



The Downsend Times

12TH JUNE 2020

Message from The Head

It has been another busy week, full of ever-changing guidance and shifting landscapes. This process has been made all the more bearable by your patience and understanding in allowing us the time and space to put together plans to try and ensure that we are able to welcome all Downsend pupils back for some time with their friends and teachers by the end of the academic year. Six months is too long to be away from school, so please be assured that we will do everything we can, within the tricky boundaries imposed. The wellbeing of our community will always be our prime concern, and this principle will continue to guide our thinking in the weeks ahead.

On Monday, we will welcome back our Year 2s, who will join our Y6s, now dab hands at the new protocols have been on site for the past fortnight. I have had numerous E-mails from kind parents expressing the difference that being back in school has had on their demeanour, so we are all too aware of the impact that our decision-making is having. As always, the children's best interests will guide as we move from having 100 on site this week to 150 next week, around 30% of our pupil roll. By Tuesday, we will have assessed how much further we can stretch this, without compromising our safety protocols, and will be able to confirm which other Year groups will be back on site, and when. At the same time, we are grateful for all the help and encouragement that is going into the continuing online programme – it's full steam ahead at Downsend, whatever the shifting sands!

Ian Thorpe



Lower School Update

It has certainly been a busy week in the Lower School and the government's news that schools were being given 'flexibility' over whether to admit more pupils was music to my ears. Whilst we know that at the moment admitting all pupils would just not be possible, we do have the capacity to bring some children back to school and I am extremely excited at the prospect of seeing the majority of our Year 2 pupils and all of our Year 2 staff again in school next week. Planning and preparation has taken place all week and we are confident that Year 2 will be happy and safe during their week with us. I hope to be able to welcome more children back over the coming weeks and will up date you as soon as I am able.

Unusually, I would like to publish an apology in my update this week. In my staffing letter last week, I failed to inform Lower School parents of Mrs Dinnage's retirement at the end of this term. I like to think that this oversight was caused by not wanting Mrs Dinnage to leave us – which is true. Her extremely sunny disposition, clear love of teaching RS and History and of being with children has brought joy to the Lower School for many years and we will be extremely sad to say goodbye to her when she leaves. Of course, we will do everything within our power to get her back with us for trips, concerts and occasional teaching, if possible. I wish you every success and happiness, Mrs Dinnage, we will miss you a great deal.

Academic congratulations this week are varied and extremely creative! Well done to Tommy C, Tommy G, Stefan J and Freya P in 5LC who have impressed Mrs Carmody with their enthusiasm and effort in English not only this week but through the online learning period. The language choices in the examples I have been fortunate to see were truly fantastic. Well done. I was also amazed by some of the origami skills shown by Year 5 from the Wellbeing activities set last week. Bella T, please could you give me a lesson about how you made this stunning angel? It really is quite remarkable. Also terribly creative are Grace K's (Year 4) loo roll elephant and penguin – they are just wonderful!



The horrible aching taste comes from the rotten stench of a pile of rotten rubbish. The old stained wheelie bins, look like they've been slobbered on by an old mouldy monster; who never brushes his teeth. The rubbish bags look like petrified furballs that have been coughed up by an ugly witch. The smell assaults your nostrills; it is worse than a houseful of Epoisse de Bourgogne (smelliest cheese in the world). You can hear the sound of rustling as rats search through the rubbish bags for a tasty morsel of food. The sight and smell makes you want to wretch your guts up. You wouldn't even want to touch this with a barge pole...



Tommy G

Lower School Update

The Flake has a yellow coloured packet with purple writing and a flicking font, a picture of a delicious open Flake whereas the Wispa is purple with red writing and a big bold font that's slightly comical.

The Flake and Wispa are both made by Cadbury.

The Flake is not very strong and when touched it crumbles, but the Wispa, on the other hand, is strong and when touched nothing happens.

The taste of a Flake is very sweet and smooth; it melts in your mouth and runs down your throat but the Wispa is stronger and smoother so it's slightly calming.

