

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Epsom



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom
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Friday 6th January 2017

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Message from the Head Teacher

Firstly a huge thank you to everyone who has welcomed me so warmly this week and really made me feel part of the Epsom Pre-Prep family so quickly. I have had a lovely week and I think I am almost there with learning every child's name. I have been able to spend a huge amount of time with the children this week (it's the best part of the job!); reading stories to classes, listening to children read, spending lunchtime with them, spending time in the playground with them, seeing them in assembly and also seeing them when I am in and out of their classrooms. Next weeks target is to be able to identify the children still

when they are wearing their hats and to be able to place children and parents together! This may take me a few weeks, so I thank you in advance for your patience in reminding me of your children's names when I am at the door or outside school at the start and end of the day. This week we have also welcomed Mr Bayley as our new music teacher, and I know Y1 particularly enjoyed their new recorder lessons with him. We have a very busy, exciting term ahead—lots of great activities and a return to mud and the great outdoors! I cant' wait.

Mrs Vanessa Conlan

Don't Forget!

- After school clubs start next week
- Y1 please remember to bring your recorders in for your lesson on a Thursday
- If any First Steps and Rising Reception families need additional ad-hoc sessions at any time, please speak to Lauren in the office and complete an extra sessions form
- I will be updating the website and Downsend Facebook page regularly with pictures of our work—take a look!



The Y1 children learnt to play the note B, learn how to count the number of beats in a song and then use this information to play along with a piece of music on Thursday. When I saw them they were all having great fun.

New calendar dates

- 7th February—Safer Internet Day
- W/b 13th March—Science week



Downsend School

Useful Contacts:

Pre-Prep Epsom	01372 385438
Extended Day mob	07913 586967
Pre-Prep Ashtead	01372 385439
Pre-Prep L'head	01372 385437
Prep School Office	01372 372197
Admissions	01372 372311
School Nurse	01372 385409
Finance Department	01372 374842
Marketing	01372 385402
Downsend PP+	07899 011275
Downsend+	01372 385403



Well done to all our new First Steps children and families who have started this week and settled so quickly. We love having you here with us. I will be contacting all new families soon to ask for your help in evaluating our new starter processes to see if we can make any improvements to the overall experience for you and your children. We will be looking at the information we provide pre starting, the settling in sessions and then the first day experience. Any additional feedback from existing parents would also be greatly appreciated. We need information on the best areas and the areas that you feel could be improved so that we can keep the best bits that parents like and do something to change any areas that need changing.

Celebration Board

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

There was no assembly this week as it was only our second day back (on Thursday when we would usually have our assembly), however, I would like to celebrate all of our children with you this week for a number of reasons.

1. They have returned to school ready and raring to go with their learning and it has been a pleasure to be in their classrooms with them.
2. They have been very good at telling me, reminding me and testing me on their names! It really has been a team effort.
3. I had heard great reports about the behavior of the children, I have now seen it for myself and I am very proud of them all.

Well Done!

Events Week Commencing Monday 9th January

Lunch Menu week 2

Mon	3.30pm	Performing arts club
Tues	8.30am 3.30pm	Mr Thorpe in school Football club
Wed	1pm 3.30pm	Reception and Y1 to the Polka Theatre Forest club
Thurs	3.30pm	Open house at all Downsend schools Cookery club
Fri	3.30pm	Engineering club

Are we inspiring young minds?

Here at Pre-Prep Epsom we are keen to ensure our school is the best it can be. In school this half term we are evaluating our curriculum really reflecting on whether or not we are actually inspiring young minds. I will be talking to the children, talking to the staff and looking carefully at the curriculum planning in place in school and I would love your help with this too. Please have a think about these questions and let me know either when you see me, via an email to the office or on paper what you think. Thank you for your help.

What do you think is great about our curriculum?

What topic has your child/children been most excited and motivated by?

How would you like to see us improve our curriculum?

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