

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 14 February 2020

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Message from the Head Teacher

This week has held great significance for me as I announced my intention to retire. It wasn't an easy decision, as you can imagine, because Ashtead Pre-Prep is such a happy place to work, teaching great children. However, I am absolutely delighted to be able to pass the school leadership on to Vanessa Conlan and Christeen Hill. They will make a wonderful team and I know that Ashtead Pre-Prep will continue to be a special place for our young children to start their school journey. Vanessa and I will continue to work very closely together to ensure a smooth transition and we will look at some opportunities for her to come and meet you all. Over the last couple of weeks I have been visiting classrooms to observe Talk4Writing lessons. The teachers and the children have amazed me with their passion and creativity! The lessons have been inspiring and the children's enthusiasm for storytelling, mark-making and writing has been evident from First Steps through to Year One. They have all worked incredibly hard during this half term and we are ready for the half term break. I hope that you all have a great week and have fun with family.

Tessa Roberts

Storytime

In line with our topic 'Tell me a Story', Rising Reception were very excited this week as they invited their parents into school to cuddle up and get lost in a book. It was wonderful to see so many parents join us each morning and enjoy a variety of books. What a wonderful way to end our topic! There really is no limit to where a book can take you.

Christeen Hill



Don't Forget

Mon 2 March – Parent/Teacher Interviews—bookings available online from 12.00.

Calendar Change

Wed 4 March - No Swimming.

Wed 4 March - Reception and Year One visit Downsend Main Site for an Open Box Book Week Event.

Thurs 5 March - World Book Day - children come to school dressed as a book character. June Peters, Performance Storyteller visits school.

Fri 6 March - Open Morning.

•Ashtead Pre-Prep 9.30

•Downsend School 9.15

'Tell me a Story'

Goldilocks and the Three Bears



If you go down to the woods (First Steps) you'll see that it's been 'bearly' busy! This week, the children have been enjoying taking part in activities linked to the story 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. They have learned and re-enacted the story for their friends and have then been overheard using this lovely story-language in their independent play. Fantastic! Also, the expression they have used while talking like each of the bears has had all of First Steps full of giggles and smiles. Bears have been painted and created, sorted and counted, porridge has been tasted and the final 'pièce de résistance'.... a teddy bear's picnic. It's been a hive of activity and now all that's left in First Steps aretired little teddy bears!

ZZZZZZZ.....

Julie James





News from Downsend

We are now five weeks into the Arts Centre build and there has been excitement amongst the pupils with the arrival of the giant cement mixers. With the outline of the footprint taking shape, we are starting to visualise the difference this fantastic facility will make to our school. I hope you have a lovely, restful half-term break after a busy but productive few weeks. Please remember to let us know if you are travelling to the Far East over the next week.

Ian Thorpe

Superheroes to the Rescue

Today, Reception visited Sainsbury's Supermarket in Epsom. Before they set off on their journey, they received a message from Supertato asking to be rescued from the clutches of the Evil Pea in the vegetable area. Supertato gave them mathematical clues to help the children locate him, using a map. Whilst at the Supermarket, the children toured the different areas of produce. We looked at the recyclable packaging, healthy eating options and used our senses to identify food items, such as freshly baked bread. The children each chose a healthy item to purchase which they then donated to charity, taking turns to use their money to purchase the items at the check-out. Returning with Supertato, safely back to Downsend Ashted was a great relief. Phew! What a rescue mission!

Emma Duke



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
Edie

Rising Reception
Joe

Reception
Henry

Year One
Harrison

Charity Day

Thankyou for all your wonderful book donations



Events Week Commencing Monday 24 February

Lunch Menu Week 1

Mon	15.30-16.30	Snuggly Stories Club
Tues	9.45-11.15 15.30-16.30	Tots in Tune Musical Theatre Club Dr Aric Sigmund— 'Screen Time and Well Being' - Downsend School
Wed	15.30-16.30	STEAM Team Club
Thurs		
Fri		

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday - 'Safer Internet Day', the children were involved in activities and discussions about keeping them safe on the Internet. Children are never too young to learn about keeping safe online, as many young children have access to tablets, parents' smart phones and computers. The internet can be fun and educational. However, it is important for children to recognise when to make informed choices and what to do to keep them safe. The children listened to the story of Smartie the Penguin, who was given a new tablet for his birthday and needed help making choices. We also learnt the song that Smartie's parents had taught him. If you would like to share this story with your children, please click [here](#).



Golden Star Awards

Helpful Golden Stars were awarded to:

Y1 - Edward
R - Milo
RR - Fabio
FS - Phoebe

Well Done!

Inspiring young minds