

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Epsom



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom
6 Norman Avenue
Epsom KT17 3AB

Friday 8th September
2017

epsompre-prep@downsend.co.uk
www.downsend.co.uk
Tel: 01372 385438

Message from the Head Teacher

It is fantastic to be back in school after the long Summer break. We have loved seeing the children coming back into school ready for their new year group. They have all grown so much and have adjusted to their new year group as if they have always been there!

It has also been a pleasure to welcome 18 new children and their families into school. We hope you feel the first week has been a success. If you have any questions about the school, please do not hesitate to ask us.

There is so much planned for the year ahead. Our new curriculum launches this term with a whole school theme of 'All About Me' for the first half term. In the second half of the Autumn term our theme is 'The World'. In the Spring term our themes are: 'Tell me a Story' and 'All About People'. In the Summer term our themes are: 'Living Things' and 'Journeys'.

We have our parents curriculum meetings over the next 2 weeks. At these meetings you will find out more about the curriculum your child will follow over the year, specific to your year group and have the opportunity to speak to the teachers about the learning that will be taking place. I will be delivering a 'catch up' curriculum meeting for all year groups on Wednesday 20th September at 7pm for any parents unable to attend meetings during the day.

I am very excited about the year ahead and everything we will be able to achieve for your children. As always, we are here to help and support and really value any feedback you have for us to help us improve what we do. A quote I always remember and work to is: 'Feedback is the breakfast of Champions' by Ken Blanchard.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Vanessa Conlan

Don't Forget!

- Saturday sports for reception and Year 1 children from 9.00 to 10.00am every Saturday at main site starting this Saturday
- There will be a curriculum 'catch up' meeting on Wednesday 20th September at 7pm for any parents unable to attend the curriculum meetings during the day
- Children need a named water bottle in school every day please. The bottle must only contain water.
- Rising Reception need to come into school in their PE kit on a Monday.
- Reception has PE on a Wednesday and Thursday—they come to school in their uniform and must have their PE kit in school
- Year 1 has PE on a Thursday. They also come into school in their uniform and must have their kit in school.



Tell Me a Story!

We have a new storytelling chair in the playground. This will support children's imaginative play and also our high focus on language development and storytelling as a precursor to writing. It will be used by the children at playtimes and also within our curriculum.

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What is new this year at Pre-Prep Epsom?

Sharing information with parents

Following parent feedback through the parent survey last year, and my own observations, we are introducing a new cycle for reporting to parents. This year you can expect to receive:

Autumn term

Half term: a target review

November—a parents evening to discuss how your child has settled and started to progress in their learning

End of term: a target review and summative overview of your child's achievements detailing achievement against National Averages for their age and stage of development

Spring term

Half term: a target review

March—a mid-year parents meeting to discuss progress and learning

End of term: a target review and summative overview of your child's achievements detailing achievement against National Averages for their age and stage of development

Summer term

Half term: a target review

End of term: an annual report giving detailed information regarding all areas of learning and an end of year summative overview detailing achievement against National Averages for their age and stage of development

Individual pupil targets

All children were given individual targets on their reports at the end of the Summer term. These are their individual targets for this half term. All new children are currently being assessed to provide us with 'baseline' information in which to set individual targets from.

Teachers are starting to talk to children about their targets (initially it may only be 1 of them for our youngest children) to ensure they know them and understand what they need to do to work towards achieving them. One of our School Improvement targets this year is for our children to take more ownership of their learning, developing the important skills of resilience, understanding that they need to work hard to achieve something/perseverance and also to develop further independence in their learning to learn skills.

Targets will be discussed regularly with children and children will get the opportunity to explain to their teachers how they are working towards achieving them. As children achieve their targets, they will receive the recognition for achieving them and their achievement will be shared with you also. Targets will be formally reviewed every half term with new targets being set but if a child achieves a set target very quickly, a new one will be set during the half term.



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What is new this year at Pre-Prep Epsom?

New behaviour expectations

Behaviour at Pre-Prep Epsom is very good, but to support all our children and staff and to have a set of expectations that children at all ages can understand, we have reviewed our expectations and are moving forward with these 6 'Golden Rules'.

- We are gentle
- We are kind and helpful
- We listen
- We are honest
- We work hard
- We look after property

Class teachers will be talking to their children about these expectations throughout the half term and they will be displayed in the classrooms. Reception and Year 1 assemblies this half term will also have a focus on the 'Golden Rules'.

New class names

We are a woodland school full of woodland creatures!

First Steps are remaining as First Steps currently to support our new children

RRCC—Squirrels

RRSBRP—Hedgehogs

Reception—Badgers

Year 1—Owls



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Our Curriculum

So how is our new curriculum organised?

Our 6 half termly themes are: All About Me, The World, Tell me a Story, All About People, Living Things and Journeys.

Every year groups works on an area related to the theme and focused on the age and stage of development for their children, i.e. First Steps are focusing on naming body parts, talking about our own family and comparing ourselves to others. Rising Reception are looking at healthy living. Reception are looking at healthy living and our 5 senses. Year 1 are looking at how we are like other animals and also about where we live including a local study of Epsom.

Every half term there will be activities that connect the school together with the theme. This half term, all children in the school are creating a self portrait to add to our Downsend Portrait Gallery and at the end of the half term we will have a whole school teddy bears picnic to celebrate how special we are.

Half termly, a more detailed medium term plan will come home giving you specific information about your child's learning and weekly you will receive information directly from teachers regarding important information to know for that week.

This half term, all classes are also looking at the NSPCC Let's Talk PANTS materials which teaches children how to keep themselves safe from harm. There will be a specific safety focus we teach children each half term.



Downsend School

Useful Contacts:

Pre-Prep Epsom 01372 385438
 Ext 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 01372 374842
 Marketing 01372 385402
 Downsend PP+ 07899 011275
 Downsend+ 01372 385403

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
Whole Class

Squirrels (RRCC)
Whole Class

Hedgehogs (RRSBRP)
Whole Class

Badgers (Reception)
Whole Class

Owls (Year 1)
Whole Class

Everyone has settled back into school beautifully. We are all very proud of our children.

Well Done!

Downsend Pre-Prep Epsom September 2017

We had hoped to get a class photo with all the children in each class this week but have struggled to get a photo with everyone in some of our classes. We are still working on this and hope to have a picture of all our classes (with the exception of First Steps as we don't have everyone in on the same day so their photo will be slightly different) for next weeks newsletter, with a copy of the photo for every parent also. For this week, here are photos from our celebration assembly today.



Please ensure we have up to date photo permissions for your child.

We like to share photos in the newsletter (which is uploaded onto the school website) and on the school Twitter and Facebook account so it is vital that we know any child who cannot be included in photos.

Events Week Commencing Monday 11th September

Lunch Menu week 2

Mon		
Tues		
Wed	am	Mr Thorpe (Headteacher at the main site) in school
Thurs	11.15am	Rising Reception parents curriculum meeting
Fri	ALL DAY	Ms Clayton and Miss Bowles out of school all day at a safeguarding course—Mrs Burbidge will be teaching in Ms Clayton's class
	2.45pm	Reception and Year 1 parents curriculum meeting

Inspiring young minds