

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Epsom



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom
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Friday 21st April 2017

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Message from the Head Teacher

Welcome back to the Summer term! I hope everyone had a lovely Easter break. A special welcome to our new First Steps families who have joined us this term. We are delighted you have chosen our school for your children.

This term sees the start of our curriculum development. Today, Rising Reception, Reception and Year 1 parents will receive our new parent curriculum information. First Steps parents will receive theirs next week—I wanted to allow Mrs Carruthers a little extra time to complete her plan as she only started with us this week. The information gives you the minimum end of year expectations that we have for your children. We are working towards all of our children exceeding the end of year expectations, but wanted to share with you what

the age related expectations are. For FS and RR the expectations are set in line with the Early Years Development Matters expectations and then our expectations around readiness for the next step in the child's education, i.e. readiness for Reception for Rising Reception children. For Reception they are the Early Learning Goals expected for all children at the end of Reception, and Y1 the end of Year 1 expectations from the National Curriculum. The information also gives you an overview of the theme your children will be working on this half term and some of the activities they will be taking part in. Any feedback on this information would be gratefully received. We are always looking to improve the information we share with you.

Mrs Vanessa Conlan

Don't Forget!

- Clubs start this week—everyone has got the clubs they requested
- FREE Saturday Sports at main site starts for Reception and Year 1 children at 9am tomorrow—this term the sports are cricket and rounders
- We are still collecting Sainsbury's and Woodcote Garden Centre vouchers

Rianna's Fund

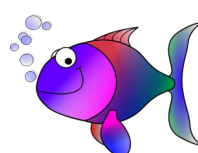
Thank you to Downsend friends and family for your generosity supporting our chosen charity. We have now exceeded our £800 target for the year! Current total = £951.86.

DEPA news

DEPA are purchasing new large equipment for the playground for the children. We are all very excited and hoping our new tunnel/climbing net will be installed in the first week of May. DEPA have also purchased a weather station for the woodland garden to support our developments in this area. Thank you DEPA!

Classrooms reflecting themes

The First Steps children were greeted with an underwater classroom this week! They were immediately fully engaged and immersed in their topic from the minute they walked in.





Downsend School

Useful Contacts:

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 Extended Day mob 07913 586967
 Pre-Prep Ashtead 01372 385439
 Pre-Prep L'head 01372 385437
 Prep School Office 01372 372197
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 School Nurse 01372 385409
 Finance Department 01372 374842
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 Downsend+ 01372 385403

Celebration Board

As we had only been back at school 1 day, we didn't have our usual celebration assembly on Thursday.

This week we celebrated the new positions of responsibility for our Year 1 children.

School councilors

Dollie, Alice N Dhiren, Tom, Jackson, Alejandro, Rayhan

Lunchtime monitors

Alexandra, Alice F, Tom C, Annabel, Arha

Playground monitors

Amber, Ella, Amy, Ethan

Well Done!

Curriculum engagement

One of our aims within our curriculum development is to immerse children more within their topic. Mrs Butler planned a fantastic WOW starter for the Reception children which really engaged and excited them about their dinosaur topic.

What a commotion in the reception class this week. It started with, "Where are the dinosaurs Mrs Butler?" Then a note from the dinosaurs was found explaining that they had gone to an island to help a boy called Tom. This started a discussion "What is an island?" "It has water around it."

"How can you get to an Island?"

"By boat!"

"You can take a helicopter."

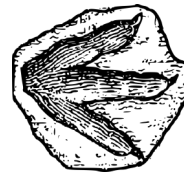
"A hot air balloon!"

"Aha what are those outside?"

"Footprints! Let's follow them. I bet they will lead us to the dinosaurs."

This was a great idea as this helped the Reception children to find the dinosaurs and most excitingly an egg which we suspect will hatch into a baby T-Rex! Let's hope it's a nice T-Rex!!

Mrs Butler



Learning takes place outside!

Rising Reception took their number and weight work outside today.



Events Week Commencing Monday 24th April 2017

Lunch Menu week 2

Mon	3.30—4.30	Performing arts club for R and Y1
Tues	Morning	Y1 visit to Epsom as part of 'Our Local Area' topic
	3.30—4.30	Tennis club for R and Y1
	3.30—4.30	Ready Steady Go Kids club for Rising Reception
Wed	3.30—4.30	Forest Schools club for R and Y1
	3.30—4.30	Arts and crafts club for Rising Reception
Thurs	3.30—4.30	Gardening club for RR, R and Y1
Fri	3.30—4.30	Engineering club for R and Y1

Inspiring young minds