

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom
6 Norman Avenue
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Epsom

Friday 24th January 2020



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Message from Mrs Conlan

Last 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 below 40% of our community respond so far and with only a week left I am keen that we do get wider representation and feedback from within our community – I would also like to beat last years response rate of just over 70% so we have a little way to go. 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 one more week and when it closes, I will collate and share responses with all parents. The Senior Leadership team and Parent Engagement Group will then work together on a plan in response to the feedback which we will share with everyone. I hope you have a lovely weekend when you get there. Mrs Conlan

DEPA news

DEPA Auction and Social Night

Information and ticket order forms for our big fundraiser of the year, the DEPA Auction and Social Night will be in book bags next week.

Following your feedback, this year we're hosting the night at The Chequers Pub, Walton on the Hill on Thursday 5th March. Tickets are £12.50 each (includes a buffet) and it promises to be a great night with some fantastic lots up for grabs.

Thanks to everyone who has donated an auction prize so far. We've got some amazing lots. We're still sourcing prizes, so if you can help, get in touch:

epsomdepa@gmail.com

DEPA Ideas Evening

Our next Ideas Evening is Tues 4th February, 7.30pm at school. We'll be finalising the auction night details and kicking off planning for our next big event, the Summer Fair. We'll have drinks, nibbles and would love to see lots of you there.

Don't Forget ...

... to collect your empty baby food pouches and crisp packets. Recycle them, raise money for DEPA and the local Air Ambulance Trust and do your bit for the environment. Look out for the school comms today.

Discovering other places and faiths



First Steps love their weekly dance lesson with Miss Verity on a Friday. We always start with a warm-up of marching, galloping, walking tip toe and skipping, with Miss Verity gently guiding and encouraging all of the children to participate. Recently we have been on a magic carpet visiting different countries such as Russia to Russian dance, Hawaii to Hula and Spain to Flamenco. This

week we finished up in Japan and England and used the wonderfully coloured fans. The scarves were also waved around an imaginary Maypole. We end our lesson with a curtsy, a bow and a thank you to Miss Verity.



Last Friday, the Year 1 children visited St Martin of Tours church in Epsom as part of their RS topic on churches. The children were greeted by Reverend David who showed them the 600 year old font and the main features of the church such as the pews, pulpit, altar and organ. The children were amazed at the beautiful stained glass windows and enjoyed looking at the different pictures. Sonia said her highlight was "when we got to stand at the lectern."

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
 Marketing 01372 385402
 Downsend PP+ 07899 011275

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

Sidhiksha

Hedgehogs

Nyx

Reception

Sophie

Year 1

Aiden



World Food Thursday

This week we ate food from The Netherlands



Celebrating Chinese New Year

We were very lucky to welcome Sophie (Reception) and her mummy to Assembly yesterday. Together, they shared with us the origin of Chinese New Year (through the story of Bien), the traditions with which the festival is celebrated today and the significance of the Chinese zodiac. We all learnt a great deal and the children were delighted to leave with a special Chinese New Year red envelope gift which is traditionally given to young people. Inspired by what they discovered, the children returned to class to make Chinese dragons and today, each class performed a dragon dance in the playground. Great artistry and enthusiasm were seen in abundance.



News from main site

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

Mathletics news

Well done to Darcey, Lauren, Sonia and Keira for achieving Bronze certificates this week. Fantastic Mathletics! Please ask your child's teacher if you have mislaid your child's log in details.

Events week commencing 27th January 2020

Lunch menu week 1

Mon	3.30 – 4.30	Mrs Conlan in school Spanish & music theatre clubs
Tues	3.30 – 4.30	Sports club
Weds	3.30 – 4.30	Grow, Cook, Eat & Forest clubs
Thur	9.10-9.30 3.30 – 4.30	Celebration Assembly Science club
Fri	3.30 – 4.15	Mrs Conlan in school Yoganory club

Inspiring Young Minds