

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Ashtead



**'OUTSTANDING'**

**SIS Inspection 2014-2015**

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 8 December 2017

Tel: 01372 385439

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### Message from the Head Teacher

Christmas has well and truly arrived at Ashtead. Everyone is smiling and dreaming of what's to come having looked at the wonderful displays in the hall and on the stairs, along with all the decorated trees around school.

The Christmas wishes for the wishing branch in the porch have been flooding in this week. They make wonderful reading and I've been so impressed with the thought and care that has gone into these special messages. If you have a spare moment when you are in school, please stop and take time to read a few.

This year the staff and I felt that we would like to choose a charity

that helped to support members of our local community. I raised this topic at the DAPA AGM in September and the charity 'Stripey Stork' was suggested and highly recommended. The charity supports children and parents experiencing hardship, particularly local families with young children. All our charity fundraising this year will be for 'Stripey Stork'.

I look forward to seeing you and your extended families at St George's Church next week for our Christmas Nativity. The children can't wait to show you. It promises to be a real treat!

**Tessa Roberts**

### Elf Extravaganza!

Yesterday, our school hall was full to the brim with excitement and anticipation as our First Steps children performed for their parents for the very first time. All the children and teachers entered into the spirit of the occasion and became elves for the 'Extravaganza'. The children sang and acted out their Christmas songs to a story specially created for the event. The cheeky elves all took on their own characters as they participated in the show. Great fun was had by all which could be seen by the delight on the faces of the adults around the room. What a wonderful start to Christmas!



**Julie James**



### Visit from a Past Pupil



This week the children met a past pupil of the school. When Dr Hoad attended this site, the school was called Ryebrook and did not belong to the Downsend group. He thoroughly enjoyed his time here and earlier this year, he generously donated a sum of money which we put towards our beautiful new outdoor chimes. During our Tuesday assembly, Dr Hoad shared memories of his school days. He showed us some of his old stories and school reports. The children were interested in all he had to say and asked some great questions.

### Don't Forget

**Christmas Jumper Day**

**Fri 15 Dec** - Christmas Jumper Day

**Fri 15 Dec** - End of Term 14.00. No Little Lates or Extended Day



## Downsend School

Useful Contacts:

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### Golden Board

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

**We congratulated the following children today:**

**First Steps**  
 All of First Steps for being brilliant elves at the 'Elf Extravaganza'.

**Rising Reception AP**  
 Blake Wright  
 Hensen de Souza Bridges

**Rising Reception SR**  
 Matilda Wilson

**Reception CH**  
 Jack Clement

**Reception MP**  
 Isla Smith

**Year One**  
 Oscar Bell  
 Theodor Sachs

**Well Done!**

## DAPA raises £1,000!

So, the first term is nearly a wrap and I'm delighted to say that we've raised over £1,000. Thank you to the committee for all their hard work and to everyone who supported our events and bought an apron (or two)! It's massively appreciated.

As Mrs Roberts mentioned in last week's newsletter, we're very excited to be putting the money we've raised towards sponsoring our three children - Selisjana, Suraj and Rediet, and their communities.

This term, DAPA has helped out Father Christmas with his gift for the children. We've also transformed the playground into a winter wonderland as a surprise for the last week of term and we're looking forward to introducing our brand new reindeer!

Happy holidays and thanks once again for all your support.

**Lynsay Haque**



### Events Week Commencing Monday 11 December

#### Lunch Menu Week 1

<b>Mon</b>		Last swimming lessons
<b>Tues</b>	15.30-16.30	Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal Last Genie Lab Club
<b>Wed</b>	10.30	Christmas Concert for Y1,R,RR at St George's Church
<b>Thurs</b>		School Christmas Lunch
<b>Fri</b>	14.00	Christmas Entertainer End of Term - No little Lates or Extended Day

### Christmas Tree Festival

If you haven't been down to St George's Church for the Christmas Tree Festival you are missing a sparkling spectacle. Earlier in the week the Reception and Year One children visited the Festival and were mesmerised by all the wonderful decorations. We all found it difficult to choose which tree to vote for, as part of the competition but I think the Ashtead Pre-Prep tree was the most popular with all of us!

**Christeen Hill**



## Inspiring young minds