

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 11 November 2016

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Message from the Head Teacher

I was delighted to see everyone back on Monday morning and all looking so smart in their winter uniform. The weather has certainly taken a turn for the worse this week so please could you make sure your child has a school coat, hat and scarf in school each day.

This week I have had the opportunity to spend time in the classrooms, interacting with the children and joining in with their activities. The progress that they have made since the beginning of term was clearly visible. The other thing that

was very noticeable was the breadth of language being used in the First Steps and Rising Reception classes as the children were playing with their friends. The enrichment of their vocabulary at this stage is so important and hearing all their wonderful conversations has made me smile all week.

We are looking forward to seeing you all next week at the Parent Teacher Interview evenings. Have a lovely weekend.

Tessa Roberts

Hands-on History

The children in Year One thoroughly enjoyed their Toys workshop with Chertsey Museum yesterday. They learnt about the type of toys that children would have played with long ago and how they were made. Some of the toys were too old and precious to be played with but the children were able to explore spinning tops, Jacob's ladders and zoetrope's. The outdoor games were also a big hit – we had some real diabolo stars in the class. Over the next few weeks we are all set to learn more about toys from the past and to create our own toy museum.



Janet Catlow



Rumble in the Jungle



You will need to be an intrepid explorer to venture into the Reception classes this half term. Jungles have grown up overnight. If you're feeling brave you can set up camp or go for a ride in a jungle jeep. Great fun is being had by all!



Don't Forget

- **Tues 22 Nov** - Last Tots in Tune
- **Thurs 24 Nov** - Problem Solving Day
- **Sat 26 Nov** - DPA Christmas Fair at Downsend School



Downsend School

Useful Contacts:

Pre-Prep Ashtead	01372 385439
Pre-Prep Epsom	01372 385438
Pre-Prep L/head	01372 385437
Prep School Office	01372 372197
Admissions	01372 372311
School Nurse	01372 385409
Finance Department	01372 374842
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Downsend PP+	07899 011275
Mobile	07899 011275
Downsend +	01372 385403
Mobile	07909 861280

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:

First Steps
Blake Wright

Rising Reception AP
William Lovell

Rising Reception SR
William Nelson-Bowling

Reception CH
Martha Lee

Reception MP
Oscar Bell

Year One
Ava Dangerfield
Felix Green

Well Done!

Voice of the Parent

Two years ago we introduced the Voice of the Parent programme as a more structured way of collecting feedback on your experience of Downsend School. Thank you again to those of you who took the time to complete the surveys. We value all your comments and appreciate hearing your thoughts about our school.

This year's programme will start on 15 November with a short survey about key areas of school. We'd be really grateful if you could spare a few minutes to complete the questions. Here are some of our actions from your feedback in 2015-16.

- To improve communication about the curriculum taught throughout the school, we have introduced termly Information Evenings.
- We have been trialling a Parent Portal system where parents can see photos and comments about their child's learning. This has been highly successful in First Steps and we are now looking at introducing the Portal for Rising Reception children.
- All snacks that are now given at school are either fresh fruit or vegetables
- New clubs are on offer each term in addition to our regular favourites to improve the children's extra-curricular experience.

Parents who have just joined us this term will have the opportunity to give us your feedback later in the school year when you have had a chance to experience all aspects of the school.

Events Week Commencing Monday 14 November Lunch Menu week 3

Mon	3.30 - 4.30	Rising Reception - Autumn Walk Football Club
Tues	9.45 - 11.15 3.30 - 4.30 6.30	Tots in Tune Hockey Club Rising Stars Club Parent Teacher Interviews
Wed	3.30- 4.30	Rising Stars Club
Thurs	9.30 - 11.30 3.30- 4.30 6.30	Pre-Prep Ashtead Open Morning Construction Club Parent Teacher Interviews
Fri	9.15 - 11.30 3.30- 4.30	Downsend Prep School Open Morning Yoganory Club

Icy Weather

Last Monday morning saw a real change in the weather, from the mild autumn days we have been experiencing to a bitterly cold frosty start. During this icy weather Oakfield Road and the pavements can become very slippery. Please take particular care on these days to walk and drive safely to school.



Inspiring young minds