

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



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

Epsom



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

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Message from Mrs Conlan

While walking through the school this week from Early Birds, in the classrooms, in the playground and even at extended day, the school has been full of rhymes and song. I have heard all about spiders, lambs, frogs, ducks, marching, kings and horses! Following the noise of very excited children this morning, I found Rising Reception experimenting and investigating to find a way to save Humpty Dumpty, a great link between nursery rhymes, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication!

These 4 C's are a key focus within our School Improvement Plan this year as we work with the other Downsend Schools to further develop our storytelling work using STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) skills as a driver. We are all very excited to welcome a storyteller in the new year who will be working with all staff on developing STEAM through books and stories to help us continue to improve our work in this area. **Mrs Vanessa Conlan**

DEPA news

Thank you to everyone who came to the DEPA Ideas Evening. It was great to see some new faces and get some different perspectives. News of Spring term plans will follow soon.

DEPA Dads' night out is **Thursday 5th December**. We're meeting for drinks at the Marquis of Granby in Epsom **from 8pm** and will go for a curry later. Everyone's welcome. To join DEPA Dads, email your details to epsomdepa@gmail.com and we'll add you to the Whatsapp group or just come along on the 5th.

Getting Festive

Thanks to those elves who've offered to help decorate the Reception area for Christmas. If you can help **Friday 29th November from 3.45pm** or lend decorations, please email us. You can arrange with school for your child to stay in extended day while you help.

Downsend Christmas Fair

Everyone is invited to the Downsend Christmas Fair at main site on Sunday 1st December, 11am – 2.30pm. There will be a giant snow globe, Santa's grotto ([Book Here](#) before Thursday 28th November as spaces are limited) and much more. Please register at: (DownsendPA@gmail.com) to help them with numbers. Details to follow.

Inside and Outside School



On a cold and frosty Tuesday morning Year 1 headed off to Lingfield's British Wildlife Centre to explore the diversity of British mammals. From seeing dozens of, now rare, red squirrels to otters, deer, foxes, rats, badgers and bees, the children learnt about the habits and habitats of the animals that live on our doorstep. Sadly, they also discovered that hedgehogs are set to become extinct in Britain within the next 30 years due to road traffic and the fact that they cannot digest milk which some people leave out for them to drink. Sonia said, "I liked seeing the fox. He smiled at me. I also learnt that foxes live until 20 years old in the wild."

It was lovely to welcome Reception's parents and grandparents for lunch on Thursday. Mrs T's lasagne was mouth-watering and was followed by more deliciousness, Miss Julie's tiramisu! There were lots of empty plates and Mrs T was kept busy adding not just the children's names to the proud cloud, but also the adults! Well done Mrs T and Miss Julie and thank you to parents and grandparents for sharing this special time with the



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

Willow

Hedgehogs

Ryan H

Reception

Diana

Year 1

Isabel



World Food Thursday

This week we had lunch from Italy



Nursery Rhyme Week

The school was filled with the sound of nursery rhymes this week. Down in First Steps, the children sang Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star with great enthusiasm, whereas Rising Reception learned rhymes old and new and even took inspiration from an old favourite, Humpty Dumpty, to build Humpty a more secure wall. Meanwhile, Reception created their own rhyme to promote the value of recycling and Year 1 rose to the challenge to create rhymes using soft and hard g words.



Downsend Dancers

All parents are welcome to come and watch our Dance & Music Theatre and Acro Dance clubs perform for the Christmas light switch on in Epsom. This will take place in Epsom Market Place (near the clock tower) from 4pm on Thurs 28th November. Our children will be performing at 4.10pm.

Our Reception and Year 1 children will also be singing Christmas Carols in the Ashley Centre on Thurs 5th December from 2.15pm – 3.15pm.

Mathletics News

Well done to Keira for achieving a Silver Mathletics certificate and to Darcey, Diana, Sophie, Arjun and Keira for securing Bronze Mathletics certificates last week.

Events week commencing Lunch menu week 1

Mon	pm 3.30 – 4.30	Reception sports afternoon at main site Spanish & music theatre clubs
Tues	12.45 3.30 – 4.30	Year 1 parents lunch Sports club
Weds	3.30 – 4.30 7.30pm	Grow, Cook, Eat & Forest clubs Parent Engagement Group
Thur	All day pm 3.30 – 4.30	Cognita safeguarding audit R and Y1 singing at The Elders Science club. No acro dance club.
Fri	3.30 – 4.15	Yoganory club

Inspiring Young Minds