

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 18 January 2019

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Message from the Head Teacher

There was a real chill in the air today which kept us all moving at a brisk pace. It could be a sign of things to come! Will it snow soon? Inside, school was not such a different story as the classes have stepped up their learning and I could see some really challenging Literacy and Maths taking place. Adding 10 to a two digit number in Year One, identifying odd and even numbers in Reception and amazing word building in Rising Reception. It is wonderful to see

the children embracing the curriculum and the teachers nurturing their love of learning. If you popped into school this morning you may have noticed that the children have been busy creating a new display on the stairs and in the School Hall. If you have a moment, please stop and look and read the children's thoughts about 'I wish I could be a...'. Enjoy the weekend, wrap up and keep warm.

Tessa Roberts

Zooooom!



This week's playground challenge, Can you make a rocket fly? How far will it go? Can you make it fly further?



Don't Forget

**Mon 28 Jan-Fri 1 Feb
STEAM WEEK**

Mon 28 Jan - Genie Lab—STEAM Workshops

Mon 28 Jan - Sir Kevan Collins—Motivating Children to Improve at Downsend 16.30

Tues 29 Jan - Reception & Year 1 STEAM activities with the Downsend STEAM team

Thurs 31 Jan - STEAM activity morning with 'Hands On STEM'

Thurs 31 Jan - Parents STEAM Information Evening 19.00

Fri 1 Feb - Engineering Day

A Flying Start!

First Steps have been up in the air this week as they fully immersed themselves in their Talk4Writing book, 'The Blue Balloon', by Mick Inkpen. The engaging activities have had them captivated all week. The children that started this term were keen to get involved and, with the aid of these exciting activities, they have found it easier to settle into their new environment. It is wonderful to watch their excited faces as they explore new experiences. Developing and extending the children's range of vocabulary along with the introduction of colour and shape have been the key objectives this week. Through blowing bubble balloons and making a balloon inflate on it's own, (Well...with the help of bicarbonate of soda and vinegar) stimulated a

wonderful opportunity to introduce new vocabulary and encourage communication. Mixing shades of blue just had to be done! This sensory and magical experience was the icing on the cake. What a wonderful week!

Julie James





Downsend School

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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

Alexander Buchan

Rising Reception

William Zhou

Reception CH

Hensen de Souza Bridges

Reception MC

Matilda Wilson

Year One

Astrid Reilly

William Nelson-Bowling

Golden Star Awards

Good Manners Golden Stars were awarded to:

Kamran Haque, Emma Sweeney,
 Chessie Ling, Sam Warburton,
 Freya Vinsen Tell

Well Done!

After School Clubs

This week saw the start of this term's After School Clubs programme. Two of our clubs have returned by popular demand - Multi Sports and Tec Kids, both of which whizzed into action with exciting challenges and games. 'That was great fun!' was overheard on the stairs as the children left Lego club this week. This club was chosen by the children and suggested at the last School Council meeting. They were really delighted to see their choice appear on the Clubs list. Last year, Musical Theatre was a real hit and the children taking part in this club are already loving this term's project - 'Toy Story'. Thursday's club is quite unique as each week the children will choose their own art project for the following week. This week they



made Dream Catchers. I wonder what they have chosen for next week's activity? We are thrilled that so many children are trying different clubs and taking the opportunity to broaden their learning and skills.

Tessa Roberts



Events Week Commencing Monday 21 January Lunch Menu Week 3

Mon	15.30-16.30	Lego Club
Tues	9.00 - 12.00	Year One Activities Morning at Downsend School
	9.45-11.15 15.30-16.30	Tots in Tune Musical Theatre Club
Wed	15.30-16.30	Multi Sports Club
Thurs	14.00 15.30-16.30	Dr Bell visits Reception You Choose Club
	Fri	15.30-16.30

Voice of the Parent Survey

Next Tuesday sees the launch of our annual Voice of the Parent survey. For those of you who are new to school, this programme is a more structured way of collecting feedback about your Ashtead Pre-Prep experience. We would like to thank the parents who took part in the last survey as we appreciate and value hearing your thoughts about our school. If you could spare a few minutes to complete the questions, we would be really grateful. Thank you.

Inspiring young minds