

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



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

Friday 20 March 2020

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Message from the Head Teacher

Goodness! What a week! I think the speed at which decisions have been made and the way that our normal daily lives have changed has been unprecedented. Closing the front door of the school today was an emotional act, as this is normally a happy affair with a holiday on the horizon. However, today we have shut the doors on the unknown! Our greatest hope is that our actions slow the pace of Covid-19 and that we can all get back to normal, sooner rather than later.

I know that you often hear me saying how amazing the staff are at Ashtead Pre-Prep but this week they have been exceptional. Not only have they been ensuring that the children have washed their hands thoroughly, they have also delivered a normal curriculum. In addition they have started to prep learning which you will soon receive on Seesaw, our online platform and also prepared a remote personalised learning pack for everyone to use next week. Online learning will be a

new experience for us all and we are keen that the children see and hear their teacher each day and that their learning continues to progress as expected. More details of how to organise your learning at home will be communicated next week, along with a selection of other resources that will be available. Please take care during these uncertain days. Stay safe and keep in touch.

Tessa Roberts

Make a Difference



Downsend Ashtead Pre-Prep have reached out to our older local community at The Red House, to share some loving spirit during these tricky times. In circle time, the children discussed how isolated older people feel and how important it is to



support them. We talked about how we can best cheer-up vulnerable people and keep them smiling. During the day there was a buzz around the school as the children set about creating a selection of beautiful cards and pictures along with writing thoughtful notes. The caring and loving nature of our children was clearly



seen in their messages and the pride they took in their delightful pictures. We hope that these cheerful wishes will bring a smile to all the elderly residents at The Red House and that they enjoy the cards and pictures as much as the children enjoyed designing and making them. **Emma Duke**



Scrub-a-Dub-Dub

Who knew that washing away those pesky germs could be so much fun? First Steps were set a challenge this week to clean marker pen germs off inflated glove hands. They were brilliant! The children found that rubbing soap suds all over the hands did the trick. Great job First Steps. Keep up the good work!



Staff News



After a wonderful nineteen years of dancing at Ashted, Sally Thomas has decided to hang up her dancing shoes. Over the years, her creativity has inspired so many children and the dances that the children have performed at special events have given lasting memories for many parents. Thank you Sally for your terrific teaching. We will miss you.

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

Olive

Rising Reception

Charlie

Reception

Jennifer

Year One

Emma

Golden Star Awards

Eco-Warrior Golden Stars were awarded to:

Y1 - Harrison

R - Jennifer

RR - Benjamin

FS - Olive

Well Done!

Science Week Experiments in Year One

The first experiment was to help the children understand why we must wash our hands and keep them germ free. We started with a bowl of water, black pepper and soap. The Children were asked to talk about what they know about soap and why we use it. Next, we sprinkled pepper into the water. Each child dipped a finger into the 'germs' to cover the surface of their skin. They were not impressed! Using soap on a different finger, they put it into the water and the 'germs' scattered to the edge of the bowl. Afterwards, we talked about how the 'germs' try to avoid the soap and what else we learnt from this experiment.

In the next experiment, the children created patterns using Skittles. Skittles are coated in food colouring and sugar. We poured water over the Skittles and waited as the coloured coating dissolved and spread through the water. We watched as the patterns appeared from the range of colours of the Skittles.

The final experiment was to test how two pieces of chocolate reacted to heat by holding one piece in a closed fist and the other on an open palm. It was interesting to observe the results which were also affected by the varying body temperature of each child.



Melanie Chipperton & Mandi Humphries

Notice to leave Downsend

We should like to remind parents that if your child is leaving Downsend at the end of the summer term, notice must be given before the first day of next term - i.e. no later than Tuesday 21 April 2020. Where parents have not given a term's written notice, fees in lieu of notice will be applicable. To avoid missing this deadline, you may find it more convenient to give notice by Thursday 2 April 2020, the last day of the spring term. Notice should be in writing and addressed to and received by the Head personally or the Business Manager, on the Head's behalf. It is expected that parents will consult with the Head before giving notice to withdraw a pupil. Full Terms & Conditions are available to view on the Parent Portal section of the website.

Inspiring young minds