

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Epsom



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

Friday 17th November  
2017

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### Message from the Head Teacher

It was lovely to see everyone at our parent meetings this week and for the teachers to be able to share the great progress the children are making with you. I hope you all enjoyed leaving your messages and pictures for the children—I know they loved seeing them! We received some really positive feedback about our new target reviews that you received before half term which is great. If you have any further feedback about them, or ways we can improve them further, I would love to hear them.

You will be/will have received a letter from Mr Thorpe detailing a new parent research project taking place across the 4 Downsend sites soon. At such a pivotal point in the schools

development, an external research company, Mungo Dunnett Associates (MDA) has been commissioned, to contact some of you, to listen to your views on a range of school issues and gain your comment and opinion in complete anonymity. Parent feedback is really important to us and helps us to shape the direction of the schools moving forward. It is important that we are continuing to focus our efforts in all the right areas of Downsend and your opinion is an integral and important part of this. I believe they hope to survey the opinions of approx. 20 families from Pre-Prep Epsom, roughly a third of our families. Thank you in advance for your support in this project if you are contacted.

**Mrs Vanessa Conlan**

### Don't Forget!

- The school day starts at 8.55 and all children should be in school **by** this time

### DEPA news

#### DEPA Drinks evening:

We hope you all received the email on Thursday outlining the plans for the upcoming DEPA drinks evening. Don't forget to submit your responses today to confirm attendance – please drop us a line at [epsomdepa@gmail.com](mailto:epsomdepa@gmail.com). Keep an eye out over the coming days for the full auction brochure and the raffle tickets!

#### Halloween Fundraising Efforts:

Thanks to all parents who contributed to the Halloween Mufti Day fundraiser. Our combined efforts raised £121.50 for DEPA which we will put to good use. If you haven't had time to submit your £2, please pass it to your class rep asap. We hope your children enjoyed their fancy dress day and you loved their DEPA lanterns & bags as much as we did!

#### First Steps big art session

Mrs Carruthers and I have been further researching early writing and the skills/strength that need to be developed in the Early Years to support writing stamina in the future. Building up children's shoulder, arm and wrist strength through physical play and regular 'tummy time' activities (beyond baby tummy time) support the children's future writing brilliantly. We have added a weekly 'big art' session to the First Steps provision as a result of our research. The children love it!



The children drew and talked about some of the things they had seen in their 'Wonderful World' walk.



# Downsend School

### Useful Contacts:

Pre-Prep Epsom 01372 385438  
 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

Noemie  
 Anisha  
 Sophia A

#### Hedgehogs

Avirat

#### Squirrels

Bethany

#### Badgers

Amy

#### Owls

Alaina

## Well Done!

### Important dates for Christmas



Thursday 7th December—FS Christmas concert @ 9.15

Monday 11th December pm—Cinderella pantomime and tea party (DEPA event)

Wednesday 13th December pm—RR, R and Y1 dress rehearsal at St George's church, Ashtead

Thursday 14th December—RR, R and Y1 Christmas performance at St George's Church, Ashtead @ 10.15am

### CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to Mrs Albert who has secured the post of Lower School Administrator at main site. However, this means that she will be leaving us :(



An advert is going out today to recruit to our school secretary post and I will be interviewing before Christmas. The plan is for Mrs Albert to take up her new post in January. However, the start date will not be confirmed until a replacement has been secured and all necessary checks have been completed. We will ensure a strong handover takes place to make the transition for the school and parents as smooth as possible. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Albert great success in her new role.

### Next week in school

I am out at the Cognita Headteachers Global conference from Sunday to Thursday next week so will not be in school. In my absence, Mrs Carruthers will lead the school. Mrs Burbidge will be in school every day to support also allowing Mrs Carruthers to attend to any additional duties required across the week and ensuring very minimal, hopefully no impact, on the First Steps children.

### Events Week Commencing Monday 20th November

#### Lunch Menu week 3

<b>Mon</b>	3.30—4.30	Spanish club for Reception and Year 1 Poptastic dance for Rising Reception and Reception
	3.30—4.30	
<b>Tues</b>	3.30—4.30	Ready Steady Go Kids for Rising Reception
<b>Wed</b>	3.30—4.30	Forest club for Reception and Year 1
<b>Thurs</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	3.30—4.30	Cookery club for Reception and Year 1 Science club for Reception and Year 1
	3.30—4.30	

## Inspiring young minds