

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Ashtead



**'OUTSTANDING'**

**SIS Inspection 2014-2015**

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 5 January 2018

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### Message from the Head Teacher

Happy New Year and welcome back to the start of 2018. If you have had a chance to look at the calendar, you will see that it is packed with some amazing events and activities and we can't wait to get started.

I should like to offer a particularly warm welcome to the new children and their families that have started in First Steps this term. All the children arrived yesterday and settled quickly, joining in with all the fun and games in the classroom. Fantastic!

I'd like to draw your attention to the second page of today's newsletter as it contains some important information which is relevant to everyone. Please make sure you take a look.

So many children arrived at school yesterday with beaming smiles, telling me that they couldn't wait to get back to school. I think this term is going to be a corker! **Tessa Roberts**



### It's great to be back!



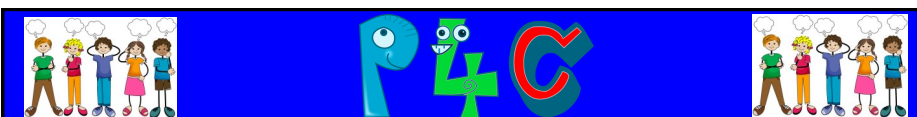
### Don't Forget

**Tues 16 Jan** - Tots in Tune begins

**Wed 17 Jan** - Nurse Jennings visits Reception

**Fri 19 Jan** - Year One trip to the National Gallery

**Mon 22 - Fri 26 Jan** - 'Around the World' Week



P4C, which is short for Philosophy for Children, is a new addition to our Year One curriculum this year. During the weekly sessions, the children are asked one question that is the focus of a philosophical enquiry or dialogue. Yesterday, Mrs Catlow posed the question 'What makes a good friend?' and through the discussion that this provoked, further questions were asked, such as 'Can you have a bad friend?' and 'Will you always have the friends that you have now?' The dialogue that takes place allows the children to see that their ideas have value whilst others have different ideas that have value too. They realise that they don't always have to be right. It challenges their critical thinking skills and builds confidence to ask questions and learn through discussion. We have already seen the impact that these lessons are having on the way our Year One children have started to reason their thoughts and articulate their opinions. This is having a wonderfully positive effect on the way they are learning to resolve social interactions and tackle the challenges they face academically.

The children say "We love P4C!"





## Downsend School

### Useful Contacts:

Pre-Prep Ashtead	01372 385439
Pre-Prep Epsom	01372 385438
Pre-Prep L/head	01372 385437
Prep School Office	01372 372197
Admissions	01372 372311
School Nurse	01372 385409
Finance Department	01372 374842
Marketing	01372 385402
Downsend PP+	07899 011275
Mobile	07899 011275
Downsend +	01372 385403
Mobile	07909 861280

### Saturday Sports Club

Happy New year to you all! We hope you and your family have enjoyed the festive period and your little ones are excited to be back at school. Just a reminder that Saturday Sports Club recommences this Saturday. We look forward to seeing you then.

**Mr Albert & Mrs Hawes**

### Golden Board

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

We are really looking forward to seeing whose wonderful contributions will be on our board this term.

Golden Board celebrations will begin next week.

### Well Done!

## Phishing Attacks

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents to be extremely vigilant when paying monies to the school. This is in light of a recent spate of 'phishing' attacks targeting independent school parents in connection with the payment of fees, as reported by the Independent Schools Council and the media [here](#).

Please beware of phishing emails in relation to fees and check that the bank details you are using for your payments are correct. We have not changed our bank account details, have no plans to do so and would only ever communicate such a change to you formally – not in an email at the point of invoicing for payment.

Fraudulent emails can appear official. If at any time you receive anything you feel is suspicious, please email or telephone the school directly on the usual telephone number/address, not one contained within the email. Paying fees by Direct Debit will also significantly reduce the risk of fraud.

Meanwhile, we are continuing to ensure our own cyber security given these cases in other schools. Thank you in advance for taking extra care so we can all remain vigilant towards any fraudulent activity.

**Tessa Roberts**

### Events Week Commencing Monday 8 January

#### Lunch Menu Week 2

<b>Mon</b>	15.30-16.30	Swimming lessons begin Storymakers Club begins
<b>Tues</b>	15.30-16.30	Engineering Club begins
<b>Wed</b>	15.30-16.30	Multi Sports Club begins
<b>Thurs</b>	9.00-10.00	Coffee Morning for parents with children in First Steps
	15.30-16.30	Genie Lab Club begins
<b>Fri</b>	14.00	Community Support Officer Pauline Daly visits Reception

### Hey Ewe!



If you would like a copy of our performance of 'Hey Ewe!', please return the form to Mary by the end of next week. Final orders will be placed with Surrey Video next Friday.

Thank you

### Adverse Weather

In the unlikely event of school closure, parents will be notified as quickly as possible via Schoolcomms. Parents should then refer to the school's website for updates and further information. Even if school is open, parents should not attempt to make the journey if you feel it unsafe to do so. Oakfield Road in particular becomes treacherous in icy conditions.

