

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Leatherhead



**Weekly outdoor learning with  
Woodland Forest School**

**Friday 6th September 2019**

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## Message from Mrs Conlan

It has been lovely to see the happy, excited children in school this week for the first week back following the Summer break. I am delighted to have joined Pre-Prep Leatherhead and to have met so many of you this week. While I have been in school this week I have spent most of my time in the classrooms, playground and lunch hall getting to know as much as I can about the school and also trying to learn the names of all the children. I've talked to the children about how practise will help me to learn their names and they have been fantastic at helping me. I'm not there yet but I think I have made some great progress for the first few days!

A number of parents have expressed concern about changes that may be made with a new Headteacher. Inevitably change does bring change, but I am not someone who would change things for no reason. Any changes I make over the course of my headship at the school will be based on evidence, feedback and improvement. There may be a few small administrative changes made this term but if there were any significant changes being considered, they would involve consultation with staff, parents and children. Next week I will be sending home a short questionnaire to start gathering your views. Have a lovely weekend.

**Mrs Vanessa Conlan**

## WELCOME BACK FROM RISING RECEPTION ☺

We are really proud of how well the Rising Reception children have settled into their new classes. They have enjoyed exploring their new classrooms and outside learning area and have had fun making new friends.



Next week Mrs Conlan will be in school on Monday morning, Tuesday, Wednesday morning and Thursday. She can be contacted at [vanessa.conlan@downsend.co.uk](mailto:vanessa.conlan@downsend.co.uk)

## Useful contacts



**DOWNSEND**  
PRE-PREP SCHOOL  
Leatherhead

Pre-Prep Ashtead	01372 385439
Pre-Prep Epsom	01372 385438
Pre-Prep L/head	01372 385437
Prep School Office	01372 372197
Extended Day	07943 134717
Admissions	01372 372311
School Nurse	01372 385409
Finance Department	01372 374842
Marketing	01372 385402
Downsend EY+	07943 134717
Downsend+	01372 385403

## Celebration Board

Each week we celebrate a special piece of work in our celebration assembly.

Congratulations to the following children...

**EVERYONE!**

## Saturday Sports

Saturday Sports for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will recommence this Saturday 7 September at 9am-10am

The Saturday morning 'Sports Club' is run by Downsend staff at Main site, as a method of providing additional sports coaching to all those girls and boys who are keen to participate. This club is solely for Downsend pupils at no expense and will continue to operate as a drop-in service; if you wish your child to attend, simply turn up. The club will run every Saturday (finishing on 7 December) excluding the following dates:

**5 October – Open Morning – please feel free to attend**

**19 October – Half Term**

**26 October – Half Term**

**2 November – Half Term**

**30 December – DPA Christmas Fair – please feel free to attend**

## Our new sandpit – it's huge!

The new sandpit has proved to be a great hit with the children this week. It is a wonderful new learning and play resource for them.



## Exciting stuff!



Look what was waiting for us in the garden when we returned to school! Some tomatoes, runner and French beans and some young pumpkins which should fatten up nicely in time for Hallow'een.

## News from main site

Main Site was a buzz of excitement this week as pupils, staff and parents explored the fantastic new facilities for the first time. It has been a busy summer, but all the hard work was worthwhile when we saw the looks of amazement as the children entered the new Junior Library, Food Technology Suite, Learning Resource Centre and STEAM and Technology spaces. We look forward to future visits from Pre-Prep pupils and parents so that you can see these amazing learning spaces for yourselves.

**Mr Ian Thorpe**

*Inspiring Young Minds*