



The Downsend Times

10th July 2020

Message from The Head

We have come to the end of the most remarkable of academic years, one that none of us could have foreseen as we welcomed over 100 new pupils and a handful of new staff to Downsend in September 2019. The first half of the year proceeded in standard fashion as new friendships were forged and our amazing pupils set about their various tasks with a voracious appetite and unabashed spirit. There were the customary energetic performances on stage, countless tournament wins and sporting regional successes and a real appetite to improve inside and outside the classroom. Oh, and we even had time to begin our ambitious Creative Arts Centre build. As spring was sprung, we looked forward to sunnier climes and a prosperous second half of the academic year – or so we thought, as the world was plunged into a global epidemic.

So, how do we reflect on such a tumultuous year? We have long espoused the values of a future skills focus for our education, one which prepares our pupils for a future that none of us can predict accurately. A future where collaboration, creativity, critical-thinking and communication open the doors to success, not the ability to recall facts in an exam hall. If this past four months has taught us one thing, it is that success is now defined by our ability to be flexible, adapt to the new norms and think on our feet. This being the case, I believe that Downsend has had a remarkable year. It's staff team has been exceptional, a beacon of light in energising our pupils throughout the day, whether in their studies, their kitchens or their dining rooms. The fact that so much work has been covered is a tribute to their professionalism and it is a privilege to work alongside them. Our pupils have shown flexibility and resilience beyond their years as they have adjusted to the most testing of circumstance, returning to Downsend during this past month without breaking stride, clearly delighted to be back with their friends. Our parents, led by the brilliant DPA, have balanced support and patience in equal measure and it is difficult to put into words how much your kind sentiments have galvanised us all during a period where we have all been tested to the max. Thank you!



To those families and teachers leaving Downsend this term, I wish you continued success and happiness in the future, and the hope of a swift return to normality wherever your onward journey takes you. For those families remaining with us, we will be waiting for you with open arms in September, whatever challenges the latest guidelines pose for us.

Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update

As the final year of the Lower School at Downsend draws to a close and I look ahead to next year's Junior School at Downsend, I cannot help but reflect on what must have been one of the strangest periods in the school's history. It has been truly remarkable to see our children continue to flourish while the world around us changed under our feet. Our children's tenacious attitudes, willingness to work hard and constant ability to try their best really shone out and whilst other schools reported that they were behind with their curriculum our teachers managed to keep our children on track to perform to their very best level and make superb progress. I hope that your children's reports made happy reading this week. I always read every report and found these ones particularly pleasant reading. Well done, everyone. Whilst there will be an element of recovery curriculum in place in September, focussing on mental well-being and pastoral care, it is wonderful to know that we can also continue fully with our academic curriculum.

Despite it being the final week of term, the Lower School children have continued to flourish academically both in school and at home. Year 5 lit up the buildings with their infectious enthusiasm thisweek and have adored their week back in the physical classroom. The theme for the week was 'Alice in Wonderland' which culminated in their very own 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party'. It was just lovely to see them all and to feel their energy back in the building. The children at home have also continued to work hard and several really stood out this week, despite it being the end of term. Congratulations to Oscar S in 2CW for his wonderful presentation on the Papilio Ulysses butterfly which was factual, detailed and beautifully presented. Oscar even dressed in the butterfly's colours to be truly authentic. Well done. Well done too to Raffa P in 4MP for her wonderful presentation on animals which was a colourful and animated treat! Well done, Raffa. Well done too to Isabella C in 4RD. The children had to write a five line verse for the Oompa Loompa song, following syllable and rhyming rules. Isabella made up her own characters and produced the following piece of writing. Great job! Final congratulations of the year go to Annabel E in 4EF who has been published in The Young Writers book 'Out Of This World 2020 - Marvellous Rhymes' with her poem entitled 'Galaxy' This is a beautiful poem, Annabel, very well done.

Galaxy

If you look up at the sky,
In the middle of the night,
With your naked eye,
It shouldn't be too bright.
Perhaps you can spot Mars,
So many miles away.
Amongst the many stars,
In our galaxy, the Milky Way.

Annabel Eaves (9)
Downsend School, Leatherhead



So, as we embark upon the summer holiday period and have time to rest and convalesce, I would like to thank all of the Lower School teachers, teaching assistants and Mrs Albert for their unfailing hard work over this strange time. We all adore working with your children and never has this been more clearly seen than through the passion, care and hard work shown by the Lower School Team since March. I would also like to thank the Lower School parents too for their positivity, support and praise over the last months; we have felt extremely supported by you all and feel that rather than the distance causing a void, it has made us a stronger community. Thank you too to all parents for their generous gifts to the Lower School team and to me, your gratitude for our hard work is hugely appreciated.

