

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



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

Friday 29 March 2019

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Message from the Head Teacher

This week has been super busy, giving the children some amazing opportunities to extend and experiment with their learning. Today, we were also delighted to welcome to school, James Carroll, Cognita Director of Education. He was keen to see how we are developing metacognition and self-regulation through our teaching and learning. Recent educational research shows that metacognition and self-regulation along with quality lesson feedback has the greatest impact on learning and progress. Over the past two years, the staff here at school have been working on strategies to effectively implement this in the classroom. We are now

starting to see in our older children how strengthening these skills has helped them to articulate and take ownership of their learning. James Carroll was very impressed at how even some of our younger children could talk about what they were learning and why.

Next week is the last week of the spring term and Easter is nearly upon us. I think that there could be some crafting creativity on the cards this weekend as we look forward to our annual Easter Hat competition. This will take place next Thursday morning. If we are really lucky, a bouncy visitor may have time to pop in and say 'Hello'. Let's hope so!

Tessa Roberts

Don't Forget

Thurs 4 April - School Finishes at 13.30—No Little Lates or Extended Day

**Downsend Pre-Prep +
and Downsend +**

Fri 5 April - Thurs 18 April



Rising Reception had a wonderful storytime session at Ashtead Library this week.

Messy Madness!



If you like getting messy, then Ashtead Pre-Prep was the place to be yesterday. There were thrills and spills as the children explored the day's learning through a wonderful array of sticky, slimy and squelchy activities. The children rolled up their sleeves and tackled the tasks with gusto. Giggles could be heard all round the school as the children collected evidence of their learning on themselves. It was a perfectly 'marvellous mess'!





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

Daisy Palmer
George Harriman

Rising Reception

All of Rising Reception for listening attentively and sharing stories at Ashtead Library.

Reception

All of Reception for their enthusiastic learning on Get Messy Day.

Year One

Will Lovell

Golden Star Awards

Problem Solving Golden Stars were awarded to:

★ Sam Dolan, Edward Truong,
Ayrton Friend, Anna Cluysenaer
★ Federica Plewa Baici, ★

Well Done!

Pre-Preps' Sports Afternoon

Year One joined their friends from the other Pre-Preps this week to enjoy an action - packed afternoon of sporting skills at Downsend. The Year 8 pupils had planned the whole event as part of their Leadership Curriculum and they did an excellent job. The activities were pitched at just the right level and it was lovely to see the interaction between the different age groups. There were several familiar faces amongst the Year 8 pupils and it was fantastic to see how the children have matured into such wonderful ambassadors for the school. A huge 'Thank you' to the pupils and Downsend P.E. staff for all their hard work. Let's hope in a few years time we will see our current Year Ones taking on the role of leaders themselves!



Events Week Commencing Monday 1 April

Lunch Menu Week 3

Mon		Last swim of the term
Tues	09.45-11.15	Last Tots in Tune
Wed		
Thurs	13.30	Easter Hat Competition Easter Egg Hunt End of term - No Extended Day

Shelter Drill

Next week, I will be telling the children about a very special practice that will take place during the week. As with fire drills, we are required to practise a Lockdown. The school is secured and the children and staff assemble in a safe hiding place away from view. The children will be asked to think of things we do every day to keep safe. We will explain that another way to stay safe is by planning for things that probably won't happen but which it is good to be prepared for, just in case, such as fire drills. A Shelter Drill is another practice for keeping us all safe if something we do not like is outside and we don't want it to come in. We will emphasise that preparing for these situations means that we know how to keep safe and can enjoy having fun and learning at school. Your child may come home and mention the practice. If this happens, I hope this information will help you to explain this safety drill further.

Inspiring young minds