

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Ashtead



**'OUTSTANDING'**

**SIS Inspection 2014-2015**

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 9 February 2018

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### Message from the Head Teacher

Half term is here already and we can't believe it! We've had so much fun that the time has flown by. You will see in this newsletter a wide range of extra-curricular activities that have involved each year group. Giving the children a chance to extend and broaden their learning offers a wealth of understanding which they can then apply to their learning in school. I would like to thank all the class teachers for organising these events and creating these wonderful opportunities.

I thought today that I might have double vision! Numerous stripey children came through the door this morning making our 'Stripey' charity day a great success. Thank you for all the wonderful story books you have donated and which will be enjoyed by local families. The 'Stripey Stork' mascot was very excited to join us today and our Charity Friends did a great job looking after him. I hope you all have an enjoyable half term break and look forward to seeing you again on the 19th.

**Tessa Roberts**

### Storytime



Rising Reception have had a wonderful time over the last two weeks, letting their imaginations run wild as they were carried away in the world of literature. Last Friday they travelled to Wimbledon for their first school outing to see 'My Brother, My Sister and Me'. They loved it and came back to school, eager to share many happy anecdotes of their adventure. Then yesterday, they visited Ashtead Library where they were treated to some expert storytelling from our local librarians.



### Don't Forget

**Mon 26 Feb - Fri 2 March** - Open House Week at Ashtead

**Thurs 1 March** - World Book Day - Xanthe, performance storyteller visits school

**Fri 2 March** - Open Morning at Downsend School

### Mmmmm....Delicious!

Year One were perfect hosts today as their relatives joined them for lunch. On the menu were two of Mrs McCluskey's specialities - lamb tagine with couscous and green beans, followed by bread and butter pudding. The children made sure that they had served their guests before getting their own lunch and then they took orders for dessert. I know that many parents and grandparents were amazed at how much the children enjoyed their lunch, with many going up for seconds (and even thirds!). This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to demonstrate their excellent table manners and develop their social skills. Judging by the buzz of conversation and smiling faces, the visitors also thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we



hope that they will put their little clay pots, which the children created, to good use. Special thanks must go to Mrs McCluskey for giving us such a range of tasty lunches everyday.

**Janet Catlow**





## 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**  
Federica Plewa Baici

**Rising Reception**  
All of Rising Reception for excellent listening during their visit to Ashtead Library.

**Reception**  
All of Reception for their enthusiastic participation and thoughtful questions during their visit to Leatherhead Fire Station.

**Year One**  
Toby Harriman  
Max Ayling

**Well Done!**

## Beary Good!

"If you go down to First Steps this week, you'd better go in disguise. If you go down to First Steps this week, you'll be in for a big surprise!"

There was a very large gathering of children and bears taking part in the Teddy Bears' Picnic Celebrations as a finale to the Bears topic. Every child was invited to play teddy bear games, sing songs and enjoy the Teddy Bears' picnic. In total there were 16 children and 23 bears who munched their way through honey sandwiches, Pom Bear crisps, Barney Bear cakes and chocolate bear paw cookies. Delicious!!

**Julie James**



## Events Week Commencing Monday 19 February Lunch Menu Week 1

<b>Mon</b>	12.00	Chinese New Year Celebrations
	15.30-16.30	Parent/Teacher Interviews- bookings available online Storymakers Club
<b>Tues</b>	09.45-11.15	Tots in Tune
	15.30-16.30	Engineering Club
<b>Wed</b>	15.30-16.30	Multi Sports Club
<b>Thurs</b>	10.30	Year One visit Ashtead Library
	15.30-16.30	Genie Lab Club
	19.00	Writing Information Evening & Digital Safety Update
<b>Fri</b>		

## Action Stations!

Last Friday, Reception transformed into a group of enthusiastic fire fighters and popped down to Leatherhead Fire Station to lend a helping hand. Andy and Gary from 'Green Watch' showed us the inside of a fire engine, all the different equipment they use and the clothes they wear. "The helmet is so heavy" said Harriet. The children were very excited to see a real fire engine in action, using its siren and demonstrating how it had the tallest ladder in England. "It goes up and up forever" said Rupert. Each child had a turn using the fire hose and tried to get the water to reach the top of the tower. All the teachers were extremely proud of Reception and the sensible, inquisitive questions they asked.



**Melanie Piper**

**Inspiring young minds**