

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 20 April 2018

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Message from the Head Teacher

What a fantastic start to the summer term. The children have had such fun learning and playing outside. Long may it last!

The new children who have joined First Steps this term have made a great start this week. Mrs James has been so impressed with the way they have joined in with the activities and embraced life at school. A warm welcome to all of them and their families.

As I said Hello to all the children as they came into school on Tuesday, I couldn't help but notice how their confidence has grown throughout the year. Those

children who were hesitant to speak in the morning came in, bursting with things to say. Also, our Reception children said 'Goodbye' at the door and were away and up to their classrooms before their mums had left the porch! Building on this growing independence, we have decided that this half term's golden stars will be 'Independent Stars'. The teachers will be looking out for children who grasp a challenge and work at resolving it themselves. You never know you may even see this happening at home!

Tessa Roberts

Talk4Writing

We are always looking for new ways to fire the children's imaginations and to develop their writing skills even further. On Monday all the staff took part in a Talk4Writing workshop which gave us many inspirational ideas on how to encourage the children to enjoy stories and become storytellers. We are planning to hold a parents' workshop next term to explain the principles behind Talk4Writing. In the meantime, please talk to your child about the stories that they are learning at school and which they enjoy sharing and discussing during bedtime stories at home.

Janet Catlow

In this photo you can see our Mighty Writer resource showing Talk4 Writing techniques in action. The children are asked to choose a main character and four other pictures from the various picture sets. They are then given a few minutes to study their individual pictures to tell a story. This was the story: "My troll goes into the jungle. He trod on a diamond. He then goes into the witches house and found a crown."



Run, run as fast as you can!



This term we plan to use the Recreation ground for our Thursday afternoon Games sessions. Yesterday gave us the perfect start and the children were raring to go when Mr Thompson and Mr Harmsworth arrived. This half of term they will be working on athletic skills to make sure that we are prepared and ready for Sports Day.



Don't Forget

Tues 1 May - Reception Forest School trip to Ashtead Common

Thurs 3 May - Class and Whole School Photographs - Non-Thursday attendees in First Steps invited to attend

Mon 7 May - School Closed: Bank Holiday



Downsend School

Useful Contacts:

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We love the summer term!



Events Week Commencing Monday 23 April Lunch Menu Week 2

Mon		Living Eggs Arrive in School Swimming Lessons start Around the World Art Club begins
	15.30-16.30	
Tues		French Day - Red White and Blue Mufti Tots in Tune begins STEAM Club begins
	09.45-11.15 15.30-16.30	
Wed	15.30-16.30	Multi-Sports Club
Thurs	15.30-16.30	Musical Theatre Club
Fri		

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

Josh H, Fabio M, Lawrence A,
Rory W, Sophia M, Josh P,
Joe E

Rising Reception AP

Ayrton Friend

Rising Reception SR

Freddie Watson

Reception CH

Astrid Reilly

Reception MP

Isla Smith

Year One

Martha Lee
Alice Simmons

Saturday Morning Activities

Saturday Sports Club will recommence this Saturday 21 April at 9.00am. Once again all boys and girls from Reception to Year 2 are welcome to attend. The focus will be on cricket and athletics. One slight change is that this session will finish at 10.00am for all children this term. Also, we will not be running sessions on the following Saturdays listed below, due to half term.

Saturday 26 May

Saturday 2 June

We hope the sun continues to shine and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Saturday. **Jon Albert & Jo Hawes**

Saturday Morning Ballet will also restart this weekend on the Downsend Main Site.

9.10 - 9.50 - First Steps and Rising Reception

10.10-10.55 - Reception and Year One

All details are at jenni@jhballet.co.uk

Well Done!