

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 1 February 2019

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Message from the Head Teacher

Wow! What a week! Not only have we had a wonderful few days filled with the most amazing STEAM projects but the elements decided to join in the fun. I think that our whole Ashtead Pre-Prep community have been challenged with their problem solving skills and had their resilience tested. It was lovely to see many parents last night at our Parents Information Evening. I hope that you all found it enjoyable and informative. Going around the classrooms, I could see that the

adults were having as much fun with the STEAM activities as their children. I was also asked quite a few questions about how we manage digital safety at school. Some of the questions included what parents can do to manage this at home. I have asked the teachers to pop last night's leaflets on this subject into each child's bag, in case you were unable to attend.

I hope you all have a super weekend. Keep warm!

Tessa Roberts

Don't Forget

Wed 13 Feb - Year One invites a relative to lunch

Wed 13 Feb - Julia Philpott & Heads' Q & A—Developing Children's Confidence & Resilience, Downsend School 19.00

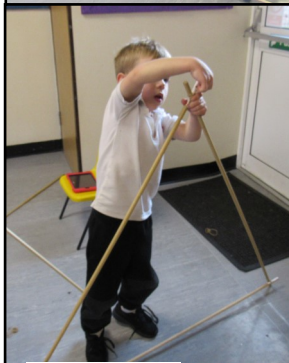
Thurs 14 Feb - Rising Reception trip to Polka Theatre to see Winter in the Wood

Fri 15 Feb - Charity Day (Please see next page for details)

STEAM Week



It has definitely been full STEAM ahead this week as we totally embraced this addition to our curriculum. The launch started with a FIZZ and a BANG as Jack from Genie Lab wowed us with the power of air. The children watched amazed as they saw the effects of taking air away or adding more to a variety of materials. On Tuesday, two of the Downsend STEAM team visited us with some mystery boxes and bubbles to investigate. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to establish our STEAM links with the Main Site staff and one that we are both hoping to explore further in the future. 'Hands on STEM' arrived yesterday with a structural problem to be solved. In pairs, the children created a strong base shape with sticks and bands and then as a team, they worked together to make a spectacular triangular based pyramid. It was big enough for Reception to all sit inside! Finally, today has been an engineering day with a twist as the



weather added to the excitement. In next week's newsletter you will be able to read about the day in full. The week has been such good fun and we have loved seeing the children collaborate on projects and also watching the thrills that they received from their successes. Thank you to all the Ashtead Pre-Prep staff for going above and beyond.





Downsend School

Useful Contacts:

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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

Joe Eschenburg

Rising Reception

Josh Hanlon

Fraser Ross

Reception CH

Sasha Wallis

Reception MC

Emma Sweeney

Year One

Frankie Lovell

Tate Bishop

Golden Star Awards

Good Manners Golden Stars were awarded to:

- William Lovell, Blake Wright,
- Vincent Hopson, Daisy Palmer,
- Matheus Macieira Cabral

Well Done!

STEAM in the classroom

The visitors we have seen this week have been really exciting but there has also been quite a lot of STEAM action taking place in the classrooms. First Steps have been building walls with clay and wooden blocks whilst Rising Reception dreamed of bigger structures by using the large outside building blocks. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the amazing structures that Reception had made from bread. One child said, "I made a bridge from my dough ... the yeast made it grow... that's science". Year One have tested rocket propulsion, bridge construction and which material will keep a penguin's egg the warmest. I think we certainly have some STEAM experts in the making!



Events Week Commencing Monday 4 February Lunch Menu Week 2

Mon	15.30-16.30	Lego Club
Tues	9.45-11.15 15.30-16.30	Chinese New Year Celebrations Safer Internet Day Tots in Tune Musical Theatre Club
Wed	15.30-16.30	Multi Sports Club
Thurs	15.30-16.30	Year One visit National Gallery You Choose Club
Fri	9.30 15.30-16.30	Reception visit Leatherhead Fire Station Tec Kids Club



Charity Day - Pyjama Day



Coming up soon is Charity Day for Stripey Stork—our school charity which supports young families. These families have been relocated or have arrived in our area but with very little to ensure that their young children are kept safe and healthy.

On Friday 15 February we are asking that all the children come to school in their pyjamas. They will also need to bring their Teddy to school as we will be having a 'Bed for Ted' challenge. Reading a bedtime story with a hot chocolate before Ted settles down for a snooze will also be on the cards.

Our Charity Friends will be on the door in the morning to collect donations which will go towards this very worthwhile cause. Thank you very much for your support.

Inspiring young minds