

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Ashtead



**'OUTSTANDING'**

**SIS Inspection 2014-2015**

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 28 February 2020

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### Message from the Head Teacher

Brrrr... it's been a little chilly this week. Eagle-eyed Rising Reception spotted a few flakes of snow fluttering down yesterday and whizzed outside to try and catch them on their tongue. It was more tricky than they thought!

During the first two days of this week the Senior Leadership Team across Downsend met together to discuss curriculum continuity and personalised learning across the schools. Teachers from all sections of the school presented to James Carroll, our Director of Education and the Headteachers. Christeen Hill was our representative and detailed the way we track the development of

our children here at Ashtead Pre-Prep and how throughout the school, our individualised programmes meet the needs of each child. This was very well received. It was exciting to hear how each stage of the school is developing and moving forward with the GCSE programme now ready and in place for our first Year 9 children in September 2020. Future skills being developed through the STEAM approach to learning shone through at every stage. The children are very lucky here as Downsend is certainly a wonderful place to try a wealth of opportunities and to enjoy learning.

**Tessa Roberts**

### Taster Treats



This half term Mrs McCluskey has introduced a taster treat to her menus. Each week, according to the dish she is cooking, Mrs McCluskey will introduce a new flavour or a new ingredients to enhance the set menu. She is really keen to encourage the children to be adventurous with their food and to experiment with new tastes. This week the children have had the opportunity to try olives, capers and chorizo sausages. We have found that Year One are the most experimental and love trying the new ingredients. Keep your eyes out on our menu board to see what's new in the week.

### Roooooar.....ception

A new friend arrived in Reception this week, called 'Rex'. He is a little on the large side and is hanging in the Reception class, overseeing all the Jurassic excitement going on. The children have already taken on the role of little explorers and have been investigating all their new areas in the classroom. Our role-play 'Dino' world is an oasis of plants, dinosaurs and bones in the digging pit. The children have been using their imaginations with the small world Jurassic scene and extending their knowledge of the various species of dinosaurs. The children will be sharing the story of 'T-Rex on Tour'. This will offer numerous opportunities to fire-up their imaginations through their creative writing along with designing their own prehistoric creatures. The children are also fascinated by the dinosaur eggs in our topic area. We wonder what's inside? At the moment they are resting in a nest waiting to hatch. We might be in for a surprise later in the term!



**Emma Duke**



### Don't Forget

**Thurs 12 March** – Year One invite a relative to lunch

**DAPA**

**Quiz Night**

**Friday 13 March - 19.30**



## News from Downsend

The week started with a cross-site working group looking at pupil achievement across our schools. It was wonderful to see our Heads of School collaborating and sharing best practice, for the benefit of all our pupils.

**Ian Thorpe**

## World Book Day

5<sup>th</sup> March 2020



## 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**  
Harvey

**Rising Reception**  
Daniel

**Reception**  
Matty

**Year One**  
Emily  
Eric

## Golden Star Awards

**Eco-Warrior Golden Stars**  
were awarded to:

Y1 - Sasha

R - Timothy

RR - Lily NB

FS - Amelia

**Well Done!**

## Pppppppp.....pancakes



On Shrove Tuesday the smell of pancakes was everywhere! First Steps were greeted in the morning with a wonderful activity where they could explore ingredients to make their own pancake mixture. Then, in the afternoon, Year One took part in a pancake tossing competition. Everyone came to watch and were busy counting as the seconds ticked by. Our winner managed 55 flips in a minute! Could you beat that?



## Events Week Commencing Monday 2 March

### Lunch Menu Week 2

### Book Week

<b>Mon</b>	12.00 15.30 - 16.30	Parent/ Teacher Interviews - bookings available online. Snuggly Stories Club.
<b>Tues</b>	8.30 - 9.00 9.45 - 11.15 15.30 - 16.30	Vanessa Conlan visiting. Tots in Tune. Musical Theatre Club.
<b>Wed</b>	10.45 15.30 - 16.30	<b>No Swimming.</b> Reception and Year One visit Downsend Main Site for an Open Box Book Week Event. STEAM Team Club.
<b>Thurs</b>		World Book Day - children come to school dressed as a book character. June Peters, Performance Storyteller visits school.
<b>Fri</b>	9.30 9.15	Open Morning: Ashtead Pre-Prep Downsend School

## Voice of the Parent Survey

The staff and I would like to thank you all very much for taking part in last half term's annual parent survey. We had a response rate of 80.8% which is amazing. The staff and I were also thrilled to read all your reasons why you would recommend the school. They were so positive and reflected on the ethos, environment and partnership which is what we as staff are working to achieve. Looking at the different areas of the survey which included: Leadership and Culture, Teaching and Learning, Operations and Communication - each aspect received a high score but within these categories some interesting points have been made. We are always keen to improve what we offer here at Ashtead Pre-Prep and with your help and suggestions, we will be able to further enhance the provision that we already offer. Thank you so much for all your support. It has been really appreciated.

**Tessa Roberts**

**Inspiring young minds**