

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom
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Epsom

Friday 13th March 2020



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Message from Mrs Conlan

I have hugely missed being at Epsom and was delighted to be back here today. Circumstances have been such that the last time I saw everyone was over a week ago. While this is absolutely not going to become a regular occurrence and I have kept in contact with Mrs Burns and Mrs Tucker most days, I have also been away in the knowledge that the school is in exceptionally safe hands with Mrs Burns and the excellent team we have at Pre-Prep Epsom.

In light of the current situation with COVID-19, we are needing to review everything going on in school currently beyond our 'normal school day'. Today we made the very difficult decision to postpone the Y1 trip to Winchester Science Museum

next week but do still intend on taking RR and R to Painshill Park the week after, an outdoor environment where we will be able to remain contact free from others which is not possible in an indoor museum facility. Mother's day assemblies will continue as planned over the next 2 weeks but I must ask any parents or grandparents who will be attending the assemblies to ensure they are well enough to come into school – anyone with a temperature and/or a new cough, as per the outcome from the COBRA meeting yesterday must stay at home please.

I hope you all have a happy, healthy weekend and look forward to seeing you next week.

DEPA news

Mother's Day

The Mother's Day gifts were all sent home in book bags this week. We thought they looked fantastic and hope they bring lots of smiles next weekend.

Don't Forget ...

... to get your tickets for the Downsend Pre-Prep Charity Ball on Saturday 2nd May at The Tithe Barn in Great Bookham. The event is still going ahead as planned. With champagne and canapés on arrival, a three course meal, wine for the table, cash bar, a raffle and an auction, it promises to be a great night. Tickets are £75 each, with all profits going to The Grange charity in Bookham.

Keeping Active Raising Money



Thanks to our dance teacher, Miss Verity, the children took part in a series of age appropriate active challenges today to mark Sports Relief. While First Steps marched and then ran around the room for a minute, Rising Reception balanced on their toes and jumped with 'tidy toes'.

Meanwhile Reception balanced and hopped while counting how many of each they could do. Finally, it was the turn of Year 1 who galloped sideways and then excelled themselves by achieving 200 skips around the room followed by 16 sautes (springs) in first position. After all that exercise, the children were treated to some healthy snacks, freshly prepared by Mrs T. If you forgot your child's 50p donation, there is still time to bring it in next week.



Drop Off

Several children have arrived in school after 8.50am recently. Please be aware that registers are taken at 8.55am to comply with legal and safeguarding requirements. Therefore, children who arrive after this time are recorded as late. Please endeavour to drop off your child by 8.50am so your child's start to the day is smooth and to ensure they do not miss the start of the working day. Thank you for your support.

Science Week

Fizzy investigations and unexpected wizardry were the order of the day during this week's Science Week. Whether the children were investigating in their classrooms or observing Year 8s concocting 'magic' with chemicals at main site, the children were captivated by the outcomes they experienced and some great exploration and thinking was in evidence everywhere.

First Steps delved into forces by using washing up liquid and foam on their ramps to find out what effect these had upon the speed of the cars travelling down them. They also turned their hands to making fizzy water (using alka seltzer) and lava lamps using alka seltzer and oil. Meanwhile, Rising Reception explored the school environment in search of magnetic objects and were wowed with the beautiful rainbow of colours they achieved when multi-coloured Skittles were bathed in warm water. The amazing magic of magnetism continued in the older classes. Reception used magnets to move metallic objects around mazes, while Year 1 investigated the magnetic poles' ability to attract and repel and the children also created magnetic games including a fishing game, moving animals and board games that use magnets to move counters. Taking inspiration from the Magic Porridge Pot, Reception also made effervescent porridge.

Reception and Year 1 were also treated to an array of experiments conducted by Year 8 children. This included: the creation of 'elephant toothpaste' complete with red and blue stripes, foamy bubbles that were difficult to pop and an electrifying experiment that left Mrs Burns with a rather eccentric hairdo!



Useful contacts



Ext day mob 07594170569
 Pre-Prep Epsom 01372 385438
 Pre-Prep Ashtead 01372 385439
 Pre-Prep L'head 01372 385437
 Prep School Office 01372 372197
 Admissions 01372 372311
 School Nurse 01372 385409
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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

Sidhiksha

Hedgehogs

Carter

Reception

Ethan

Year 1

Aiden



World Food Thursday

This week we had a lunch from Greece



Music Makers

In their Music lessons the Year 1 children have been exploring the elements of music: pitch, rhythm and pulse through singing, clapping and playing instruments. Mr Bayley uses the Kodaly method which is child developmental and focuses on using a sequence of two or three notes. In turn, this will form the basis of the work the children will continue in Year 2. Playing percussion is popular with the children who are also learning to play chords on the ukulele in time for the end of year concert.



News from Main Site

Thank you for your calm, measured approach throughout these unprecedented times. By now you should have received an update from us following yesterday's move to the Delay phase.
Ian Thorpe

Great Work!

Well done to Elodie, Amaya, Darcey, Diana and Arjun for achieving Bronze Athletics certificates. Congratulations to Tahira, Keira, Nandini, Sonia and Arjun for being this week's Pobble published authors.

Events week commencing 16th March Lunch menu week 1

Mon	9.00am 3.30 – 4.30	Mrs Conlan in school RR Mothers Day Assembly Spanish & Music Theatre Clubs
Tues	3.30 – 4.30	CANCELLED – Y1 trip Sports Club
Weds	Mid-morn 3.30 – 4.30	Road Safety Day Mrs Conlan in school Grow, Cook, Enjoy & Forest Clubs
Thurs	9.00am 3.30 – 4.30	Mrs Conlan in school FS Mothers Day Event Science Club
Fri	3.30-4.15	Yoganory

Inspiring Young Minds