

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom
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Epsom

Friday 15th November 2019

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Message from Mrs Burns

From hugs to smiles and from odd socks to spotty dots, our school has been even happier thanks to Kindness Week. While it may be true that "a word can change someone's entire day", our children have discovered that multiple acts of kindness can make everyone feel better. It has been lovely to see children go out of their way to pay each other little compliments or to help their friends and while the week has come to an end, the principles of kindness are here to remain.

Next week, we shall celebrate the joy of nursery rhymes in school. There is powerful research to show that children who know at least eight nursery rhymes (by heart) by the age of four usually go on to rank amongst the best readers at the age of eight. As reading underpins all educational success, nursery rhymes will continue to form a daily part of our early years provision.

Wishing you and your families a lovely weekend. **Mrs Lisa Burns**

DEPA news

DEPA Ideas Evening

Join us on **Wednesday (20th November)** for the next DEPA ideas evening at **the school at 7.30pm**. We're planning for the Spring term, including Easter fun, the next social evening and our main fundraising activity for the year, the DEPA Auction Night. There'll be wine, nibbles and soft drinks. If you have an idea or can help (however big or small), but cannot make the evening, please email us: epsomdepa@gmail.com.

Deck the Halls ...

The DEPA Elves are busy getting ready for the festive season. As part of our Christmas plans, we'll be decking the Reception area with boughs of holly and other decorations after school on **Friday 29th November** from **3.45pm**. If you can add some Christmas sparkle, please email: epsomdepa@gmail.com. You can arrange with the school for your child to stay in extended day while you help.

Diary Dates:

Weds 20th Nov: DEPA Ideas Evening
Sun 1st Dec: DPA Main Site Christmas Fair
Thurs 5th Dec: DEPA Dad's Night Out

Inside and Outside School



On Thursday Reception visited the Wetland Centre in Barnes to find out about wildlife. The morning activity started off in the learning centre where the children were put into groups and given pictures of animals that they had to sort into pets or wild animals. The activity progressed outside to the woods where the children's task was to make a home for a frog, grass snake and a duck. The children had fun using trowels to dig holes to make rivers and homes for their animals and they collected leaves to hide their animal. They learnt some new vocabulary such as hibernate and camouflage. After a well-earned lunch in the warmth, we ventured outside again to explore the mud kitchen. The weather was very kind to us. It was mud, mud glorious mud! The children would have stayed there all afternoon if they could, but that would have meant even muddier children to send home!

On Wednesday Rising Reception shared a delicious traditional lunch of sausages, mashed potatoes and green beans with their parents. Good manners and lovely family conversation flowed throughout and Mrs T and Miss Julie's delicious beetroot muffins were a particular highlight. Yum, yum!



Useful contacts



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 Pre-Prep Epsom 01372 385438
 Pre-Prep Ashtead 01372 385439
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 Prep School Office 01372 372197
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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
 Rahul
 Hedgehogs
 Nyx
 Reception
 Tommy
 Year 1
 Aiden



World Food Thursday

This week we had lunch from Thailand



Kindness Week



During Kindness Week we focussed on the fact that the differences between us are what make us all special. However, perhaps it was the little acts of kindness that we witnessed between the children that made this week so heart-warming. Whether asking someone to play, making a card, delivering kindness messages around school or simply helping our friends to tidy up, the children have been amazingly thoughtful to each other and to the staff. Well done children! **Ms Chantael Clayton**

News from Main Site

It was lovely to see around 35 families at Open Morning today. As always, the Year 8s were the perfect guides, and very much the stars of the show.

In a couple of weeks, we are looking forward to welcoming Epsom families to join us at Main Site for the DPA Christmas Fair and I will be dropping into Epsom Pre-Prep shortly to welcome parents and children during morning drop off. Wishing you all a great weekend.

Mr I Thorpe

Mathletics & Pobble News

Well done to Darcey, Diana, Sophie and Victoria in Reception and to Keira in Year 1 for achieving Bronze Mathletics certificates last week. Congratulations to Arjun, Henry, Joshua and Nandini for becoming published writers on Pobble.

Events week commencing Lunch menu week 3

Mon	3.30 – 4.30	Nursery Rhyme Week in school Spanish & music theatre clubs
Tues	3.30 – 4.30	Y1 visit to the British Wildlife Centre Sports club
Weds	3.30 – 4.30 7.30pm	Grow, Cook, Eat & Forest clubs DEPA ideas evening
Thur	12.45 3.30 – 4.30	Reception parents lunch Science and acro dance club
Fri	3.30 – 4.15	Pre-Prep Epsom prospective parents open morning Yoganory club

Inspiring Young Minds