

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 29 November 2019

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Message from the Head Teacher

The preparations have begun and the excitement is just simmering as December arrives this weekend. Christmas songs are in the air and twinkling lights are starting to appear all around the school. The festive season is upon us and we're ready for it! Please check all the dates in the newsletter so you don't miss all the fun that we have in store.

Despite the rain this week, the children have been outside enjoying the fresh air. At lunchtime when I have been out in the playground, the children have impressed me with the way they

are managing their play and taking turns with their friends. The children have really thought carefully about our Golden Star award of 'Taking Turns' and Rising Reception in particular have certainly demonstrated this when sharing bikes with each other. Keep up the good work everyone!

Our Christmas gets off to a great start next week with First Steps' Christmas celebrations - 'Sending for Santa!' We can't wait! I wonder if that cheeky elf will be back this year?

Tessa Roberts

Ready, Steady, Go

On Monday, Reception set off for a fun afternoon at the Main Site for some sporting activities. This was a fantastic opportunity for all the Pre-Preps to join together and build friendships. There were a

variety of different activities to challenge and strengthen the children's skills, such as coordination exercises and moving in a different ways. The children supported each other to accomplish results in team activities, especially in the game of volcanoes and tea cups.

The events of the afternoon all ran seamlessly and the children enjoyed being cheered on by all the families on the sidelines. Thank you to everyone who came along to support the fun and games.

Emma Duke



St Andrew's Day

The Scottish saint's day was celebrated today with a song, dance and a fabulous feast from Mrs McCluskey's kitchen. Haggis meatballs, rumbledethumps and honeyed apple cranachan were on the menu. The children loved it!



Don't Forget

**DPA Christmas Fair
Sunday
Downsend School
11.00-14.30**

Mon 9 Dec - Openbox Theatre at Downsend School for Year One — 13.45

Tues 10 Dec - Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal

Wed 11 Dec - Christmas Concert at St George's Church — 10.30

Thurs 12 Dec - School Christmas Lunch

Fri 13 Dec - Christmas Entertainer

Fri 13 Dec - End of Term 13.30 — No Little Lates or Extended Day

Marvellous Mud



On Thursday Year 1 and Reception put their wellies on and headed out to Asstead Common for a muddy adventure. "We had to go through the swamp," said Hensen. The children also enjoyed spotting different types of mushrooms and counting how many they could see. Edward had some good words of advice — "If you touch it, make sure you wash your hands". Although the children returned to school a lot muddier, they all had beaming smiles on their faces. **Melanie Chipperton**



News from Downsend

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



The children have been introduced to the PANTS rule in assembly. The happy dinosaur, Pantosaurus, helps the children to understand that their 'privates' belong to them and to speak up and talk about secrets that upset them. It teaches them an important message in a safe, child - friendly way. Please visit the NSPCC website for more details and for the enjoyable Pantosaurus video. **Melanie Chipperton**

Events Week Commencing Monday 2 December Lunch Menu Week 3

Mon	15.30-16.30	Christmas Box arrives at School Christmas Concert Photographs Last Football & Ball Skills Club
Tues	9.45-11.15 15.30-16.30	Last Tots in Tune Last Engineering Club
Wed	10.45-11.30 15.30-16.30	Last Swimming lessons Christmas Celebrations in First Steps Last Art -Tastic! Club
Thurs		Year One to see Year Two's Nativity Sinterklaas Celebrations
Fri		

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
James

Rising Reception
Jamie

Reception
Timothy

Year One
Chessie

Golden Star Awards

Taking Turns Golden Stars were awarded to:

Y1 - Vincent
R - Harry
RR - Charlie
FS - Celine

Well Done!

Staff News

At the end of this term we are very sad to say goodbye to Tracy Cobb, one of our wonderful First Steps team. She has been a real asset to our teaching staff as she has supported our youngest children through their first experience of school life. She is adored by the children and staff alike and we all wish her lots of luck in her next venture with the family business.



We are delighted to welcome a new teaching assistant to our team - Maddi Wardell. Maddi joins us from a local nursery. Some people may have met her already as she is also a leading member of the Downsend+ team. Maddi will be sharing her time between Rising Reception and First Steps and we are very much looking forward to working with her.

Inspiring young minds