The Flake is small and shaped as a rectangle; it's about 1.5cm long and 1mm tall in contrast to the Wispa which is about 1.2cm long (estimates) and 1.5 or 2mm tall.

The Flake's texture is crumbly and rough but the Wispa is smooth and strong.

A Wispa is not chewy at all and is easy to eat; the Flake just melts in your mouth so, like the Wispa, it isn't chewy at all!

Stefan J

As I walked into the funfair, I was overcome with the scrumptious smell of candy floss as it filled the air. I could see the carousel with the elegant and dazzling horses spinning round with excited children laughing and screaming with joy. As I bit down on my ruby red, sticky toffee apple the taste exploded in my mouth I knew I was going to have a fantastic evening. I patiently queued for the helter skelter listening to the squealing thrilled riders as they descended from a great height. Then the operator said, "Your turn missy!" and handed me a brown rough bag. I climbed the metal cold stairs with anticipation in my heart. As I reached the top, I could see the whole colourful funfair with its outstanding bright twinkling lights. I was so high all the people looked as small as ants, and then with a whoosh I was off howling enthusiastically with my arms in the air, what a night!

Freva P



Mr Popham would also like me to congratulate Leo R and Izzy E for producing some excellent Comprehension work this week and Raffa P, Jake D and Ryan D challenging themselves in Maths when learning about symmetry. Well done everyone.

In Year 3, Mrs Temlett was thrilled with work by Francesca, Harry, Dan, Mary and Charlie A who all produced fantastic persuasive writing convincing people to go to their favourite holiday destinations. I look forward to seeing some of the brochures Year 3 are working on about Kenya – one of my personal favourite places – over the new few days.

Well done too to Toby, Sam C, Rupert, Lucy GG and Teddy in Year 2 this week for their outstanding castles. Not only were they beautifully made out of recycled materials, card and even sand, they were labelled and explained beautifully too. Superb work!



So as online learning continues for most children next week, and Year 2 return to school for the week, I know that there will be no change of pace for learning in the Lower School, which has been fantastic throughout this period. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank parents for all of their positive feedback, which has been humbling to read.

Have a super weekend,

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update

Once again the Upper School pupils have had a busy but productive week either at school, or online learning. I am pleased to report that the Year 6 pupils have behaved brilliantly at school, despite sitting end of year assessments, as have the Year 7 & 8 pupils, the first time these have been done online and at home! As I mentioned last week the academic staff will factor those results into their end of term reports, which will be with you before we break up, and this report will also include a judgement on how well our pupils have engaged during the online learning period.

I have personally enjoyed both a Yoga session and Mr Lawrence's fitness class this week on the sacred lawn (they are both so fit each session was exhausting!) and I must also say a huge public thank you to all our teaching staff, whether working from home or in at school, as they continue to encourage and motivate our pupils, with creative learning tasks and stimulating lessons. This combined the 'escape room' methodology, with some quite demanding science questions so, whilst no-one would ever have wished this period of enforced closure upon us, it has been wonderful to see the coping mechanisms and creativity that people have used, and I have no doubt that the skills we are all learning at this time will stand us in good stead for the future.

Mrs Hawes has fed back that this has been another great week in school for Year 6, the school day is now running smoothly and the pupils have adjusted well to the pattern of the day. We have been joined online by our virtual bubble of Year 6 members and it is always nice to see their faces on the screen. I know Mrs Hawes has also been impressed with how focused the pupils have been during their assessments, and that she has received compliments from their teachers on how maturely they have approached this new testing regime. Well done Year 6!

Alongside this we have had whole group singalongs in the classroom, masterclasses in art, yoga and fitness on the lawn and a whole host of curriculum enrichment activities developing both physical and mental attributes. Several of the Year 6 pupils have now achieved their next commendation threshold and the following pupils should be very proud of their achievements.

