

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 24 April 2020

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Message from the Head Teacher

Welcome back to the summer term and it's so wonderful to feel the warmth of the sunny summer days. By looking at your Seesaw pictures and videos, I can see that you have all been busy enjoying the sunshine over Easter and also through this week.

The teachers have been so impressed with the children's engagement and the quality of learning that has been posted onto Seesaw over the last few days. Thank you so much for embracing this new way of learning and exploring different ways of feeding back the work. Learning independently for our young children is a real challenge and realistically, it is only sustainable for short periods even with our 6 year olds. In the classroom environment there are

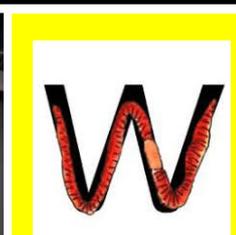
clues everywhere to support the children's independence, through the displays and resources around the room as well as their peers helping and supporting each other to learn new skills and concepts. In the classroom we expect children to make mistakes, particularly when the concept they are learning is still in it's infancy. If your child makes these mistakes at home, don't worry - just send in what they have achieved. The teachers will then be able to assess their progress and make sure that the next piece of work they receive will be appropriate for their current stage of understanding. You have all been amazing at supporting your children and guiding them through their lessons. "I'm learning new things about the way children

learn every day as well!" was a comment that I received from one parent, which is brilliant. Next week, we will be launching our face to face pastoral sessions with the children. I think that they will love being able to see and talk to their teacher along with some of their friends. Please make sure you book a time slot that suits you through our parent booking system. Details of how to do this and log on to the meetings were sent out to you all yesterday. If you encounter any problems with this please let us know.

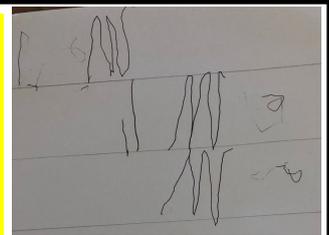
Well done on a very successful first week of online learning. Enjoy the weekend.

Tessa Roberts

Wwwwww....what sound have they been learning in Rising Reception this week?



**Wwwwww...
.....onderful
work
Rising
Reception**



Happy Birthday



Benjamin

4 Years old

24 April



Forest School fun in First Steps



Golden Star Awards

If you have had the chance to see today's assembly, you will have already heard a little bit about our Golden Star Awards this half term. I decided to turn the tables a little and instead of asking the teachers to choose a person for a Golden Star Award, I would ask the children. This half term's stars will be given to someone who has done something kind which was unexpected and made them smile. Bizarrely, as I am writing this newsletter my neighbour has just popped over with some chocolate chip banana bread for me which was a lovely surprise and is just the sort of kind gesture that would make a good nomination for a Golden Star. Anyone can be nominated for a star, a brother, a sister, a Grandpa, a neighbour or a friend. If your child would like to nominate a person for an award, please email me directly at tessa.roberts@downsend.co.uk with the person's name and the reason for the nomination. I will send a certificate to you and your child will be able to pass this on to their kind and thoughtful person. Yesterday, Matty and Harry nominated the first two people for an Ashted Golden Star. If you take a peek at today's assembly, you'll be able to see who they nominated. I can't wait to see who you will nominate!

Tessa Roberts

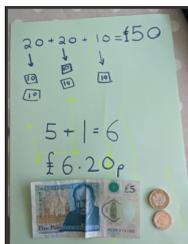
Golden Board

Oliver correctly sorted all the transport vehicles, then he coloured these traffic lights in the correct colour and order and finally made a yummy snack for his family at snack time.



Rising Reception captured their Easter news in a picture. Joe worked especially hard and created a wonderful picture of him flying his kite in the garden. He very carefully used sponges to paint a tree and then selected different materials from which to make his kite. He also made a little video, using his words to explain his holiday news and how he had created his picture.

Milo in Reception, created a human life cycle. He used pictures of when he was a baby, toddler and a school age child. Then he drew pictures of what he is going to look like when he is a teenager, an adult and an older person, like his Grandpa.



Year One have had a money focus for their online maths lessons. The children have been making amounts with coins and then also started using pound notes too. As you can see, Freddie has answered the questions set and then completed some extra problems. We really like how he has partitioned the larger numbers to help him with his adding and made his working out very clear.

Inspiring young minds