

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Epsom



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

Friday 5th January 2018

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

Message from the Head Teacher

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. It has been lovely to see everyone back this week and for the school to be filled with noise and smiling faces. It's been very quiet over the break!

The children have come back fantastically. We have all been very impressed with how ready and eager for learning all the children are. We know we have amazing children anyway, but for the first 2 days back they have exceeded even our own very high expectations!

This week has seen us welcome Mrs T back to the kitchen which has been marvellous. We had missed her. While she has been away they have replaced her gas oven with an electric oven so she

has had a steep learning curve over the last 2 days! As always though, the food has been fantastic. Our new menu item of chicken and mushroom pie yesterday was incredibly well received by both children and adults!

We have also welcomed Mrs Jackson back into First Steps this week as a result of our positive numbers in First Steps. Mrs Jackson worked with us in the Spring and Summer term last year so we know each other well. We are also delighted that we will not be losing Mrs Jackson again and have been able to make her a permanent member of staff.

We have an exciting term ahead—I can't wait!

Mrs Vanessa Conlan

Don't Forget!

- Make sure any new uniform is named please. If possible, could coats be named in the neck so that it is quicker to locate their owner!
- We promote independence—all of our children, even those in First Steps, are able to put their coats on their pegs and their bags where they are needed. Please support us in promoting independence also by expecting your child to do this themselves at the start of the day.

DEPA news

All About People

First Steps will be learning about families and babies and will then choose their own learning based on people that interest them—what will they choose?

Rising Reception will be learning about the different jobs that people do. They will be looking at a range of different jobs and why they are needed.

Our whole school theme this half term is 'All About People'.



Reception will be learning about people who help us at home and at school and also about people who help us to stay safe and healthy.

Year 1 will be learning about the toys that children played with in the past and how they compare to the toys children play with now. They will also learn about Winter and the activities people do during this season.

Don't forget to add this date to your diary.... the first DEPA coffee morning will be held on Tuesday 16 Jan in the school hall at 9am. We would love to see as many of you there as possible.



Future coffee morning dates
Tuesday 27 February
Tuesday 13 March



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

School secretary news

Despite our best efforts last term, we were unable to secure a new secretary. Our advert has been put out again with interviews planned for 2nd February—we hope to have a new secretary in place now for after half term. In the interim we have a temporary secretary, Mrs Sue Hodge, starting with us. Mrs Hodge will work from Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Albert will continue to work with us on a Thursday and Friday. This arrangement will start from Monday 15th January 2018.

To support the temporary arrangements in place, and the smooth transition to a new permanent secretary in the future, all email communication to the office must go to epsompre-prep@downsend.co.uk rather than Mrs Albert's direct email address please.

Extended day

Extended day is becoming more popular which is great—we want it to be used. However, as numbers are becoming higher, it is vital we know each day how many children we will have so that we can ensure there is enough tea and also enough staff for the number of children. Please ensure you let us know if your child will be staying. If your child stays every week on the same day, we already know! For families who change their days week each week or who use us more on an ad hoc basis, please ensure you have let us know by lunchtime at the latest of the day they are attending, but ideally by the start of the week they will be attending. Thank you for your support in this matter.

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:

Every child in the school has been fantastic over the last 2 days.

We are all very, very proud of them.

Well done everyone!

Events Week Commencing Monday 8th January

Lunch Menu week 2

Mon	3.30—4.30	Spanish club starts
	3.30—4.30	Poptastic dance starts (2 sessions)
Tues	3.30—4.30	Ready Steady Go Kids starts
Wed	10.00am	Mrs Conlan at a school strategic planning meeting with Cognita
	2.00pm	Mrs Conlan meeting Cognita safeguarding advisor to review safeguarding practice in the school
	3.30—4.30	Forest club starts
Thurs	All day	Mrs Conlan out of school—Independent Schools Association HT conference. Mrs Carruthers is in charge.
	3.30—4.30	Science club starts
Fri	All day	Mrs Conlan out of school—Independent Schools Association HT conference. Mrs Carruthers is in charge.
	3.30—4.30	Cookery club starts

Well Done!

Inspiring young minds