Red Commendations (500points) go to Kiera F, Charlie T, Lucas R, Amelie P, Mo A and John C.
Yellow Commendation (750points) goes to Reuben B.

Well done to all of you. There are a few of you close to reaching the next threshold so keep working hard!

I am also pleased to feedback that year 7 have responded to the challenge of getting more involved during registration time! They had a flying start this week with some fantastic contributions ranging from a short story on lockdown, various topical quizzes (a very hard food quiz from Tom M which tested our knowledge on international foods!), a trip of a lifetime to Kenya and various picture challenges. What a great way to wake up everyone's brains first thing in the morning! We are also looking forward to seeing Ben F's lockdown video, which he has been building all our anticipation for! As a result of more hard work and achievement, next Headmaster's commendations have been awarded to:

Finlay G and Charlie K, who have reached 600 house points, Ralph McD and Ryan H, who have reached 900 house points and a huge congratulations to Rhys H, who is the first Year 7 pupil to reach the dizzying heights of 1200 house– a superb achievement, well done to all those pupils!

Upper School Update

On a slightly more sombre note, Mrs Mercer reminded me that next week would have been our Normandy trip and I know the Year 7 team are sad that we can't celebrate their year together by going away to this wonderful area. More information regarding this cancellation and finances will follow but, if you are interested in finding out what the pupils would have done and the trips we would have taken, don't hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Mercer directly, and she can give you her schedule and activity booklet so you can, hopefully one day, take the trip as a family together – I can assure you it is well worth it!

I mentioned earlier that the Upper School pupils have been taking assessments this week, and some of those will carry on over to next week too. This hasn't, however, stopped the creativity taking place in lessons and when 8S created their escape room challenge the remaining year 8 pupils have been playing detective and using their critical thinking skills in order to break the codes and solve the puzzles. Mr Silva reports that he had the pleasure of taking 8MSg for registration yesterday where Jamie Z taught the class how to make an origami paper crown. The whole class followed his instructions carefully, with most of them ending up with something half decent. Well done to Jamie Z for taking the session for his form and I know the class are looking forward to Anita B showing everyone how to make a paper rose next week.

As always the pupils have worked hard and produced some outstanding pieces of work which have led to the following Headmaster's Commendations:

Silver Commendation (over 600 House points) to Henry V, Harry McD and Marcus H

Gold Commendation (over 900 House points) to Natasha C!

Well done to year 8 this week, your hard work is resulting in good academic profiles on Class Charts and there are quite a few of you who are very close to earning your next commendation, so keep on pushing yourselves in the last few weeks of school!

Finally from me, as I mentioned in my Thought for the Week last week, I have scheduled a virtual 'Meet the Tutor' event for the 18th June, at 5pm. Please do diarise this date and time, and I will send you though an invite with your Form list, your Senior School Information Booklet, and a link to access the 'meet the tutor meeting'. At this meeting, both the Heads of Year and your new form tutor will be available to talk with you about next year and answer any questions you may have.

Well done to all our Upper School pupils and staff on another fabulous week of learning and fun!

Have a good weekend and see you all next week!

Mr Newland Head of Upper School

Enrichment & House Challenges

Another week has come and gone and as the restrictions are starting to ease, we are delighted to welcome more children back into school from Monday. The Year 6's have enjoyed their second week back and managed themselves admirably this week with not only the guidelines they have to adhere to, but the inclement weather. This week has seen some great lessons in Drama, Art and Music, where Mr Bryant, Miss Aylen and Mrs Allison have delivered interactive lessons to all the bubbles when our outdoor activities have been prohibited. Next week the Year 2's and Year 6's at school will enjoy some changes to the enrichment sessions in the afternoon, which I hope they will all enjoy! For those pupils at home, I continue to be so impressed with the variety available; whether this be Mrs Allison's 'Count On Me' video for all singers and musicians, Mrs Fitch afternoon Athletics Master classes or Mr Moore's Mid-Week Morning Quiz. We often talk about creativity within our STEAM ethos, it is brilliant to see it in abundance every week. House Challenges. This creativity has continued to be captured through Miss Aylen and Mr Bryant's House Challenges this week, where the entries in the Whole School Pupils Team have blown me away. Well done to Lucas P and Charlie M for their re-enactments of special Olympic moments and the children below for their amazing Loo Roll Challenges. Great work all!

