

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Epsom



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom
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Friday 9th February 2018

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Message from the Head Teacher

Oh my goodness I am glad it is Friday! I know I work in a very special environment but the support from everyone this week has reminded of that fact again. A huge thank you to all of you for your kind messages of support and to the wonderful staff and in the words of our inspectors our 'delightful children' for helping the inspection process to go so smoothly. Although myself, Mrs Carruthers and Ms Clayton along with James Carroll, our Cognita ADE received the inspection feedback yesterday, the outcome of the inspection remains confidential until the report is published. We have been advised this will take approximately 4 weeks. There will be no grading for this inspection, just statements

in the report as to whether we have met, or have not met the ISSR's (Independent School Standard Regulations 2014). Within the ISSR's there are regulations concerning the quality of education, progress, teaching and the curriculum but no quality judgements are made. Our judgements from the 2014 inspection will stand until 2021 when we will be subject to an Educational Quality Inspection from ISI, the same inspectorate who visited us this week.

I hope everyone has a wonderful half term and we look forward to seeing you all back the week after next for our 'Tell me a Story' themed half term.

Mrs Vanessa Conlan

DEPA news

Inaugural DEPA drinks evening went with a bang (or should we say Fizz)

Thanks to everyone who came to the DEPA drinks evening on Wednesday evening, our first ever evening alternative to the monthly Coffee Mornings. It was lovely to see so many parents and grandparents attend, including some new faces too!

As a result of Mandy & Sheila's hard work, there was plenty of fizz and nibbles to help get our creative juices flowing as we took time to brainstorm ideas for this year's Summer Fair. The event generated a long list of new ideas for activities & stalls for the Fair, as well as ensuring some well-loved favourites remain! We also agreed a theme for this year's event which will be 'All Around the World'. This theme happily ties nicely into the curriculum focus on 'Journeys' for that term, and will shape the way we plan for the Fair. More info to come, but we hope you are as excited as we are that **Operation All Around The World** has commenced.

A special thanks to Mrs Conlan and the teaching staff for their support for this event, especially given it coincided with the surprise inspection!

If you would like more info or would like to volunteer, please get in touch with your Class Rep or email us at: Ep-somDEPA@gmail.com.

Mother's Day surprise

As we mentioned last week, the DEPA team are working on a surprise for mum's or grandmas for Mother's Day. A quick reminder that you will find the artwork and order form in the children's school bag today and all you need to do is complete the order form (which includes the artwork) during half term, return it to your class rep by **Tuesday 20th February 2018** along with a **payment of £5** per item ordered (cash or cheque payable to DEPA) and the DEPA elves will do the rest. If you have any questions, do let your Class Rep or the DEPA team know epsomdepa@gmail.com.

Dates for the Diary: Don't forget....

-21 Feb – Bring your bags of clothes donations in to school at morning drop off – before 9am please

27 Feb – DEPA Coffee morning at school

Downsend Pancake Races 2018

On Tuesday the whole school took part in the annual Downsend Pancake Races. It was a bit chilly but a great time was had by all.

This year First Steps took part with the other year groups as well which was brilliant. Thank you to Mrs T for providing us with enough pancakes to race with/toss/drop!





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
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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

Sophie P
Sophie J
Ellie

Hedgehogs

Tahira

Squirrels

Keira

Badgers

Amelia

Owls

Noah

Well Done!

Keeping our children safe and supporting their mental health and well-being

It was Safer Internet Day this week. The message for this day this year was : **"Create, connect and share respect: A better internet starts with you"** We broke this message down for our children using the same idea as last year to promote a consistent message that if you are worried about something, or don't like something, you need to tell. This is a message we use with our children throughout the year in all aspects of school life. To support our children in being able to express their worries and concerns, this week we have introduced worry monsters (Reception will be introduced to theirs after half term as we feel it is important the class teacher introduces them). If the children have a worry or concern they take their worry monster to an adult who will sit down with them and talk about their worry. The children already have a fantastic understanding of how the worry monster works. Some quotes from my questions to the children were, "The worry monster eats your worries and takes them away." "The worry monster isn't a toy, he's there to help us." "If I'm sad I will take the worry monster to my teacher and she will help me."



Events Week Commencing Monday 19th February

Lunch Menu week 1

Mon	3.30—4.30	Spanish club
	3.30—4.30	Poptastic dance
Tues	9.00—10.00	MRS ALBERTS LAST DAY Reception and Y1 drama workshops
	3.30—4.30	Ready Steady Go Kids
	3.30	Mrs Conlan at a meeting re: Downsend expansion
Wed	3.30—4.30	Forest club
	6.30	Y1 parents evening at main site re: Y2
Thurs	3.30—4.30	Science club
	4.00	Miss McIntyre at a local Y1 moderation meeting at Glenesk
Fri	am	Reception and Y1 to the Polka Theatre
	2.00	Mrs Conlan to a Downsend extended leadership team strategic planning meeting
	3.30—4.30	Cookery club

Inspiring young minds