

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Epsom



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom
6 Norman Avenue
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Friday 30th November
2018

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Message from the Head Teacher

It has a week of coming and going at Pre-Prep Epsom with the Cognita IT refresh project team reaching us. So far, my estimations are that we have received approx. £20000 of new equipment in the school to support both teachers and children. New printers, children's laptops (to teach IT skills), desktop computers and teachers devices for teaching and learning/working at home have all arrived and are now in use. Coming soon are new whiteboards for all classrooms too. The next step is to ensure we are using all of our new and exciting kit to its full potential ensuring the greatest impact on outcomes for pupils. We are well supported in this area by Andy Perryer who is the digital learning advisor for Cognita. He is spending time in the classrooms with teachers next Wednesday and then delivering staff training in the New Year. Our first target with the new kit is to get it integrated into our

storytelling curriculum. Exciting times!

I spent a day at Leatherhead Pre-Prep this week and will be there again on Tuesday. The Headteacher, Mrs Brooks, is unwell currently so myself and the other 2 Downsend Heads are providing support to the school.

On the subject of Leatherhead, Miss Bowles will be transferring to Leatherhead in the New Year. She has been a huge asset to the staff team here but for both location and her own development, she feels a move is needed. We have an excellent replacement named Keeley Coles for the classrooms and extended day. Keeley is an experienced Early Years professional and will be completing her Early Years degree in the Summer. I'm sure you will join me in thanking Miss Bowles for her fantastic work with our children and wish her luck for the future.

Mrs Vanessa Conlan

DEPA news

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

We look forward to seeing those of you that can make the Downsend Christmas Fair tomorrow at the Downsend main site (1 Leatherhead Road, KT22 8TJ).

It is set to be a fun filled family day out and you will see the Epsom pre-prep baubles proudly on display in Santa's Grotto.

DEPA Fun Day – 5th December

We look forward to seeing all the children in their Christmas jumpers. There will be a £1 donation towards the charity Save The Children.

DEPA has hired Mr Bungle the party entertainer to make the day extra special for all the children and they will end the day with a visit and a DEPA Christmas present from Santa.

DEPA Coffee Morning – 5th December

We hope you can join the DEPA committee and Mrs Conlan for an informal coffee and mince pie, to celebrate Christmas at the Epsom Pre-Prep from 9:00.

999 Emergency!

This week the children were visited by Blue Watch from Epsom Fire Station. We know the children have an excellent understanding of evacuation in the event of a fire but we wanted to prepare them with some personal skills to support in the event of a fire also. The firemen talked to the children about general fire safety but also taught them the 'Stop, drop and roll' strategy should their clothing be on fire.





Downsend School

Useful Contacts:

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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

Eric
Rupert

Hedgehogs

Anisha

Squirrels

Anna
Elodie

Badgers

Nandini

Owls

Amy

Well Done!

Whole School story time

On Wednesday, the children took part in our first whole school Health and Well-Being story time which forms part of our Personal, Social, Emotional and Health curriculum. The aim of this part of our curriculum is to equip children with the knowledge and skills they will need to lead healthy lives, to have an understanding of how to safeguard themselves, to know what being kind is, to feel part of a wider community, to understand that they can make a positive contribution as well as developing as tolerant and resilient individuals. All of these skills in turn help with emotional health and wellbeing.

Through the story session our children demonstrated some of these skills; kindness (listening to and helping each other), resilience (by coping really well with a complete change in routine) as well as feeling part of a wider community mixing all ages so everyone got a feel of being part of the whole school and not just their own year group). The sessions were led by Year 1. This is a great leadership opportunity for them and we hope they felt that they had made a positive contribution to the whole school through this. They were excellent role models and an inspiration to our younger children.



Events Week Commencing 3rd December

Lunch Menu week 2

Mon	3.30—4.30	Spanish Club
Tues	All day	Mrs Conlan out at Pre-Prep Leatherhead
	All day	Y1 to mainsite for the day
	3.30—4.30	RSGK club
Wed	4.15	Rising Reception cross pre-prep maths moderation
	All day	Christmas jumper day (with uniform)
	9.00	DEPA Christmas coffee
	Lunch	Christmas lunch
	pm	DEPA Christmas treat for children
Thurs	3.30—4.30	Forest club
	4.15	Reception cross pre-prep maths moderation
	3.30—4.30	Science club
Fri	4.15	First Steps cross pre-prep maths moderation
	All day	Ms Clayton out—Rising Reception classes working together for the morning
	3.30—4.15	Yoganory

Inspiring young minds