

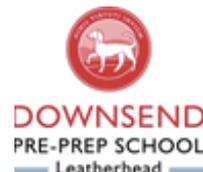
DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



DOWNSEND
PRE-PREP SCHOOL
Leatherhead

Leatherhead

Thursday 7th May 2020



Message from Mrs Conlan

Thank you to everyone for another fabulous week. I don't want to say it, but it does finally feel like we may be settling into some kind of routine.....just in time for an announcement of changes to (maybe/hopefully) come this weekend! Whatever the weekend brings, please rest assured that we will listen, plan and adapt to what we are presented with. According to what the news brings will make a difference to how quickly we are able to share our plans with you. I have already written a return to school plan taking into consideration all the different factors we may need to think about so we are ready and prepared for what the weekend brings! I would hope to share our initial thoughts and reactions with you on Monday and then follow that up with more robust information later in the week once I have had time to discuss planning with the other Downsend Headteachers and also received information from Cognita. Personally I await the news with feelings of optimism, fear, trepidation and many, many different feelings in between! We would love to have all the children back in school with us but first and foremost we want everyone to stay safe. I am certain that if we are given the go ahead to return to school after the half term there will be many additional stipulations in place and Health and Safety measures similar to before the closure will be necessary. We wait and see.

Next Friday is the first of our theme days focused on thanks and gratitude.

Additional information has already come out about the day to give you some insight in advance as to how it will look but we hope it will be a day to both enrich the curriculum but also to have a day with far less screen time. Having a 4 and 8 year old at home and being a diligent (and struggling) parent with maintaining home schooling, screen time does worry me and a day with more time away from it does appeal. There are enough activities provided for the day so that the 'normal' daily timetable can still be followed to reduce disruption but there will be no teacher face to face sessions that day. 1:1 reading for Reception and Year 1 and some well-being sessions will continue as normal – please refer to your child's timetable for specifics for your class.

We have a long weekend with the VE Bank Holiday tomorrow and both Friday and Saturday promising to be good garden days. Please do take a look at the VE day assembly and family activities we have put up on Seesaw for you all if you would like/need something to keep you all busy. The day will be a wonderful opportunity for children and families together to reflect on a very significant time in British and World history and to have fun with creative, decorating, cooking and dance activities. We would love to see any family or socially distanced community activities and to share them in next weeks newsletter so please send any photos into Esther at leatherheadprep@downsend.co.uk

Happy Birthday

The following children are celebrating their birthdays this week and we wish them many happy returns...



Hugo turns 5 on 8th May
Edward turns 5 on 11th May
Florence turns 4 on 12th May



Work of the Week

Busy Bees



Samuel spent a long time making his spider with Daddy and was very proud to show it off. Great work Samuel.

Hudson used his playdough to create a wonderful spider. He then independently counted the right amount of legs. Well done Hudson.

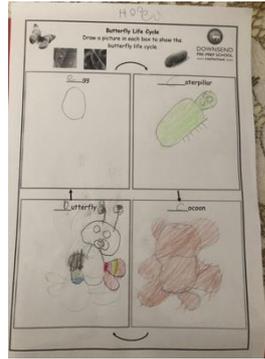


Ladybirds



For Honey and her beautiful butterfly life cycle. She has remembered the correct order of the life cycle and drawn a lovely picture to show each stage. Honey has then used her sound knowledge to work out and write the initial sound of each word.

Well done Honey!



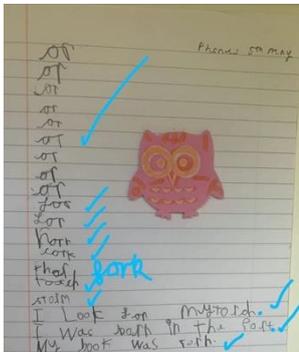
Butterflies

Byron rose to the challenge of creating a bug house with his usual enthusiasm and the result is nothing less than a 5 star hotel! We're waiting to hear when the first guests check in.



Rabbits

In our phonics lesson Emily used her phoneme fingers to help her write all of the words and even had a go at writing some sentences. Emily has been a superstar in our phonics lesson this week and has really taken time with her letter formation.



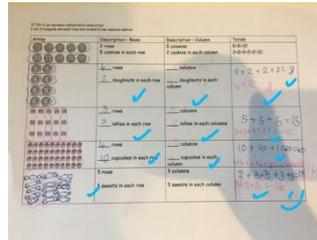
Foxes

Esther has been working really hard over the last few weeks. She has listened to feedback given and has really tried to improve her work. This week we have been learning about sharing and Esther has practised this in so many different ways at home including sorting out grapes for mummy and daddy, making sure that they had the same number and it was fair.

Squirrels

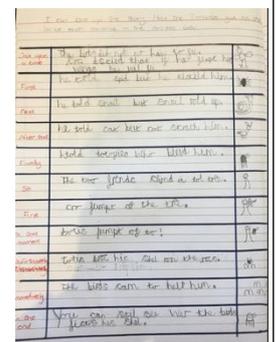


Anna has been consistently working hard on her maths and this week she showed a secure understanding of arrays as all the ticks on her work confirm. Well done Anna.



Eddie in Owls class has really taken on Miss Hodges' feedback this week. He doesn't like to work independently but this week for the first time he has. As part of our Talk4Writing story 'How the tortoise got its shell', the children have been planning their own versions, by changing some characters. On Tuesday they had to 'box it up' to help them order their stories ready for writing it on Wednesday. Eddie worked independently to box his story up, generating and recording his own sentences.

Owls



Rainforests in Reception

In Reception we have been learning about the rainforest and the children were given a project on Friday to design and create their own 3D rainforest. They had to think about the different materials they wanted to use - natural and/or man-made and had to think about how they could make it even better. I think they have done an amazing job - take a look!

Miss Ellis & Miss McInnes



Well done Reception, what beautiful rainforests you have created! 😊

We are missing you all so very much, and hopefully we'll see you soon, but in the mean-time here is a message from all the staff at Leatherhead Pre-Prep.



Miss Hodges