Mr Albert, Assistant Headmaster Enrichment

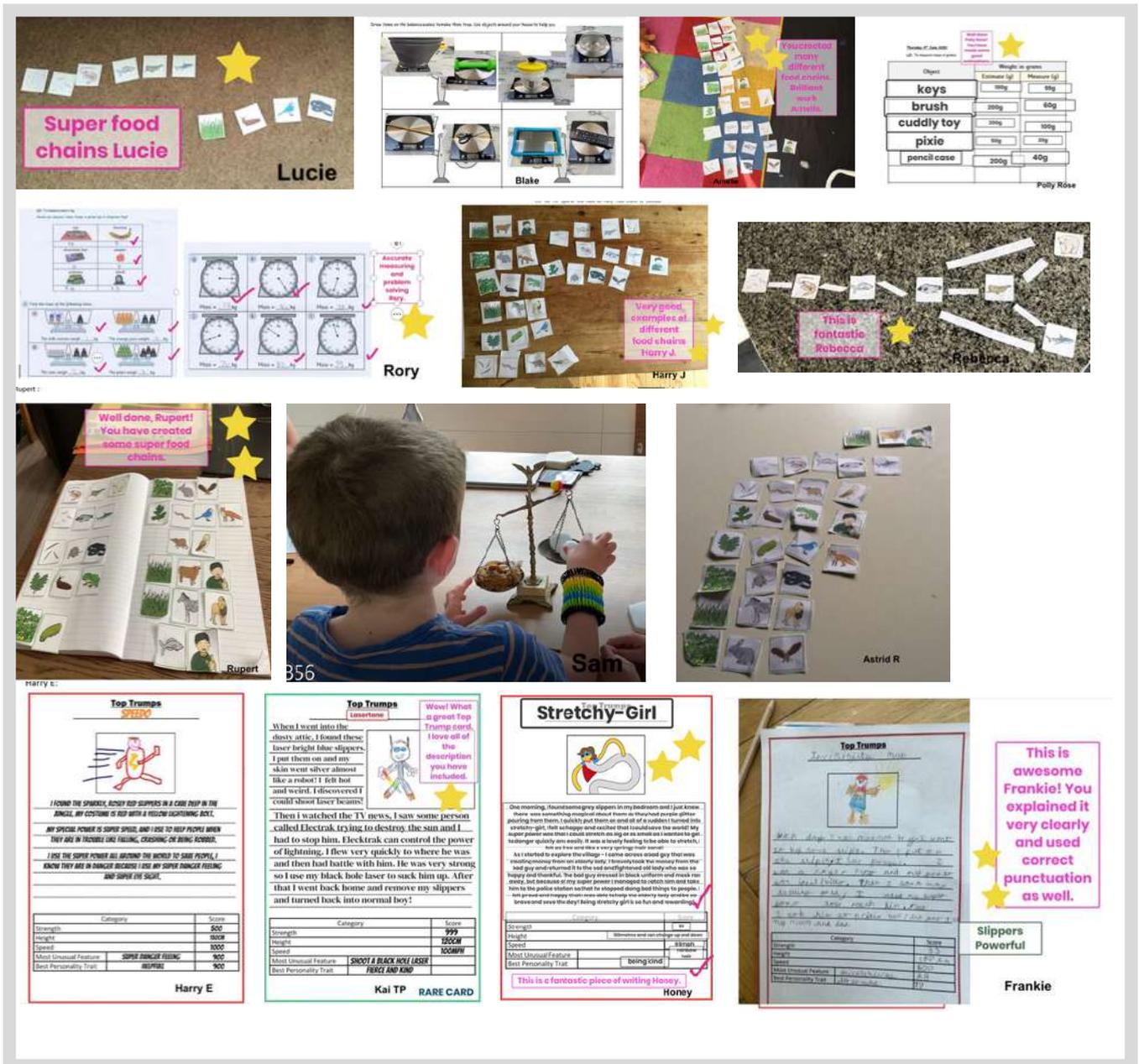


Year 2 News

Our Industrious and Innovative Year 2 pupils!