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update

As we come to the end of the most unusual and challenging term I have experienced in my 25 years plus of teaching, I write my Downsend Times as Head of 'Upper School' for the last time. This is because we formally transition to a Senior School in September, and whilst none of us wanted the last 'Upper School' term to be conducted, largely, in isolation, I am so proud of all we have achieved and wanted to take this opportunity to say a final well done to all the pupils, staff and parents on the sense of camaraderie that togetherness that has developed over the lockdown period, along with the continuity of care that has been achieved. It has been an absolute joy to see all the Year 6, 7 & 8 children back on site this week and both myself and all the staff have been so pleased that we were able to see the children in person before they head off for the summer holidays. On Wednesday, the Year 8 pupils kindly delivered gifts from the parent body to all the staff that have looked after them so well over the term, and across all three year groups the parent body have been incredibly generous and have shown your appreciation with so many kind gifts and letters of appreciation; both of the recent efforts by staff but also for the progress and support your children have received over the year. On behalf of all the staff, can I say thank you for your thoughts and gestures of appreciation.

In my Upper School assembly this week I reviewed the journey that we have all travelled along together, starting with the announcement to lock down schools on March 20th. The children fondly remembered the NHS slogan 'Stay at home, Protect the NHS and Save lives' and the wonderful rainbow images that developed throughout April to show support for the NHS and Keyworker staff who worked on the front line with such bravery. We also reflected on those amazing Thursday evening 'claps' of support. Parents, you will be delighted to hear that we had a lovely moment here at school when the children (almost spontaneously!) gave the Downsend staff their own loud and long 'clap' of support, which resonating throughout the Upper School buildings, reflecting both their gratitude and admiration for the staff's determination and creativity during this tough time. Having reminded ourselves of Captain Tom Moore's heroics, and charity fundraising we also briefly discussed some matters that arose during the lock down period that need further debate, the worrying death of George Floyd in the US, and the ensuing debate over controversial historical figures such as Edward Colston, the Bristolian slave trader, and whether the statues of such figures should be stored in museums as part of our historical narrative. These issues and the self-reflection of both our recent and ancient history are important, and need to be debated in a considered and focused way. I'm sure Mrs Skitt, our new Head of Humanities, will guide those debates in September adroitly, but it is exactly these type of ethical debates and current affairs issues that are in keeping with, and appropriate for, our transition to a Senior School in September; so well done to all the pupils for contributing to Monday's final Upper School assembly in such a sensible and mature way.

My thanks go to Mrs Hawes, Mr Silva and MRs Mercer, along with Mr Albert and Mr Lawrence for coordinating all of the fun activities that the children have undertaken this week. Despite the length of the term I have been so pleased that the pupils have still been working hard during all of the fun activities to impress their teachers and tutors to achieve those last few House Points, and to achieve the last few commendations to be issued for the year. Congratulations therefore go to the following pupils:

In Year 6, red commendations (for achieving 500 House Points) go to Thomas D, D-J O, Rhyen P and a yellow commendation (for achieving 750 House Points) goes to Martha G! Well done!

In Year 7 the following children have done an amazing job of not receiving any debits all year which is a huge achievement: Finlay, Joe C, Olivia B, Aimee J, Matthew M, Hassaan A and Lola P-B, and congratulations go to Henry S who has reached 600 house points, Alexander H and Leo L who have reached 900 house points and to end the year on a huge high, Luca C-S has attained 1200 house points. Congratulations to all of you for ending the year so well!

Enrichment & House Challenges

This week has been by far the best week of the Summer term! Of course, it was lovely to see Years 2, 3 & 4 come into to school and join Year 6 during this half of term, however, to have so many pupils back in Years 5 to 8 has been fantastic. Pupils have enjoyed this different week of schooling compared to what they would have usually expected at this time of year; no day trips to the beach or adventure parks led by Mr Silva, Mrs Mercer and Mrs Hawes, no mad charity afternoons led by Mrs Day and her charity committee and no formal Prize Giving co-ordinated brilliantly by Miss Black. However, on a positive note there has been a real sense of normality in seeing and socialising (bubbles permitting) with friends, a real sense of community and competition with the announcement of the end of year House Results and the 'bubble competition', with the added bonus of no prize giving rehearsals! Throughout this week, all staff have worked hard to co-ordinate lessons and activities for the bubbles to enjoy, engage in and compete against one another. As per Mr Lawrence's words below, the morning activities have been a fun balance between problem solving, teamwork, learning new skills and fitness. The offering for the wider curriculum this term has been truly outstanding and I can't thank the staff enough for their energy and commitment throughout. As the guidance continues to ease even more, there is no doubt the children are looking forward to reengaging in their sports and hopefully playing some cricket matches over the next week or so. There has, again, been significant planning for September already, where we hope as much normality returns regarding the wider enrichment as possible. Further information will be provided in due course upon another announcement in August. This week and during the term, the children have been a real credit in the way they have gone about their business and applied themselves online and now back at school. The House Results below confirm exactly this and once again a huge thank you to Miss Black for co-ordinating these throughout the year. We appreciate some children have found the online program a challenge, although it's been great to see so many thrive and lead the way for their Houses. As per Miss Black's result below, a massive well done to Ranmore for winning the final House Collection of the term. All the other houses have chased Headley throughout the year and even though Headley couldn't end with a clean sweep, they have won the term's competition and take the crown of 'Winning House' for 2019-20! With some changes to pupils and staff leading Houses next term, along with new events, I look forward to the competition commencing in earnest come September.

