

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Ashtead



**'OUTSTANDING'**

**SIS Inspection 2014-2015**

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 17 January 2020

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### Message from the Head Teacher

This week the children have been busy totally immersing themselves in their learning and their new topics for the term. Whenever I have popped into the classrooms, I have seen children engaged in their learning and they have keenly rushed up to proudly show me their achievements. The articles in the newsletter this week explain in more detail the exciting learning that is happening in the classrooms.

One of the main activities that I have most enjoyed over the week

is hearing some of the children in Year One read. It's wonderful to spend time with each child to see how they are progressing and to share in a discussion about their reading book. I have been very impressed so far and can't wait to spend some time reading with all the children over the next few weeks.

Look out next week for a new display on the stairs. Our theme is the 'M' in STEAM. Have a great weekend.

**Tessa Roberts**



The children in Year One participate in weekly Philosophy for Children (P4C) lessons. During these sessions, the children develop critical and creative thinking skills through talking about real issues that matter to them. P4C creates a caring classroom where the children listen and respect each other whilst being clear about their thinking and basing their decisions and actions on reasoning. The children pass the teddy around, taking turns to speak. Some of the topics discussed so far are being a good friend and which is best...being an adult or a child?

### Don't Forget

**Mon 27-Fri 31  
Eco Week**

**Mon 27 Jan** – Junk Orchestra Workshop

**Thurs 30 Jan** - Protecting Our Planet Storytelling Adventures with Andy Copps

**Fri 31 Jan** - Eco Warrior Day

**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**



### Storytelling

Fee fi fo fum - I hear the buzz of a lot of fun! The topic in First Steps and Rising Reception this half term is 'Tell me a Story'. There has been much excitement as the children begin to investigate a wide range of stories. The children in First Steps have started their topic by listening carefully, recalling and re-enacting the story of 'The Elves and the Shoemaker', using phrases like 'leaping laces' and inventing customer names like Mr Flipsy Flopsy. This story language has found its way into the role play shoe shop where the children are having great fun hammering and tapping to make shoes, measuring feet, then trying on and buying new shoes. In Rising



Reception the children have been sharing old favourites and exploring new tales including traditional stories, Aesop's Fables and much more. They have started with 'The Gingerbread Man' as their focus story. The children have also been flexing their STEAM muscles by taking part in a number of related activities including designing their very own gingerbread man using ginger Play-Doh, constructing a float to travel across the river and escape the sly fox along with retelling the story using our 'Talk for Writing' actions. What a wonderful start to our 'Happy Ever After' topic. **Julie James and Christeen Hill**



## News from Downsend

We are delighted that work on the Arts Centre started on Monday. We hope you will enjoy seeing this fantastic facility take shape over the next 12 months.

Ian Thorpe

**Superheroes where are you?  
The Evil Pea has been up to his tricks again!**



## 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**  
Cooper

**Rising Reception**  
Benjamin

**Reception**  
Federica

**Year One**  
Mary  
Edward

**Golden Star Awards**  
Helpful Golden Stars were awarded to:

Y1 - Eric  
R - Jennifer  
RR - Omar  
FS - Alice

**Well Done!**

## Superheroes

Our Superhero topic has taken off in more ways than one. Our discussions and mind maps at the beginning of our topic provided the children with opportunities to organise, sequence and clarify thinking of ideas, feelings and events. This has helped to further inform our planning. The children have really engaged with the story of Supertato which is now our key 'Talk for Writing' focus. The objective is for the children to create their own Superhero story, using their unique ideas for a plot and characters. To bring the characters to life, we are using expressive art and design skills to create the children's own unique superheroes. Our designs will require a number of skills, using simple tools to manipulate materials and also mixing particular colours to use for a purpose. Towards the end of the topic, the Superhero models will go on an adventure as they are captured by the 'Evil Pea' from the story.



The children will be using STEAM to create a plan to rescue the Superheroes, using their critical thinking skills. Communication and collaboration as a team will be key in this mission to free the superheroes and return them back to base. Hooorrraaayyyy!!!

Emma Duke



## Events Week Commencing Monday 20 January

### Lunch Menu Week 3

Mon	15.30-16.30	Snuggly Stories Club
Tues	15.30-16.30	Year One visit National Gallery Musical Theatre Club
Wed	15.30-16.30	STEAM Team Club
Thurs		
Fri		Chinese New Year Celebrations

## Cross-curricular Learning



The new topics in Year 1 this half term are 'Materials' and 'The World'. The two topics link in many ways and we are looking forward to combining the themes and incorporating our STEAM approach to learning. 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' and 'Our Planet' will be key features this term, supporting our School's Eco project. So far, the children have loved making a collage using only materials, with no pencils allowed. They also had fun using the iPads to research and find out facts about our world and its seven continents. The information that was discovered was then shared in a class question and answer session, developing communication and critical thinking skills.

Melanie Chipperton



Inspiring young minds