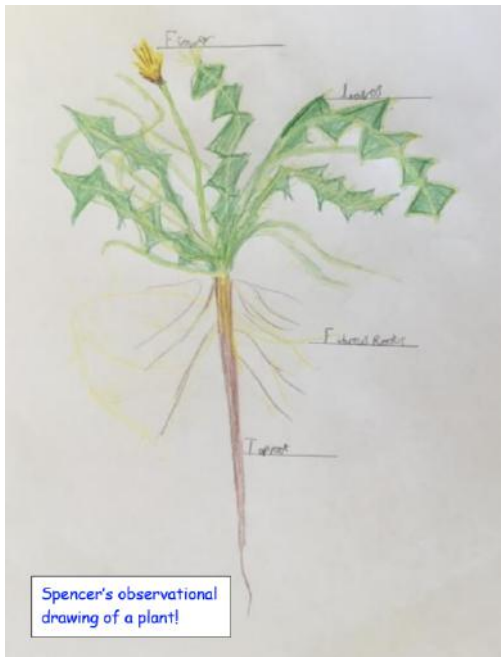


Fin investigating roots in his garden as part of our Science work this week. This came along with a video explaining all about the plants project he has been completing and growing in his garden.

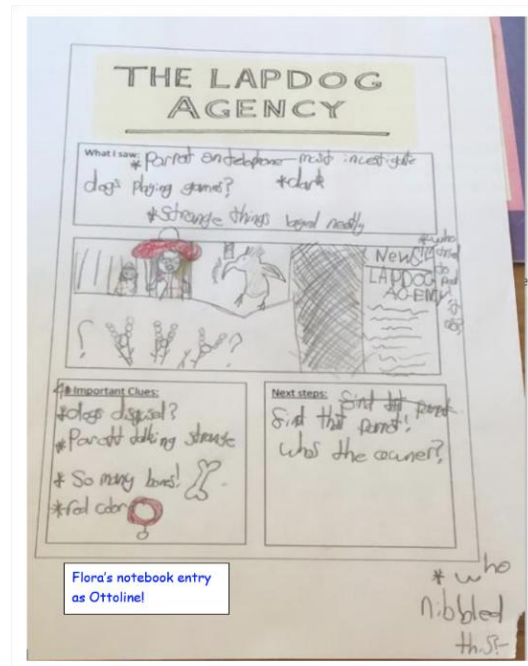


Beth Day: Mary W. Mrs Tenlett:  
 Beth Day: Great use of a leaf for a puffer fish, Mary!  
 Mrs Tenlett: I love this, Mary! The fish leaf is so effective!





Spencer's observational drawing of a plant!



Flora's notebook entry as Ottoline!

## Have you ever thought of yourself as a Primary Source?

We are living through a unique period in history and one that your children and grandchildren will study in their History lessons in the future.

You may well be asked "Grandma, what happened in 2020 when all the schools shut?"

Or

"Grandad is it true that shops had to ration toilet rolls in 2020?"

So why don't you grab a notebook and start a diary of what is happening right now?

You could describe what you are doing and how you are feeling. Say what is good about the lockdown and what is not. Take some photos and videos. Cut out articles and pictures from the newspapers. Pop everything in a box and keep it safe – you will have started your family archive box!

You may well become known as the Samuel Pepys of 2020

*The History Department*



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## Sports News

PE & Games has been a hub of vibrant activity this week with huge amounts of participation across the year groups. Early morning fitness, yoga and well-being have been great fun and enjoyed by all. Seeing Mr Lawrence out of breath, trying to talk, motivate and work out at the same time and Mrs Hawes in compromising positions have added to the fun for everyone who has taken part.

The afternoon practical sessions have been brilliant and have enabled all pupils to focus on an identified skill and work hard to try and develop these. An added bonus of videoing the skill and challenge to earn House Points has added to the competitive streak in the Downsend community. We have seen some outstanding videos this week and have even had one pupil make up an additional skill to further challenge themselves. Well done to you all for working so hard and we look forward to seeing more videos each day.

A huge well done to everyone who has engaged with the PE & Games offerings this week. We can't wait to see you all every session! Keep up the great attendance and stay fit, active and healthy.

Mr Lawrence



## Artist of The Week

The Daily Doodle has been a fantastic start to my day! Thank you to all the pupils (and teachers!) who have taken part. I've loved seeing all of your wonderful work; here is just a small selection of your creations.

See you next week for more doodling!

As well as the doodle, we've also had some great art lessons. Year 4 and 5 demonstrated excellent shading techniques and Year 6 got to grips with drawing their hands!

*Julia Ayles, Head of Art*



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## Arts Centre News

Our school still offers provisions for our key workers parents and these pupils had something of a treat earlier this week. For the first time they stood in the theatre space, as well as the Drama classrooms and watched on as the Headmaster laid one of the blocks for the theatre. Our Arts Centre is growing under blue skies!



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## Library News

Dear Parents,

While their doors may be closed, Surrey Libraries are continuing to offer activities for both children and adults. If you are not a member do not panic as it is possible to join online, all you need is an email address. They have a range of eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eComics. Authors such as Roald Dahl, David Walliams, Jacqueline Wilson, Michael Morpurgo and Rick Riordan are all there. There are 126 magazine titles including: National Geographic, Science Focus, The Week, New Scientist and Philosophy and over 1500 eComics, including Disney and Marvel, with more titles added regularly. They can be read within the RBdigital App (Recorded Books) or in your browser.

They have also joined forces with The Surrey History Centre to put together lots of online resources. You can choose from more informal and fun activities which involve quizzes, crafting and games, to more formal online school resources, such as KS2 & 3 sessions for Surrey in the Great War, 'Journey's End', historical food, and 'The March of the Women: Surrey's road to the vote'. There are also online exhibitions, links to Surrey's 43 museums' resources, and lots of virtual tours and bite-size learning opportunities from Surrey and beyond.



Something to look forward to next Friday 1st May is the Book Trust's Pyjamarama day, a celebration of the bedtime story and reading together. There will be lots of activities to take part in, in the afternoon after online lessons have finished of course! The only requirement is that pyjamas must be worn!  
<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/pyjamarama/>

**HURRY UP! LIMITED STOCK!**

**-50%**      **-60%**

code: SALE-DS  
FREE SHIPPING CODE ONLY FOR DOWNSEND STUDENTS

**DESTOCKING!!**  
WWW.TUDSEHOCKEY.COM

The advertisement features several pieces of Tudse Hockey equipment arranged around the central text. There are five hockey sticks in various colors: gold, purple, black, blue, and orange. A pair of black gloves is shown, along with a black and green hockey bag. The Tudse Hockey logo is visible in the bottom left corner of the advertisement area.

## 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:



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Inspiring Young Minds

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