

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



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

Friday 8 February 2019

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Message from the Head Teacher

I started this week with one of the First Steps children proudly showing me how they could identify all the numbers to 10. A break through moment for this child which was celebrated with a certificate and stickers. This set the tone for the week as I found myself presented with even more achievements when I visited the other classrooms around school. Amazing Talk4Writing storytelling in Rising Reception, fabulous expressive writers in Year One and Reception were spot on as they 'kept up with the times' on their clocks! The teachers work hard to plan engaging and

interactive activities to deliver our challenging and personalised curriculum. This pays dividends as we see how the children become fully involved in their learning and are eager to build on what they know. A big thank you to all the teachers for their inspiration and dedication.

Next Friday we are looking forward to a cosy charity event as everyone dresses in pyjamas for the day. It will be full of bedtime fun for Teddy plus stories and hot chocolate to end the day. Sounds like the perfect way to start half term!

Tessa Roberts

The National Gallery

Yesterday Year One had a very exciting visit to the National Gallery in London. Our wonderful guide showed the children three paintings and invited them to imagine stepping into the paintings. We thought about what we might be wearing, what we could hear and see. The children especially enjoyed Rousseau's painting of the tiger and of course, our packed lunches were a highlight of the day. The children behaved beautifully and were a credit to the school. We can't wait to incorporate these paintings in our literacy and art lessons in the coming weeks.

Janet Catlow



Chinese New Year



The children spent a wonderful day celebrating Chinese New Year on Tuesday. An ex-pupil visited us at the start of the day and told us the Chinese New Year story about the order of the animals. Along with his sister, they sang us a Happy New Year song in Chinese. The children loved it all. Then as the delicious smell of Mrs McCluskey's Chinese cooking drifted through the school during the morning, we couldn't wait for lunch. The children also all had a go at the chopstick challenge which was great fun.



Don't Forget

Mon 25 Feb - Parent/Teacher Interviews—bookings available online from 12.00

Wed 27 Feb - 'It's your child's journey through Downsend' - Lower School Open Evening for Year One Parents



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
Lily Nelson-Bowling

Rising Reception
Weitong Feng

Reception
Edward Truong
Ayrton Friend

Year One
Summar Khan
Harriet Edney

Golden Star Awards

Good Manners Golden Stars were awarded to:

Jack Clement, Emily Buchanan,
Freddie Watson, Josh Philip,
Charlie Hall

Well Done!

Safer Internet Day

As you may be aware, 5 February was Internet Safety Day. In our assembly we talked about staying safe online and making good choices. These choices include



checking with an adult before going online, asking permission before accepting friend requests when playing online games and not giving out any personal information. We also talked about playing age appropriate games as a number of children said that they play Fortnite (rated 12 and over). After our STEAM Evening last week, everyone should have received information about how to approach internet safety with your very young children. If you would like any further information or advice I recommend visiting www.thinkuknow.co.uk or www.childnet.com. **Janet Catlow**

Events Week Commencing Monday 11 February Lunch Menu Week 3

Mon	15.30-16.30	Lego Club
Tues	9.45-11.15 15.30-16.30	Tots in Tune Musical Theatre Club
Wed	15.30-16.30 19.00	Year One invites a relative to lunch Multi Sports Club Julia Philpott & Heads' Q & A—Developing Children's Confidence and Resilience. Downsend School
Thurs	15.30-16.30	Rising Reception trip to Polka Theatre to see Winter in the Wood You Choose Club
Fri	15.30-16.30	Charity Pyjama Day for Stripey Stork Tec Kids Club

Engineering Day

Last Friday the school was a hive of industry as the children set forth on their day of designing and engineering. In different parts of the school you could find bridges and flood barriers being built, structures being created for a model town and 'dash crashes' being erected for our busy coded characters. The way that the children collaborated to develop the best designs saw their emerging STEAM skills in action.



Inspiring young minds