

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Epsom



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

Friday 23rd November
2018

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Message from the Head Teacher

Thank you again to our Reception parents for joining us for lunch on Thursday. Mrs T's goulash was delicious. Thanks again also for your co-operation following our fire evacuation procedures when the fire alarm sounded. Luckily it was not an incident of concern and everyone had at least finished their lunch before heading out into the cold whilst we waited for the fire brigade!

Invitations for the Christmas concert for RR, R and Y1 on 14th December have been sent home in book bags. A reminder to all parents to please let Mrs Tucker know by Monday 26th November to confirm collection arrangements from the concert or if you need to book any extra sessions or lunches during our upcoming Christmas events.

This week has been World Nursery Rhyme Week. As well as being fun

for young children, nursery rhymes have huge educational value. Repetition of rhythm and rhyme develops: language and literacy skills, communication skills and cognitive skills. Nursery rhymes also enhance physical development, strengthen the parts of the brain related to planning and motor skills, help to teach curriculum content and support children to develop in confidence and self esteem. Teaching children nursery rhymes, rhymes and poems are a key focus within our curriculum delivery for all of the reasons stated above and many more! They are also lots of fun to sing at home, in the car and out and about with your children. If you're not singing nursery rhymes with your child, have a go. I'm sure your child will be able to teach you a few!

Mrs Vanessa Conlan

COGNITACALLING

Did you know that we are part of the Cognita schools group, a group that has schools in 8 countries spanning 3 continents? We have a fantastic opportunity to support our children's understanding of the World through making links with other Cognita schools both within our curriculum and through taking part in Cognita Global events.

This week we took part in Cognita calling, a project to link classrooms across the World through shared short films and/or 'mystery Skype'. This year we went with sharing pre-recorded short films of our classes singing nursery rhymes, reciting poetry and their Talk for Writing stories, but we are hoping to take part in 'mystery Skype' next year! Each class chose who to connect with, watching short films from other classes. We connected with classes in different parts of the UK, Spain and Hong Kong, including watching some films in Spanish.

Our next project is 'A Cognita Christmas'.

DEPA news

Downsend Christmas Fair 1st December 11:00-14:00

The Downsend Christmas Fair is being held at the Downsend main site (1 Leatherhead Road, KT22 8TJ) and everyone is invited, especially the Pre-Preps.

Epsom Pre-Prep is creating beautiful baubles to decorate Santa's grotto, which is always very popular. **If you haven't returned your decorated bauble yet, there's still time to finish it this weekend!**

A visit to Santa costs £3 per child with every child receiving a Christmas gift as part of their visit.

To book your visit to see Santa in his grotto please

[CLICK HERE](#)

Please note, booking is online only on a first come first served basis, bookings close at 12:00 on 29th November.

DEPA Christmas coffee morning - 5th December

The next DEPA meeting is being held on 5th December at 9:00am at Downsend Epsom Pre-Prep.



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

Arran
Samuel

Hedgehogs

Aniya

Squirrels

Anaelia

Badgers

Mariella

Owls

Zaria

Well Done!

School admissions

Due to the overwhelmingly amount of interest in places at the Downsend Pre-Preps, particularly here at Epsom, we have reviewed our admissions process. The new process can be viewed at <https://www.downsend.co.uk/admissions/admissions-process/pre-prep-admissions-process/>

This process includes new admissions into all year groups, including siblings of current pupils. If you have any queries please contact myself or Sarah Concanon, our admissions registrar.

New Curriculum Initiative

On Tuesday morning, we will be holding our first whole school 'Health and Wellbeing' storytime. This initiative is one part of our whole school approach to Personal, Social and Emotional Development which is led by Ms Clayton. Each half term we will have a whole school storytime focused on our whole school topic, so for this half term, 'Our Wonderful World'. The aim of the story each half term is to support children to understand the world around them and their place in it, therefore supporting their mental health and well-being as well as enabling them to support and learn from their younger and older friends. Christmas is such a huge part of our country at this time of year. We will be reading the Christmas story, supporting the children to understand the story of Christmas, the activities they are taking part in and what is going on in the world around them currently.

Please ensure all children have coats and warm additional clothing such as hats etc as we will continue to go outside as much as possible as the weather gets colder. Please remind your children the best place to keep their gloves is in their coat pocket—there should be a greater chance of 2 returning home that way! Finally, please also ensure everything is clearly named.

Events Week Commencing 26th November 2018

Lunch Menu week 1

Mon	3.30—4.30	Spanish Club
Tues	9.00	Whole school health and well-being storytime
	3.30—4.30	RSGK club (please remember gloves!)
	4.30	Mrs Conlan at Downsend HT meeting
Wed	3.30—4.30	Forest club
	4.15	Cross pre-prep Y1 writing moderation meeting
Thurs	All day	Mrs Conlan at Pre-Prep Leatherhead all day
	12.45	Year 1 parents lunch
	3.30—4.30	Science club
Fri	3.30—4.15	Yoganaory

Inspiring young minds