

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



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**Weekly outdoor learning
with Woodland Forest
School**

Friday 29th November

leatherheadpre-prep@downsend.co.uk
Tel: 01372 385437
www.downsend.co.uk

Message from Mrs Conlan

Time is flying and we are almost into the last 2 weeks of term. Christmas trees have appeared around school today, the school has been full of Christmas singing all week and preparations are well under way to turn to the hall into a Christmas performance area. We look forward to welcoming our First Steps parents into school on Monday for Christmas songs followed by a Christmas activity to do together. Following parent feedback about being in school and seeing the children's classrooms as well as a very successful Rising Reception Harvest activity morning, we are going to be trialling different events and activities throughout the year to get more parents into school. The

activities will be a combination of the coffee mornings which parents have fed back they enjoyed and would like reinstated, assemblies and activities to take part in together. We want to ensure we are maximising the time you have available to spend in school with us! We welcome any feedback and further ideas and suggestions along the way.

I enjoyed a thoroughly enjoyable quiz evening arranged by the Friends last night. I greatly enjoyed guessing the flavours of the different jellybeans! Thank you to the Friends for organising.

I hope everyone has a warm, wonderful weekend.

Reception Sports Afternoon



What a lovely afternoon Reception had on Monday! We all walked down to the Main Site for a thoroughly enjoyable sports afternoon with the children from Epsom and Ashted. We were greeted by Mr Parsons who explained the different activities and then the excitement began. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon and the children had the opportunity to demonstrate all the different skills they have been learning to their family members who came to watch.



Christmas Post Box

The Christmas post box will be open again on Monday 2nd December until the end of term. Please post cards in the post box making sure that the name and class of the child receiving the card is written clearly on the envelope.



Write Dance

This half term Rising Reception have started a new unique programme called Write Dance. It helps to develop physical skills and co-ordination for writing and encourages creativity, self-expression and confidence. We have read a story to the children, which is accompanied by a song and music, and then move on to moving in different ways to each part of the story. When the children are familiar with these movements, we move on to scimbling. This means working on a writing surface. The children are now well into the scimbling stage and are using pencils in both hands to draw the story. They have also enjoyed large scale scimbling on the playground with chalks.



Friends Message



Congratulations to the winning team at the Friends Quiz on Thursday night. It was a great evening of fun and trivia.

Star of the Week

Well done to the following children who were awarded 'Star of the Week'.

Ladybirds - Luca
 Butterflies - Arthur
 Rabbits - Elise
 Foxes - Chloe
 Owls - Ally
 Squirrels - Darcey



Stars of the show

The children in First Steps have been busy practicing their Christmas songs ready to show their families on Monday morning. They are excited to be inviting them into the classroom afterwards for a Christmas activity, coffee and mince pie!



R at Forest School

On Tuesday Reception look forward to Forest School with Mr Bristow. Even though some afternoons can be rather wet and muddy (excellent weather for mud pies!) there can be lovely breaks in the weather where the children can take part in other activities like rope walking and team work exercises, all topped off with a nice hot chocolate. Yum!



Celebration Board

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

Congratulations to the following children...

Rabbits - Maxy
 Foxes - Beatrice & Max
 Owls - Sophie
 Squirrels - Hugo, Alastair, Teddy



Extended Day Elves



The elves at Extended Day have been super busy getting the school hall ready for all the upcoming Christmas Shows. They have been wrapping presents, painting and tidying all ready for the first show which is First Steps Songs on Monday at 9am.

The elves at Extended Day have been super busy getting the

Shapes in Yr1

This week, Squirrels class have been busy learning about 3D shapes. These groups worked together to decide how to sort the different shapes and then sorted them into two groups by thinking about shapes with straight or curved faces and edges.



Message from Main Site

The sounds of Christmas can be heard at all of our schools as our families ready themselves for the festive season. We hope to see as many of you as possible at the Christmas Fair on Sunday, as we celebrate the start of December.

Ian Thorpe

Useful contacts



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Pre-Prep Ashted 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 PP+ 07943 134717
 Downsend+ 01372 385403
 Mobile 07909 861280

Events Week Commencing 2nd December

Lunch Menu Week 3

Mon	9am	Mrs Conlan in school First Steps Christmas songs
Tues	All day	Mrs Conlan in school Cognita safeguarding audit
Wed		Mrs Conlan in school
Thurs		
Fri		

Inspiring young minds