

# EPSOM PRE-PREP TIMES



## Epsom



DOWNSEND SCHOOL PRE-PREP  
EPSOM  
6 NORMAN AVENUE  
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FRIDAY 25TH JANUARY  
2019

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### MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

We have had an even busier than usual week this week as you will see from the bumper edition of this newsletter.

The school continues to go from strength to strength from within, with the fantastic support from our parent community and also with DEPA. I am delighted that this has been recognised in the responses that have been made in our annual parent survey so far. Just over a quarter of parents had contributed until last night which is a great start after just 3 days. Thank you for your support. The survey is open for a further 2 1/2 weeks. When it closes, I will share the results with you including any actions we will be taking in response to your feedback.

Mr Thorpe was in school on Wednesday for his 3 weekly visit and it was fantastic to hear him praise the school on the visible improvements he could see. He particularly commented on the

smartness of our children and the work to ensure we are in line with the Downsend uniform policy which he says has not always been as good as it is now. This is all down to your great support—thank you. Having said that, I have seen a few non-uniform coats and hats creeping in recently! School hats and scarves can be purchased from Mrs Tucker in the office and added to your bill for next term if they are needed.

You will see in the calendar that Ms Clayton is out of school next week on 2 consecutive days for training courses. These are both courses related to her pastoral role in school. Although it may appear that the planning is not great, this has been planned like this to support Cognita leaders who need to travel from further afield. Mrs Burbidge will cover Ms Clayton on both days to provide continuity for the class.

**Mrs Vanessa Conlan**

### DEPA NEWS

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

Planning is in full swing for this event but in order for it to be successful and help us raise funds which will enable us to enrich our children's educational experiences we are asking for some help.

If you have any ideas what you would like to see on auction or are able to donate any auction prizes please do get in touch with the DEPA Committee by emailing them on [epsomdepa@gmail.com](mailto:epsomdepa@gmail.com) or chat to your class rep.

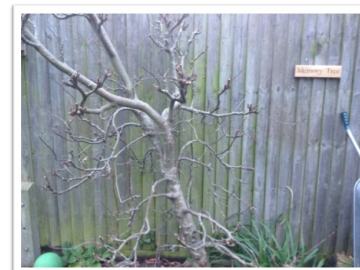
#### Next DEPA ideas meetings

Weds 27th Feb—9.00am

Weds 20th March—7.30pm

#### Memory Tree

Ms Clayton has identified, within her role as pastoral leader, that we have nothing in place to support children who are grieving in any way so we have introduced a Memory Tree in our Woodland garden. This is a place where children who are grieving for the loss of a relative or a pet can go to place a special message should they wish to do so. The message can be in the form of a picture, a letter or even something they have made. The items do not need to be robust or weather proof as they are not for permanent display. This will not be a shrine, just a quiet place to have a moment or two remembering someone who was special to them and a child can visit it more than once if they need to. We will explain to the children that the message they have left finds its way to whoever they have lost so that they know they are thinking about them. If you feel your child would benefit from support in this way at anytime, please speak to your child's class teacher.





## PEOPLE WHO HELP US

This week Reception has had a fantastic week of visitors. On Monday Dr Jo and Dentist Kat came to talk to the children about how Doctors and Dentists keep us healthy. They introduced the children to science, by talking about the organs in our bodies, as well as talking about their roles in a hospital/dentist surgery. Finally they put the children through their paces and

showed the children how exercise affects the body.

On Wednesday the Firefighters came. The children listened brilliantly, asked and answered super question.

Henry said, 'I have learnt a lot.'

'Me too,' said Keira who also asked lots of great questions.

Mrs Butler

## A VISIT FROM BABY MACIE

Baby Macie and her mummy came to visit First Steps on Wednesday as part of their learning about babies and how people change but still have some things the same as they grow up. The children were incredibly caring and gentle and Macie was extremely calm with so many eager children

wanting cuddles! A huge thank you to Mrs Chalmers for coming into First Steps and to Sophie and Lauren for sharing their sister with us.

