

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'
SIS Inspection 2014-2015
Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 7 December 2018

Tel: 01372 385439
www.downsend.co.uk
ashteadpre-prep@downsend.co.uk

Message from the Head Teacher

Christmas has arrived at Ashtead Pre-Prep! The trees and displays are shimmering with Christmas cheer and I can't tell you how much glitter has been in action! However, our hard-working cleaners, Krisztian and Eniko, could tell you a thing or two as some of the floors in the classrooms look like they have entered another universe!

This has been a week of rehearsals and mischief. Singing and dancing can be seen and heard all around the school, with

preparations for performances well underway. However, the 'Elf on the Shelf' has come to school and is causing mayhem everywhere he goes! Look out on twitter for his adventures.

I look forward to seeing you and your extended families at St George's Church next Wednesday for our Christmas Nativity. The children can't wait for the show. It promises to be a real treat!
Tessa Roberts

Sinterklaas



On Wednesday we celebrated Sinterklaas. This is the Dutch name for St Nicholas (Father Christmas) who visits the Netherlands on St Nicholas Eve (5th December). He arrives on a boat and gives presents to all the children. Families celebrate the day with special treats which include Pepernoten (mini ginger biscuits), taai taai (chewy aniseed biscuits) and schuimpjes. We would like to say a big thank you to Louisa's parents for sharing their family traditions with all the children. They were fascinated to learn about these different celebrations and loved their special biscuit treats.

Don't Forget

Christmas Jumper Day

Fri 14 Dec - Christmas Jumper Day

Fri 14 Dec - End of Term 13.30 - No Little Lates or Extended Day

Elf Extravaganza

Hi Ho Hi Ho it's Christmas time we know! sang the First Steps Elves as they entertained their parents this week at the Elf Extravaganza. This was the first time that they had ever performed for an audience but the elves were keen to impress and joined in with all of the Christmassy action songs. We all enjoyed the song about decorating the Christmas tree and loved the way that the children patiently waited for their turn to add their sparkly decorations. They wished everyone a very Merry Christmas before



we all tucked into Mrs McCluskey's mincemeat pinwheels. What a wonderful celebration that was full of Christmas spirit. A big thank you must go to Mrs James and her wonderful team for such a delightful morning of festive entertainment. Happy Christmas!



Downsend School

Useful Contacts:

Pre-Prep Ashtead	01372 385439
Pre-Prep Epsom	01372 385438
Pre-Prep L/head	01372 385437
Prep School Office	01372 372197
Admissions	01372 372311
School Nurse	01372 385409
Finance Department	01372 374842
Marketing	01372 385402
Downsend PP+	07899 011275
Mobile	07899 011275
Downsend +	01372 385403
Mobile	07909 861280

Pantosaurus

The children have been introduced to the PANTS rule in assembly. The happy dinosaur, Pantosaurus, helps the children to understand that their 'privates' belong to them and to speak up and talk about secrets that upset them. It teaches them an important message in a safe, child - friendly way. Please visit the NSPCC website for more details and for the enjoyable Pantosaurus video. **Melanie Chipperton**



The Elf on the Shelf



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

All of First Steps for an amazing Elf Extravaganza

Rising Reception

Fraser Ross, Harry Gillott, Josh Hanlon, Lily Hopwood

Reception CH

Hensen De Souza Bridges

Reception MC

Blake Wright

Year One

Summar Khan

Events Week Commencing Monday 10 December Lunch Menu Week 1

Mon		Last Swimming Lessons
Tues	9.00	Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal at St George's Church
Wed	10.30	Christmas Nativity at St George's Church
Thurs	13.45	Christmas Lunch Open Box Theatre at Downsend School, Rising Reception, Reception & Year One
Fri	13.30	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Entertainer End of Term - No Little Lates or Extended Day

Christmas Wishes

This is a very special time of year for all our Pre-Prep Ashtead families, sharing the preparations and family festivities. However, we know that there are many people for whom Christmas will not be such a happy time. During this week's Wednesday assembly, I encouraged the children to think of people less fortunate than themselves, who might not be able to enjoy the festivities in the same way as they will be doing. I asked if each child could write a special wish for someone else.

The children in Reception and Year One will find a little snowflake in their book bag this weekend. Please encourage your child to write their special Christmas wish on the back of the snowflake and then return the wish to school. Each wish will then be hung in the porch for everyone to read.

I also have some spare snowflakes, if anyone from Rising Reception or First Steps would also like to contribute a Christmas wish.

Tessa Roberts

Golden Star Awards

Thoughtful Golden Stars were awarded to:

Robert Pugh, Max Charalambous,
Eric Welton, Federica Plewa Baici,
Lily Nelson-Bowling

Well Done!

Inspiring young minds