

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Epsom



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom
6 Norman Avenue
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Friday 20th January 2017

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Message from the Head Teacher

We are already half way to half term, the weeks are flying by! This week we have been trialling no TV in Early Birds at the start of the day and it has been fantastic. There has been playdough, Lego, KNEX, writing, colouring and reading going on at the start of the day as well as lots of other activities too!

Please can I remind all parents that due to child safeguarding, we are a no phone zone. Parents should not have their mobile phones out and in use at all when in school, If you do, the staff will challenge you and I kindly request that you stop immediately.

A parent has raised a question regarding the security of scooters left at the front of the school. Any bikes/scooters/buggies are left at your own risk as we are unable to take responsibility for them. You can now purchase small scooter locks that would enable a wheel to be secured to a permanent structure which I would advise if you are concerned.

Finally, thank you to all the parents who have contacted me with ideas for developing the curriculum in school. I am collating information all half term and will feed back my findings after the half term break.

Mrs Vanessa Conlan

Don't Forget!

- NEXT FRIDAY—mufti day to raise money for Rianna's Fund. Children can come to school dressed in their clothes and make a donation to the charity
- Additional session request letters have gone home today. Please return them **BY** Friday 3rd February. Requests returned after this date may not be able to be met.



As part of our winter topic we have been looking at ways of keeping warm during the cold winter weather. This week we decided to make soup to help keep us warm. The children chopped and cut carrots, potatoes, leeks and cabbage which they then mixed with warm stock. We visited Mrs T in the kitchen and she put our soup on to cook. When it returned to the classroom, it smelled delicious!

Mrs Bullock

CAN YOU HELP?

On Tuesday 31st January we will be celebrating Chinese New Year with the children. Would you, or anyone you know, be able to come into school and talk to the children about traditional customs, sharing some of your stories? We can explain to the children ourselves, but it's always more meaningful and interesting when someone can talk about their own experiences.



Downsend School

Useful Contacts:

Pre-Prep Epsom 01372 385438
 Extended Day mob 07913 586967
 Pre-Prep Ashted 01372 385439
 Pre-Prep L'head 01372 385437
 Prep School Office 01372 372197
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Superstar Children

Achievements in class work, good manners and excellent behaviour are celebrated in a special assembly every week.

We congratulated the following children this week:

First Steps
Chloe D

Rising Reception CC
Annie

Rising Reception SB/RP
Amelia

A special mention to the whole of Rising Reception for superb behaviour on their trip this week

Reception
Max

Y1 CB/AB
Zach

Y1 PM
Alice F

Well Done!

Early Years leader appointment

As explained to First Steps parents in a letter yesterday, I am delighted to announce that the school has appointed an Early Years leader and First Steps teacher to replace Mrs Pain. Although appointed before Christmas, due to the complexities of resignation dates, Mrs Carruthers will not be joining us until after the Easter break. Mrs Carruthers has a degree in Early Childhood Studies and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education with an Early Years specialism so is very knowledgeable on early child development and will be a great asset to the school. In the interim period of Mrs Pain leaving and Mrs Carruthers joining us, Mrs Simpson will be stepping up to the role of First Steps teacher. Mrs Simpson is a qualified teacher and is well known to the First Steps children and parents so I am confident that the transition will be as smooth as possible. Taking into consideration the circumstances. If any parents would like to discuss this matter with me, I would be happy to make an appointment to meet. Please talk to Mrs Albert in the office who will be able to arrange this.



Reception have had a very busy week! On Tuesday, as part of their 'People who help us' topic they visited Epsom fire station and then on Wednesday they had a visit from Dr Visram. A huge thank you to Dr Visram, Mrs Matthews and Mrs Smith for supporting these exciting activities and enabling them to take place.

Events Week Commencing Monday 23rd January Lunch Menu week 1

Mon	3.30—4.30	Performing arts club
Tues	3.30—4.30	Football club
Wed	3.30—4.30	Y1 technology morning at main site Forest club
Thurs	3.30—4.30	Cookery club
Fri	3.30—4.30	Charity mufti day Engineering club

Inspiring young minds to create a lifelong passion for learning and discovery