

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom
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Epsom



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Message from Mrs Burns

Who would have imagined that eating crisps could help our planet? While that may be somewhat of an exaggeration, it is true to say that Eco Week has made us all a lot more conscious of what we consume and how we dispose of it. The baby food pouch and crisp packet recycling schemes have got off to a flying start this week and all classes have collected wastepaper. In yesterday's Assembly we unveiled the contents of our paper bins to the children. While we were all surprised (and a little ashamed) of the amount we have thrown away, as to be expected, the

children had some great ideas for how we could conserve paper. From making sure we use both sides of a piece of paper, to making collages from offcuts of coloured paper, the children were full of suggestions. Mrs Conlan and I are also delighted that the Eco Committee has reformed this week (with some new members) and we are looking forward to finding out the children's thoughts about how we can do our little bit to preserve our wonderful world. Wishing you all a lovely weekend. **Mrs Burns**

DEPA news

Tickets on sale Monday ...
... for our big fundraiser of the year, the **DEPA Auction and Social Night on Thursday 5th March** at The Chequers Pub, Walton on the Hill.

Tickets are £12.50 each and it promises to be a great night. There'll be time to chat with other parents before trying your luck at bidding on our fantastic auction prizes.

We've got some amazing lots, including four tickets to the Lion King, kindly donated by Sir Tim Rice; a family holiday for four in Cornwall; great family days out; children's party vouchers; and much, much and more. And new lots are being donated all the time - thanks to those of you who have offered prizes to date.

Ticket order forms will be in book bags from Monday. Please complete the form and return it with your payment to Mrs Tucker by **Tuesday 25th February**.

DEPA Ideas Evening
We're looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible next **Tuesday (4th Feb) at 7.30pm at the school for our Ideas Evening**. We'll be kicking off our Summer Fair plans and would love your input and ideas. There'll be drinks and nibbles to keep the ideas flowing.

Eco Week



The children were amazed by Saul and his incredible collection of musical instruments made from junk. They had the opportunity to play bells made from empty oil drums, guitars constructed from wood, string and tin cans and even tuned percussion built from rubber tubes and flip flops! After experimenting with the sounds that each instrument made, the children used the instruments to accompany the many stories told by Saul. While Year 1

learnt about the pentatonic scale that is common in oriental music, the younger children discovered that the stuff we throw away can create tuneful sounds ... so long as we try to play in time! Inspired by their experiences, all of the children returned to their classrooms to make drums, shakers and guitars from recycled materials. What an orchestra we made!



Henry, Sonia, Arjun, Joshua, Jago, Ellie and Amaya have taken up the challenge to make our school more environmentally friendly. As new members of our Eco Committee, their first challenge will be to tour the classrooms looking for ways in which we can reduce, re-use and recycle in school. Supported by Ms Organ, the children hope to launch environmental initiatives this year that will enable the school to apply for the Eco Schools silver award.

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
 Downsends 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

Sophie

Hedgehogs

Oliver

Reception

Ellie

Year 1

Tahira



World Food Thursday

This week we ate food from Jordan:



People who help us

Rising Reception have been learning about the Police as part of the topic 'People Who Help Us' and have had two special visitors. Mr Conlan (Ted's dad), who works for the Metropolitan Police, came to tell the children how the police help to keep them safe. He showed them the different hats the police might wear and why, explained how the police travel around and showed the children some handcuffs which they were delighted to try out. He also explained that not all policemen wear a uniform because they don't want the 'baddies' to know who they are so they can catch them more easily. The second visitor was PC Crouch and she showed the children the uniform she wears and explained the items she carries on her belt. She spoke about what they should do if they got lost and which number to call if there was an emergency. Ms Clayton was very proud of Hedgehog Class who listened carefully and asked lots of questions.



Parking plea!

Thank you to the majority of parents who are now avoiding parking in Norman Avenue during school drop offs and pick-ups. Please could everyone observe our local agreement so as to maintain the safety of all of the children who walk to and from the school entrance.

Mathletics and Pobble News

Well done to Victoria, Darcey, Lauren, Joshua, Arjun and Keira for achieving Bronze Mathletics certificates this week. Fantastic work! Congratulations also go to Aiden, Nandini and Tahira for becoming our first published Pobble poets!

Events week commencing 3rd February

Lunch menu week 2

Mon	3.30 – 4.30	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
Thurs	9.10-9.30 3.30 – 4.30	Mrs Conlan in school Celebration Assembly Science club
Fri	3.30-4.15	Yoganory club

Inspiring Young Minds