With such an unprecedented term it was fitting that on our final day we marked the occasion with the burial of our time capsules, kindly provided by the DPA. All children within their English lessons this term have completed a task set by our Head of English Mr Duffield, capturing their thoughts and feeling about the year and how they reflected for their 'future selves'. The House Reps from Year 5 and House Captains for Year 8 enjoyed being part of the ceremony, before the Head Boy Marcus. M and Head Girl Chloe. M used their muscles to hide the capsules until another time..... In the years ahead, it will be wonderful to open these up and read the amazing memories; let's hope this really has been a once-in-a-lifetime scenario!



Enrichment & House Challenges



Lastly, I wish you all a special summer. To those of you leaving us this year, please remember to stay in touch and come back and visit! To those of you returning, make sure you put the screens down, go outside and enjoy the outdoors where possible. I wish you all safe travels if you are taking a break and look forward to exciting times all together back in September.

Mr Albert (Assistant Head – Enrichment)



The final week of term for sport has been superb and enjoyed by years 5 – 8. Each bubble in years 6 – 8 has had the opportunity to take part in foot golf, water carry, lacrosse, crossfit, go karting and cricket, whereas Year 5 tested their skills on the foot golf course designed by the upcoming course designer, Mr Albert. The competition has 'hotted' up as the week has progressed with great enthusiasm shown by all. Results will be announced in the end of year assembly on Friday but at the time of writing it is incredibly close in all year groups. Well done to everyone who took part! Wishing you an enjoyable and restful summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you in September.

(Mr G. Lawrence Director of Sport)



Enrichment & House Challenges



Well Done Ranmore

Well done to Ranmore who have managed to grab the winning position from Headley in the final collection for the Summer Term. Congratulations must also go to all the top achievers too.

Headley have been fantastic and will be delighted to hear that they are the overall winners for the entire year.

Finally, thank you to all the children who have continued to work hard and contribute points towards their Houses over the course of this unusual term.

Lower School	Averaged Totals	Position	Top Achiever
Norbury	19.5	1 st	Robert B (Year 4)
Wisley	18.1	2 nd	Skye M (Year 2)
Ranmore	17.9	3 rd	Teddy W (Year 2)
Headley	16.1	4 th	Kai T (Year 2)

Upper School	Averaged Totals	Position	Top Achiever
Headley	70.5	1	Rhys H (Year 7)
Ranmore	69.9	2	Noah B (Year 8)
Norbury	61.3	3	Jamie Z (Year 8)
Wisley	57.4	4	Jude G (Year 8)

Whole School	Averaged Totals	Position
Ranmore	87.8	1 st
Headley	86.6	2 nd
Norbury	80.8	3 rd
Wisley	75.5	4 th

Staff Leavers 2020

As you all might be aware, today we said farewell to some of our Downsend staff, some have retired after over 20 years with us and some have moved to start a new stage in their career. We will miss them very much but we wish them all the best and we thought we couldn't let them go without answering a few little questions for us.

Seb Watts, Deputy Headmaster



- How do you remember your first day at Downsend?

It was quite a culture shock. We are talking September 1998 here. I had come from being a Boarding Housemaster at a Senior Independent School (Worth) to a much younger age group at Downsend. It was going to be inevitable that it would be challenging to adapt to the humour and mentality of younger children. On top of that, Downsend was in a maelstrom of change. It had 3 separate schools. A Lower School that was moving upwards as a co-ed school, a separate Girls school on site and a separate Boys School. The Head of the Girls school has stepped down days before I arrived and there were a lot of concerned parents at the turret on my first day. It was all a bit of a blur to be honest!

- How much Downsend has changed since then?

