

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Epsom



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom
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Friday 26th May 2017

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Message from the Head Teacher

I can't believe we've reached the end of another half term. The time is flying! One of the things I have been working on this half term is our continued curriculum development. The new style curriculum information for parents came out at the start of this term and feedback was positive. Teachers are currently completing their planning for next half term and I have started working on a whole school curriculum for next year. It is my aim that the whole school will work on a shared theme each half term, but then work individually in their year group on the work appropriate for their age, development and curriculum. I feel this will unite the school community further, and enable us to look in even closer detail at progression across and throughout the school. This half term I have also been

starting work on developing growth mindset with our Reception and Year 1 children through my Monday assemblies. We have been reading stories about characters who have had to persevere and never give up to achieve their goals. The stories have helped to exemplify the phrase, 'If at first you don't succeed, try and try again.' I am delighted that the children are really starting to understand this concept and that their class teachers are starting to notice their developing resilience when learning is challenging, and their determination to improve areas that they struggle with. In our staff meeting this week we started to talk about how we could develop this work further with First Steps and Rising Reception. Very exciting times!
Mrs V Conlan

Don't Forget!

- It's half term! Have a lovely week. We will see you back on Monday 5th June at the usual time.
- If you would like us to administer sunscreen during the day you need to complete an administration of medication form stating the time to put on the cream. Please also ensure you send in the named sunscreen.

Parent Questionnaire

Please remember to complete your parent questionnaire if you have not already done so. Your feedback is really important to us. A huge thank you to those parents who have already completed the questionnaire. The responses so far are overwhelmingly supportive. After half term I will start to share feedback, trends and patterns as well as the short, medium and longer term actions we will be taking to make improvements in the identified areas.

Developing our knowledge and understanding of the World

The reception children took a trip down memory lane with their grandparents last Friday. The children learnt that some of our grandparents used quills and ink to write with. They sat at single desks which had a lid that could lift up to store their books and pens. The children learnt that past and present games are still the same and some games such as conkers, though enjoyable to all children throughout history, are classed as risky today!!! Thank you so much to our

grandparents for sharing your school days with us.





Downsend School

Useful Contacts:

Pre-Prep Epsom 01372 385438
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Celebration Board

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
Edie

RR SB/RP
Anna P

RRCC
Florence and Anna R

Reception
Sofia

Y1 PM
Dollie

Y1 CB/AB
Alexandra

Well Done!

First Hand learning

Rising Reception enjoyed a trip to Alexandra Park to hunt for bugs on Tuesday followed by a minibeast themed snack and lots of exciting activities and animals to explore in our own woodland garden. I was lucky enough to join the children when they were back in school and had a wonderful time. I was very clearly told by one of our children that it was their best day ever!



We are delighted that Ready Steady Go Kids will be joining us in First Steps on a Tuesday afternoon from September to provide additional physical development opportunities. This means that all our year groups will receive specialist sports teaching.

Events Week Commencing Monday 5th June

Lunch Menu Week 1

Mon	3.00	BACK TO SCHOOL Reception and Year 1 assembly
Tues	All day All day 3.30—4.30	Rising Reception trip to Ladyland Farm Mrs Conlan not in school Ready Steady Go Kids
Wed	All day 3.30—4.30 3.30—4.30	Reception trip to the British Museum Forest club Arts and crafts club
Thurs	9.00	Celebration assembly
Fri	3.30—4.30	Engineering club

Inspiring young minds