

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Ashtead



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

Friday 24 May 2019

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### Message from the Head Teacher

So much has happened over the past few weeks and this half-term has flown by. Our STEAM programme is now in full flow and we are really starting to see a difference in the way the children are approaching their learning and play. The children are becoming more articulate in the way they communicate, collaborate and think through puzzling problems which is brilliant. This week, I had a wonderful conversation with one of our four year olds after a running activity who said, "My legs were tired but I wanted to finish so

I just kept going to the end!" I was thrilled and surprised to see this level of determination, resilience and perseverance. What a superstar! These are all skills which are developed and encouraged through the STEAM approach to learning.

The next half of term is filled with outings, events and visitors so please check your calendar for these special occasions.

I hope you all enjoy this Bank Holiday weekend and have a great half term. **Tessa Roberts**

### Star Performer



Last Friday during assembly the whole school had a wonderful treat. Harriet brought her cello into school and played two pieces for us to hear. This was her first ever performance to an audience! She played with such confidence and told us all about the cello and the different ways of playing. A musician in the making! Thank you Harriet for your very special performance.

### Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside!

In preparation for the history topic next half term, Year One had a great workshop yesterday. The subject of 'Seaside Holidays in the Past' was taken by staff from Chertsey Museum. The children were able to see and handle many artefacts as they discovered how people went to the seaside 100 years ago and what they wore. The swimsuits with jackets and long trousers were very strange! The ice-cream maker was fascinating but nobody liked the idea of the penny licks! The children are all looking forward to finding out even more about how people enjoyed the seaside long ago and comparing this with their own holidays.

**Janet Catlow**



### Don't Forget

**Tue 11 June** - Rising Reception visit Godstone Farm

**Fri 14 June** - Afternoon Tea for Grandparents with Children in Reception - 14.30

**Sat 15 June** - Downsend Parents' Association Summer Ball at Epsom Racecourse



## News from Downsend

It was lovely to welcome Y1 pupils from our 3 Pre-Preps to Main Site earlier this week. They were most attentive listeners during Mrs Kirkham's Assembly and appeared very much at home in the Lower School, in readiness for their transition in September. **Ian Thorpe**

## 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**  
Tommy Symonds

**Rising Reception**  
Josh Hanlon  
Harry Gillott

**Reception**  
All of Reception for being so amazing at recognizing symmetry

**Year One**

## Golden Star Awards Good Thinking Golden Stars were awarded to:

Robert Pugh, Emma Sweeney  
Mary Malcomson,  
Jennifer Roets, Charlie Hall

**Well Done!**

## G'day from Down Under

Kangaroos, didgeridoos, koalas and boomerangs have all been the topic of conversations between our youngest children this week as First Steps and Rising Reception are visiting Australia. They have loved listening to Aboriginal music and recreating the sounds. You will also notice, if you pop into the classrooms, some amazing Aboriginal art. This continent has really captured the children's imagination. The topic related tasks have inspired self-initiated literacy and numeracy learning, along with teachers noticing new vocabulary popping up in role play. Australia rocks!  
**Julie James & Sally Rose**

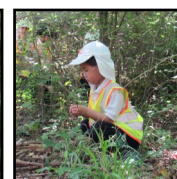
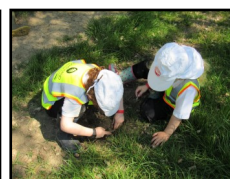


## Events Week Commencing Monday 3 June Lunch Menu Week 3

<b>Mon</b>	15.30-16.30	Forest School Club
<b>Tues</b>	9.45-11.15 15.30-16.30	Reception visit Sealife Centre Tots in Tune Woodwork and Construction Club
<b>Wed</b>	15.30-16.30	World Environment Day Genie Lab Club
<b>Thurs</b>	15.30-16.30	Football & Ball Skills Club
<b>Fri</b>	15.30-16.30	Let's Create Club

## Fantastic Forest School

On Tuesday there was a clear, blue sky with a cooling, gentle breeze.....What lovely weather for a trip to Ashted Common for Forest School! The Reception children were surprised to see how dry the ground was as we are used to squelching through mud. We still put our wellies to good use by paddling in the stream. Some children tried digging through the cracking mud until they reached "The fire at the centre of the earth," suggested by Eric. Others found a fairy house but the door was locked! Everyone used their imagination and hunted for different sized keys to see if it could be unlocked. "Perhaps they've gone on holiday," said Archie. What an adventure. Well done Reception!  
**Melanie Chipperton**



**Inspiring young minds**