The lay out of the school has changed quite a bit. The school already had good facilities especially in terms of classrooms, and sporting facilities. The turret classrooms had recently been finished, the sports hall and swimming pool were the envy of many a school in Surrey. In my first 10 years at the school, we added the astro (it used to be the 2nd xv Rugby pitch), we improved the Social Area, replicated the classrooms on the Extended Day side of the Tregenna Hall, to create what we now call the Year 6 corridor. We created a spacious library, and a better classroom in the Lower School. Of course a number of exciting changes have happened recently and the are more in the pipeline. So, I have witnessed exciting physical changes to the site over my 22 years here. In terms of ethos, very little has changed. The school has always been friendly and encouraged the children to be open, enthusiastic and confident. It has tried to offers lots of different opportunities for the children to shine and has encouraged them to have breadth in their lives. The children were "sparky and fun" back in 1998 and I would say that they are still like that today. A lot of work behind the scenes goes into keeping the unique Downsend feel.

- What are your favourite memories from your time at Downsend?

There have been many, I shall always remember my time here with great fondness. I was privileged to see my 2 children do their journey through the school and really flourish on a daily basis. I do have 2 standout memories. The first was at the end of March in 1999. Tony White (the then Headteacher) and I went up to the Rosslyn Park 7's for the second day. Downsend had won their group and were now in the knock out stages with all matches now played on the main Rosslyn Park pitch. The team played out of the skins and beat a succession of big name schools to win a tight final by the score of 14-7 (if my memory serves me accurately). My second is not so much a favourite memory but more a standout memory. It went back to late November 2010. There had already been considerable pre-winter snow coming and going throughout the country. On this particular day, the South East of England got completely caught out by a late change in the weather. We made the call late morning for parents to collect but there was gridlock everywhere. The trains were barely running out of London and the roads were challenging and slow. By 6PM, we still had 30 children on site, so we raided the Food Technology cupboards and cooked them pasta and tomato sauce. The last parents came at around 10 having passed numerous abandoned cars en route. I was last out at 10 20pm. I was lucky to be able to walk home.

Staff Leavers 2020

- Any exciting plans for the months and years ahead?

I have been teaching for 33 years in a row and would like to take a sabbatical. In due course, I would love to travel but now is not the right time. I have a big family association with South West France and own a very old house that used to belong to my parents. It needs some updating and general TLC. So that's where I will be heading first. In due course, I will work again but am not yet clear when and where.

- A fun fact we might not know about you and you can't leave without telling us?!

Not sure about a fun fact, but as a proud dad, I would share that both my children went onto very good universities after Downsend and Senior schools and have got very good jobs- no small part being played from their time here

Tessa Roberts, Head of Ashtead Pre-Prep



First day at Ashtead Pre-Prep, September 2015



July 2020

- How do you remember your first day at Downsend?

My first day was a fabulous day at Leatherhead Lodge. My youngest son and I started together, both in Year One. Gill Brooks and Eileen Kidd, my Year One colleague, made sure that I had a very happy and exciting introduction to Downsend. Tony White also came to see me with a wonderful welcome and from that day, the children and I never looked back!

- How much Downsend has changed since then?

There have been many changes over the last twenty years. As I arrived, the school was just starting on its co-ed journey and Chris Linford was the owner of the school. I moved on to the Main site to teach Year 3 and Asquith Court became the new owners. This was shortly followed by Cognita's acquisition and Downsend's journey, as a thriving and innovative school had begun

- What are your favourite memories from your time at Downsend?

This is a tricky question as I have so many terrific memories. There were plenty of days where dressing-up in different characters was involved, for both children and staff. In addition, wonderful memories of the children's fantastic achievements, children who made me laugh and not forgetting the brilliant outings, with Windsor Castle always being my firm favourite in Year 2. However, finishing in such a great place at Ashtead Pre-Prep with many further happy memories will always be cherished. It has all been really memorable and a huge amount of fun.

- What will you miss most about Downsend?

Every year I miss the children who move on to the next step of their learning journey and I always love to hear about their new adventures. Nevertheless, the staff at Downsend have been the 'Best'. So many friendships have been made and will be continued, well beyond this last year of teaching.

Staff Leavers

- Any exciting plans for the months and years ahead?

At this point, it is an uncertain future for everyone. I do have some thoughts and ideas involving travel and meeting up with old friends both near and far. There is a lot of exploring to do, fun to be had and places to see

- Any exciting plans for the months and years ahead?

I always have a desk full of chocolate 'Freddo Frogs' for when one of the staff at school needs a 'pick-me-up'! Sh..... Don't tell anyone.....

Susan Dinnage, Teacher of RS & History



- How do you remember your first day at Downsend?

Feeling very nervous – I had had a 9 year gap for having my children and moving around with my husband's job.

- How much Downsend has changed since then?

