

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom  
6 Norman Avenue  
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## Epsom

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 us. Our staff training session on Monday based on storytelling and STEAM gave us lots of great ideas on how to keep our storytelling focus at the heart of what we do while we develop STEAM further too.

## DEPA news

**Happy New Year** to our parent and family community. We're busy planning a jam-packed Spring Term. Here are some key dates:

### **Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> March: DEPA Auction and Social Night**

This is our main fundraising event of the year. Proceeds support the Summer Fair, DEPA activities for our children during the year and gifts to the school, such as the new bikes we delivered before Christmas.

Please put the date in your diaries and come to support this key event. We also need help to source auction lots. Look out for details next week and if you can help, please let your Class Rep know or email [epsomdepa@gmail.com](mailto:epsomdepa@gmail.com)

### **Pre-Loved Uniform Sale**

The next pre-loved uniform sale is at Main Site on Tues 21<sup>st</sup> January, 3.45-4.45pm in the Drama Room. We understand they have lots of pre-prep items available.

### **Diary Dates**

4 Feb DEPA Ideas Evening  
13 Feb DEPA Dads' Night Out  
5 Mar DEPA Auction & Social Night  
13 Jun Summer Fair

## Inspiring young minds



The Spring Term has started very well in First Steps and everyone has settled back quickly into routine. We have begun focussing on our new Talk for Writing story which is 'Stuck in the Mud'. The initial stage is reading the story and acting it out with small world characters. Next, we will learn the Makaton signs for the key words and finally we shall draw a simple story map the children can follow easily and

retell the story themselves. The children have loved joining in with the repetitive phrases "once upon a time...they pulled, and pulled and pulled... the end". Well done First Steps.

The children in Rising Reception have had a great start to the new term. They were so pleased to see each other after the holidays and very keen to share all their news. This week we have introduced our new topic, 'People', and the children have been learning about the jobs doctors and nurses do and how they help us. They have enthusiastically absorbed this information and have been checking each other for any ailments using the doctor's kit and bandaging where necessary!



## Useful contacts



Ext day mob 07594170569  
 Pre-Prep Epsom 01372 385438  
 Pre-Prep Ashtead 01372 385439  
 Pre-Prep L'head 01372 385437  
 Prep School Office 01372 372197  
 Admissions 01372 372311  
 School Nurse 01372 385409  
 Finance 01372 374842  
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## Celebrating Achievement

Achievements in learning, working with others and excellent behaviour are celebrated in a special assembly every week.

We congratulated the following children this week:

### First Steps

Luke

### Hedgehogs

Ted

### Reception

Everyone!

### Year 1

Sonia



## World Food Thursday

This week we ate food from China



## Rolling back the years

This week the Reception children received a letter from Professor Stone Age inviting them to journey back in time to meet Early Man. After a lively discussion about who Early Man was and how they could travel back in time, the children decided to use a time machine. Mrs Butler set them the challenge to use their STEAM skills and while some children worked on the machine, others created a watch to 'teleport' them to ancient times!

The Year 1 children are learning about life in the 1960s. This week we explored home life. The boys and girls were amused by some of the (then!) labour saving devices, like twin tub washing machines and carpet sweepers and they were amazed to see a two-tone green 1960s telephone complete with its dial. Even so, there were a couple of enthusiasts for bright orange sofas and pale blue bathrooms!



## Thank you from Children in Need

Children in need have been in touch to thank you for your generous donations last November. The full transcript of their message is in Reception. However, thank you to all our families for supporting this worthy cause to help disadvantaged children in the UK and beyond.

## Mathletics news

Well done to Darcey, Diana, Keira and Tahira for achieving Bronze certificates and to Darcey, Diana and Keira for achieving a Silver certificate over the holidays. Fantastic Mathletics!

### Events week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020

#### Lunch menu week 2

Mon	3.30 – 4.30	Make Your Dreams come true day Spanish & music theatre clubs
Tues	3.30 – 4.30	Sports club
Weds	3.30 – 4.30	Mrs Conlan in school Grow, Cook, Eat & Forest clubs
Thur	3.30 – 4.30	Science club
Fri	3.30 – 4.15	Mrs Conlan in school Yoganory club

*Inspiring Young Minds*