

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Ashtead



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

Friday 1 March 2019

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### Message from the Head Teacher

When we returned to school on Monday, it felt as if we had returned after the May half term, not February! Exploring the big water trays and sandpits have been brilliant at playtimes and the children have loved storytime in our Forest School area. It's given us a real taster of what we can look forward to more regularly, in a couple of months.

This half term we are on the hunt for problem solvers. In assembly this week we discovered that solving problems is best done with a friend. Also, that sometimes if

your idea doesn't work first time, don't give up - just try to solve it another way. The STEAM activities that we have integrated into the curriculum are all about building resilience and developing critical thinking skills. So, we think these golden stars will be hotly sought after.

Next week, we have World Book Day which is one of our favourite days of the year. The teachers cannot wait to see everyone in their book character outfits. Have a super weekend!

**Tessa Roberts**

### You Choose Club



'You Choose' is the art and craft club with a difference. The children choose what they would like to create! Just before half term, tie-dye was one of their choices. Miss Hodgkinson gave each child a T-shirt which they tied tightly with elastic bands and then dipped into different coloured dyes. The children couldn't believe their eyes when they saw the wonderful results. Here they are proudly wearing their creations.

### Don't Forget

**Mon 11 March** - Reception visit Ashtead Library  
**Mon 11 March** - Open Swimming Lessons  
**Tues 12 & Thurs 14 March** - Parent/Teacher Interviews  
**Thurs 14 March** - Year One Forest School @ Downsend  
**Fri 15 March** - DAPA Quiz Night 19.30



### dddddd....Dinosaurs!



There have been lots of loud noises coming from the Reception classrooms this week, including roaring and volcano explosions. It must be because the children have begun their new topic -



'Dinosaurs!' The classrooms have incorporated new role play areas where the children have enjoyed digging for bones and fossils or hiding in the explorer's tent from those scary dinosaurs! There are many exciting activities to come including fossil making, dinosaur creating and pterodactyl flying... We can't wait!

**Melanie Chipperton**





## 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 Jackson

### Rising Reception

Josh Philip

### Reception CH

Emily Buchanan

### Reception MC

Freddie Watson

### Year One

Matilda Faure Walker

## Golden Star Awards

**Good Manners Golden Stars were awarded to:**

Rupert Purrington,  
Emma Sweeney, Archie Joy,  
Theo Simmons, Omar Rahman

**Well Done!**

## Spring is in the Air

Come rain or shine here at Downsend Pre-prep Ashtead we make the most of every opportunity to take our learning outside. However, this week we were particularly excited to get outside and welcome in Spring! I'm sure you will agree that the weather has been glorious and the children have definitely made the most of it as well as flexing their STEAM muscles. Here are some of our children's comments about their play -

Daniel (FS) made a great pirate playing in the water tray "Its raining! Boat goes down! ARHHHHHH!"

Matilda (RMP) "We made mud pies, the sands sugar and we mixed in leaves... do you want to try some!"

Vincent (RCH) "we made a den with the bricks and that blanket ... it colder inside!"

Josh (RR) "Look daffodils! Its Spring."

**Christeen Hill**



## Events Week Commencing Monday 4 March

### Lunch Menu Week 2

<b>Mon</b>	15.30-16.30	Year One visit Ashtead Library Lego Club
<b>Tues</b>	9.45-11.15 15.30-16.30	Tots in Tune Musical Theatre Club
<b>Wed</b>	15.30-16.30	Multi Sports Club
<b>Thurs</b>	15.30-16.30	World Book Day—Xanthe, Performance Storyteller visits school You Choose Club
<b>Fri</b>	9.30-11.30 15.30-16.30	Open Morning Ashtead Pre-Prep Tec Kids Club

## Voice of the Parent Survey

The staff and I would like to thank you all very much for taking part in last half term's annual parent survey. We had a response rate of 83.3% which is amazing. The staff and I were also thrilled to read all your reasons why you would recommend the school. They were so positive and reflected on the ethos, environment and partnership which is what we as a staff are working to achieve. Looking at the different areas of the survey - Leadership and Culture, Teaching and Learning, Operations and Communication, each aspect received a high score but within these categories some interesting points have been made. We are always keen to improve what we offer here at Ashtead Pre-Prep and with your help and suggestions we will be able to further enhance the provision that we already offer. Thank you so much for all your support. It has been really appreciated.

**Tessa Roberts**

**Inspiring young minds**