Beyond compare – I could write an essay. In 1997 Downsend was going through a time of transition, just like now. It had become mixed but there was still the separate boys' school and the separate girls' school which is where I started. Once the school was fully co ed we had three schools _ Junior, Middle and Senior. I have watched walls go up then come done then go up again. The music department has moved around a lot too. It was in the Spanish Room when I started. I have been through three headmasters and three owners too.

- What are your favourite memories from your time at Downsend?

Tricky question – I have lots of happy memories. So in no particular order. - the Rock band concerts; when a member of my year 6 History class appeared in school having made a chocolate cake in the shape of a castle after my lesson on Motte and Bailey castles. (this led to a run of "creative" castles – including green jelly as a moat – I wasn't very popular with some members of the staff!) The look of delight on a boy's face, who was in my Classical Studies class and struggled with tests and exams, when he got a high mark for his end of term test. The trips to Lego land and Chessington. And watching the children grow increasingly confident at speaking in front of each other. Introducing and running Beginners Public Speaking Club. Less a favourite but one that gave my family a lot of amusement - the day that I tripped over nothing and fell over in the middle of a lesson. The class went silent and when I stood up again a girl said, "I thought you had died!"

- What will you miss most about Downsend?

The children and the staff

- Any exciting plans for the months and years ahead?

All on hold at the moment – the trip to Canada and Alaska has been postponed but hopefully will happen at some point. We would like to go to New Zealand and perhaps return to Japan where we once lived. In the meantime – doing all the tidying jobs that haven't happened in lockdown and doing some decorating.

- A fun fact we might not know about you and you can't leave without telling us?

I have been here so long that I think people know everything about me but maybe not that I am a Queen's Guide!

Fiona Fitch, Head of Lower School Games



- How do you remember your first day at Downsend

remember being a little nervous and a little apprehensive, just like starting any new school or job. The first scary part was the whole school meeting in Tregenna at the start of INSET day and the embarrassing part when the then Head master, Floyd Steadman, asked all the newbies to stand and introduce themselves. Apart from that Howard (Roberts), Marie (Seivewright), Rupert (Howe), Ben, Claire (Cooper-James) and JT made the move to Downsend a breeze and the whole staff community were very friendly and welcoming.

- How much Downsend has changed since then?

Downsend has changed quite a lot over the last 10 years and not only physically with all the developments and facility improvements. The number of pupils is lower (but is now on the increase again), the middle school disappeared (which personally was a shame), obviously some staff have moved onwards and upwards and some remain. To me the biggest change is socially. The school is much busier and faster paced and there is less time to interact with other departments/staff during the day.

- What are your favourite memories from your time at Downsend?

Too many to list but the following stand out:

- Being part of the current Y8 girls hockey success at the national finals in 2019.
- Finally introducing boys hockey to Downsend competitively and being Surrey finalists in the first year (2018).
- Girls cricket
- Becoming a year 7 tutor
- The Year trip to Normandy 2019
- The socials especially Tyrells Wood BBQ; Thai Pinto and the clubs!
- Hearing all the sporting successes and achievements of the current and past pupils.
- Three fantastic years with the Y6 Jersey sports team

- What will you miss most about Downsend?

The energy, excitement and enthusiasm of the pupils in their PE and games lessons. The hardworking teaching staff and TA's and all the admin staff who have helped me so much over the years with all the certificates and sports programmes etc etc. Most of the children and most of the parents.

- Any exciting plans for the months and years ahead?

I am really excited about the challenge ahead but also slightly nervous teaching the big boys and girls again! I'm looking forward to developing indoor and outdoor hockey for boys and girls at KES, project managing a new astro and continuing to develop my skills with a new group of staff.

Staff Leavers 2020

- A fun fact we might not know about you and you can't leave without telling us?



Not sure if this is a fun or freaky fact – having afternoon tea with Margaret Thatcher with my family when I lived in Germany! (photo attached for proof). My other claim to fame is sitting with Wayne Shelford (All Black) at the 1997 HK 7's and he gave me his hat which I still have. (photo attached for proof).

Peter Mitchell, KS2 Class Teacher



- How do you remember your first day at Downsend?

My first day at Downsend was a day that I had been looking forward to for a long time. It marked the end of a long process of becoming a teacher and I was looking forward to having my own first class. I remember the day being a bit of a blur. It was such an enjoyable day and made me realise that being a teacher was definitely the right career path.

- How much Downsend has changed since then?

It is fair to say that Downsend has changed significantly in the four years I have been at the School. When I started, the Pavilion had only just been built. Since then there has been significant building developments including the new Food Tech room, Computing Suites, Learning Resource Centre, Lower School Library and the STAR room. I think that is all of the main bits of building work, but there are probably others I have missed out. Although some of the teachers have changed, there is still the same attitude of going the extra mile for all of the pupils. Hopefully that is something that won't change moving forwards.

