

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Epsom



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom
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Friday 19th January 2018

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Message from Mrs Conlan

A short one from me today as there are far too many other things to share with you this week! You will know from the board by the front door that we had a Cognita safeguarding review this week. This is an annual event and forms part of Cognita's proprietorial overview of the school holding me to account for the performance of the school. We had 2 auditors in school all day looking at all aspects of how we keep our children safe from Safer Recruitment, staff training, provision for accidents/first aid and children with medical conditions, educational visits, e-safety, admissions, sharing information, safety education within the curriculum and our Child Protection files. We have a few small areas to continue to develop but overall the auditors could see there was a strong culture of keeping children safe that started from school leadership and permeated throughout the whole staff team and that the school was focused on continual reflection and improvement in this area as needed from our own evaluations and also in line with new government drivers and initiatives.

Mrs Vanessa Conlan

Bringing learning to life

Today Year 1 had a visit from Chertsey Museum where they were shown a variety of Victorian and replica toys as part of their current topic. The children enjoyed a carousel of activities which included drawing toys, making a thaumatrope, sorting toys into various categories and being able to play with some replica Victorian toys. The children learnt a lot about the materials used to make toys in the past and were fascinated by the different toys used by both rich and poor children. A fabulous time was had by all!

Mrs Burbidge



DEPA news

Calendar of events

It's been a busy planning week for DEPA, with the Committee meeting to both review activities from last year and revisit our events calendar for the remainder of the school year. The revised calendar is attached to this newsletter email and we will pop a copy in the book bags too. As you can see, we have a busy few months ahead, so if you are interested in volunteering in advance or at any of the events, please get in touch at epsomdepa@gmail.com.

2018 Coffee morning series kicks off

We held our first Coffee Morning of the year on Tuesday and it was brilliant to see some new faces joining for a coffee and a natter. We were able to take the opportunity to hear Mrs Conlan reflect about her first year at Downsend, as well as run through our DEPA plans for the remainder of the school year.

The coffee mornings are a great way to meet new people and contribute to the school community spirit, and we would love to see more people attend if they can. However, we also recognise that many people are unable to participate in activities during the day due to work and home commitments, therefore we are introducing our first evening event.... On Wed 07 Feb @ 7.30pm, DEPA are going to host an informal parents wine night at school – the aim is to enable any parents who aren't able to make the coffee mornings to come and catch up, and on this occasion we were hoping to brainstorm ideas for the upcoming Summer Fair..... if you would like to attend do let us know at epsomdepa@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE: Downsend Parents Association Summer ball – Friday 15 June @ Painshill Park

The Downsend Parents Association (DPA) team have asked us to extend an invite to all Epsom Pre Prep parents for this years' Summer Ball which will be held on Friday 15 June at Painshill Park. More details will follow as their planning advances but in the meantime, it would be brilliant if we could drum up support from our school and attend this event. It's a great excuse to get glammed up and have a little fun! It would be great if we could get an early idea of interest – so could you drop the DEPA team a note to let us know if you are interested in attending at epsomdepa@gmail.com



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
- Ralph
- William

Hedgehogs

- Harris

Squirrels

- Bethany
- William K (from last week)

Badgers

- Zaria

Owls

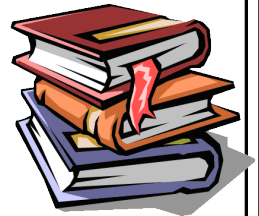
- Alaina

Well Done!

Inspiring young minds

Rianna's Fund

Next Friday is our book fair to raise money for Rianna's Fund. Thank you for all the book donations so far—we will continue collecting until the end of the day on Thursday. On Friday your child is invited to bring £1 to school. They will be able to take their £1 to the fair and independently choose what books to buy.



Bringing learning to life

On Wednesday this week, RR went to visit the Polka Theatre in Wimbledon, to see 'My Brother, My Sister and Me'.

This delightful little show in the Adventure Theatre was based around sibling relationships and when the new baby arrives a younger sister has to share her older brother's bedroom.

The children really enjoyed the humour of the piece, with the brother pulling funny faces like his favourite toy Gecko and his sister jumping up and down on her bed!



It was a great experience to visit the theatre, from the ride on a lovely new coach (are we there yet, are we there yet?!!) to the magical staging and lighting. Our children behaved impeccably, with a Head Master from another visiting school even coming over to us to compliment us on such young children behaving so beautifully. We were very proud. What a super experience for us all.

Mrs Bullock

Do you have any spare clothes?

First Steps and Rising Reception are short of spare underwear, particularly tights and socks as well as both boys and girls pants. If your child comes home in spares, please return them to us. If you have any at home that your child has now grown out of, we would be a great home for them! Thank you.

Events Week Commencing Monday 22nd January

Lunch Menu week 1

Mon	3.30—4.30	Spanish club
	3.30—4.00 and 4.00—4.30	Poptastic dance
Tues	am	Year 1 creative arts morning at main site
	pm	Cognita pre-prep heads meeting here
	3.30—4.30	Ready Steady Go Kids
Wed	3.30—4.30	Forest club
Thurs	3.30—4.30	Science club
Fri	am	Rianna's Fund book fair
	3.30—4.30	Cookery club