

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom  
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## Epsom



Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

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### Message from Mrs Burns

When I walked into Assembly yesterday morning, I had to look twice for there were no fewer than fifteen 'cave people' within our midst and every one of them was eager to embark on their day's learning through role play created by Mrs Butler and her team. A peek into the Reception classroom later revealed children busy hunting and gathering, creating shelters and (pretend) fires and making cave paintings, just as early man would have done.

Similarly, at the end of last week, I was lucky enough to spend time in First Steps who had truly embraced their latest theme, 'Pirates', as they counted pieces of treasure using a magic key.

Meanwhile, Rising Reception were busy identifying rhyming and non-rhyming words in a game of 'rhyme or slime'. The children had great fun throwing non-rhyming objects into a sticky tray of slime.

While learning in Year 1 is more formal, nonetheless our children enjoyed a carousel of practical activities to consolidate their knowledge of place value through problem solving challenges and online games.

While simply a snapshot of life at Epsom Pre-Prep, it struck me how keen our teaching staff are to give the children experiences that build on their interests and help them to learn while having fun. And that is how it should be. **Mrs Burns**

### DEPA news

#### Mother's Day

Your child's artwork and the order forms for Mother's Day gifts came home in book bags this week. The deadline for returning order forms and payment is the first Tuesday after half term (**25<sup>th</sup> February**).

#### Last chance for Auction Tickets

The deadline for Auction and Social Night tickets is also **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February**. It's taking place at The Chequers pub in Walton on the Hill and a buffet is included in the ticket price. We have some fantastic auction prizes up for grabs – children's classes and parties, vouchers for local businesses, top days out, and Lion King tickets, to name but a few. Look out for the auction brochure detailing all the prizes after half term. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Set For Take Off

As part of their current History topic (The 1960s), the Year 1 children zoomed off to Brooklands Museum this week with Leatherhead Pre-Prep to find out how aviation developed rapidly during the 1960s. The children were amazed by the splendour of the late Sultan of Oman's private VC10, surprised by the starkness of military aircraft interiors and had great fun launching the gliders they made during a workshop. The highlight of the trip was a tour of Concorde with retired pilot, Captain John, who reliably informed the children that he would have been able to fly them back to school in 40 seconds if the supersonic jet still flew. Unfortunately, Year 1 had to return by coach!



#### Summer Fair

Thanks to everyone who came to the DEPA Ideas Evening last week. Planning is underway for the Summer Fair. If you can offer some of your time (however big or small) to help make it a day to remember, please get in touch: [epsomdepah@gmail.com](mailto:epsomdepah@gmail.com)

#### Diary Dates

5<sup>th</sup> March DEPA Auction & Social Night

2<sup>nd</sup> May Pre-Preps Charity Ball – info coming after half term

6<sup>th</sup> May DEPA Ideas Evening

3<sup>rd</sup> June DEPA Ideas Evening

13<sup>th</sup> June Summer Fair

# All About People

## First Steps

This half term First Steps have welcomed three new friends who have settled quickly and easily.

We have been extremely busy with our topics on Helping People, Babies and Pirates (our child led topic). We have been learning about People Who Help Us and also about how we can help others and show kindness toward others. We have reinforced our golden rules in First Steps which are kind hands, kind feet and kind words. The children have enjoyed our new Talk for Writing story 'Stuck In The Mud' and have learnt some new Makaton signs for the story's key words. The children excelled in their baby grow paintings which they produced in the style of Georges Seurat using cotton buds to replicate the dotted style, and they loved comparing their baby photos to how they look now. Looking for pirate treasure, pirate tummy time and a pirate ship assault course ended the half term's activities, along with some STEAM ICT and remote-control car investigations.

**Mrs Simpson, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Strange, Mrs Matthews, Mrs McLaren**



## Rising Reception

This half term Rising Reception have been learning about people who help us and the children have discovered all the different things doctors, nurses, policeman and postmen do in their jobs. Lots of new vocabulary such as thermometer, stethoscope, uniform, prescription, injection, emergency and investigate have been learnt. The children were also very lucky to have had some visitors too. Doctor Pal, Berta's mummy, came to tell them all the things she does in her job as a doctor and Mr Conlan, Ted's dad, told us all about the different things a policeman does. The children also received a visit from PC Crouch who showed them her uniform and explained what they should do if they were ever lost. They have explored this topic further through role play by being doctors and nurses to treat each other and to take appointments and prescribe medicine. They have been policemen and women taking emergency calls and putting 'baddies' in jail as well as solving the crime of who ate all the porridge. As postmen, the children delivered lots of parcels, wrote postcards and walked to the post box to post their own letters home. They have also learnt that they can be people who help by doing helpful deeds at school and at home to earn special stickers for their helping hands books. Well done Rising Reception.

