

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Epsom



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom  
6 Norman Avenue  
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Friday 1st February 2019

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### Message from the Head Teacher

How has it reached February? Time flies! I must confess that I am relieved to reach the end of this week and to have a weekend of not needing to worry about severe weather warnings, snow bombs, checking the amount of snow every hour or so through the night to get a headstart on any decision making the next morning and gritting! The children however have loved the weather this week and had some great fun on our field, which has been such a luxury to have while the playground has been slippery so mostly out of use.

In news other than the weather, we have been enjoying National Storytelling Week in a variety of different ways, but predominantly through children showing and sharing with their friends, their favourite book. The children have amazed us yet again with their confidence to stand up in front of their friends and tell them the

story or their favourite parts of the book.

More and more recently I have been able to really see the value added to our children while they are with us, most evident in Y1 and Reception where I can remember the children in FS and RR and can see so clearly how they have developed from then to now. It is also extremely clear with some of our First Steps children who started with us with very little language and are now happily and confidently chatting away and the in the many ways our children play and share so beautifully in early birds and extended day. I know I have said it before and I will continue saying it....I am so very proud of our children and everything our school does to support their development and absolutely love my job!

Have a warm, safe weekend.

**Mrs Vanessa Conlan**

### DEPA news

#### **Bags for School Clothes Collection – 11<sup>th</sup> March (morning drop-off)**

If like us, you are starting to think about clearing out your cupboards ready for Spring, what better way to help the DEPA fundraising efforts than to pop all your old clothes into a bag and **drop them off at school on the morning of Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March.** They will then be collected by Bag for Schools who will weigh them and send DEPA a cheque to support our fundraising efforts. Please keep your eyes open for a collection bag in your child's book bag in the coming weeks.

#### **Would you like to volunteer to support any DEPA activities?**

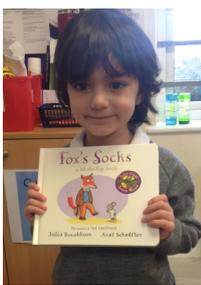
Do you have a little spare time and would like to get involved in DEPA activities, do let us know. Any support is gratefully received! Get in touch with your Class Rep or drop the DEPA team an email at [epsomdepa@gmail.com](mailto:epsomdepa@gmail.com).

### National Storytelling Week

Thank you to all of the children for bringing in their favourite stories this week to celebrate National Storytelling week. It has been wonderful to see the excitement from the children and the pleasure they have experienced through sharing and listening to a variety of well loved stories.



"This is my favourite book because I love football and want to be a professional footballer when I grow up." Emily



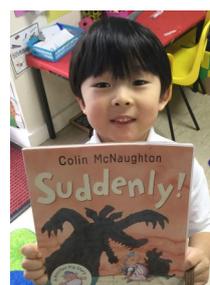
"I like the wolf because he's scary!" Leo



"Roar!" Samuel



"It's got dragons in it." William





## Downsend School

Useful Contacts:

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 Admissions 01372 372311  
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 Downsend+ 01372 385403

### 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

Freddie  
Rupert

#### Hedgehogs

Alexia

#### Squirrels

Sophie P  
Sophie J

#### Badgers

Peyton

#### Owls

Manya

**Well Done!**

### Staff news

Congratulations to Mrs Carruthers who is expecting her first baby in June. She expects to be with us until the week after May half term and then to return during the 19/20 academic year. I am delighted that Mrs Simpson has agreed to take the substantive teacher role in First Steps to cover Mrs Carruthers maternity leave.

### Words of the Week

Next weeks words are creativity words and encourage children to go and try and explore—they never know what they might find!

**Dream** - thoughts and ideas, sometimes when you are asleep about great things you might do

**Curious** - being interested in something and wanting to find out more information. Asking questions to find out more.

**Imagine** - similar to dreams. Things you think of doing. Ideas and pictures you create in your head.

**Discover** - to explore and find things out. You never know what you will discover about a place or yourself if you don't try!

### Mathletics news

Well done to Henry, Keira, Jessica, Rebecca, Zaria and Tahira for achieving a Bronze certificate and to Zaria for also achieving a Silver certificate last week. Fantastic Mathletics!

### Events Week Commencing 4th February 2019

#### Lunch Menu Week 2

<b>Mon</b>	All day	Miss McIntyre at maths training—Mrs Burbidge covering
	All day	Mrs Carruthers out at Cognita teaching and learning conference—Mrs Simpson covering
	3.30—4.30	Spanish and dance and music theatre clubs
<b>Tues</b>	All day	Safer internet Day
	3.30—4.30	RSGK club
<b>Wed</b>	3.30—4.30	Forest and Grow, Cook, Eat clubs
<b>Thurs</b>	All day	Celebrating Chinese New Year (actually Tues)
	All day	Mrs Conlan at Cognita School Improvement Network (SIN) day 1
	3.30—4.30	Science club
<b>Fri</b>	All day	Mrs Conlan at Cognita SIN day 2
	am 3.30—4.15	Mrs T making smoothies with Year 1 Yoganory club

**Inspiring young minds**