

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Leatherhead



**Weekly outdoor learning
with Woodland Forest
School**

Friday 14th February

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Message from Mrs Conlan

I cannot believe we have reached the half way point in the year, at least measured by terms! The time is flying by and your children continue to impress, surprise and amaze me with everything they are achieving. This week I have been particularly impressed by the standard of writing I have seen from our Reception children who have shown confidence and great perseverance in also reading it aloud to me and explaining the skills they used to write their sentences.

I must say a huge thank you to the whole Pre-Prep Leatherhead community for your wonderful support for me with the news that I will be taking on Pre-Prep Ashted also from September. Whilst I know it is a different leadership structure than one parents, staff and children have been used to across the Pre-Preps, it is one that makes sense

and I believe is in the best interests of the Pre-Preps and Downsend as a whole. We have an excellent Head of School in post with Miss Hodges and other than seeing me on site a little less, I don't anticipate any other significant changes to be seen or felt within the new structure.

Finally, a huge thank you, good luck and goodbye to Mrs Moyle who has taught Butterflies class while Mrs Hampshire has been off. Today was her last day in school as Mrs Hampshire is now fully back with us.

We are now at half term and I wish everyone travelling safe travels and a healthy return! For those not travelling, I hope you have an equally restful break and look forward to seeing you next half term.

Brooklands Museum

'Best trip ever' was just one of the many comments from the children in Year One who visited Brooklands Museum this week together with Epsom Pre-Prep. There were gasps of amazement as Concorde came into view and later the children were able to walk through this iconic plane and learn some interesting facts about it.



Focusing on the history of flight, we saw a replica of the plane flown by Alcock and Brown in 1919 on the first non-stop transatlantic flight and then marvelled at the Hawker Harrier 'jump jet'. There was even the chance to sit in the cockpit of a VC10 owned by the Sultan of Oman. After a tour of the aircraft factory it was

time to make some loopy gliders and then take them for a test flight outside before exploring more of this impressive museum. The children astounded our guides with their knowledge and asked some challenging questions – well done Year One and thank you to Mrs Burns for arranging our trip.



Write Dance



Rising Reception continued their Write Dance programme outdoors this week. The

"scrimbling" (repeated movements on a writing surface) encourages their handling of writing implements and tools with control and develops gross and fine motor skills. Our maths focus this week has been solving number problems and we have worked both independently and collaboratively to solve a variety of number challenges.



Star of the Week

Well done to the following children who were awarded 'Star of the Week'.

- Ladybirds - Billy
- Butterflies - Sayan
- Rabbits - Livvy
- Foxes - Esther
- Owls - Whole class
- Squirrels - Eva



Celebration Board

Each week we celebrate a special piece of work in our celebrations assembly.

Congratulations to the following children...

- Rabbits - Edward
- Foxes - Leo & Max
- Owls - April
- Squirrels - George



Useful contacts



DOWNSEND
PRE-PREP SCHOOL
Leatherhead

Pre-Prep Ashtead	01372 385439
Pre-Prep Epsom	01372 385438
Pre-Prep L/head	01372 385437
Prep School Office	01372 372197
Extended Day	07943 134717
Admissions	01372 372311
School Nurse	01372 385409
Finance Department	01372 374842
Marketing	01372 385402
Downsend PP+	07943 134717
Downsend+	01372 385403
Mobile	07909 861280

G'Day

This week in Reception we have been learning about Australia, we have been looking at the culture, places to visit, animals and aboriginal art. The children have enjoyed making Anzac biscuits, creating their own aboriginal artwork and making cork hats! Cork hats help to keep the bugs away!



We love pets!

It was the children's final week of learning about animals in First Steps and they liked their topic about 'Pets.' The children enjoyed caring for the pets in the First Steps classroom and became vets for the day. They talked about being careful as they didn't want to frighten the animals. The children loved sharing their stories about their pets that live at their houses. We are lucky enough to have our own school rabbits, Waffle & Igloo, who enjoyed a visit to the First Steps classroom on Wednesday. Annie loved stroking them and said "they are so soft."



Safer Internet Day

All the children at Leatherhead Pre-Prep were able to mark this important day with a special focus on using the internet safely and learning what they could do if they felt uncomfortable about seeing something on a screen of any device. The children had the help of 'Smartie the Penguin' who asked his parents for help rather than trying to fix things on his own. Smartie's advice to the children was that before they tap and click, they need to stop and think and tell someone if they are not sure what to do. Look out for Smartie's posters around the school and do ask your children what they have learnt. There is more helpful guidance for parents on www.internetmatters.org which is a free online resource for every parent and carer in the UK and also www.childnet.com/parents-help - both cover ages 0-10 with a special focus on early years.



Events Week Commencing 24th February

Lunch Menu Week 1

Mon	PM	Genie Science Club
Tues	PM	Shrove Tuesday—Pancake races Yoganory & Forest School Club
Wed	PM	Poptastic Club
Thurs	PM	Multi Sports Club
Fri	PM	Ballet & Football Club

Inspiring young minds