- What are your favourite memories from your time at Downsend?

My favourite memories have to be the three ski trips that I have been fortunate enough to go on. It is impossible to include everything that made these trips my favourite memories, but I will include a few. Getting to ski with pupils and staff is just an incredible amount of fun.

- What will you miss most about Downsend?

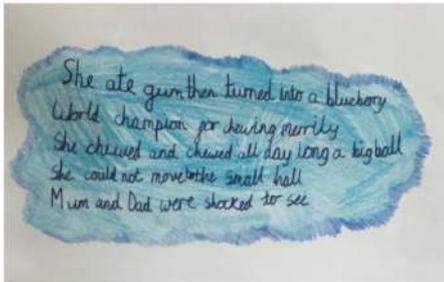
I will miss lots about Downsend, but I think the biggest thing I will miss will be the Sports Department. The sporting provision at Downsend is exceptional, being shortlisted for an award last year. I will miss working within this department and I will miss seeing the sporting development of the children.

- Exciting plans for the weeks and months ahead?

The only plan is to have a relaxing holiday somewhere warm. The destination is still to be decided, but a holiday is a priority.

Year 4 News

After a very successful week in school last week, Year 4 have once again been busy online. The focus of the week has been creating different types of poems based on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The children have also been busy designing comic strips on a great resource called Canva as well completing many challenges in Maths. The children's work in Year 4 during our online learning has been outstanding, which they should be very proud of. Here are some examples of their work from this week.



Izzy E 4 EF

Oompa Loompa, do-ba-dee-doo,
I've got a perfect puzzle for you.
Oompa Loompa, do-ba-dee-dee,
If you are wise you'll listen to me.

What do you get if you sleep the whole day?
Lying in bed and also snoring away.
Don't you realise that you will be unfit?
Do you want your comfy bed to be split?

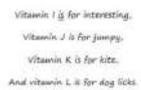
If not you'd better get out!

Oompa Loompa do-ba-dee-da,
Given good manners you will go far.
You will live in happiness too,
Like the oompa loompa do-ba-dee-doo.
Do-ba-dee-doo

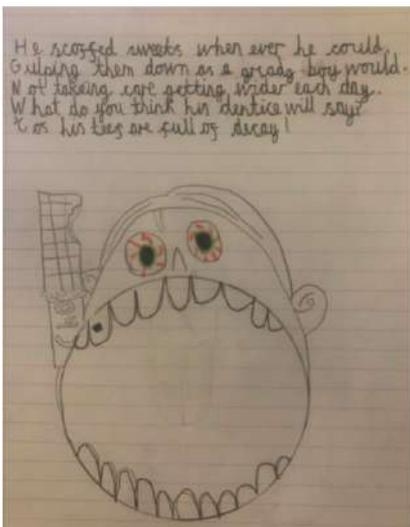
Annabel E 4EF



Tayla S 4EF



Alice 4MP



Leo R 4EF



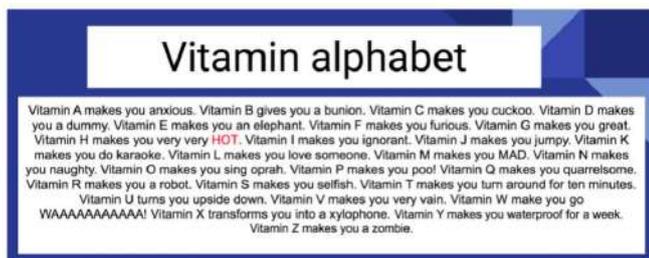
Tilly 4MP

Vitamin A is for an awesome brain
Vitamin B is pretty much the same.
Vitamin C tastes of cookies and cream
Vitamin D helps children to dream.
Vitamin E gives you energy that is endless
Vitamin F will make you friendless.
Vitamin G makes you feel great
H will stop you feeling hate.
I will make your imagination grow
J is for joy, didn't you know?
Vitamin K gives you a powerful kick
Vitamin L makes you love sick.
M makes you mighty like a super hero
N will never let you be a zero
O makes you ordinary, nothing wrong with that
P makes you powerful like a jungle cat.
Q will not let you quit
R is to remember you are not a twit.
S gives you strength of superman
T makes you tidy like my gran.
Vitamin U make you unbelievably glorious
Vitamin V makes you victorious.
W gives you weeks of television
X is for X ray vision.
Y is questioning what they said
And vitamin Z helps you go to bed.