Year 2 have been measuring and investigating mass during our Maths lessons. We started by exploring balance scales and talked about how to use them to compare the mass of different objects. The children were challenged to balance their scales by finding equivalent objects around their homes. First, they estimated and then weighed the actual mass of the object. Also, in Science we have been looking at animal diets. Not only have the children been learning about the different food groups and vocabulary used, but the impact an animal's diet has on our global circle of life. It has been fascinating to see the children expand their learning from simple three step food chains to more complex five steps and beyond. In English, we have been writing 'Superhero Top Trump' cards. The children thought carefully about how they transformed into a superhero and described their appearance using some amazing adjectives. They went on to recount the imaginative adventure they had as a superhero before finally scoring their abilities.

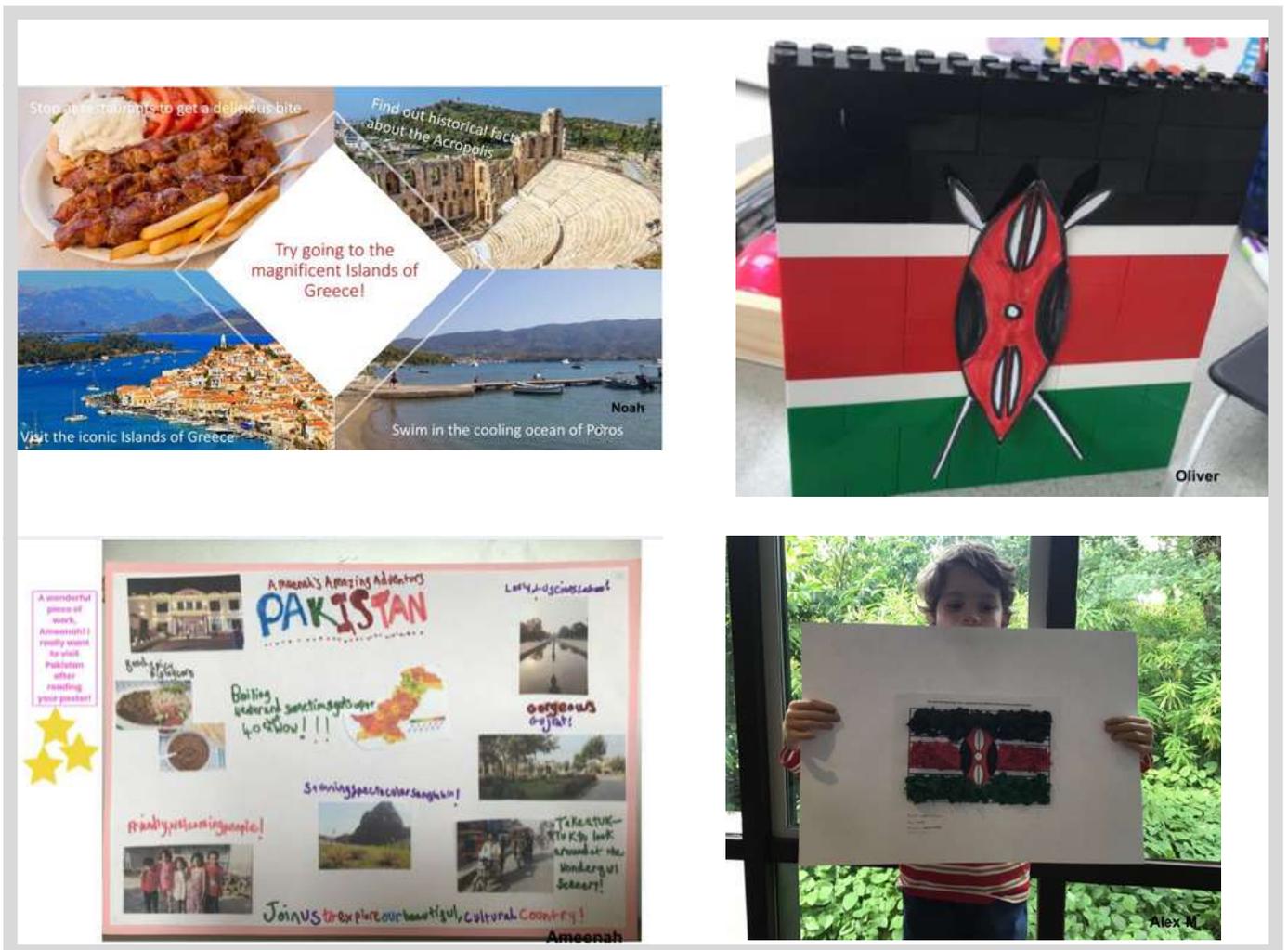
The Year 2 Team



Year 3 News

It has been another busy week in Year 3 as we have turned our minds to sunnier climes! The children have been creating persuasive posters and paragraphs about their favourite holiday destinations as well as writing travel brochures to promote Kenya (which we are learning about in Geography this term). The Year 3 teachers are now dreaming of future holidays in these wonderful places! There has also been creativity in abundance as we have been inundated with marvellous pictures and models of the Kenyan flag alongside fantastic explanations of why the different colours were used. Our 30 Days Wild activities have also continued with the children sending in all sorts of fantastic examples of their outdoor adventures. Well done Year 3, you just keep on amazing us!

