

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Thursday 7 May 2020

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### Message from the Head Teacher

Well done and thank you to children, parents and teachers for a fantastic week of online learning. After three weeks, it feels as if we have all started to get into a regular routine that accommodates everyone's work and necessary down time.

I would also like to say a big thank you to Mrs Nicholson, Mrs Gale and Miss Wardell for their fabulous support throughout April with our Key Worker cover and online learning activities. Like many companies, we have needed to furlough some of our staff through this uncertain lockdown period. However, they are still able to pop into Seesaw and see the children, as they miss

them all. Luckily for Ashtead, I was able to furlough staff for either the month of April or May. Mrs Lockyer, Mrs Humphries and Mrs Jones were furloughed over April and have now returned to support the online learning provision and the Key Worker cover throughout May. We are so lucky at Ashtead Pre-Prep to have such a talented group of teaching assistants that the quality of the provision that we have offered throughout this challenging time has been seamless.

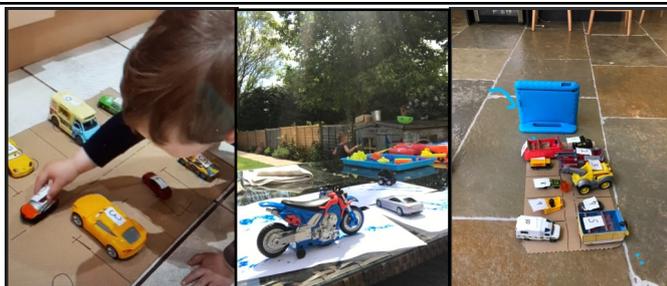
Next week, we have a treat in store as we are planning one of our special theme days on Friday 15 May. The theme will be 'Come

outside'. On that day there will be a range of activities that the children can have fun doing, outdoors. All the activities will be optional so the children can choose as many or as few as they like. The teachers will not be giving feedback on these tasks but, as always, they would love to see your photos and videos of the fun everyone has had learning outdoors.

I hope that you all enjoy the unusual Friday May bank holiday tomorrow and any 'VE Day' celebrations that you may be having.

**Tessa Roberts**

### Brum...brum...



First steps have been finding out about vehicles that travel on land this week. They have amazed us with their counting, sorting and mark making. These photos say it all! They also had a surprise today when they saw Mrs James!



### Feedback

During this period of online learning, we have continued to move the children through the planned curriculum, including the introduction of new concepts. The children, with the support of their parents, have risen to the challenge really well and we have been delighted with the work that has been uploaded onto Seesaw. When we are working with the children in the classroom, the teachers are always assessing and feeding back to children, with positive comments along with guidance on how they can progress in their learning next time. We refer to this feedback as 'next steps', taking the children's progression forward appropriately with constructive appraisal. The teachers have continued to feedback in this way when commenting on the work uploaded to Seesaw. We hope that you find this useful as a guide to help support your child when they next have a piece of work which requires these similar skills.

## Happy Birthday

**Vincent**

6 Years old

10 May



## Golden Star Awards

**Matilda** nominated her **Neighbour** - She is putting out books for her neighbours to share.

**Eric** nominated his **Daddy** - As a doctor he is helping out in hospitals to support those people who are unwell.

**Cameron** nominated his neighbour **Amelia**, who in her spare time is creating activities for Cameron to enjoy.

**Harry** has nominated two people this week - **Aunty Carol** who still finds time to send Harry virtual stories after her shift as a nurse and **Grandad** who is working in an intensive care unit at SWLEOC.

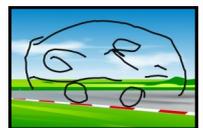
Everyone who has been nominated has been sent one of our Golden Star certificates and a special thank you card from us all. We look forward to hearing about other family and friends who deserve a mention.

## A Watery Week in Rising Reception



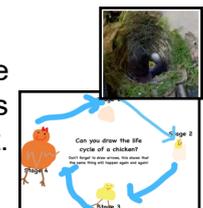
## Golden Board

**First Steps** - Lachlan has amazed us this week with the way he is interacting with his online learning. He drew this super car using the computer tools. Lachlan then went on to impress us even further in a video where he named vehicles and colours along with numbers up to fourteen, all in French. Très Bien!



**Rising Reception** - Charlie worked especially hard to create a wonderful boat for his STEAM challenge! He thought very creatively and carefully about his design as well as the different features he wanted to include. Testing his boat in a local stream proved that his design was watertight. Great job!

**Reception** - Harry has had a brilliant week with his topic work. His understanding of the life cycle of a chicken was helped by a robin who had laid some eggs in a nest in his Dad's workshop. This week the eggs hatched and some little chicks popped out. Perfect timing! Harry's picture of this life cycle is excellent.



This P4C task prompted more great discussions!  
Eric remembers talking about 'good secrets' and 'bad secrets' at school!  
We thought of some more examples and added them to the table.

**Year One** - In P4C this week, Year One have been recognising the difference between secrets and surprises. It is important the children know not to keep secrets that make us sad or uncomfortable and to be able to realise that surprises, sometimes referred to as good secrets, get revealed in the end to make us happy. Eric completed the activity beautifully and we were impressed that it led to further discussions at home. Well done!

Inspiring young minds