Mrs Carruthers



## HEALTHY EATING WITH MRS T

Our whole school Health and Well-Being theme this half term is Healthy Eating and to support the teachers work in this area, Mrs T will be visiting every class over the next 4 weeks to work with the children on a healthy eating activity. We started today with Squirrels and Hedgehogs who had a

great time making fruit salad and learning all about why fruit is so good for us.

Next week we have our whole school story time based on healthy eating and Mrs T will be visiting First Steps for some fruit tasting activities.

## POLKA THEATRE

On Wednesday Rising Reception visited the Polka Theatre to watch 'Into the Winter Woods'. This was a story telling production during which the children were encouraged to sing, clap and beat out rhythms, in the Adventure Theatre.

It took us on a journey into a magical Scandinavian wood, where we heard tales of bravery and friend-

ship from around the world, whilst snuggled under a blanket!

The tales included a pig, a goat, a goose, a hare, a magical Baobab tree which produced water and fruit on demand, and even some wolves - played by the children wearing very realistic masks and howling loudly.

The howls were still heard as we returned

to school from the coach!

A wonderful interactive learning experience.

Mrs Bullock



## Y1 ACTIVITY MORNING

Year 1 had a fabulous time at main site on Tuesday morning. They got to play typing games in ICT and experimented with charcoal to create a caveman style painting in Art. They impressed Mrs Allison with their musical knowledge and enjoyed playing the claves and tambourine. Finally to

end their exciting morning off, they made kites in the shape of birds in DT.

Year 1 then enjoyed lunch at main site getting used to the dining room ready for when they are in Year 2 as they had swimming there in the afternoon so it would have been silly to come back to school!

## AUSTRALIA DAY

Tomorrow is Australia Day so we celebrated today! With our own resident Australian (Mrs Tucker) we thought it would be another great opportunity for our children to learn more about the wider World.

Mrs Tucker visited each classroom sharing information

about Australia, particularly the animals there and reading Australian stories to the children. The children also had the opportunity to ask questions about Australia. Thank you Mrs Tucker and happy Australia Day for tomorrow!





## DOWNSEND SCHOOL

### Useful Contacts:

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### Words of the Week

In our Monday assemblies we have been talking about perseverance and the phrase, 'If at first you don't succeed, try and try again'. This week's words are resilience words further reinforcing the message that if you try your best you will always have something to be proud of and that if you make a mistake, you can just try again.

**Try**—when you have a go at something. It is always important to try hard and to keep on trying.

**Effort**—how hard you try. If you put a lot of effort in you are trying really hard. If you don't put much effort in, it will be much harder to achieve your goals.

**Struggle**—when something is difficult, you might struggle. If you keep trying hard and put in lots of effort, it won't be such a struggle the next time you try.

**Push**—you can push yourself from your inside to be even better than you are. Your inside voice can help you here as pushing yourself to be better can help you achieve your goals.

### Mathletics news

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

## 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

Rohan  
Edward

#### Hedgehogs

Tommy

#### Squirrels

Carter

#### Badgers

Keira

#### Owls

Anna

## Events Week Commencing 28th January 2019

### Lunch Menu Week 1

<b>Mon</b>	All day	Ms Clayton at Mental Health and Well-Being conference—Mrs Burbidge to cover
	3.30—4.30	Spanish and Dance and Music Theatre clubs
	4.30	Sir Kevan Collins - Motivating Children to Improve their Learning @ main site
<b>Tues</b>	All day	Ms Clayton at Designated Safeguarding Leads conference—Mrs Burbidge to cover
	am	Whole school Health and Well-Being story
	3.30—4.30	RSGK club
<b>Wed</b>	4.00	Mrs Conlan at Downsend HT meeting
	am	No R and Y1 PE today
	am	Reception to Polka Theatre
<b>Thurs</b>	11.00	Mrs Conlan to Downsend governance meeting
	3.30—4.30	Forest and Grow, Cook, Eat clubs
	am	R and Y1 PE today
<b>Fri</b>	am	Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School visiting
	3.30—4.30	Science club
	3.30—4.15	Yoganory club

## Well Done!

## Inspiring young minds