**Ms Clayton and Miss White**



## Reception

This half term Reception had fun learning about early man. The children were set the challenge of building a time machine to travel back in time to meet early man. They worked together to create a fantastic time machine and used books and the internet to find out as much information about early man before they visited him. They found out about the type of clothes he wore, how he built his home, how he hunted for food and what he ate. They learnt new vocabulary such as flint knapping after our visit to Chislehurst caves.

To finish our topic Reception had a cave day. All the children and the adults came dressed in Stone Age outfits. They created cave paintings, made tools and finally entered the time machine, travelled back in time and met early man. It was lovely to watch the children in their role play, hunting for food with the tools they made, flint knapping using bars of soap and making tepees. The Reception children have been super this half term and enthusiastically engaged with the topic which has also generated some impressive writing and drawings. Well done Reception!

**Mrs Butler, Miss Coles, Ms Organ, Mrs Strange and Mrs Matthews**



## Year 1

The Year 1 children have thoroughly enjoyed finding out about life for people in the 1960s. From giggling about labour saving appliances of half a century ago, to 'shopping' on a typical 60s high street or weighing up the pros and cons of toys now and then, the children have developed a good ability to compare their lives today with that of their grandparents' generation. In keeping with the era, our Talk 4 Writing text, 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea', has proved to be a big hit. Whether creating clay tigers in Art or using their new-found knowledge of alliteration to innovate their stories or create mouth-watering food poems, the children have developed their creative skills while having fun. Our ICT lessons this term have focussed on programming toys to conduct a series of moves on a floor map and once the children overcame the 'left/right' dilemma, they created hitch-free sequences.

No term is complete without experiences outside the classroom to enrich learning. Performing with Junk Orchestra, visits to the local church and Forest School, and a trip to Brooklands Museum have inspired some great problem solving and writing. You continue to amaze us Year 1!

**Mrs Burns, Mrs Burbidge and Miss Goldsmith**



## 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
Downsend PP+	07899 011275
Downsend+	01372 385403

## 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

Eashaan, Lionel, Isabella May

### Hedgehogs

Berta

### Reception

Darcey

### Year 1

Henry



## World Food Thursday

This week we had a lunch from Chile



## Staying Safe on the Internet

We marked 'Safer Internet Day' in school this week by talking to the children about how to stay safe when using games, websites and apps online. An eight step guidance sheet for parents, issued by ChildNet, has been emailed to families. This recommends supervising children online, screening the appropriateness of online activities for young children, activating parental controls and knowing where to report any suspicious contact made with children. Please contact Mrs Tucker if you would like a copy of the advice re-sent to you.

## Fitness and Fun

This week Rising Reception enjoyed a great afternoon with Coach Kathy playing team games. They negotiated an obstacle course involving hopscotch, jumping, balancing, weaving and stepping between spaces in a floor ladder. It was lovely to see everyone trying their best and encouraging each other to finish.



## Mathletics and Pobble News

Well done to Keira for achieving a Gold and Bronze Mathletics certificates last week and to Lauren, Diana, Darcey, Ellie, Sophie, Sonia, and Joshua for achieving Bronze certificates. Fantastic Mathletics! Congratulations also go to Amaya, Sophie, Ellie, Darcey, Sonia, Arjun, Henry, Tahira and Keira for becoming Pobble published authors this week.

## Events week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> February Lunch menu week 1

Mon		Mrs Conlan in school Spanish & Music Theatre Clubs
Tues	am 3.30 – 4.30	Shrove Tuesday pancake races Sports Club
Weds		Mrs Conlan in school Grow, Cook, Enjoy & Forest Clubs
Thurs	3.30 – 4.30	Science and Acro Dance Club
Fri	Am 3.30-4.15	Mrs Conlan in school Yoganory

Inspiring Young Minds