

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



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Epsom



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Message from Mrs Conlan

The sounds of our Rising Reception children seeing the snow falling yesterday, getting their coats on as fast as they could, playing outside and then very excitedly telling me what they had been doing as they came back upstairs and past my office will keep me going for days! Working with young children who are so open and curious about the World around them and staff who are happy to change and amend plans on the spot to go with the children's interests makes my job the great joy that it is. We had more seizing the moment

in First Steps this week also when a parent brought us in a large cardboard box. Mrs Simpson had put the cardboard box out with some pens and pencils to encourage mark making on a different surface but that wasn't what the children wanted to do with the cardboard box! As you will see opposite they had their own ideas and what started out as just a box elevated the learning beyond anything Mrs Simpson would have imagined on a rainy Thursday morning. Just marvellous! **Mrs Conlan**

Whatever Next?

What does STEAM look like in the Early Years? It looks like starting with an empty cardboard box, getting different pieces of equipment from around the classroom, experimenting and trying out ideas!

Our two and three year olds used their critical thinking, collaborative and creative skills and the power of negotiation to create a super high ramp and dark tunnel for their cars. Not all the cars could go down and through though! They realised that cars needed to be a particular size and shape otherwise they got stuck. The language used, the ideas discussed and the excitement created showed why this approach to learning is so powerful.

Marvellous Matter & Giant Steps



The hotly contested annual pancake races took place this Tuesday with every child joining a team to cover our playground course. While First Steps impressed us all with their ability to walk in a straight line without dropping their precious pancakes, everyone from Rising Reception upwards showed great competitive spirit and team work. Pancakes were tossed impressively,

eager children ran the distance and support for one another was shown in abundance with all participants cheering on their fellow teammates. No Shrove Tuesday could pass without a little taste testing and the event ended with the children sharing a small slice of delicious pancake before the normal business of the day resumed.



The arrival of a set of mysterious huge footprints in the playground inspired Year 1 to explore the great outdoors for objects to measure using non-standard units. Hands, feet, straws and even paper clips were used to estimate and measure the length and height of many objects and surfaces. Great estimates and careful alignment of measuring implements was clearly

evident which bodes well for next week's transition to metre sticks and rulers. Despite the children's best efforts, the giant was nowhere to be found!



Useful contacts



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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

Sebastian

Hedgehogs

Eric

Reception

Jago

Year 1

Keira



World Food Thursday

This week we ate food from Brazil:



Recipes for success

Inspired by their Talk 4 Writing text, *The Enormous Turnip*, Rising Reception rolled up their sleeves this week to chop, slice and stir vegetables to make a delicious soup. The children also re-enacted the story and worked together to try to pull up the 'enormous turnip' in our playground. Meanwhile, thanks to their latest book, *The Magic Porridge Pot*, Reception entered a world of imagination to invent their own everyday items with special magical powers. Not only did the children's efforts lead to some super writing, but several children have now become newly published authors on *Pobble*.



News from Main Site

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. I look forward to welcoming Epsom Pre-Prep families at drop off next Tuesday morning.

Ian Thorpe

Mathletics and Pobble News

Well done to Aniyah, Amaya, Diana, Darcey, Arjun, Keira for achieving Bronze Mathletics certificates this week and to Sonia for being awarded Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates. Amazing work! Congratulations also go to Elodie, Jago, Lauren, Aaron, Aiden, Sonia and Keira for producing super writing that has been published on *Pobble*.

Events week commencing 2nd March Lunch menu week 2

Mon	3.30 – 4.30	Spanish & music theatre clubs
Tues	3.30 – 4.30	Sports club
Weds	Am	Mrs Conlan in school Rec & Y1 to watch Open Box Show at main site
	3.30 – 4.30	Grow, Cook, Eat & Forest clubs
Thurs		World Book Day – come dressed as book character. Workshops with author, Sophie Ambrose
	9.10-9.30 3.30 – 4.30	Celebration Assembly Science club
Fri	3.30-4.15	Mrs Conlan in school
	3.30 – 4.15	Yoganory club

Inspiring Young Minds