

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Ashtead



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

Friday 11 January 2019

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### Message from the Head Teacher

A queue of eager children and parents flowed through the front door as I opened it on the first school day of 2019. It's great to be back! The children were so excited to see their teachers and their friends, that they were ready for learning from the word 'Go!' A brilliant start to the new term!

As New Year's resolutions are being made, the children and I decided that our own New Year's

resolution would be to try and achieve a golden star award. This half term we are focusing on good manners. In assembly we discussed what we meant by 'Good Manners' and I can see that choosing someone each week for this award will be a tough choice for the teachers. The children had so many good ideas and I have already seen them put into practice. Fantastic!

**Tessa Roberts**

### Full STEAM Ahead!

At Ashtead Pre-Prep we are delighted to announce that we are a fully fledged STEAM school. Over the past twelve months our Senior Leadership Team have attended seminars and read a variety of educationalists' research about the best way to educate our young children for the future. It has raised many questions and stimulated plenty of staff discussions. Our children are growing up in an increasingly technological world which is constantly changing, developing and diversifying. What will the workplace be like for our two year olds when they leave school in 2035? The superior sophistication of machines and robots will replace many jobs that exist today so it is essential that we teach our children to use skills unique to humans. These are problem solving, critical thinking and the ability to empathise with people. We feel that the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) curriculum is the perfect base from which to develop and strengthen these skills in our young children. As the children are not only learning to apply these subject skills, they are also collaborating, communicating and problem solving as well as being critical thinkers whilst challenging their creativity through the activities. STEAM is perfect for us as it works alongside our current curriculum by enhancing the children's learning experiences through our programme of planned play. At the end of this month we are holding our annual themed curriculum week which will focus on STEAM. During the week, on Thursday 31 January, you are all invited to come along to a Parents Information Evening where you will be able to find out more about how STEAM is taught at Ashtead Pre-Prep and also to have a go yourself. We do hope that you will be able to come along and join in the fun.

**Tessa Roberts**

### Building Dens

STEAM is everywhere! Even in the playground where these engineers are in action, creating new structures. Evolving and changing through discussion you can see that this structure has become a treehouse. I wonder who will live there? These three!



The intrepid team below had to conquer the problem, What do you do when the wind blows the roof off?



### Don't Forget

**Tues 22 Jan** - Year One Activities Morning at Downsend School 9.15-12.00  
**Thurs 24 Jan** - Dr Bell visits Reception



## 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

## 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

Anna Cluysenaer,  
Aurora Concanon,  
George Harriman,  
Lucas de Albuquerque,  
Oliver de Souza Bridges,  
Rafferty Moore,

### Rising Reception

Jennifer Roets

### Reception CH

Vincent Hopson

### Reception MC

Harrison Gay

### Year One

Rory Anderson  
Sam Dolan

## Golden Star Awards

**Thoughtful Golden Stars were awarded to:**

Rupert Purrington, Sasha Wallis,  
Freddie Watson, Gigi Stallman,  
Tommy Symonds

**Well Done!**

## Thank you DAPA

The mud kitchen is very popular with all of the children. At the last School Council meeting the children asked if they could have a mixing surface by the existing mud kitchen to make their pies and potions. We asked the advice of Jay Bristow, our Forest School leader who offered to make a customised kitchen for our muddy cooks. DAPA was keen to support this project and has paid for this wonderful new resource that can be enjoyed by everyone. It arrived on Wednesday and has been in constant use since. Thank you DAPA. You can see that we love it!



## Magic Moments

Rising Reception took a ride on a magic carpet this week and found themselves transformed into pirates, dinosaurs, dragons, princesses and many more exciting story characters. The start of this term's topic 'Imaginary Worlds' has been fantastic.



## Events Week Commencing Monday 14 January Lunch Menu Week 2

<b>Mon</b>	15.30-16.30	Swimming Lessons begin Lego Club begins
<b>Tues</b>	9.45-11.15 15.30-16.30	Tots in Tune Musical Theatre begins
<b>Wed</b>	15.30-16.30	Community Support Officer Pauline Daly visits Reception - Postponed until Feb Multi Sports Club begins
<b>Thurs</b>	9.00-10.00 15.30-16.30	Coffee Morning for parents with children in First Steps. School Hall You Choose Club begins
<b>Fri</b>	15.30-16.30	Tec Kids Club begins

## Adverse Weather Conditions

In the unlikely event of school closure, parents will be notified as quickly as possible via Schoolcomms. Parents should then refer to the school's website for updates and further information. Even if school is open, parents should not attempt to make the journey if you feel it unsafe to do so. Oakfield Road in particular can become extremely slippery in icy conditions.

**Inspiring young minds**