

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom  
6 Norman Avenue  
Epsom KT17 3AB

## Epsom

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019



epsompre-prep@downsend.co.uk  
www.downsend.co.uk  
Tel: 01372 385438

## Message from Mrs Burns

As another week draws to an end and we close the chapter on the first half-term, your children remain as busy, inquisitive and enthusiastic as they were at the start of September. They amaze us every day with the wonder with which they view the world and it is right to celebrate their successes, however great or small. This week was no exception and we were proud to congratulate 12 children for their special achievements in this week's 'Celebration Assembly'.

If this was not enough, the entire school threw themselves wholeheartedly into Mrs Conlan's challenge to take part in our first

Downsend's Got Talent event. From our youngest First Steps children to our eldest Year 1s, everyone impressed with their smiles and skills.

DEPA also treated us to a superbly decorated Reception area this week and goody bags to put the children into the mood for holiday celebrations.

On behalf of Mrs Conlan and the Epsom staff team, we hope you have a fun-filled half-term holiday and we look forward to welcoming the children back to explore "Our Wonderful World" after the break.

**Mrs Lisa Burns**

## DEPA news

### Christmas Gifts

This week you'll have received your child's artwork and the order form to get your personalised Christmas gifts. Please return completed order forms and payment to Mrs Tucker by **6<sup>th</sup> November**. Payment can be cash (correct change please) in an envelope marked with your child's name or a cheque payable to DEPA.

### Children in Need Mufti Day

This year, Children in Need is happening from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November. To raise money for this worthy cause, **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November** will be a Mufti Day. Children are invited to wear something spotty in return for a donation to Children in Need.

### Creative Wizards

Thanks to all the parents who helped create the fantastic spooky den last Friday and to Nicola and Galina for lending us some decorations. We hope everyone enjoyed this week's spooky spectacular.

### Diary Dates:

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Wear Spots to School Day

**Weds 20<sup>th</sup> Nov:** DEPA Ideas Evening

**Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Dad's Night Out

## Downsend Epsom Has Talent



This week the children delighted, entertained and impressed their friends and teachers with class-based 'Downsend Epsom Has Talent' shows. The event was a culmination of our whole school topic, 'All About Me' and was designed to celebrate each child's special talents while boosting confidence and self-esteem.

Judging by the impressive singing, joke telling, rhyme recitals and even a martial arts demonstration, we have many talented young people within our midst.

## Community News

Many thanks to parents for supporting this half-term's fund-raising initiatives so generously. The Macmillan coffee morning raised £45.50 and further donations were made to Macmillan online. We were also bowled over by the kind Harvest gifts in aid of Epsom Foodbank. These will be delivered to the Food Bank early next week. Please look out for details of our Children in Need fundraiser after the half-term holiday.



# Hands on Learning

## First Steps Fun

The first half of the term has flown by and I am delighted to say that all the First Steps children are very settled and happy. We have enjoyed learning about Ourselves during the last few weeks, with highlights being painting paper plate faces, sharing family photographs and our Autumn walk/Breakfast. Currently the children are using the Monkey Puzzle story as our Talk For Writing text which involves re-telling the story as a group using visual signs, pictures and actions.

Have a super half term from everyone in First Steps.

**Mrs Simpson**



## Rising Reception

Our topic this half term has been 'All About Me' and we have learnt a lot about the children in Hedgehog Class. At the beginning of term, they shared with us what they did over the summer holidays. As the weeks have progressed the children have discussed their facial features, painted self-portraits, drawn pictures of the people in their families and finished the half term off showcasing their talents with beautiful confident performances in front of their classmates and First Steps.

**Ms Clayton**



## Reception

We have had a busy half term. The children have made wonderful progress in phonics and extended their skills through a variety of word building and sentence structure activities. In Maths they have continued to build on their counting skills, their knowledge of 2D shapes and repeating patterns.

As part of Ourselves Topic, Reception has explored how our senses help us to understand the world around us through a variety of fun activities. The children thoroughly loved our tasting activity watching themselves and others' reactions to foods which were salty and sour. Well done Reception children!

**Mrs Butler**



## Year 1

Year 1 has been on a voyage of discovery this half term. In the classroom, the children have strengthened their mathematical calculation skills, delved into the human body to find out about their skeletons, senses and organs and some children have become published authors thanks to the Pobble writing platform.

Beyond the school gates, we explored the town and the Downs to find out how the land is used and ventured to main site to experience some of the Games, Computing and Art activities that will be on offer next year. The children have impressed us all with their energy and enthusiasm and deserve their well-earned half-term break.

**Mrs Burns**



**Revised date:** Y1 parents' lunch has moved to Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November

## Useful contacts



Ext day mob 07594170569  
 Pre-Prep Epsom 01372 385438  
 Pre-Prep Ashtead 01372 385439  
 Pre-Prep L'head 01372 385437  
 Prep School Office 01372 372197  
 Admissions 01372 372311  
 School Nurse 01372 385409  
 Finance 01372 374842  
 Marketing 01372 385402  
 Downsend PP+ 07899 011275  
 Downsend+ 01372 385403

## Celebrating Achievement

Achievements in learning, working with others and excellent behaviour are celebrated in a special assembly every week.

We congratulated the following children this week:

### First Steps

Hendrix

### Hedgehogs

Aaron

### Reception

Aaron

### Year 1

Nandini



## Spooky Thursday

This week we had a Halloween lunch



## A Spooktacular Day

Ghoulies, ghosties, long legged beasties and some delightful little pumpkins filled the classrooms yesterday as our school rose to the DEPA challenge to celebrate Halloween in style. Dressed to impress, Mrs T and Miss Julie rustled up a devilishly delicious Halloween themed lunch. Thank you for mufti donations which raised £80 for DEPA funds and to DEPA for their amazing Reception decorations.



## News from main site

It was wonderful to see the Year 1 pupils from our Pre-Preps having such an inspiring time at our Discovery Day at Main Site this week. Smiling faces were plentiful as they enjoyed working with our Year 2 team in the new facilities, and all with a STEAM theme. Have a wonderful half-term break everybody! **Mr I Thorpe**

## Bubble & Squeak

Our gorgeous guinea pigs are now happily settled and the children love visiting them. Bubble and Squeak are off to spend half-term with Mrs Tucker and her family.



## Events week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> November Lunch menu week 2

|       |                        |  |
|-------|------------------------|--|
| Mon   | pm<br>3.30 – 4.30      | Mrs Conlan in school<br>Spanish & Music Theatre Clubs                      |
| Tues  | 11-12am<br>3.30 – 4.30 | Y1 Remembrance Event at Bourne Hall<br>Forest and Dance Clubs              |
| Weds  | 3.30 – 4.30<br>7.30    | Grow, Cook, Enjoy & Forest Clubs<br>Parents phonics workshop               |
| Thurs | 3.30 – 4.30            | Reception and Year 1 nasal flu immunisation<br>Science and Acro Dance Club |
| Fri   | Am<br>3.30-4.15        | Mrs Conlan in school<br>Yoganory   |

## Great Work!

Well done to Darcey, Diana, Elodie, Sophie, Keira, and Sonia for achieving Bronze Athletics certificates and Joshua for achieving bronze and silver certificates last week. Congratulations to Nandini for her Pobble writers award.

*Inspiring Young Minds*