



# Downham Preparatory School and Montessori Nursery

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## Newsletter to Preparatory & Nursery School Parents – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### UPCOMING DIARY DATES

<i>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>School Photographer</i>
<i>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>Downham in Bloom Competition - seed trays judging</i>
<i>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>Sports Day Practice (Nursery &amp; prep School)</i>
<i>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>Music Concert 3:00pm (School Hall)</i>
<i>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>Sports Day - 1pm Nursery / 1:30pm Prep School</i>
<i>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>U11 Boys' Cricket v Glebe (Away) 2:15pm</i>
<i>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>U11 Training session with Denver at Denver</i>
<i>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June</i>	<i>Reception/KS1 trip to Dinosaur Park</i>
<b><i>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June</i></b>	<b><i>40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations</i></b>
<i>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July</i>	<i>Prep School Show – Technical Dress Rehearsal</i>
<i>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</i>	<i>Prep School Show – Full Dress Rehearsal</i>
<i>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>Prep School Show – 1:30pm (Rec – Y7)</i>
<i>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>Prep School Show – 6:00pm</i>
<i>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>Nursery Show – Dress Rehearsal</i>
<i>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>Nursery Show - 2:00pm</i>
<i>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>Last Day of Term for Prep School</i>
<i>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>Last Day of Term for Nursery</i>
<b><i>Mon 29<sup>th</sup> July – Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> August</i></b>	<b><i>SUMMER FUN SCHOOL</i></b>

As usual, this is a very busy half-term with many special events, trips and end-of-term activities planned. Please check your newsletters and Google calendar diary dates and do not hesitate to contact the office if you are unsure of any arrangements.

### **Reminder – tomorrow - School Photographer**

Please remember the school photographer will be in school tomorrow. Please ensure all children are wearing their correct uniform. Thank you.

### ***Reminder – tomorrow – Reception***

Please remember to bring in your child's decorated seed tray tomorrow. The judges from Downham in Bloom will be coming in in the morning to look at them all.

### ***Letters to the Office***

If you have any letters for the office, forms to return or money to pay, please put them in an envelope, clearly marked with the child's name and put it in the black post box, which is on the wall outside the office. Please do not leave them in your child's book bag, or give them to a teacher, as they do not always get to the office promptly. Thank you for your co-operation.

### ***Sports Day Practice – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June / and Sports Day – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June – Nursery, PP, Rec & Y1-Y7***

On both days, pupils in the Reception & Y1 – 7 should come to school wearing their sports kit. They should also bring their school hat. If it is hot, please ensure they have sunscreen applied before coming to school.

All children in Reception – Y7 should wear school shorts (boys) / skort (girls) and their white polo shirt, with summer cap. Nursery pupils (not babies) and Pre-Primary should come into school wearing shorts/jogging bottoms, a T-shirt (not vest), a hat, jumper and trainers. Nursery pupils who do not normally attend that day are welcome to come too, and should arrive by 1:00pm. Please also apply sunscreen before they are dropped off. Please ensure all pupils' trainers still fit and are suitable for running. We are pleased to say that this year, once again, spectators are very welcome on Sports Day and we would love to see as many people as possible cheering their children on. Could we please ask that you provide your own seating; a folding chair or picnic blanket. We shall be providing refreshments for spectators to purchase. (See note below).

As many of you may know, the last race of the day is a water race. Your child may get wet! With this in mind, you may want to bring a change of clothes for your child to go home in.

### ***Sports Day – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June***

This year's Prep School Sports Day will include pupils from the Nursery (not babies), Pre-Primary and Reception classes. All parents are invited and encouraged to come and watch. Mr & Mrs Wilson have kindly offered, once again, to bring their pop-up bar, so drinks will be available to purchase. Last year, they provided the bar at Sports Day and the School Show and kindly donated the profits to the school.

### ***40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Prep School Celebrations – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June***

Past pupils, parents and staff are very welcome to join us – please pass on this information to anyone you know who might be interested.

We are hoping to provide a Barbeque, selling burgers, hot dogs, etc., but would really need some parent helpers to run this. If you are able to help in any way, please email the office and let us know. Thank you in anticipation!

Please let the office know if you are planning to attend, so that we know the numbers for catering purposes.

**Downham Cluster Cricket Tournament**

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May we took a boys cricket team to the Downham tournament at the Memorial Field in Downham Market. 8 Schools entered. Hillcrest brought 3 teams, so the 10 teams were split into 3 groups.

Our first match was against St Martins at Shouldham, whom we figured were likely to be our toughest opposition in the group. Indeed, that was the case. We fielded first and, despite having some practice before the event, our bowling was very wayward. Shouldham batted very well and amassed a very good score of 98 runs. Knowing we needed an awful lot of runs, we went out and just seemed to want to hit every ball as hard as we could to get boundaries. But that meant we lost our composure and didn't play many proper shots and therefore we never got anywhere near their total. However, we did get 58 runs, which was not too bad a total. Thinking about losing by 40 runs, made us realise how well we would have to play to get some victories.

Next we played a Hillcrest team, not their best one, and we fielded first again. We bowled much better and restricted them to a total of 40 runs. With less runs to get, we batted much more sensibly and scored 84 runs, for a 44 run win!

Our final group game was against Southery. It was almost an identical game to the Hillcrest one. We bowled accurately and restricted them to 47 runs. Therefore, we knew that if we batted sensibly, we should be able to get those runs. Indeed, we scored 84, for a 37 run victory. This meant we finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in our group.

After lunch we then played the other 2 teams that also finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in their groups, to decide our placing in the tournament, between 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place.

Fortunately for us, we didn't play the first match and could watch Nelson and Upwell play to see how strong they were. Nelson beat Upwell quite convincingly. We then played Nelson. It was a very close match, with both teams bowling, batting and fielding well. We batted first this time and scored 58 runs. A decent total and, with our bowling getting better as the tournament progressed, we kept Nelson down to a score of 49, for a 9 run victory. A really close game, but we came out on top, with much celebration from the boys when the scores were read out!

We then needed to bring them down to earth and focus on the last game against Upwell. We fielded first and bowled really well to restrict Upwell to 35 runs. Once again, knowing it was a relatively small total to chase, they could bat sensibly and we scored 90 runs, for 55 run victory and 4<sup>th</sup> place overall in the tournament. What a turnaround -a first match heavy defeat followed by 4 victories.

Hillcrest won the tournament, St Martins at Shouldham were second and Denver were 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Well done to the team of Frederick, Ezra, Callum, Daniel, Samuel, Theodore, Oscar, Benjamin and Armaan.

The top two schools qualified for the West Norfolk Schools Partnership tournament at North Runcton Cricket Club. They would play the best teams from the King's Lynn and Hunstanton clusters.

Although we finished 4<sup>th</sup>, we later got an email, inviting us to the final tournament, as some of the other schools could not attend on that day. We accepted, knowing that this level would be a big challenge for the team, but felt it was an opportunity not to be missed!

That final was played yesterday and .....

A report on that tournament will be in next week's Newsletter!