Year 3 Team



Year 4 News

Creativity has been rife in Year 4 this week – from science posters to mindful shape creations, animals made out of toilet rolls and amazing sweet treats coming to life, it's been another great week from our superstar learners! Leo and Izzy, Mr Popham is very proud of your efforts in Comprehension this week and Raffa, Jake and Ryan have worked really hard on their symmetry in Maths this week. Here are a few of our favourite pieces of work from the week:



Ethan made this brilliant poster to encourage us all to help our local habitats



Elin made this wonderful poster on how to protect habitats for our Science topic.

Helping the Local Habitat



This walled garden habitat creation with in a meadow area of the garden gives small animals and insects a safe place to live, to find food , collect nectar and to be safe.

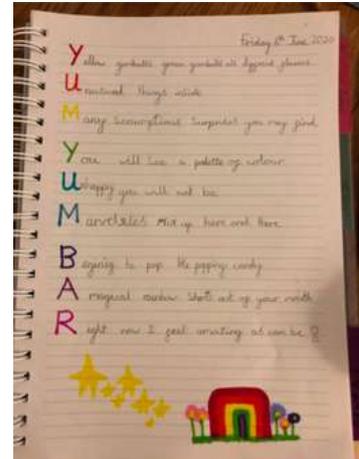
And this from Tileena...

Year 4 News

Dylan 4RD and Sophia 4JS wrote some super acrostic poems about the sweet treats from Wonka's factory that they invented!

- B**rilliance created through just one bite.
- R**etains and stores amazing facts that come to you like a light.
- A**nswers to all question that make you bright
- I**n every second scrumptious bite
- N**ever enough in just one block, give me more

- P**owerful magic in each spectacular flavour
- O**range juicy and sweet, strawberry that is softly ripe, refreshing mint and cool raspberry just a delight
- P**eanut butter crunchy as carrots, sticky nutella, chewy caramel and finally bitter sour lemon



