

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



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Leatherhead

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**Weekly outdoor learning
with Woodland Forest
School**

Friday 17th January

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Message from Mrs Conlan

The children have had another great week at school. I was delighted on Thursday to be brought some excellent writing by Reception children really showing off how they are using their sounds to write extended sentences. I was also impressed by the First Steps children who were telling me all about arctic animals when I was in their classroom this week. Not to be left out, Rising Reception were showing off their learning about the 's' sound to me and Year 1 were able to explain all the different sounds the 'a' could make in a word giving me the examples of fast, hat and April to explain what they meant!

This week saw the launch of the annual Voice of the Parent survey and I would like to extend a huge thank you to those parents who have already completed the survey. We have had just over 1/3 of our community respond so far which is fantastic

after only 3 days. Your feedback is really important to us and I have already read many comments that will help to shape our continuous improvement. I have started to contact parents where I would like to explore comments a little further to support my understanding and to collect further ideas and thoughts about the direction to take. I would like to thank parents in advance for engaging with me in this. The survey remains open for 3 weeks in total and when it does close, I will collate and share responses with all parents and then put together an action plan with the Senior Leadership team on how best to move forward which we will also share with parents.

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend when they get there and look forward to seeing you all again next week!

A visit to the National Gallery

On a wet and windy Tuesday, the children in Year One set off to visit the National Gallery in London. Our lovely guide, Bethan, soon had everyone entranced by her descriptive stories of some of the wonderful paintings she had chosen to show



us. First, we saw a painting celebrating the birth of Jesus and then it was on to learn about Henri Rousseau's painting of the tiger who was surprised by a fearsome storm in the jungle. Finally, we learnt about the love story of Psyche and Cupid and

marvelled at the light and rich colours the artist had used. After lunch there was time to explore the Gallery to see other paintings by famous artists including JMW Turner, George Seurat and Vincent Van Gogh. We now look forward to painting in the style of these famous artists over the coming weeks.



Don't Forget



Don't forget to pop your donations of knitted or sewn pouches for the Australian wildlife into Miss Hodges by

Tuesday the 21st of January so that we can get a parcel ready for Mrs Conlan's sister to take back to Australia with her.



Hockey Skills

Reception had a great time at games this week. Mr Parsons taught the children hockey skills. They had to hold the hockey stick in a correct v hold and then learn to dribble the ball in and out of the cones and in a circle.



Star of the Week

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

Ladybirds - Florence

Butterflies - Flo

Rabbits - Amber

Owls - The whole class

Squirrels - The whole class



Forest School Fun



Rising Reception enjoyed a rather soggy Forest School this week hunting in the soil. Conkers were found hidden in the mud and reasons they might have been there given by the children were because they wanted to hide, and they didn't want the frost to eat them. Some children enjoyed using the mud kitchen to make food for wild animals. After exploring, the children came together around the campfire where a discussion was held about what was making the smoke blow in different directions. Everyone enjoyed a warm cup of hot chocolate to finish off the session.



Celebration Board

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

Congratulations to the following children...

Rabbits - Imogen

Foxes - Mya

Owls - Millie

Squirrels - Lily



Cool Cookery



This week in First Steps, the children have enjoyed stories all about animals who live in cold places. They used sugar cubes to pretend

they were blocks of ice and had to build homes for the animals.

In cookery, they used rice cakes, yoghurts, bananas and oreos to make a polar bear face.



Headlice

We have had a reported case of headlice in the school. Please can all parents be extra vigilant with checking their children's hair and treating any lice they find to ensure they don't spread any further. In addition, please can all long hair be tied back to further try and prevent the spread of the headlice. Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated



Useful contacts



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Pre-Prep Ashtead	01372 385439
Pre-Prep Epsom	01372 385438
Pre-Prep L/head	01372 385437
Prep School Office	01372 372197
Extended Day	07943 134717
Admissions	01372 372311
School Nurse	01372 385409
Finance Department	01372 374842
Marketing	01372 385402
Downsend PP+	07943 134717
Downsend+	01372 385403
Mobile	07909 861280

Events Week Commencing 20th January

Lunch Menu Week 3

Mon		Mrs Conlan in school
	PM	Genie Science Club
Tues		
	PM	Yoganory & Forest School Club
Wed		
	PM	Poptastic Club
Thurs		Mrs Conlan in school
	PM	Multi Sports Club
Fri		
	PM	Ballet & Football Club

Inspiring young minds