Hughie 4JS



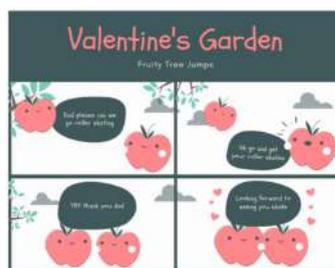
Harriet 4MP



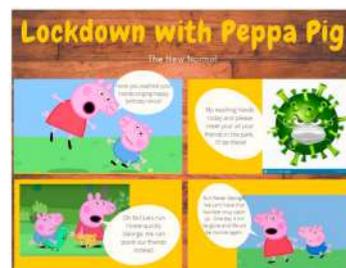
Frank 4JS



Amy 4MP



Kaila 4JS



Ryan 4EF

Year 5 News

This week, Year 5 have enjoyed being together- working and playing collaboratively. The mornings started with a chapter from Alice in Wonderland and the day's activities encouraged the children to be creative and use their imagination. Activities included: designing potion bottles, painting treats for a tea party collage, drawing to scale and playing "Play Your Cards Right". On Friday the children enjoyed dressing up, playing party games and having a Mad Hatter's Tea Party at lunchtime. It was so lovely to be with the children again, to see them smiling, hear them playing and just being together.



Sport News

Downsend Daily Mile – The final week (2nd July – 8 July 2020)

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Average
Y2/3	35.89	28.47	29.1	26.31	35.01	
Y4/5	214.6	166.9	134.4	105.9	124.80	
Y6,7,8	81.95	64.85	43.84	82.6	34.47	
Staff	146.96	146.55	108.9	132.1	136.73	
Parents		207.59	225.6	185.4	227.27	
	479.4	614.4	540.84	532.31	587.68	551

We did it!

Last week we reached 29.4 miles outside Barcelona, and coupled with this week’s brilliant total of 587.68 miles that equals 617.08 miles which will take us into Barcelona and on the way back to England. Using airmiles for our return journey it is 695 miles from Barcelona to Leatherhead (929 by car) so we have achieved our challenge, above and beyond what was expected. I know that by the weekend the additional 78 miles needed to reach Downsend will be achieved so please don’t stop running, cycling or walking. Continue to enjoy the time outside with your families or friends, keep the exercise going and reaping the benefits.

Congratulations to everyone who has taken part in the Downsend Daily Mile (or two!). As a community we have travelled 2,754.63 miles in 5 weeks, averaging 551 miles a week. We have virtually visited all UK Cognita Prep and senior schools and two in Europe. A phenomenal achievement. Thank you.

Inter-house sports challenge

Last week I launched an interhouse sports challenge pulling together the cricket and athletics skills covered in the first 4 weeks of this term. Thank you to all the children for taking part and to all those who submitted their score sheets. I know it was tricky as some of you were back in school and the weather has not been particularly summery!

Congratulations go to Year 4 who continue to be the group with the highest number of entries.

And a BIG well done to Norbury who win overall with the highest number of entries and highest number of points scored overall.

Each participant received 10 house points going towards the final house total which will be announced on Friday.

Special mention go to Flora H 3NL, Baylen B, Oscar W, Raffaella, Gregor D, George G, Annabel E, Sam R, Tayla S (year 4), Sienna V, Sophie Mc, Freya P, Octavia (year 5) and Natasha C 8MSe, Oliver F 8MSe for their brilliant scores.

Once again thank you for your continued support in the sporting challenges and activities, I'd like to wish everyone every success going forward.

Fiona Fitch

Our Wellbeing Garden

Three mystery dahlias have kindly been donated from the polytunnel of Claire Brown. We look forward to the start of next term, when the colour and variety will reveal themselves in their full glory. Claire grows seasonal, sustainable flowers at her farm in East Clandon. Take a look at www.plantpassion.co.uk if these beauties have piqued your interest. Returning to school for the final week, pupils from Y5-8 have been able to spend time in the garden. Sweet peas and fresh mint are in the staff room and reception area to enhance the wellbeing of everyone. Bella and Maria from Year 5 enjoyed planting the dahlias this week, as well as harvesting some more potatoes from the garden. Currently the tomatoes are ripening, courgettes growing larger and sunflowers about to come into bloom. Over the summer we will be starting to make compost, using the new rotating composter funded by the DPA. The aim is to develop seasonal planting, making links with Food Technology and the school kitchen, to increase the children's understanding of where their food comes from, in addition to encouraging biodiversity within the school grounds. The buddleia is in bloom, as well as the borage and lavender, encouraging a large number of colourful butterflies and bees.



DPA News

A Note from the DPA Co- Chairs: An incredible year of Community, Creativity and... COVID!



As this academic year ends, your DPA team reflected on the incredible journey we embarked on together this year! We had grand plans, lots of them, but the universe had different ideas...