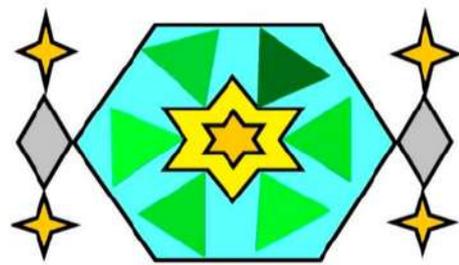
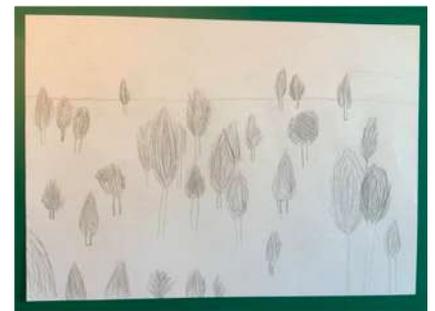
In 4 EF, they were inspired by our Maths topic of 2D shape to create some wonderful drawings in their Mindfulness session.



Darcey J-M



Beatrice F



Matys R



lzy E



Taylor S

Finally, Kaila made an amazing set of toilet roll creatures.!



Kaila

Year 5 News

This week, Year 5 have been exploring using their senses to describe scenes. In particular, they have been using olfactory imagery- the sense of smell- to paint pictures for the reader. Here are a couple of examples:



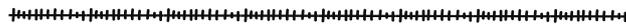
Summer A

The smell of fresh ice cream dances through the air. The sight of children playing in the sand, sandcastles being made, moat being dug. The sound of the humid breeze, SWISH SWASH. The waves happily hugging each other as the tide slowly comes in. Families buying fresh fish and chips, hiding from hungry, swooping seagulls ready to grab, with their nasty beaks, the delicious food. The refreshing touch of your sandy body hitting the salty sea water, clean and ready to go. The last energizing sniff of the sea side.



On a clear, breezy summer day there are all ways heaps of people and today is one of those marvellous days. Millions, billions, trillions of vibrant, flashy kites in all directions soaring high in the woolly, velvety clouds. People are lying on the silky, tan coloured beach as they get a sniff of mouth-watering, luscious cotton candy and appetizing fish and chips with a pinch of salt and a drizzle of vinegar.

Adelaide



As we are studying James 1 and The Gun Powder Plot, Year 5 have been making models of The Houses of Parliament.



Elliot



Alex



Oscar



Ava



Oliver



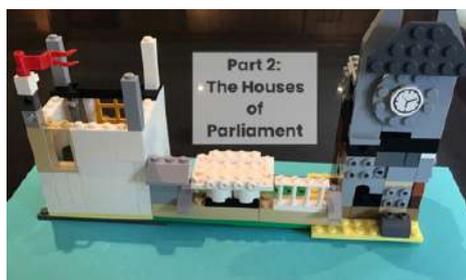
Jessica B



Octavia



Riley N



Archie D



Jerome H



Tommy G

Sport News

Another great and busy week has been had in the sports department with morning fitness, yoga and quiz sessions, online Athletics lessons and the in school sport provision for year 6. We have all loved seeing everyone either online or face to face and you continue to inspire us with the outstanding work that you produce on a weekly basis.

Over the past week, both in and out of school we have challenged our pupils and staff to run, walk (cycle if at home) as far as they can to create a whole school distance total. We have called this the Downsend Mile and have once again been blown away with the engagement from the Downsend community. The PE staff have led the way at school and Mrs Fitch has led the way online ensuing all pupils get the opportunity to be involved. Mrs Fitch has also spent hours collating all of the data produced by our pupils and staff and in the first week alone we have reached a staggering 479.4 miles. We are making our way around the Cognita schools, to see how we are getting on please see the attachment.

Huge thanks to Mrs Fitch for putting this all together!

Keep up the great work and we look forward to seeing how far we can travel next week.

The Downsend Daily Mile
Week 1 – 479.4 miles!

The Cognita UK Schools Route we have taken so far....

