

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Ashtead



**'OUTSTANDING'**

**SIS Inspection 2014-2015**

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 2 February 2018

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### Message from the Head Teacher

After the excitement and exploration during last week's 'Around the World' adventures, it was back to business this week as everyone, now re-energised, tackled their learning with firm intention.

Many of the teachers this week, myself included, have also been challenged and inspired as we attended different Cognita run leadership events. You can read a

little more about two of these interesting conferences on the next page of this newsletter.

Next week we will be holding one of our favourite events of the year for our Year One children. They will be inviting a relative to lunch. Mrs McCluskey and Year One have it all in hand so I think our visitors will be in for a real treat.

**Tessa Roberts**

### Charity Day



During an assembly this week the story, 'The Smartest Giant in Town', led us into a discussion about the word 'charity'. The children shared their thoughts and we talked about our school charity, 'Stripey Stork'. Our Charity day next Friday, will be a mufti day with a stripey theme. If your child owns something stripey, it would be great if they could wear it to school as part of their mufti outfit. This time we are asking each child to bring a book, in good condition, to donate to the charity for our special day. In your child's book bag on Monday, you will find an insert to stick in the book. Thank you for your support for this wonderful local charity.

### Global Explorers' Day



Last Friday, the children were armed with passports as they set off on their travels during our 'Global Explorers' day. The



teachers had arranged an array of activities in different parts of the school. First Steps and Rising Reception packed their bags, jumped on a plane and made binoculars which



were just right for spotting wild animals on a safari.

Reception and Year One made a compass and flew off to countries all over the world. They visited Egypt to build pyramids and read hieroglyphics, then travelled on to Mexico to create and eat a tangy Mexican wrap. To finish their day of discovery, the children managed to get in quite a tangle as a 'Continental Twister' put them all in a spin! What a fantastic way to learn about the diversity of our planet.



### Don't Forget

**Mon 19 Feb** - Parent/Teacher Interviews booking available online

**Mon 19 Feb** - Chinese New Year Celebrations

**Thurs 22 Feb** - Year One visit Ashtead Library

**Thurs 22 Feb** - Writing Information Evening and Digital Safety Update - 19.00



## Downsend School

Useful Contacts:

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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**  
Sam Warburton

**Rising Reception AP**  
Freddie Lind

**Rising Reception SR**  
Vincent Hopson

**Reception CH**  
Sam Dolan

**Reception MP**  
William Nelson Bowling

**Year One**  
Jake Hannah  
Martha Lee

**Well Done!**

## Dough Disco

**What is Dough Disco?** Dough disco involves moulding dough in time to music and performing different actions such as rolling it into a ball, flattening it, putting each individual finger into the dough, rolling it into a sausage and squeezing it.

**Why do we do Dough Disco?** This activity helps to strengthen children's fine motor muscles to enable them to develop their pencil grip, which in turn will help to develop their writing skills. But most of all it's fun!

Rising Reception have been getting in the groove and are loving the dough disco moves. If you have a little pot of dough at home, why don't you give it a go? Before you know it, the whole family will be dough disco fans.



### Events Week Commencing Monday 5 February Lunch Menu Week 3

<b>Mon</b>	15.30-16.30	Storymakers Club
<b>Tues</b>	11.00 09.45-11.15 15.30-16.30	First Steps Teddy Bears Picnic Tots in Tune Engineering Club
<b>Wed</b>	15.30-16.30	Multi Sports Club
<b>Thurs</b>	10.30 12.45 15.30-16.30	Rising Reception visit Ashtead Library Year One invites a relative to lunch Genie Lab Club
<b>Fri</b>		Charity Day

### Cognita Conferences

This week I have been very fortunate to be able to attend two inspirational Cognita conferences. On Tuesday, Melanie Piper and I were with colleagues from across Europe to share best Safeguarding practice. We are continually looking to improve our knowledge and understanding of how to keep our children safe and we both felt it was a highly valuable day. There was a particular emphasis on helping children to build their resilience and self esteem to avoid any mental health issues in the future.

On Wednesday, Christeen Hill joined me at the Cognita's Senior Leadership conference which was held at the Emirates Stadium. The focus for the morning was on the importance and ways of achieving personalised learning. This was followed by educational workshops addressing issues such as giving children a global perspective, improving communication and using an Ecopod to develop problem solving skills. The whole day was most thought provoking and we have already shared our intention to "be the best at getting better" with the children, - a mindset that we would like them all to adopt.

**Janet Catlow**

**Inspiring young minds**