

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'
SIS Inspection 2014-2015
Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 6 December 2019

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Message from the Head Teacher

Twinkling lights, glittered floors, dangling decorations and excitable children have been in abundance at school this week. Christmas fever has hit Ashtead and we are loving it! Rehearsals are well underway and in every corner of the school, you can hear children singing and plans being made for Christmas lists.

The cheeky Elf on the Shelf has crept into school again this year and he has already been up to all sorts of mischief. He muddled up Year One's classroom and was

then so exhausted that he had a snooze, in his pyjamas, in the tepee. Yesterday, he left a glitter trail up the stairs and was found swinging from the door frame of Rising Reception. There is no end to his mischief! Watch out if he is about in your house!

I look forward to seeing you and your extended families at St George's Church next Wednesday, for our Christmas Nativity. The children can't wait for the show. It promises to be a real treat!
Tessa Roberts

Sinterklaas



We celebrated Sinterklaas on Thursday with the help of Mr Lemmens who kindly came to school to share his childhood family Christmas tradition. Sinterklaas is the Dutch name for St Nicholas (Father Christmas) who visits the Netherlands on St Nicholas Eve (5th December). He arrives on a boat and gives presents to all the children. The children were fascinated to hear about how a different country celebrates Christmas.



Sending for Santa

The Christmas celebrations started in earnest this week at Ashtead Pre-Prep with the arrival of nineteen little First Steps elves. They sang beautifully, using actions and sleigh bells to tell their Christmas story, 'Sending for Santa'. As the elves entertained their guests, it was hard to decide who had the biggest smiles as the room was bursting with Christmas delight. Mrs Lockyer ably led the proceedings and the little elves participated with great enthusiasm. The most important part of the story was for the elves to post their letters to Santa, to make sure he receives their Christmas wishes on time. What a wonderful start to Christmas and a big 'Thank You' to the First Steps staff for their encouragement and enthusiasm in helping the little elves to enjoy their first Christmas performance.



Don't Forget

The children from Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead would like to invite you to their Christmas Concert

Christmas Recipe

On Wednesday 11 December
at 10.30am

St George's Church, Barnet Wood Lane, Ashtead



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



News from Downsend

It was lovely to see so many Pre-Prep parents at the Christmas Fair on Saturday. I am looking forward to joining you at your various nativities in the last week of term.

Ian Thorpe

Main Site Visit

Year One had a wonderful visit to the Main Site this week when they had the opportunity to see the Year Two Nativity play.



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

All of First Steps for a super Christmas show

Rising Reception

Phoebe

Reception

Milo

Year One

All of Year One for a brilliant week of rehearsals

Golden Star Awards

Taking Turns Golden Stars were awarded to:

Y1 - Eric

R - Timothy

RR - Nikolas

FS - Alice

Well Done!

Ashtead calling NASA

Reception had an amazing afternoon communicating with American rocket Engineer - Steve Ringler, who has been working on the NASA space project. Steve was part of the engineering team who built the space shuttle Endeavour and was given the opportunity to be in the control room at the launch. He proudly spoke about his involvement of being part of building and launching the satellite 'Juno', which is currently orbiting Jupiter. The children had prepared questions to ask Steve, some written by themselves! They asked— How fast does a space shuttle travel? What fuel does it need? and Are there any aliens out there? The children also learned what satellites are used for and how long they are in orbit for - (Up to 15 years). The children waved a United States flag dressed in either alien or astronaut costumes and showed Steve their junk modelling rockets. At the end of the interview, the children sang their planets song to show their knowledge of the order of the planets in a 'Planet Rap'.



Emma Duke

Events Week Commencing Monday 9 December

Lunch Menu Week 1

Mon	13.45	Openbox Theatre at Downsend School for Year One
Tues		Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal
Wed	10.30	Christmas Concert at St George's Church
Thurs		School Christmas Lunch
Fri	9.00-10.00 13.30	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Entertainer End of Term — No Little Lates or Extended Day

Christmas Wishes

This is a very special time of year for all our Pre-Prep Ashtead families, sharing the preparations and family festivities. However, we know that there are many people for whom Christmas will not be such a happy time. During this week's Friday assembly, I encouraged the children to think of people less fortunate than themselves, who might not be able to enjoy the festivities in the same way as they will be doing. I asked if each child could write a special wish for someone else.

The children in Reception and Year One will find a little snowflake in their book bag this weekend. Please encourage your child to write their special Christmas wish on the back of the snowflake and then return the wish to school. Each wish will then be hung in the porch for everyone to read.

I also have some spare snowflakes, if anyone from Rising Reception or First Steps would also like to contribute a Christmas wish.

Tessa Roberts

Inspiring young minds