

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 20 September 2019

Tel: 01372 385439

www.downsend.co.uk

ashteadpre-prep@downsend.co.uk

### Message from the Head Teacher

The children and staff are 'firing on all cylinders' this week as we have all been learning about healthy foods as well as being adventurous with our taste-buds. Of course, Mrs McCluskey is our resident cooking expert and manages to introduce all sorts of vegetables into the children's lunches at school. Next week, as part of 'Be Well' day, she is going to help the children create their own veggie burgers for lunch. Tasty!

It was lovely to get back to school yesterday after spending two days away. Seeing a stream of smiling faces as Chris our photographer from Pret-a-Portrait had them all smiling and giggling was a delight! Please check the little card that

came home for details of how to access your child's photos.

The Head's conference that I attended this week focused on sharing good practice and addressing the current expectations in Education and Cognita. This is one of the wonderful advantages of being part of a schools group as we have access to the best practitioners and trainers, helping Heads and our staff in schools stay at the forefront of teaching.

Thank you to all those parents who came along last night to our Literacy Information Evening. We were delighted to see you and hope that you found it interesting. Have a super weekend!

**Tessa Roberts**

### Mmmmm...Delicious!

On Tuesday we had a visit from Thomas Franks for 'Healthy Eating' week. The children were excited to see Julia as she always has lots in store for each class. She began by talking to the children about the four seasons and explained what fruits and vegetables are available at different times of the year. Then, for the bit the children love...tasting the yummy food! The children had a colourful selection to choose from, including beetroot, yellow peppers, tomatoes, lettuce and much more. "I like the cake....I didn't know courgette was in there!" said Mary in Year 1.

**Melanie Chipperton**



Do you know what these symbols mean? If you're not sure, ask Year One as they have been investigating and problem solving with these 'greater than' and 'less than' signs. Discovering that an equals sign means the same on both sides has also made it an exciting week for new learning in Maths.

### Don't Forget

**Mon 30 Sept** - Year One Sports Afternoon at Downsend Main

**Thurs 3 Oct** - Reception & Year One Forest School Trip to Ashtead Common

**Fri 4 Oct** - Open Morning Ashtead Pre-Prep 09.30

**Sat 5 Oct** - Open Morning at Downsend Main Site 09.15—12.00. This is a great opportunity to visit the school and meet staff and pupils. The older pupils will guide you around the school and introduce you to the wonderful new facilities.



## News from Downsend

This week it was the turn of the Upper School parents to attend their Curriculum Information evenings and all appeared to love being in the new facilities to hear about the plans for the year ahead for their pupils. For Year 8, this meant focusing on GCSE preparation and options as parents were informed about board choices and specifications. Many have informed me that they were impressed, but not surprised, about the level of detail and preparation involved and that their children are looking forward to moving into Year 9 with enthusiasm and confidence in equal measure.

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**  
Oliver

**Rising Reception**  
Sophia

**Reception**  
Henry

**Year One**  
Emily  
Vincent

## Golden Star Awards

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

Y1 - Hensen,  
R - Federica PB  
RR - Rory  
FS - Lockie

## Well Done!

## Look at me!



Happy Healthy Me is our topic in First Steps. After a week of settling in, we have been looking closely at the detail in our faces. We have made life size models of two children in our classroom, dressed and ready to go. The children have been drawing features on our face pictures and yesterday, they made rice cake faces to eat at snack time. Over the next weeks, we will be studying our feelings and emotions as well as looking at ways we care for our bodies, including cleaning our teeth and taking enough exercise to keep us fit. Reading "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" - our 'Talk for writing' book this half term - is teaching us about the days of the week, the numbers 1 to 5 and healthy eating. Have you seen our very own hungry balloon caterpillar in the class?



Julie James

## Events Week Commencing Monday 23 September Lunch Menu Week 1

<b>Mon</b>	3.30-4.30	Football & Ball Skills Club
<b>Tues</b>	09.45-11.15 3.30-4.30  19.30	Reception visit Pizza Express Tots in Tune Engineering Club Downsend Discovery Evening for Pre-Prep Parents —Peterborough Hall
<b>Wed</b>	9.00-10.00 3.30-4.30	First Steps Coffee Morning Art-Tastic! Club
<b>Thurs</b>		
<b>Fri</b>		Cognita—Be Well Day - Felting Artist, Jenni Burrows will be joining us for the day. Stuart Rolland (Cognita CEO for Europe) will also be popping in to see us.

## Global Be Well Day

Next Friday, we will be celebrating Global 'Be Well' Day, with all the Cognita Schools around the world. Wellbeing was the theme for the Headteachers' conference last year. Through discussion and the sharing of ideas and resources from all countries, we created a Wellbeing Toolkit to support all of our schools. There hardly seems to be a day that goes by when the wellbeing of children is not highlighted in the newspapers. The care, support and learning that we offer our children with regard to their wellbeing is addressed on a daily basis here at Ashted Pre-Prep. On 'Be Well' day, we will be running wellbeing activities connected to having a healthy lifestyle, the brain and your wellbeing, it's good to talk and screen time. We are also hoping that you will participate with one of our little challenges!

Tessa Roberts

## Inspiring young minds