Downsend school	
Milbourne Lodge, Kingston	6.3
Cumnor House Girls, Croydon	13
Cumnor House Boys, Croydon	2
Breaside Prep, Bromley	11
St Nicholas Prep, London	17
Southbank International school, Kensington	1.7
Southbank International school, Westminster	3
Southbank International school, Hampstead	5.3
Charterhouse Square, London	2
North Bridge House Senior School, Canonbury	21
North Bridge Prep school Camden	4.5
North Bridge House Senior School, Hampstead	0.8
Oakfields Montessori (3-11), Upminster	45
Oxford House, Colchester	0.2
Colchester High School	20
St Margarets Prep school, Halstead Essex	42
Duncombe School, Hertford	21
Salcombe Prep school, Southgate	7
Hendon Prep school, London	51
Polam school, Bedford	25
Akely wood Junior (1-11), Milton Keynes	6.4
Akely Wood (13-18) Milton Keynes	1.9
Akely Wood Senior (11-13) Milton Keynes	16
Quinton House, Northampton	57.1

Sport News

Hydesville Tower school, Walsall	57
Huddersfield Grammar	Total 416.2 miles + 63.2 miles into route towards Swansea out of the total distance of 210.2 miles.

This weeks challenge is

So we have 147 miles to go to get to

Oakleigh House (Swansea)	22
St Clare's (Porthcawl)	142
St Mary's Sachool, Henley	17
Long Close, Slough	15
Clifton lodge, Wembley	33.2 back to Downsend

[We need 376.2 miles run or cycled this week to get us back to Downsend!](#)

An update on the Downsend Daily Mile. In the first week (or just over) the Downsend pupils, some staff and some parents clocked up a massive 479.4 miles in total. This was a combination of running and cycling. I am currently working out the route from Downsend to see how many UK Cognita Schools schools we can virtually join. If we continue at this rate we will be heading to Europe by week 3! Huge congratulations to everyone who has taken up the challenge and remembered to let Mrs Fitch know your weekly mileage (or Km's). Keep them coming. The easiest way is to join the Downsend school STRAVA group:

<https://www.strava.com/clubs/downsend-school-658850>

If that's not feasible then post your mileage in your TEAMS file. Well done and lets see if we can increase the mileage by next Wednesday.

Mrs Fitch

Just a quick reminder that Upper School and Swim Squad team photos need to be submitted either via teams or by email to Miss Seivewright by Monday 15th June. Please can everyone, no matter which team you were in, send a photo in. All Upper School and Swim Squad parents have been emailed this information. Any questions please ask Miss Seivewright.

It is great to see the Strava group growing - don't forget parents your miles count too!

Please join us <https://www.strava.com/clubs/downsend>

Arts News

We've had another creative week and it has been wonderful to see lots of pupils continuing to participate in the morning doodle and in our afternoon art sessions. Our Artist of the Week is Annabel E in 4EF, who followed along with Wednesday's doodle to create this atmospheric seascape. Well done, Annabel!

Julia Aylen Head of Art & Head of STEAM



News from the Wellbeing Garden

With the hot, sunny weather, the vegetables and flowers have been growing quickly; potatoes, peas, radishes and strawberries are all ready for picking now. Sunflowers are getting tall and should flower soon. Key worker and Year 6 children have been enjoying spending time in the garden, reading and relaxing with their friends. A huge thank you to Mrs Day, who co-ordinated the VE Day bunting project last month. Mrs Day printed the flags and sent the bunting to Bletchley Park for their belated celebrations and created a duplicate set for our school garden. The VE designs are great and have brightened up this space. Thank you also to the DPA, who continue to support and fund this project. Next steps are to buy a composter, so that the school can start working towards greater sustainability, by reducing the amount of wrapped snacks being brought in and instead compost fruit and vegetable scraps. They are also planning to support further initiatives for additional seating and an outdoor chalkboard, which will enable more children to enjoy the garden and engage in different learning and well being activities.

Natasha Ludlam, Year 3 Teacher

