

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 13 March 2020

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Message from the Head Teacher

This week continues to be dominated by the Coronavirus which has us all anticipating the worst but hoping for the best. Our Cognita Schools group has a dedicated team of experts who are following the developments carefully and keeping us informed on a daily basis of any significant changes. The wellbeing of our pupils and staff are our top priority. Keeping everyone safe is our main concern but equally we are working hard to 'keep calm and carry on'. We will continue to keep you informed as this matter develops but if you have any

questions or queries please do not hesitate to get in touch or speak to me personally.

If you dropped your child off this morning, you might have noticed a new display starting to appear on the stairs. This is part of our STEAM themed displays. The classes have combined their skills to create a wonderful picture to represent the 'A' in STEAM. The Year One children were lucky enough to see the real painting on their visit to the National Gallery a few weeks ago.

I hope to see you this evening for some quizzing fun. **Tessa Roberts**

Delicious Delights

Year One have been getting ready this week for a very special event. Invitations were sent out and menus written, all in preparation for our 'Relative to Lunch' event. The children couldn't wait to be creative and make a clay pot gift for their relative which they decorated with care. They were also busy writing place setting cards so everyone knew where to sit, along with designing flower arrangements as the centrepiece for each table. The children really rose to the occasion as they sensibly and politely, served lunch to their relative. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the delicious lunch of teriyaki meatballs, noodles, spicy carrots and cucumber salad followed by a mixed fruit platter. Mrs McCluskey, as usual, was a superstar with the lunch being eagerly eaten by everyone. It was wonderful to see both the children and visitors chatting together and enjoying a very special school event.

Melanie Chipperton



**We love
Yoganory!**



The First Steps and Rising Reception children who take part in the afternoon Yoganory sessions have become very skilful in their knowledge and execution of poses. This week they were re-enacting the story of 'Zog' by Julia Donaldson. Yoga enhances a child's strength, coordination and flexibility, while encouraging body awareness and self-esteem. It was amazing to see the enthusiasm and control offered by every child as they enjoyed the class.

Don't Forget

Mon 23 March – Last Snuggly Stories Club.

Tues 24 March - Last Musical Theatre Club—Performance to parents.

Wed 25 March - Open Swimming Lessons.

Wed 25 March - Last STEAM Team Club.

Thurs 26 March - Year One & Reception Forest School at Ashtead Common.

Thurs 26 March—Rising Reception Forest School at Leatherhead Pre-Prep.

What a surprise!



Reception were shocked to see that a Pterodactyl had been playing in the Dinosaur dig and been sniffing the eggs to see if they were ready to hatch. Using mixed reality in Paint 3D has opened up a new world of opportunities for the children to explore.

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
Celine

Rising Reception
Alexander

Reception
Federica

Year One
Hensen
Vincent

Golden Star Awards
Eco-Warrior Golden Stars
were awarded to:

Y1 - Archie
R - Matty
RR - Joe
FS - Lachlan

Well Done!

Trip, trap, trip trap.....

This half term, the children in Rising Reception have really been enjoying their Talk for Writing book, 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. The children have been 'flexing their STEAM muscles, as they worked collaboratively to construct bridges from a variety of materials that would prove strong enough to house a troll and act out the story. The story has lent



itself well to our construction topic, enabling the children to experiment with a variety of materials and be creative with structure. All of the children managed to build a beautiful bridge and had so much fun shouting, "Who is that trip trapping over my bridge?" Later, the children also created puppets and put on a fantastic show retelling the story.



Christeen Hill

Events Week Commencing Monday 16 March

Lunch Menu Week 1

Mon	15.30 - 16.30	Snuggly Stories Club
Tues	Postponed 9.45 - 11.15 15.30 - 16.30 18.30 - 20.00	Year One visit to Winchester Science Centre Tots in Tune. Musical Theatre Club Parent Teacher Interviews
Wed	15.30 - 16.30	STEAM Team Club.
Thurs	8.30 - 9.15 18.30 - 20.00	Second-hand Uniform Sale at Ashted Pre-Prep Parent Teacher Interviews
Fri		

Shelter Drill

Next week, I will be telling the children about a very special practice that will take place during the week. As with fire drills, we are required to practise a Lockdown. The school is secured and the children and staff assemble in a safe hiding place away from view. The children will be asked to think of things we do every day to keep safe. We will explain that another way to stay safe is by planning for things that probably won't happen but it is good to be prepared for, just in case, such as fire drills. A Shelter Drill is another practice for keeping us all safe if something we do not like is outside and we don't want it to come in. We will emphasise that preparing for these situations means that we know how to keep safe and can enjoy having fun and learning at school. Your child may come home and mention the practice. If your child does bring up the subject, I hope this information will help you to explain this safety drill further.

Tessa Roberts

Inspiring young minds