

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 23 November 2018

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Message from the Head Teacher

Brrrr! This week the temperature has plummeted and our morning starts are definitely filled with wintry air. I have to say that Year One were undeterred and set out enthusiastically for Ashtead Common on Tuesday morning, with Jay leading the way. They had a wonderful time, hunting for signs of winter. Everyone returned with pink cheeks and a great big smile. Jay commented on their return, that he had been so impressed with both their stamina and resilience in the chilly conditions. He also said that they had been the best group of any age that he had taken in this

recent cold snap. I was so delighted to hear this as this attitude and approach is one that we actively encourage and teach. Well done Year One! We also went global this week with the 'Cognita Calling' initiative. The children were able to connect with other Cognita schools around the world through video links. They found comparing the many differences and similarities quite fascinating. We posted a video of our children giving a short tour of our school which we hope our global friends enjoyed.

Tessa Roberts

Engineering Alert!



Using cardboard sheets and plastic cups, who can build the tallest tower?

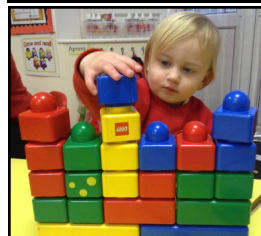
Year One were challenged with this brilliant STEAM activity. Look what happened!



Rhyme Time

'Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall' was definitely one of First Steps favourite rhymes as they celebrated National Nursery Rhyme Week. Each day there has been a new rhyme. Along with this, there have been wonderful activities organised by the First Steps team to embed and support the children's learning around the vocabulary and rhyming words within the songs. Nursery rhymes play an important role in early childhood development and education. As well as being fun, they are excellent tools for teaching skills in language and communication, emergent literacy and early maths. The children in First Steps have definitely had fun this week and we hope they have shared their new rhymes with everyone at home!

Julie James



Don't Forget

Mon 3-Fri 7 Dec - Last Week for After-School Clubs

Mon 3 Dec - Christmas Post Box arrives in school

Mon 3 Dec - Christmas Concert Photographs

Tues 4 Dec - Last Tots in Tune

Wed 5 Dec - Sinterklaas Celebrations

Wed 5 Dec - Christmas Celebrations in First Steps

Thurs 6 Dec - Year One to see Year Two's Nativity



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

Daisy Palmer

Rising Reception

Jennifer Roets

Josh Philip

Reception CH

Archie Joy

Reception MC

Harrison Gay

Year One

Isla Smith

Golden Star Awards

Thoughtful Golden Stars were awarded to:

- ★ Amelia Howey, Blake Wright
- ★ Hensen De Souza Bridges,
- ★ Lily Hopwood, Sophie Prior

Well Done!

Keeping Safe

Helping the children to learn how to look after themselves and keep safe is a priority and a very important life skill. All the classes have taken part in Road Safety Week and practised the rules of the road. Our playground was transformed into a network of roads and the cars and bikes were driven carefully between the different destinations. Traffic lights and zebra crossings were respected and the pedestrians knew how to wait until the road was clear. Year One were lucky enough to practise their skills for real as they walked to Ashtead Common on Tuesday. Mrs Roberts also gave everyone a surprise Fire Practice this week which went without a hitch and everyone evacuated the building in less than two minutes. The children's ability to listen and react quickly shows how they are learning to protect themselves.



Events Week Commencing Monday 26 November

Lunch Menu Week 2

Mon	15.30-16.30	Let's Dough!
Tues	9.45 - 11.15 15.30-16.30	Reception Forest School trip to Ashtead Common Tots in Tune Multi Sports Club
Wed	15.30-16.30	Genie Lab
Thurs	15.30-16.30	Maths Day Create and Make Club
Fri	15.30-16.30	St Andrew's Day Celebrations Tec Kids

Staff News

At the end of this term we will be saying 'Goodbye' to Mary McIntosh. She has done an amazing job during her time at the school. She is a great listener, a brilliant problem solver and has managed to keep us up-to-date and informed at all times. I'm sure that you would like to join me in thanking Mary for everything and I know she will be greatly missed.



We are delighted that Sarah Hegarty will be starting with us as our new school secretary on Monday 10 December. We offer her a very warm Ashtead Pre-Prep welcome. I know that she is looking forward to getting to know us all and is keen to get involved.



I am also pleased to announce that this week, we have appointed Shazia Gale as a new member of staff for the First Steps team. She will be joining us after Christmas and we are thrilled to have her on board.



Inspiring young minds