

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Ashtead



**'OUTSTANDING'**

**SIS Inspection 2014-2015**

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 4 October 2019

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### Message from the Head Teacher

This week I have been spending time with James Carroll, Cognita Director of Education and Vanessa Conlan, Head at Epsom and Leatherhead Pre-Preps. We have been working together to look at the teaching and learning that is taking place across all four Downsend schools. During these learning walks we are able to identify best practice which can be shared. We are also able to ensure that consistently high standards are maintained across the schools along with the curriculum that is on offer. One aspect of these visits that I most enjoy when visiting the Main Site

is seeing children who started school here with us, at Ashtead. Their love of learning and confidence in and out of the classroom is still shining through as they eagerly tell me about their learning, friendships and favourite school activities.

Our regular poem of the week activity was performed with aplomb yesterday as all the children recited their poem for the other year groups to celebrate National Poetry Day. Rhythm, rhyme and extended language development is much more fun when you're learning together.

**Tessa Roberts**

### STEAM at it's best



When you were 4 years old could you build a maze for a lego man to kick a football, all the way from the start to the finish? This was the challenge that Mrs Duke set the Reception children yesterday. They loved this task and created the wonderful maze you can see here. The children then went on to create different height mazes after their lesson all about comparing measures. What innovators!

### The Enormous Turnip

This week in Rising Reception we had a lovely time with the story about the Enormous Turnip. The aim was to focus on developing our recall of this story. We began by retelling the story and familiarising the children with the Talk 4 Writing actions. On Wednesday



we all went outside and had a wonderful time with Mrs Jones and Miss Hodgkinson, re-enacting the story of The Enormous Turnip in our PE lesson. Mrs Jones was attached to the rope and the children played a different role as they helped each other to pull and heave the turnip until eventually the turnip went POP! On Thursday we were back inside, chopping the turnips and vegetables, to create the most delicious turnip soup. Not only did this develop the children's literacy skills but also their STEAM skills, as they investigated the best way to chop each vegetable using their scissors or a knife. The children made lots of thoughtful comments on the shapes they had created as they chopped. The learning has been brilliant and so much fun as the children continue developing their storytelling and mathematical language.



**Christeen Hill**

### Don't Forget

**Mon 14 Oct** - First Steps Harvest Breakfast 09.00 followed by an Autumn Walk

**Mon 14 Oct** - Parent/Teacher Interview appointments available online 13.00

**Tues 15 Oct** - Rising Reception Harvest Breakfast 09.00-09.45 followed by visit to the classroom

**Tues 15 Oct** - Downsend Discovery Morning - Year One to visit Main Site

**Wed 16 Oct** - Reception Harvest Breakfast 09.00-09.45 followed by visit to the classroom

**Thurs 17 Oct** - Year One Harvest Breakfast 09.00-09.45 followed by visit to the classroom

**Fri 18 Oct** - Diwali Celebrations



## News from Downsend

Global Well Being has been very much a focus for the past week and we have enjoyed seeing the children achieve such balance. On Monday, I am fortunate to be attending the Independent Schools Awards Ceremony having heard that Downsend has moved from being shortlisted to one of the finalists. Fingers crossed!  
**Ian Thorpe**

### Harvest Breakfast

This year we will be supporting the Epsom and Ewell Food Bank with our Harvest contributions. More information will follow next week with the urgent items needed.

## 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

**Rising Reception**  
Nikolas

**Reception**  
Jennifer

**Year One**  
Sasha

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

Y1 - Edward

R - Milo

RR - Alexander

FS - James

## Well Done!

## Autumn Time at Ashtead Common

Yesterday, Reception and Year One enjoyed an adventure with Jay in a Forest School session on Ashtead Common.



The Reception children embraced their first ever experience of Forest School with excitement and curiosity. Once we arrived at the common, Jay talked to us about the signs of autumn and how to keep safe in the outdoor woodland environment. The children were amazing with their existing knowledge, such as knowing to avoid touching red berries and toadstools. During our walk, we experienced thick, squelchy, oozy mud and 'crunchy' leaves. The best part was jumping in the puddles - splish splosh. Jay showed us how to make a 'journey stick', by encouraging us to explore the environment, collecting autumnal treasures from the world around us to tie to our stick. We collected all sorts of different



coloured leaves, feathers and sticks. Some of journey sticks evolved into magic wands. We had so many highlights on our journey, including the scrummy hot chocolate, followed by a walk in the long wavy grass, which was as tall as some of the children.

**Emma Duke**

## Events Week Commencing Monday 7 October Lunch Menu Week 3

### Space Week

<b>Mon</b>	8.45 3.30-4.30	Parent Engagement Coffee Morning Football & Ball Skills Club
<b>Tues</b>	3.30-4.30	Engineering Club
<b>Wed</b>	3.30-4.30	Rising Reception Autumn Walk Art-Tastic! Club
<b>Thurs</b>	08.30-09.15	DPA Uniform Sale at Ashtead Pre-Prep
<b>Fri</b>		

## Year One Sports Afternoon

Hockey, netball, football, cricket and much more! This is what Year 1 got up to when they visited the Main Site on Monday for Sports Afternoon. They were joined by Leatherhead and Epsom Pre-Preps which gave the children a chance to make new friends while playing sport in their mixed groups. Josh Evans and his team, alongside Downsend staff created a fantastic afternoon filled with fun, learning new skills and team work. "I liked the netball, we did passing the ball and bouncing the ball too" said Emily.



**Melanie Chipperton**

Inspiring young minds