

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



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**Weekly outdoor learning
with Woodland Forest
School**

Friday 10th January 2020

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Message from Mrs Conlan

Happy New Year! We were delighted to welcome you all back after the Christmas break and hope that everyone enjoyed the madness that Christmas and small children combined bring.

It has been lovely hearing all about the children's Christmas activities, the warm holidays that some of them have been on and also that all of our children were on Santa's good list and enjoyed a delivery of presents.

The Christmas elves brought their own presents into school over the break in the form of a new, larger staffroom for our incredibly hardworking staff team. The staffroom is now upstairs above the Rising Reception classrooms tucked away to give staff a little bit of peace and quiet during the day and the Head's office is in the old staffroom next to First Steps, in the heart of the school.

2020 brings the continued focus on developing the 4C STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths) skills through the curriculum – communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking with a particular emphasis on critical thinking for. Our staff training session on Monday based on storytelling and STEAM gave us lots of great ideas on how to use the power of stories and storytelling to pull these themes through and we all inspired with how to move teaching and learning forward further.

Our new menu launched this week and so far, so good! A huge thank you to Mrs Hook for listening to me talk about the need for a healthier menu with greater variety and for designing the menu for this term. Any feedback on the menu or any other area this term, as always, is welcomed.

A Busy First Week Back in RR



Rising Reception have enjoyed being back to school and have kicked off the new term with the topic Fairy Tales and this week they have looked at The Gingerbread Man. The children have

enjoyed designing their own gingerbread man and threading gingerbread men.



Children staying for the afternoon in Rising Reception have enjoyed the change of role play into a Doctor's surgery. They have taken on the role of Doctors, nurses and sick people.

Temperatures have been taken and prescriptions have been written for babies with germs.



Animals in FS



First Steps were very excited to be back at school this week and loved being introduced to their new topic. This term they are learning about a range of different animals and they started off this week with 'Night-time Animals.' They used the

scissors to practise their cutting skills and cut out lots of different stars to make a night-time picture. On Tuesday, after hearing a story about a hedgehog, they made some chocolate play dough and used their imagination to think about how to make his spikes. After Forest School, Mr Bristow kindly lent the children his collection of nocturnal animals and his wooden house. The children were then able to use leaves, foil and twigs to make homes for the animals.



Star of the Week

Well done to the following children who were awarded 'Star of the Week'.

Ladybirds - Zac
 Butterflies - Zachary
 Rabbits - Leo
 Foxes - Zack
 Owls - Simone
 Squirrels - Amy



Food Tasting



Reception have had an exciting week. We have introduced our new topic of "Around the world" and learned all about the different countries

that make up the United Kingdom. The children have particularly enjoyed tasting different foods from the different places including shortbread, potato cakes and soda bread.



Place Value



Squirrels class have been busy learning about place value in maths this

week. The children were able to represent numbers in different ways using Numicon, tens frames and sticks and bricks.



Celebration Board

Each week we celebrate a special piece of work in our celebrations assembly.

Congratulations to the following children...

Rabbits - Chloe
 Foxes - Ellie
 Owls - Madeleine
 Squirrels - Eva



Australian Wildlife in Need



Ally C in Owls class is becoming increasingly concerned about the very serious bush fires in New South Wales and she would like to do something to help the stricken wildlife. With Miss Hodges' help, Ally is asking if there are any keen knitters

who would be able to knit a simple pouch for Joeys and Koalas – a pattern is available from Miss Hodges. Mrs Conlan's sister is currently visiting from Australia and would be happy to take back any knitted donations from us when she returns in two weeks' time. Please help if you would like to support Ally in her very worthwhile quest.



Useful contacts



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Events Week Commencing 13th January

Lunch Menu Week 2

Mon	pm	Make Your Dreams Come True Day Mrs Conlan in school First Genie Science Club
Tues	8:45am pm	Year 1 to National Gallery First Forest school and Yoganory Club
Wed	pm	First Poptastic Club
Thurs	pm pm	Mrs Conlan in school First Swimming for Year 1 & R First Multi Sports Club
Fri	pm	First Ballet & Football Clubs

Inspiring young minds