

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom
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Epsom

Friday 7th February 2020

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Message from Mrs Conlan

Thank you to everyone who completed our Voice of the Parent survey this year. The survey has now closed, and I am delighted to say that 77.6% of our school community responded, just above last year's response rate of 77.4%. Mrs Burns, Ms Clayton and I are currently collating all the responses together to identify trends and therefore draw conclusions on the strengths and areas for development identified by parents. We hope to be sharing these with you straight after half term

alongside an action plan of next steps for the short, medium and long term.

Thank you also to all parents who have sent in crisp packets and baby pouches towards our recycling schemes. We are continuing to explore further options for recycling while working towards (and beyond) achieving our Silver eco-schools award to recognise our school and pupil effort to support the environment.

Mrs Conlan

DEPA news

Valentine's MUFTI Day

Next Friday (14th Feb) is a Valentine's Mufti day. Children can wear non-uniform / something red in return for a £2 donation to DEPA. The children will be decorating a Valentine's gift to give to someone they love.

Mother's Day Gifts

The children and teachers have been busy creating beautiful artwork for Mother's Day which will be turned into a gorgeous gift for Mummies, Grandmas, Nannas or Aunties alike. Your child's artwork and the order form will be coming home next week. Orders to be returned the week after half term.

Dads' Night Out

The DEPA Dads are meeting on **Thursday 13th February** from 7.30pm at The Faraday pub, Epsom for drinks followed by a meal nearby. Everyone's welcome. Come along on the 13th or email your details to epsomdepa@gmail.com and we'll add you to the Whatsapp group. We're also looking to organise a DEPA Mums' Night so watch this space ...

Don't Forget ...

... to get your tickets for the **DEPA Auction and Social Night on Thursday 5th March at The Chequers Pub, Walton on the Hill**. See the school comms email or the order forms in book bags earlier this week.

Exploring Underground and Overground



The Reception children really enjoyed their trip to Chislehurst Caves. They explored dark tunnels using hurricane lanterns to guide the way and discovered how early man made and used tools. After learning about flint knapping (knocking the flint off the walls and stones to make different tools), the children decided to make their own tools from big pieces of wood and rock and used what they had learnt about flint knapping. The children were bewildered when the tour guide explained that if they lived in the time of early man, they would have had to work by picking up and carrying the flint between the tunnels and the surface of the cave.



Meanwhile the Year 1 children explored the wonder of Forest School with Ashted PP at the main site. From learning about basic fire safety to creating bug houses for minibeasts from natural materials, the children put their creative skills to the test. Keen to turn their hand to fire making, several children queued up to learn how to use a saw safely while others discovered the delights of digging in the dirt to unearth (carefully!) tiny creatures hibernating for winter. Problem solving, self-discovery and outdoor survival skills were the order of the day.

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
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 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
 Nico
 Hedgehogs
 Noemie
Reception

Year 1
 Joshua



World Food Thursday

This week we enjoyed lunch from Trinidad & Tobago



Big Machinery Arrives On Main Site

We are now four weeks into the Arts Centre build and there was much excitement amongst the pupils with the arrival of giant cement mixers on Monday. With the outline of the footprint taking shape, we are starting to visualise the difference this fantastic facility will make to our school. *Following construction during the spring and summer months, the plan is that our contractors will hand over a performing Arts Theatre, Music Rooms, and Music Technology suites to be used throughout the school from Autumn 2020.* **Mr Thorpe**

I Will Never Ever Eat A Tomato!

Promoting healthy eating is not always easy with young children. So, equipped with our best assets (Mrs T and Miss Julie), the children tasted the delights of smoothies this week. Even those who 'never ever eat a blueberry' were persuaded to be daring! The healthy eating theme continued when the classes mixed for our third story telling session of the year and the Year 1 children read Lauren Child's Charlie & Lola book about tomatoes (and much more). Taste buds were tickled and giggles were in abundance.



Mathletics & Pobble News

Well done to Lauren, Diana, Darcey, Ellie, Sophie, Sonia, Joshua and Keira for achieving a Bronze certificate last week. Fantastic Mathletics! Congratulations to Joshua, Keira and Nandini for becoming Pobble published authors for their innovated stories based on 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'.

Events week commencing

Lunch menu week 3

Mon	3.30 – 4.30	Mrs Conlan in school Year 1 trip to Brooklands Museum Spanish & music theatre clubs
Tues	3.30 – 4.30	Sports club
Weds	3.30 – 4.30	Mrs Conlan in school (am) Grow, Cook, Eat & Forest clubs
Thur	3.30 – 4.30	Science and acro dance club
Fri	3.30 – 4.15	Mrs Conlan in school Yoganory club

Inspiring Young Minds