

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 19 January 2018

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Message from the Head Teacher

I've loved walking around school this week, popping in and out of the classrooms. Everywhere I went I saw children thoroughly engaged in their learning and play. A lesson about money in Year One was great fun and full of lively, challenging questions. Reception were totally carried away with their writing and I was impressed with the way they were tackling spellings. Imagination was on the agenda this week as Rising Reception became totally immersed in their 'Fairy Tales' topic. Finally, First Steps were not worried that we have no real

snow, as they created their own snowman in the classroom! On a different note, our safeguarding practices were audited yesterday. I'm thrilled to say that the feedback was very positive and the auditors were very impressed with the strong culture that exists in the school. I'd like to thank Mrs Catlow and Miss Piper who ensure that we are all kept well informed and up-to-date with the latest processes. Next week will take us 'Around the World,' for our annual themed week of learning. Fantastic!

Tessa Roberts

Storymakers Club



Storymakers Club is new this term and the children are loving it! Under the fairy lights the children snuggle up with cushions and blankets and listen to the soft music ready for a chapter of 'The Enchanted Wood'. This week, after a delicious cup of hot chocolate and a chat about the story, the children created a picture of the Faraway Tree. They imagined what creatures they would find as they climbed up the magical tree. Do you know what they chose?



Who helps us?

Having learnt about fictional heroes last term, Reception have fully immersed themselves in learning about real life heroes with our new topic, 'People who help us'. Last week the children looked closely at the roles and responsibilities of a police officer and were very excited as they welcomed our visitor PC Daly in an unmarked flashing police car! The children had great fun dusting for prints, listening to the radio and trying on the various uniforms. The fun continued as the children began to investigate doctors and nurses this week. Nurse Jennings and Dr Faure Walker (Matilda's daddy) were very kind as they came to speak to the children about how they help others. I'm sure you will agree that our bandage skills have really come along....What fun! We can't wait to see how others in our community help us and how we can help them.



Christine Hill

Don't Forget

Fri 2 Feb - Rising Reception trip to Polka Theatre to see 'My Brother, My Sister and Me'

Fri 2 Feb - Reception visit Leatherhead Fire Station



Downsend School

Useful Contacts:

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Downsend +	01372 385403
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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
Fraser Ross

Rising Reception AP
Edward Truong

Rising Reception SR
Matilda Wilson

Reception CH
Robert Pugh

Reception MP
Brennan Langley

Year One
Alexa Charalambous
Alice Simmons

Well Done!

Makaton

During the last Inset day, five of the staff had the opportunity to go on a 'Singing with Makaton' course. Makaton is a language programme using signs and symbols to help people to communicate. It is designed to support spoken language and the signs and symbols are used with speech. We had such a brilliant day of learning and could not wait to get back to school to try our new skills! In First Steps and Rising Reception we have made a special effort to encourage children to learn the signs with us. We know how to sign 'Hello', 'Goodbye' and 'Good afternoon.' We are currently working on 'Home time' and our next challenge will be to learn 'The wheels on the bus!'

It is so lovely to see the children all sign to each other, especially when some children are only just learning how to speak. It is also very helpful with children who speak more than one language or are showing signs of language delay. Please come in and see our new Makaton board in First Steps, as our brilliant children show off their talents!



Home Time

Stephanie Michael-Stratton

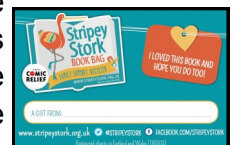
Events Week Commencing Monday 22 January Lunch Menu Week 1

Around the World Week

Mon	15.30-16.30	Winston Nzinga - Muscian and Storyteller Storymakers Club
Tues	15.30-16.30	Creative Arts morning for Year One at Downsend Engineering Club
Wed	15.30-16.30	Multi Sports Club
Thurs	15.30-16.30	Open Box Theatre visit - Around the World show and workshops Genie Lab Club
Fri	14.00	Global Explorers Day

Charity Day

On the Friday before half term we will be holding a special day for our charity 'Stripey Stork'. We would like all the children to come to school wearing something stripey. Socks, T-shirt, jumper or maybe stripey all over! Instead of collecting money, we would like each child to donate one of their books which is in good condition that they would like another child to enjoy. An insert will be sent home nearer the time for them to write their name inside.



Inspiring young minds