

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Ashtead



**'OUTSTANDING'**

**SIS Inspection 2014-2015**

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 24 January 2020

Tel: 01372 385439

www.downsend.co.uk

ashteadpre-prep@downsend.co.uk

### Message from the Head Teacher

There was a real chill in the air today which kept us all moving at a brisk pace. It could be a sign of things to come! Will it snow soon? Keep cozy!

Let's hope it will not come our way this weekend as we are looking forward to taking part in the 'Big Garden Birdwatch'. If you would like to join this world wide survey which collects data to monitor and protect our wildlife, please follow this [link](#).

On a different note entirely, I

would like to say a huge 'THANK YOU' for the feedback we have already received through the 'Voice of the Parent' survey. The comments I have read have been really valuable and some of the lovely positive input has been really appreciated. The survey will remain open over the next two weeks for anyone who would still like to participate.

I hope that you all have a super weekend. Keep an eye out for those birds!  
**Tessa Roberts**



First Steps have been busy out in our garden each week this term, discovering all sorts of new things during their Forest School activities. The children inspected the roots of plants as they learned how to plant primulas in our planters. Then this week, they joined in with the 'Stick Man' story before creating and taking their own 'Stick Man' on a new exciting adventure.  
**Cindy Lockyer**

### Gallery Gazing

Year One had a wonderful visit to the National Gallery on Tuesday. It was the first time that many of the children had visited an art gallery and they were amazed at the size and the number of paintings that were on show. "There are 2,400 pictures in the whole gallery" said Ayrton. The children were given the



opportunity to explore a variety of artists, looking at the different materials they used to create their masterpieces. Fiona, our guide at the gallery, was impressed by how much the children had learned already through their 'Materials' topic and told us many interesting things about how a painting is made, both physically and compositionally. "There is a really expensive colour in paintings, even more expensive than gold...its blue!" said Harrison. The children learned about the different materials and processes that artists have used over time. "I liked finding out how they crushed beetles to make red paint" said Mary. Everyone commented

on how well the children behaved. Well done Year One! "I enjoyed the whole day" said Chessie.

**Melanie Chipperton**



### Don't Forget

**Tues 4 Feb** - Rising Reception visit Ashtead Library.

**Thurs 6 Feb** - Forest School Year One at Downsend School Rising Reception & Reception at Leatherhead Pre-Prep.



## News from Downsend

Collaboration, creativity and communication were at the fore at Main Site this week. On Wednesday, our Y7 team beat a host of local schools, including CLFS and St John's, to the Youth Debates Area Title whilst, on Thursday, 66 pupils from Year 5 joined the Young Voices Choir in a musical extravaganza at the O2. STEAM skills are alive and well at Downsend!

Ian Thorpe



## 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**  
Oliver E

**Rising Reception**  
Lily NB

**Reception**  
Jennifer

**Year One**  
Emma  
Sasha

## Golden Star Awards

Helpful Golden Stars were awarded to:

Y1 - Freddie  
R - Timothy  
RR - Lawrence  
FS - Harvey

## Well Done!

## The Year of the Rat

The children spent a wonderful day celebrating Chinese New Year today. Edward's Mummy visited us at the start of the day and told us the Chinese New Year story, about the order of the animals and some of the traditions that take place during the lunar celebrations. In the classrooms the children enjoyed learning about 'The Year Of The Rat' and finding out about the animal year in which they were born. Then, as the wonderful smell of Mrs McCluskey's Chinese cooking drifted through the school during the morning, we couldn't wait for lunch. Delicious ginger and plum chicken strips with Singapore Noodles and fried rice with pineapple and peas, followed by bananas in toffee sauce which all went down a treat. The children even had a go at the chopstick challenge which was great fun. In the children's bags today they will find a traditional Chinese New Year red envelope from Mrs Truong. This is a traditional gift for children during Chinese New Year. In China, the red envelope is called yasui qian (压岁钱 /yaa-sway chyen/), which means 'suppressing ghosts money'. Those who receive a red envelope are wished another safe and peaceful year. 'Happy Chinese New Year!'



## Events Week Commencing Monday 27 January

### Lunch Menu Week 1

## Eco Week

<b>Mon</b>	15.30-16.30	Junk Orchestra Workshops Snuggly Stories Club
<b>Tues</b>	15.30-16.30	Musical Theatre Club
<b>Wed</b>	15.30-16.30	STEAM Team Club
<b>Thurs</b>		Protecting Our Planet - Storytelling Adventures with Andy Copps
<b>Fri</b>		Eco Warrior Day



Next week the children are looking forward to learning more about protecting our planet and finding out what they can do to help. We will also be using some of the time during the week to 'kick-start' our journey to become an Eco School. Our Eco Friends in Year One will help to set up a committee to gauge what the children are concerned about and what they think we can do at school to 'Reduce, Re-use, Recycle'. We can't wait to get started and would like to thank all those people who have sent in recycling material to start our first project.

## Inspiring young minds