We kicked the year off with the first ever Downsend Festival, drawing together the full community across pre preps and main site to celebrate our children and their sense of adventure! We progressed through the year with a huge uplift in attendance at our pre loved uniform sales, coffee mornings, Bag2School collection, not to mention our most popular and ambitious Christmas Fair ever!

At the turn of the year, we also brought the community a brilliant Mexican themed quiz night, but COVID halted our plans to host a wonderful Summer Ball and many other enrichment activities for the children.

However, you can't keep a good DPA team down, and we quickly pivoted from organising events and fundraising, to focussing on how we could financially support enrichment activity. The team has been meeting regularly over lockdown, albeit via Zoom, to review funding proposals and agree spend for a number of worthy projects including:

- Equipment for the Performing Arts Centre to enable Mrs Allison to continue innovating in the field of technology-based musical endeavour .
- Time capsules for Mr Albert and the teaching team to partner with our children to capture snapshots of the strange times we found ourselves living in
- A composter and other essentials to support the organic, eco-friendly plans of Mrs Ludlam and the Eco Committee, which we enjoyed sharing the fruits (or veg) of their labour when our children brought home potatoes and the like over the course of the last few weeks.

Our DPA Class Reps have also done an amazing job this year in terms of connecting our community, supporting parents and ensuring that all DPA activities are really well attended. We applaud this group of intrepid volunteers for their commitment to great information sharing and keeping us on the straight and narrow on a weekly (and sometimes daily) basis. So on behalf of all of the parent community, THANK YOU to all Class Reps for everything they did for us this year

Last, but not least, the DPA were proud to recognise and celebrate the dedication, commitment and resilience of the Downsend teaching and non-teaching staff during the lockdown period, by presenting them with wine or chocolates on behalf of the whole parent community. Isabella dropped off 60 bottles of wine at admin on Thursday morning with individual notes of thanks to every member of staff who supported us so wholeheartedly over the last few months.

DPA News

In case any of the staff are reading this...THANK YOU from us all!

Looking to the new academic year... The same efforts, delivered differently.

So, what will the next academic year bring in terms of DPA activity?

Well, the team is acutely aware of the need to exercise caution and ensure our community is safe and comfortable with anything the DPA is planning. This means therefore, that we will have to do things differently for the first term and instead of big group events, we will work with Downsend staff and our children to undertake 'social bubble' related activities. We are also looking at how we evolve our plans for a Christmas celebration so that we can still enjoy the benefits of the festive season albeit in a different way.

Lynn and her team are working hard to bring you our ever-popular pre loved uniform sales that factor in both adequate health and safety measures, in addition to how we can support the transition from old uniform to the new kit.

Our next pre-loved uniform sale is on Wednesday 19 August from 12 noon- 2pm- more details on the logistics will be released via Class List shortly.

Finally, the first virtual DPA Annual General Meeting will take place on the evening of Thursday 24 September, and we hope you will be able to join us from the comfort of your homes to better understand the 2019/2020 successes, and our focus for the coming year. This is also an opportunity to volunteer to be part of our merry band of DPA members and help to support our continued positive community impact for the year ahead.

We hope you agree that this extraordinary year will be one to remember, not just for the hardship but also for the wonderful sense of community we have at Downsend.

To close, we want to thank you all for supporting all the work of the DPA, we hope you have a happy, healthy summer holiday and look forward to seeing you back at Main Site in September!

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do get in touch with us at downsendPA@gmail.com

Warm wishes

Leanne & Lou Co-Chairs,
Downsend Parents Association

Notice Board



SHC bring a friend day and free hockey taster day for non-member - 12 July 2020

Are your children fed up of lock down?

Are you looking for fun and exercise outdoors in a safe, socially distanced manner?

Surbiton Hockey Club is pleased to announce that we are holding a fun day of hockey on 12 July for all U8s, U10s and U12s.

This is open to all non-members and to our SHC members as long as they "Bring a Friend".

Spaces are limited so please book now at www.surbitonhc.com

SHC Hockey in Summer 2020. (use the pop up or find the tab in "News and Events").

All participants MUST complete an on-line booking form

Format:

60 min fun-filled skills based pitch session in socially distanced small groups 30 min off pitch to enjoy a complimentary drink and snack in our new outdoor cafe area

Parents

are welcome to watch and enjoy complimentary hot and cold beverages.

SHC representatives will be on hand to answer any questions.

Timings:

Mixed U8s: 09:30 - 11:00

U10 girls and boys: 11:15 - 12:45

U12 boys and girls: 13:00 - 14:30

All participants must have mouthguards and shin pads. We will have a small supply of appropriately sanitized sticks for use as required.

We are also planning a variety of different hockey sessions over the Summer holidays - more details will be available on our website in the coming days.

The end

Thank you for reading

The Downsend Times Editor
