

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



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Leatherhead



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**Weekly outdoor learning
with Woodland Forest
School**

Friday 6th March

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Message from Mrs Conlan

There are too many reasons to list related to why I love my job so much but the annual World Book Day events are always a highlight near the top of my list! On Thursday we welcomed bears, a frog prince, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, a woodcutter, foxes and a wolf to name just a few of the story characters who came through the door.

As part of our celebrations, we were delighted to have Amanda Kane-Smith in school for World Book Day delivering interactive storytelling sessions for our children. The children loved the sessions taking part with the great interest and enthusiasm that they show in every activity, opportunity and experience provided for them through the curriculum.

In assembly today, the smile was glued to my face hearing the children's poems, songs and rhymes that they had learnt over the week to share with their friends. We heard about planets, sand getting everywhere, beanstalks, animals and 2 little dickie birds. They performed really confidently, clearly proud to share their work. I wonder if they can remember them if you ask at home?

Miss Hodges has written a message on the back regarding parking and the pedestrian access areas in the front of the school. Please can I also remind everyone to park considerately, including not in the church lay by, and to drop children off as quickly as possible in the mornings to keep the traffic moving.

A Gruffalo? What's a Gruffalo?



First Steps have loved talking about their favourite stories for book week and at the beginning of the week they discussed which story was their favourite. They decided that 'The Gruffalo' was their favourite book. So, they had lots of different activities relating to the Gruffalo. The children enjoyed making play dough Gruffalo's

using cocoa playdough, toothpicks as purple prickles and orange coloured googly eyes. The children used their fantastic cutting skills to cut out parts of a body to make their own Gruffalo. They had to think about the features of The Gruffalo with his knobbly knees, turned-out toes and poisonous wart at the end of his nose! Their dining room was decorated with a Gruffalo theme and the children were even treated to owl ice cream for pudding. On Character Dress Up day they even had their own Gruffalo turn up to Nursery.



A story is not just for Book Week

Here are Alastair and Leo sharing a book. In celebration of book week, we have been sharing many more stories, non-fiction books,



poems and rhymes although this is something we like to do every week anyway! On World Book Day, some children brought to school the story book about the character they had dressed up as and we read them together. What a lovely day!

Star of the Week

Well done to the following children who were awarded 'Star of the Week'.

- Ladybirds - Honey
- Butterflies - Anton
- Rabbits - Emily
- Foxes - Isabella
- Owls - April
- Squirrels - Leo



Chick Update

Reception have loved looking after the chicks this week. We have enjoyed seeing how much they have grown and watching them trying to use their wings.



Parking Request

Please do not park your car on the pedestrian walkway when you use the front driveway for dropping off or collecting your children.

Main Site News

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.

Character Winners

This week in assembly we celebrated Book Week. The children from each year group recited a poem to the rest of the school. We also congratulated the winners of character dress up day.

- FS—Matthew
- RR - Anton
- R - Zaki
- Yr 1 - Maria Lily

Congratulations to these children and big well done to everyone for all your efforts.

Open Box Theatre

On Wednesday the children in Reception and Year 1 went on an adventure up to the main site. We got to watch a performance of The Three



Little Pigs by the Open Box Theatre. They showed the pigs side of the story and the wolf's side of the story. In this version of the story the pig was the naughty character and the wolf was a vegetarian! The children had great fun joining in with the story and making the decision whether the wolf should be kept in jail or not!

Bear Hunt

Rising Reception became completely immersed in the story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" when re-enacting it with the storyteller. They went swishing through grass, crossed a river in a boat and particularly enjoyed the snowstorm. The tension mounted as they tiptoed towards the cave and there were shrieks of excitement when they discovered the bear. "What a beautiful day, we're not scared!"



Useful contacts



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Pre-Prep Ashtead	01372 385439
Pre-Prep Epsom	01372 385438
Pre-Prep L/head	01372 385437
Prep School Office	01372 372197
Extended Day	07943 134717
Admissions	01372 372311
School Nurse	01372 385409
Finance Department	01372 374842
Marketing	01372 385402
Downsend PP+	07943 134717
Downsend+	01372 385403
Mobile	07909 861280

Events Week Commencing 9th March

Lunch Menu Week 3

Day	Time	Event
Mon		Mrs Conlan in school
	PM	Genie Science Club
Tues		Mrs Conlan in school from mid morning
	PM	Forest School & Yoganory Club
Wed		Mrs Conlan in school
	9am	Parent Rep Meeting
	PM	Poptastic Club
Thurs	PM	Multi Sports Club
Fri	AM	Reception to visit Painshill Park
	PM	Ballet & Football Club

Inspiring young minds