

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Epsom



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom  
6 Norman Avenue  
Epsom KT17 3AB

Friday 16th March 2018

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### Message from the Head Teacher

Thank you to all the parents who have asked questions and shown an interest in our move towards becoming a storytelling school. I will continue to give more information and answer your questions over the rest of this year. A question—how will a storytelling school meet the needs of both boys and girls? The storytelling skills and philosophy will permeate through all curriculum areas. It is essentially about strong communication skills, knowledge and confidence which meets the needs of all children. There will be a focus on the creative, imaginative side of storytelling as a means to support creative writing as the children are ready for this, but there will also be a very high focus on storytelling in terms of science, geography,

history and technology so all children's talents and interests will be developed; telling stories about why things are the way they are, how and why things change, how things work, how things are different now compared to how they used to be, giving a 'story' to a piece of technology to make it perform the way you want it to. Our move towards becoming a storytelling school is about significantly more than telling stories in the traditional use of the word.

A quick thank you also to all the parents who provided reading photos during Book Week. The display will be going up over the next 2 weeks—there is still time to send them in if you haven't managed it yet. **Mrs Vanessa Conlan**

### DEPA news

#### The Easter Bunny is getting excited

We heard from the Easter Bunny recently, who is getting very excited about meeting our children and seeing their beautiful Easter Bonnets!

Don't forget that children should bring their Easter Bonnets and completed sponsorship forms into school on Monday 26 March to join in the Easter fun.

Thanks to all the parents who have volunteered to support on the day, we have had a brilliant response and we are very grateful. If you would also like to get involved, it's not too late – let your Class Rep know or email us at [epsomdepa@gmail.com](mailto:epsomdepa@gmail.com).

#### Summer Event

With the Easter activity planning almost complete, DEPA are turning their attention to planning our Summer Event – watch this space for more news on that, as well as calls for volunteers etc.

### Mothers Day assemblies

We hope all our wonderful mummies had a lovely day last Sunday. Reception and Year 1 loved sharing their songs, poems and reasons why they love their mummies in this weeks assemblies.





## 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

Finance 01372 374842

Marketing 01372 385402

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Downsend+ 01372 385403

### 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**

**Hedgehogs**

**Squirrels**

**Badgers**

**Owls**

**Well Done!**

### Mathletics

Mathletics is in place for all of our Reception and Year 1 children now and some of our children are using the programme fantastically and earning Bronze certificates for the points they are scoring.

However, we would love to see Mathletics used more please! If you have any technical difficulties with the programme, or need your child's username and password re-issued, please let Mrs Tucker know.



### Timekeeping

Our formal school day for all classes starts at 8.55am. I have noticed over the last few weeks that we have been getting more and more families arriving after this time. We do want children to have a smooth start to the day so have been flexible to allow parents to come through the office until approximately 9.00 but late children are starting to impact on the start of the day for the other children in the class as they disturb the class teacher getting the day started. Doors will be closed promptly at 8.55am from Monday and any children arriving after this time will be signed into the late book and taken to their classroom by Mrs Tucker.



### Events Week Commencing Monday 19th March

#### Lunch Menu week 2

<b>Mon</b>	All day	Year 1 to Michelham Priory
	3.30—4.30	Last Spanish club
<b>Tues</b>	am	Storytelling workshops for all children
	am	Mrs Conlan out at budget setting meeting
	3.30—4.30	Last Ready Steady Go Kids
	3.30	Rising Reception cross pre-prep moderation meeting
<b>Wed</b>	am	Mrs Conlan out at safeguarding update training
	3.30—4.30	Last Forest club
<b>Thurs</b>	10.00	Mrs Conlan at Downsend Health and Safety meeting
	pm	Y1 to main site for sports afternoon
	3.30—4.30	Last Science club
<b>Fri</b>	3.30—4.30	Last Cookery club

**Inspiring young minds**