

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

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Message from the Head Teacher

What a brilliant week it has been! The Eco theme has really struck a chord with the children who are definitely championing the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' message. Enjoy reading about all the fun they have had learning about caring for and protecting their world this week.

Not only have the children delighted and amazed me with their depth of understanding of environmental issues but I have also heard, at first hand, how our STEAM approach is developing their attitude towards learning. I posed this question as the discussion topic for this week's

P4C lesson in Year One - 'What makes a good learner?' The answers that our five and six year old children gave just blew me away - 'When you are finding it tricky, don't give up!' - 'Do not get upset when you get something wrong because you are actually learning more.' - 'Concentrate and don't mess about with your friends.' - 'Listen carefully to the instructions.' - 'Keep practising.' - 'Don't rush to finish first.' I don't know about you but I'm not sure I was this articulate about my learning at that age!

Have a lovely weekend.

Tessa Roberts



This special week started with an orchestral concert! The Junk Orchestra's visit thrilled and surprised the children as they walked into the school hall and saw some very unusual looking instruments. They loved the music that they played on these recycled creations and it inspired them to construct their own musical inventions. Throughout the week, each classroom has been filled with children investigating materials that can be reused or recycled. Bird feeders were made from recycled paper, plant pots from old plastic bottles and many other fantastic ideas were created from throw away items. Yesterday we were treated to the wonderful



storytelling of Andy Copps. His beautiful stories, based on how we can protect our environment, had the children spellbound. A truly memorable week with a very important message.



Electricity

This week STEAM club have been exploring Technology. This area linked beautifully with Eco week as we discussed the Eco-friendliness of electric cars. The children watched a short video clip on how cars such as Tesla are kind to our environment, as they do not pollute the air with petrol and diesel fumes. We then looked at how electricity can be generated using wind farms and solar panels. Working collaboratively and using critical - thinking skills, the children made a light and a fan work by building a circuit. After this, we had fun exploring electronic items such as Bee Bots, Dashes, I Pads, remote control cars and circuits to problem solve and create.

Emma Duke



Don't Forget

Tues 11 Feb – Safer Internet Day

Tues 11 Feb - Reception visit Ashtead Library

Thurs 13 Feb - First Steps Teddy Bear's Picnic

Thurs 13 Feb - Maths Information Evening

Fri 14 Feb - Charity Day



News from Downsend

Downsend's STEAM and Future Skills programmes have been hugely successful this week. Our Y7 pupils won the Area Youth Debates Competition, whilst our Y8s were announced as Grand Finalists in the Imperial College Schools Science & Innovation Competition.

Well done everyone!

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
Reya

Rising Reception
Fabio

Reception
Matthew

Year One
Matilda
Ayrton

Golden Star Awards

Helpful Golden Stars were awarded to:

Y1 - Chessie
R - Harry
RR - Daniel
FS - Aurora

Well Done!

Eco Award

As a school are working towards gaining an Eco-Schools 'Green Flag' award. There are different stages along the way and the first step is the Bronze Award. To achieve this, our Eco-Committee must meet once every half term, with members of staff to support. The committee will have a specific agenda, part of which will involve discussing our action plan and how we are going to achieve our goals. The Eco-Friends will then share this with the school and put it on display so that it can also be seen by parents and visitors. Our Eco-Committee has decided to focus on the following three actions first - saving energy by switching lights off when you leave a classroom, adopting a healthy lifestyle by participating in a '5 a day' physical activity every day and use our new recycling bins correctly around school. Thank you to our Eco-Friends and Mrs Chipperton who are leading the way with this excellent initiative.



Events Week Commencing Monday 3 February

Lunch Menu Week 2

Mon	15.30-16.30	Snuggly Stories Club
Tues	15.30-16.30	Rising Reception visit Ashtead Library Musical Theatre Club
Wed	15.30-16.30	STEAM Team Club
Thurs		Forest School for Year One at Downsend School Forest School for Rising Reception & Reception at Leatherhead Pre-Prep
Fri		



Today, the children became Eco-Warriors in order to look after our school and our planet. In the spirit of collaboration, the children worked in mixed aged groups on four key planet-protecting tasks. The children were horrified that a litter bug had scattered rubbish all over the hall. However, they quickly set too with their litter pickers to gather it all up and then sorted it into the correct recycling bins. A beautiful Bug Hotel was created with natural materials, leaving a fantastic creation in our garden to enjoy. Plastics in the sea has been a hot topic this week and the children quickly helped us to clear the Ocean littering activity. The last challenge was to create a world map using recycled materials. Look out for the Eco Week display, to catch up with all this week's learning.



Inspiring young minds