

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 6 January 2017

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Message from the Head Teacher

A Happy New Year to you all. From all the chat on the door and the conversations that I have had with children around school, I can tell that you have all had a very busy but wonderfully enjoyable holiday.

The children have all settled back to school very quickly. As I've popped in and out of the classrooms this week, I've seen some amazing Read, Write, Inc lessons in full flow and some number work that made me stop and think!

As well as the planned curriculum, this term promises to be full of

variety with many activities to look forward too. Our STEAM week will soon be upon us with workshops, challenges as well activities to discover the engineers amongst us. Later on in the term we have World Book Day which is one of our favourite events and this will be followed by some African drumming during Creative Arts Day. Please take time to check the calendar for these and many other exciting events that are coming up soon.

Tessa Roberts

Winter Weather



Our return to school this week has seen some lovely bright frosty mornings. This does however leave us feeling very chilly. We aim to organise opportunities for the children to get out and about every day during their lessons and at break time. With this in mind, please could you make sure that your child brings their waterproof coat, a hat, gloves and a scarf to school each day. Please ensure that each of these items are clearly named. This really helps your child to take responsibility for their belongings and allows for an increased level of independence.

Fun in the First Week

This has been a very exciting week for five children in First Steps and their families. The first day at school is a very memorable occasion, uniforms are proudly worn, photographs are taken and the children arrive ready to start their educational journey.

Our five intrepid starters have all been raring to go and have thoroughly enjoyed their taste of what's to come. As you can see from these pictures they have enjoyed exploring their new setting and are well on their way to making new friends. Everyone here sends a very warm Pre-Prep Ashtead welcome to our new starters and their families and we look forward to sharing many happy days with you all.



Don't Forget

16-20 Jan STEAM Week

- **Mon 16 Jan** - Genie Lab Workshops
- **Thurs 19 Jan** - Tamsin Grocock from Downsend - Science Workshop/Assembly
- **Thurs 19 Jan** - Second-hand Uniform Shop open for sales at Downsend 15.00-16.30
- **Fri 20 Jan** - Engineering Day



Downsend School

Useful Contacts:

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Anyone need a hand?



Golden Board

Achievements in class work, good manners and excellent behaviour are celebrated in a special Assembly every week. We congratulated the following children today:

We are really looking forward to seeing who's wonderful contributions will be on our board this term

Golden Board celebrations will begin next week.

Well Done!

Staff News

This term we are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to the First Steps team, Cindy Lockyer and Laura Forsyth. They will be with us on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Both Cindy and Laura have enjoyed their first few days with us and are looking forward to meeting all the First Steps families.



Cindy Lockyer



Laura Forsyth



A familiar face to many families is that of Sally Jones. She has often been in and out of school covering for staff if they are unwell or attending courses. Sally joins us this term as a more permanent member of staff working alongside Sally Rose as her Teaching Assistant. We are loving working with her on a more regular basis.



Stephanie Michael-Stratton leaves us today to start her maternity leave. She will be able to put her feet up for a couple of weeks before all the excitement begins. We all wish her lots and lots of luck and look forward to her visiting us after her baby is born.

Julie James started her new role this week as our First Steps teacher and will be covering this position during Stephanie's maternity leave. Julie has had great fun with the children over the first few days of the spring term and has been delighted with the way all the children have settled.



Events Week Commencing Monday 9 January

Lunch Menu week 2

Mon	15.30 - 16.30	Swimming Lessons begin Football Club begins
Tues	9.45 14.00 15.40-16.10	Tots in Tune begins Community Support Officer Pauline Daly visits Reception Spanish Club begins
Wed	15.30-16.30 15.30-16.30	Rising Stars Club begins Science Club begins
Thurs	9.00-10.00 8.30-9.00 15.30-16.30	Coffee Morning for parents with children in First Steps - School Hall Second-hand Uniform Shop open to receive stock at Downsend Storyworld Club begins
Fri	15.30-16.30	Yoganory Club begins

Inspiring young minds