

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'
SIS Inspection 2014-2015
Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 6 March 2020

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Message from the Head Teacher

It never ceases to amaze me how our older children, who are only five and six, are so knowledgeable about topical affairs. This week they surprised us all during their break time by designing and creating potions to protect people from coronavirus. I raised this subject for discussion during an assembly and the detailed information they offered was fantastic. We discussed all that they had heard or knew and the best ways that we can protect ourselves from this bug. I showed them how to thoroughly wash their hands and we talked about why

singing 'Happy Birthday' twice helps us to make sure we've done a good job. Since our little chat, there has been much celebrating taking place in our bathrooms!

I was delighted that many of you had the opportunity to meet Vanessa Conlan on Tuesday morning. She thoroughly enjoyed her time with us and is looking forward to visiting us again soon.

Have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the rugby if you're a fan.

Tessa Roberts

Brilliant Books

What a spectacular week we have had! The stories that have been told, created, written and enacted have had the children travelling back in time, visiting distant lands and even wandering into magical kingdoms. The children have loved letting their imaginations run wild, both in and out of the classroom, allowing their creativity to sparkle. The highlight of the week has to be World Book Day. Thank you so much to all of the parents who supported this wonderful event. The children looked magnificent and the smiles on their faces were apparent, from the start to the end of the day. Playtime fun was steeped in storytelling, with different characters combining to create many new adventures. We were thrilled to invite June Peters back to our school for our special day and her storytelling had the children totally captivated. In fact they didn't want her to leave! Reading is a life skill but it is sooo.... much more than that. In the words of Dr Seuss, 'You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax. All you need is a book'.



Builders at Work!



Construction is the name of the game in First Steps this half term. Our youngest Ashtead builders will give you a quote if you're brave enough! Towers are their speciality.....



Don't Forget

Tues 17 March – Year One visit to Winchester Science Centre

Tues 17 March - Parent Teacher Interviews

Thurs 19 March - Second-hand Uniform Sale at Ashtead Pre-Prep: 8.30 - 9.15

Thurs 19 March - Parent Teacher Interviews



News from Downsend

We enjoyed welcoming dozens of visitors to our Open Mornings across our sites today. They all enjoyed meeting Downsend pupils and discovering how their future skills are being developed.

Ian Thorpe

DAPA Quiz Night

Friday 13 March

Please look out for raffle tickets in your child's book bag

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

George
James

Rising Reception

Sophie

Reception

Jennifer

Year One

Chessie
Archie

Golden Star Awards

Eco-Warrior Golden Stars

were awarded to:

Y1 - Mary

R - Harry

RR - Sophie

FS - Oliver DSB

Well Done!

I'll huff and I'll puff.....

As part of our World Book Week activities, Reception and Year One were invited to the Main Site for a special treat. Open Box Theatre came to visit with more fun and exciting stories to tell us. Luckily for Year One, the theme was the Three Little Pigs which fits in perfectly with our Talk for Writing lessons. First, the normal story was acted out, but then there was an exciting twist... the wolf was good and the pig was the baddie! The children were in uproar at the pig and his very unkind antics. Everyone was shouting and getting involved, especially when they got the chance to vote as to whether the pig was guilty or not. The verdict was GUILTY! Thank you Open Box Theatre for a wonderful morning of story telling.

Melanie Chipperton



Events Week Commencing Monday 9 March

Lunch Menu Week 3

Mon	15.30 - 16.30	Snuggly Stories Club.
Tues	9.45 - 11.15 15.30 - 16.30	Tots in Tune. Musical Theatre Club.
Wed	15.30 - 16.30	STEAM Team Club.
Thurs		Year One Invites a Relative to Lunch
Fri	19.30	DAPA Quiz

Write Dance

This week there was raucous laughter and some commotion to be heard from the hall, not by the children but by the teachers as they undertook 'Write Dance' training. Write Dance is an exciting, innovative, and fun program which uses music and movement to introduce handwriting to our youngest children. Write Dance movements are designed to help children feel happy and comfortable with their bodies, improve their motor skills, and provide a strong foundation for writing. This approach was created by Ragnhild Oussoren and has been used in schools across Europe, capturing the imagination of children. We are very excited to be introducing these expressive stories, rhymes and songs into our classrooms to further support physical and mark making development. What fun we will have dancing around, using chalks, scarfs and other mark-making tools as we become explosive volcanoes or a raging sea, as well as so much more!



Christeen Hill

Inspiring young minds