

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 10 January 2020

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Message from the Head Teacher

Welcome back to a new term and a new decade! I thoroughly enjoyed being greeted by a sea of smiling children on Tuesday morning. Listening to everyone's stories, I can tell that a great deal of fun has been had by all over the Christmas break.

It was a year ago that we launched and integrated into the curriculum our STEAM approach to learning. The children are thriving on this problem solving and thinking based approach to their learning. Levels of confidence, perseverance and resilience have risen, along with academic achievement which we are delighted to see. To further support this approach and to start developing future learning

skills that our young children will need, we have moved forward with the CPA (concrete, pictorial, abstract) method of teaching mathematics. Based on a problem solving approach, independent mathematical thinking starts right from First Steps, carries on through our school and on to the Main School in Year Two. This term we will be inviting you to come along to a Maths Curriculum evening on Thursday 13 February. At this meeting you will be able to find out more about this approach to learning mathematical concepts and to view how it is delivered in each year group. Save the date!

We have also been following with interest, the way that Greta

Thunberg has been raising worldwide awareness about climate change and feel that it's important for our children to understand what they can do to help protect our planet. Our 'Eco Week', which is coming up at the end of January, will focus on 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'. As part of the week, we will be encouraging children and families to get involved with our projects. As you can see, there are many exciting new things that the children will be learning this term. Please check out the spring term calendar for a detailed view of the events to come.

Tessa Roberts

New Tantalising Topics!

If you take a look in the children's book bags today or on Monday, you will find a sheet detailing the topics that they will be learning about this term. There are links and suggestions that you can all discuss or try at home and we would be delighted to see any books or artefacts that you may have, to support the children's learning in the classroom. Look what's been happening this week already!



Don't Forget

Tues 21 Jan – Year One visit to The National Gallery

Fri 24 Jan - Chinese New Year Celebrations

★ Golden Stars ★

Our stars are highly sought after and the children were keen to find out during Wednesday's Assembly what all the teachers would be looking out for this half of term. New Year's resolutions were shared and we linked this with how Greta Thunberg made a resolution to make us all aware of issues connected to climate change. The children discussed ways in which we can help protect our planet and how they could help change the impact we are having on the World's climate. This half term the Golden Stars will be 'Helpful Stars'.



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
Cameron

Rising Reception
Lawrence

Reception
Timothy

Year One
Emily

Golden Star Awards

Helpful Golden Stars were awarded to:

Y1 - Harrison
R - Matty
RR - Nikolas
FS - Oliver E

Well Done!

Voice of the Parent Survey

Next Tuesday sees the launch of our annual Voice of the Parent survey. For those of you who are new to school, this programme is a more structured way of collecting feedback about your Ashtead Pre-Prep experience. We would like to thank the parents who took part in the last survey as we appreciate and value hearing your thoughts about our school. We have been particularly delighted that for the past two years many of you promoted our school with a high score of 9 or 10. This indicates that you would recommend us to other local families. If you could spare a few minutes to complete the questions, we would be really grateful. Thank you.

Events Week Commencing Monday 13 January

Lunch Menu Week 2

Mon	15.30-16.30	Snuggly Stories Club begins
Tues	9.00-10.00 15.30-16.30	First Steps Coffee Morning Musical Theatre Club begins
Wed	15.30-16.30	Swimming lessons begin STEAM Team Club begins
Thurs		
Fri		

Saturday Clubs

We hope you have enjoyed the Christmas holidays and that your child settles back into the new term quickly. For those children who enjoyed the 'Downsend Sports Club' last term, it will recommence this Saturday 11 January at the following time:

Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 - 9am - 10am

Jon Albert

Ballet club is also recommencing at the Main Site on Saturday 11th January.

9.10am – 9.55am FS and RR

10.05am – 10.50am Reception and Year 1.

If anyone would like any more information, please contact jenni@jhballet.co.uk

Adverse Weather Conditions

Although the temperatures that we are experiencing are currently higher than average, this half of the spring term is when we often experience snowy and icy conditions. Here is an update on how you will be contacted in the unlikely event of school closure. Parents will be notified as quickly as possible, via Schoolcomms and can then refer to the school's website for updates and further information. Even if school is open, parents should not attempt to make the journey if you feel it is unsafe to do so. Oakfield Road in particular can become extremely slippery in icy conditions.

Reminder: Please ensure that your child has their hat, scarf and gloves in school each day, as we do like the children to get outside in the fresh air everyday. Thank you.

Inspiring young minds