

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 7 February 2020

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### Message from the Head Teacher

The school has been literally 'buzzing' this week, as some new, recently ordered 'Tech' resources arrived. This new equipment will further enhance the way that we can integrate technology into the lessons and develop and extend the children's IT skills. First Steps have been discovering how to move the Wonder Bugs before taking them on an adventure. Year One meanwhile, have been challenged with designing and building robots with 'Cubelets'. This may sound easy but each cube has a different sensory function - some of these work together and some don't! With

internal motion sensors, the robot's movements can be controlled by a wave of a hand. As you can imagine these little cubelets have the children mesmerised. If you are able to join us next Thursday at the Maths Information evening, some of this new equipment will be available for you to see. I do hope that you are able to come along as we look forward to sharing with you our CPA approach to teaching Maths. This method develops mastery of mathematical concepts, preparing our children for their future learning.

**Tessa Roberts**



Next Friday is very special in three ways:

1. It's Valentine's Day
2. It's International Book Giving Day
3. It's Charity Day at Ashtead Pre-Prep

We are keen to combine all three events to celebrate and to support our wonderful charity - Stripey Stork. On the day we would like the children to come dressed in mufti clothes which are red or stripey or maybe a combination of both. We would also like to ask that each child brings to school one of their books that they have loved and would like to give to Stripey Stork to pass on to another child for them to enjoy. In your child's book bag on Monday, you will find an insert, to stick inside the book your child would like to donate. A request is that the book is in a good condition to make it a special gift. The day will have a caring, sharing theme as the children learn more about what 'charity' means. Thank you so much for helping to support such a worthwhile local charity.

### Fantastic Forest School

#### Reception and Rising Reception

With big smiles, bright skies and wellies in hand, Rising Reception and Reception were ready for their very first Forest School trip to Leatherhead Pre-Prep with Mrs Lockyer. The children had a wonderful time exploring the natural surroundings, climbing trees, building fairy houses, whittling sticks and even toasting marshmallows around a fire which they helped to create. What a fun day! Thank you Mrs Lockyer!

**Christeen Hill**

#### Year One

Year One set off to the Main Site yesterday for an exciting morning of Forest School with Jay. It was fantastic to watch every child investigating their surroundings. We found so many natural materials whilst digging in the ground and even had a go at sawing wood for the camp fire. "I just love Forest School...it's the best" said Vincent. **Melanie Chipperton**



Playing in a natural setting can reduce stress and anxiety in children along with increasing motivation and self-direction. A great reason for getting out and about this weekend. Have fun!



## Golden Board

**Achievements in class work, good manners and excellent behaviour are celebrated in a special assembly every week.**

**We congratulated the following children today.**

**First Steps**  
Rafferty

**Rising Reception**  
All of Rising Reception for their enthusiastic participation on both of this week's outings.

**Reception**  
Milo

**Year One**  
Freddie

## Story Surprises

The Rising Reception children bounced into school this Tuesday with great anticipation as we ventured across the park to Ashtead Library. On our arrival we were met by Vivian, a Story Teller who introduced us to a dragon .... "A dragon!" cried Charlie. "I didn't know dragons go to the library!" Tommy replied in surprise. The children were challenged to help the dragon try to discover 'What story he belonged to?' The children were quick to discover that he came from the story - 'Room on a Broom!' The children had great fun, listening to a variety of stories and helping to act them out, before exploring all the library has to offer. Several passers-by and librarians commented on how beautifully the children joined in, demonstrating their best manners. What superstars and what fun! Well done Rising Reception!



**Christeen Hill**

### Events Week Commencing Monday 10 February

#### Lunch Menu Week 3

<b>Mon</b>	15.30-16.30	Snuggly Stories Club
<b>Tues</b>		Safer Internet Day Reception Visit to Ashtead Library
	15.30-16.30	Musical Theatre Club
<b>Wed</b>	15.30-16.30	STEAM Team Club
<b>Thurs</b>		First Steps - Teddy Bears Picnic Maths Information Evening
	19.00	
<b>Fri</b>		Charity Day for Stripey Stork Reception Supermarket Visit

## Golden Star Awards

**Helpful Golden Stars were awarded to:**

Y1 - Ayrton

R - Federica

RR - Federica

FS - George

## Well Done!

## Focus on Wellbeing

To celebrate Children's Mental Health Week, the children took part in a fun and interactive assembly to share our thoughts and feelings, which help to make up our 'Mental Health'. This year, 'Children's Mental Health Week,' focuses on 'Healthy Inside and Out'. In order to be healthy inside and out, we need to take care of our bodies and minds. The children talked with their partners about what they could do to keep their bodies healthy. The feedback demonstrated the most popular ways of keeping healthy from the voice of the children, which were: Exercising, eating vegetables, going to bed early and walking in the fresh air. What a great start!

We then discussed the differences between happy and sad thoughts and feelings and how we are all unique and no two people will necessarily feel the same. Together we shared ideas about how we can keep a healthy mind, such as when relaxing, talking to a friend, reading, getting fresh air and listening to music.

We concluded by summarising how our minds and bodies are connected and we need to look after them both. If our bodies are poorly we tell an adult and may visit a doctor. If our minds need help we must remember to share our thoughts and use the ideas we discussed to keep our minds healthy. We had fun passing Emoji balloons around and talked about how each Emoji could be supported by our ideas. For example, the children decided the sad face balloon could talk to a friend and listen to some music. We finished off with some relaxing meditation to calming music and thought about all our happy memories. **Emma Duke**



**Inspiring young minds**