

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Epsom



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom  
6 Norman Avenue  
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Friday 18th January 2019

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### Message from the Head Teacher

We started the week with Make your dreams come true day, ended with a safeguarding audit and had lots of excitement and activity in between. Clearly the highlight of the week was the few flakes of snow on Thursday morning though!

Our safeguarding visit today is an annual audit conducted by Cognita, our proprietors, to ensure we are meeting theirs and the Independent School Standards for safeguarding. In fact, Cognita's own standards are much higher than the Independent School Standards. This demonstrates the schools and Cognita's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of your children at all times. At the time of writing the newsletter the auditors have looked in depth at Safer Recruitment and personnel checks, site safety and security, admissions records for children in school and how we ensure children who leave to do not get 'lost' or just disappear,

have interviewed a range of staff to assess the safeguarding culture in the school, looked at staff training, organisation for trips and visits, all of our safeguarding records and provision for medical needs and First Aid.....and it's not even lunchtime yet! The audit is very thorough, as it should be. When our report arrives, I will share the information with you.

With this weeks newsletter link, you will have been sent a Pre-Prep Times Voice of the Parent special. Our annual survey opens on 22nd January and I would really appreciate it if you could read the additional information in the newsletter regarding the survey and also to complete the survey itself when it arrives. Your feedback is really important to us; we listen and we take action.

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend.

**Mrs Vanessa Conlan**

### DEPA news

Thank you to the parents that came along to the DEPA Ideas Evening on the 16<sup>th</sup> January. We have lots of exciting events planned for this term and your help and support is greatly appreciated.

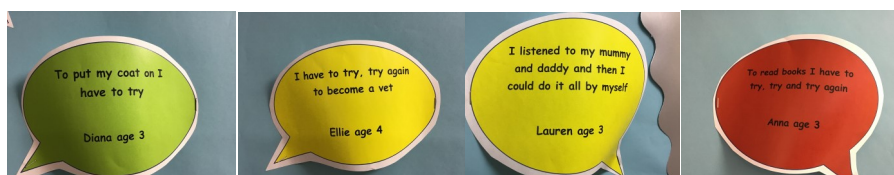
#### Parents Quiz and Auction Night – 6<sup>th</sup> March

We are busy planning this fun and hopefully enjoyable event and we hope with your support that we are able to raise funds which will enable us to enrich our children's educational experience and organise events and activities.

We are busy contacting organisations for auction prizes and have already secured Colin Bull Swimming Vouchers, Jenni Hay Ballet Vouchers, Happy Glaze Ceramics Vouchers to mention a few. If you have any ideas of what you would like to see on auction or are able to donate any auction prizes enabling us to hold a successful event please do get in touch by emailing the DEPA team on [epsomdepa@gmail.com](mailto:epsomdepa@gmail.com) or chat to your class rep.

#### Make your dreams come true day

On Monday, we used 'Make your dreams come true day' to launch our half term whole school assembly theme on 'Going for Goals'. We talked to all of the children about their dreams for the future and what they thought they would need to do to make their dreams come true. We then had a Reception and Year 1 assembly in the afternoon talking about the meaning of, talking through lots of examples and reinforcing our whole school message of, 'If at first you don't succeed, try and try again.'





# 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

Samuel  
Francesca

### Hedgehogs

Sophia

### Squirrels

Timothy

### Badgers

Aidan

### Owls

Jessica

**Well Done!**

## Staff news

After 15 years of providing excellent support to the teachers, children and families at Pre-Prep Epsom, Mrs Gillott will be retiring at half term and therefore leaving us. I am sure you will join me in saying a huge thank you for all her hard work over the last 15 years and wish her a happy and healthy retirement. We are currently seeking a replacement for the role in Squirrels class and will update you as soon as we have further information.

## Words of the Week

We had a break at the end of last term with so much going on, but our words of the week are back now!

Next weeks words are communication words describing laughter. We talked about laughter being able to completely change our mood when we are feeling sad.

**Laugh**—funny things make us laugh and laughing makes us feel happy. What makes you laugh?

**Smirk**—a smile when you know you're not doing the right thing.

**Giggle**—a type of laughter that is quiet and difficult to control. Sometimes you get the giggles and you just can't stop. What makes you giggle?

**Cackle**—a cackle is a very loud, harsh laugh. Witches cackle.

## Mathletics news

Well done to Keira, Zaria and Tahira for achieving a Bronze certificate and to Tahira for also achieving a Silver certificate last week.

## Events Week Commencing 21st January 2019

### Lunch Menu Week 3

<b>Mon</b>	am  3.30—4.30	Mrs Conlan visiting St Nicholas prep school Dr Joanne visiting Reception Spanish and dance and music theatre clubs
<b>Tues</b>	All day  10.30—3.00 3.30—4.30	Year 1 at main site—activity morning then swimming Mrs Conlan at governors meetings at Meadow Primary School RSGK club
<b>Wed</b>	am  3.30—4.30	RR to Polka Theatre Firefighters visiting Reception Forest and Grow, Cook, Eat clubs
<b>Thurs</b>	3.30—4.30	Science club
<b>Fri</b>	All day  3.30—4.15	Australia day Mrs Conlan at Pre-Prep Ashtead—joint learning walk with Mrs Roberts Yoganory club

**Inspiring young minds**