

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom
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Epsom

Friday 6th March 2020



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Message from Mrs Burns

DEPA news

Book Week is one of my favourite times of year in school because it unlocks a world of magical stories and reminds us all that books can transform children's experiences. This week was no exception as every class centred learning around an age appropriate story that allowed characters, settings and plots to be explored through games, role play and Art and in turn led to some super storytelling and great descriptive writing from our older children.

During the week, all the classes worked together to write and illustrate a shared story called The Tiny Tadpole. Once the finishing touches are put together, we plan to

publish the story and copies will be available to purchase from school.

Yesterday we were lucky enough to be joined by author and illustrator, Sophie Ambrose, who shared her tips as an illustrator and helped the children to create their own characters and books.

As sharing our favourite books became a daily ritual this week and the chant of "Is it my turn today?" became the norm, I was reminded of Dr Seuss's words: 'The more that you read the more you will you know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go. Wishing you all a lovely weekend. **Mrs Lisa Burns**

Thanks...

... to those who joined us at The Chequers pub for drinks and nibbles last night. It was great to catch up over a relaxed drink. Obviously, we were disappointed not to go ahead with the auction, but we're exploring other ways of using the fantastic prizes that were donated, so we can still raise money for future DEPA activities.

Pre-Preps Charity Ball

Tickets are on sale for the Downsend Pre-Prep Charity Ball on Saturday 2nd May at The Tithe Barn in Great Bookham.

With champagne and canapés on arrival, a three course meal by international chef, Andy Irvine, wine for the table, cash bar, a raffle, and an auction, it promises to be a great night.

Tickets are £75 each and all profits from the night go to The Grange charity in Bookham, which provides vital services supporting people with learning difficulties to lead independent, fulfilled lives.

See today's school comms email for more information and the ticket booking form.

Mother's Day

For those of you who ordered Mother's Day gifts featuring your child's artwork, the gifts are due to arrive any day now and we'll send them home in book bags from the end of next week.

Sophie Ambrose

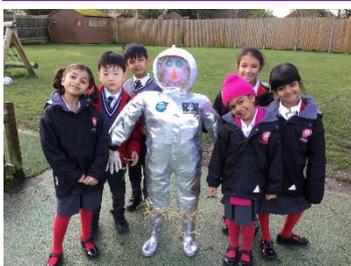


Visiting author, Sophie Ambrose, delighted the children with her books, 'The Lonely Giant' and 'Bedtime for Albie'. Whether creating scenes from Sophie's books, devising their own characters and sending them on imaginative journeys or making books and writing stories, the children thoroughly enjoyed learning how



books are put together and meeting a 'real' author!

One Giant Step for Mankind



Year 1 used papier mache, stuffing and collage to make a child-sized scarecrow of Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon. The scarecrow is being entered into Bourne Hall's 1960s scarecrow-making competition for schools which will take place during the 'Herald of Spring' event at Bourne Hall this weekend. Good luck Year 1!

Tell us a Story

First Steps Fun

This week First Steps delved into the amusing story, Dear Zoo, by Rod Campbell (which is secretly my favourite book!) The children enjoyed listening to the story, making their own small world zoo and matching the animal to the correct sized crate. Making Dear Zoo headbands decorated with animals from the story proved to a very popular activity and the children were excellent at joining in with the repeated refrains.



Rising Reception

Rising Reception's focus text this week was 'Night Monkey Day Monkey' by Julia Donaldson and on Tuesday morning the children arrived to find the classroom dark as if it was still night time! We started the morning by looking at the story together and everyone had to help me see by shining their torches on my book as I read. Then they used their torches to investigate the classroom finding numbers and pictures of nocturnal animals. We talked about the differences between night and day, sang some monkey nursery rhymes and decorated a cake. Afterwards it was time to be day monkeys outside and the children exercised like monkeys by jumping, swinging, walking, crawling and sliding. The morning ended by listening to the story once more and enjoying our monkey cake. What a lot of fun we had!

Ms Clayton



Reception

Reception focused on the book, Tidy, by Emily Gravett. The story is about Pete the badger who likes everything to be neat and tidy. However, he made a big mistake by chopping down all the trees. Some of the children wrote a letter to Pete the badger to tell him what his big mistake was and what would happen to the animals and people if we did not have any trees. The children also did observational drawings of the magnolia tree in the playground and used fingerprints to add blossom.

We ended the week by making porridge as part of our Talk 4 Writing, The Magic Pot. **Mrs Butler**



Year 1

This week, Year 1 took inspiration from Maurice Sendak's 'Where the Wild Things Are' which is the story of Max who, after being given 'time out' for misbehaving, imagines he has travelled to a mythical land where he tames the wild creatures that live there. The children put their best STEAM skills into action to create their own 'Wild Things' from an assortment of junk and collage materials and then wrote wonderfully imaginative character descriptions about their creatures.

We also became text detectives and explored the book for conjunctions and discussed how these make our writing more interesting. Meanwhile, in our PSHE lesson, we talked about feelings of anger and how best to manage them. **Mrs Burns**



Useful contacts



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 Pre-Prep L'head 01372 385437
 Prep School Office 01372 372197
 Admissions 01372 372311
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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

Rahul

Hedgehogs

Keegan

Reception

Diana

Year 1

Arjun



World Food Thursday

This week we had a lunch from New Zealand



A Twist in the Tale

Reception and Year 1 were treated to the very first performance of a hilarious new show, 'Porky Blinders', which was written and performed by The Open Box Theatre Company at main site this week. The play which is a 'twist in the tale' version of 'The Three Little Pigs' not only entertained, but contained some serious environmental messages related to deforestation and over-consumption of meat. Actors, Kenn and Iain, never fail to entertain and this week's performance was no exception.



News from main site

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

Great Work!

Well done to Amaya, Aniyah, Darcey, Diana and Keira for achieving Bronze Athletics certificates. Fantastic Maths girls!

Events week commencing 9th March Lunch menu week 3

Mon	All week 3.30 – 4.30	Science Week Spanish & Music Theatre Clubs
Tues	3.30 – 4.30	Sports Club
Weds	am 3.30 – 4.30	Rec & Y1 to main site for swimming and Science demonstration Grow, Cook, Enjoy & Forest Clubs
Thurs	3.30 – 4.30	Mrs Conlan in school Science Club
Fri	Am 3.30-4.15	Mrs Conlan in school Sports Relief Day challenge in Dance and healthy snack sale during break Yoganory

Inspiring Young Minds