

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Leatherhead

Friday 15th May 2020



Message from Mrs Conlan

As we head into our final week of the strangest half term I have ever had and ever hope to have, the tides are turning for us again. I fear next half term will be equally as strange but for slightly different reasons.

In our staff meeting this week, there was a unanimous outpouring of positivity and pride at the hard work and engagement of children and parents through the online teaching and learning programme and a recognition of routines being in place. We are still facing technical problems in pockets which we do understand is exceptionally frustrating and we can only thank you once again for your patience and understanding in this area. Thinking forward to next half term, I would like to thank everyone who has already completed the short survey sent yesterday. We are deep into our action planning and risk assessing for the children to return to the school on 1st June and parent and staff views, alongside the Government guidance are key to us getting things right. Coming strongly through the survey is the need for further information from us about what the return to school will look like and some fears around what the actual experiences in school will look like for the children within the measures we will be taking. The health and safety of our children, parents and staff are the most important part of our planning and this includes mental health. The school that reopens on 1st June, or when we are given the go ahead, will be a very similar school to the one the children left prior to lockdown with drop offs at the door, additional handwashing measures etc but there will also be additional measures around minimising contact as much as possible with children working in smaller groups in designated spaces, lots of time spent outdoors, windows and doors open, tight access and

movement arrangements around the buildings also. It will not be the school the children are perhaps expecting to come back to. However, it will not be the sort of school that many of us will have seen on pictures where young children are limited to playing within a chalked square on the floor. For me, coming back to school for our children is about coming back to meet their friends and their teachers, to be able to play, interact and socialise and we will ensure they can do this safely and within the guidance in place. When we return the priority for us will be the happiness and security of the children within the new measures. More information will follow on this next week in three areas – education programme/curriculum, Health and Safety measures and organisation of pupils.

Today is our theme day of thanks and gratitude and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the period since lockdown, but particularly since the start of this half term and the full launch of our online teaching and learning programme. Both myself and the teachers have hugely appreciated your lovely messages of support and we were all incredibly pleased to see the recent parent survey results on the online teaching and learning programme reflect your positive messaging too – please see the figures attached to the end of this newsletter. Ideally we would have liked the response rate to be higher but we know how phenomenally busy everyone is so appreciate all responses that were made. There were no stand out themes, but as always we are continually reviewing our programme in light of ongoing conversations and feedback.

I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend.

VE Day Celebrations

Lots of you were very busy last Friday celebrating VE Day. There was bunting, baking, street parties and crafts! Please enjoy some of the lovely pictures we received...



Birthdays

We always celebrate the children's birthdays in our Friday assembly so we would like to wish the following child a Happy Birthday for this week.

Happy 4th Birthday to Tommy!



Work of the Week



Busy Bees

Following on with their Minibeast theme, First Steps have been thinking about caterpillars this week. Regan used some story card prompts to help her create her own story. She used her imagination and independently told us about a bee, caterpillar, sparrow and talking leaf! Great story telling Regan.



Barney used his creative skills to independently cut out the minibeasts and find a home for them in the tree. Barney was very pleased to show off his work. Great job Barney.

Rising Reception have been looking at the story "The Gruffalo" this week and Zachary made up his own version of the story which included an enormous mouse who was bigger than the Gruffalo and a 54 foot tall Brontosaurus! Zachary has worked really hard at all the set tasks this week and Mrs Hampshire is very proud of him.

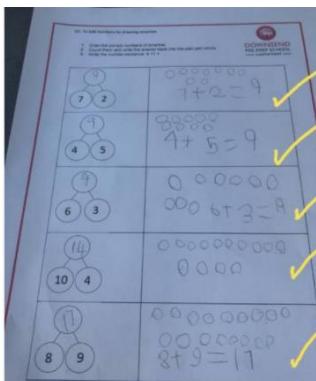


Butterflies



Ladybirds

Billy has been working extremely hard for the last few weeks with his mummy to form the correct pencil grip and stay on the lines when doing pencil control work. Well done Billy, keep practising!



Rabbits



Abby has worked hard on adding two and three numbers together. She has been able to draw the correct amount of 'smarties' to help her work out the answers and write the number sentences too. Keep up the amazing work Abby!

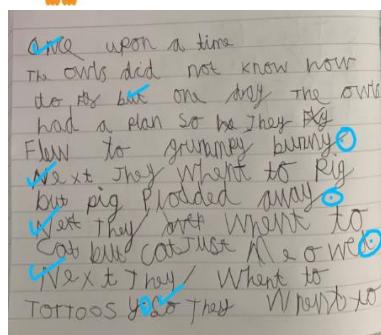


Foxes

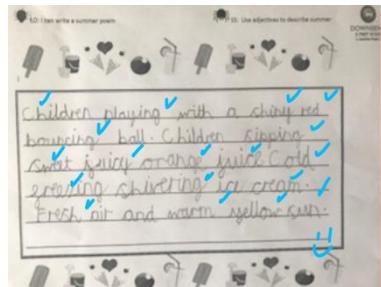
Chloe creatively used coloured clay to make her red-eyed tree frog. She also wrote some facts about the red-eyed tree frog making sure that she has clear capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. Great work Chloe!



Owls



April has done a fantastic job of writing her story, using all of the story language and remembering to use capital letters. She has also included some super wow words to describe the characters' and tried adding speech too. Well done April!



Squirrels

Isabella has written this delightful summer poem. She listened carefully in our lesson and has remembered to include adjectives to describe things that remind her of summer. Well done Isabella!

Fantastic Work Year One!

Year One have been learning about plants, growing and looking for seasonal change this half term.

In their art lesson this week, they have been venturing out into their gardens, to look for signs of growth and change and had the task of doing an observational drawing of a plant, flower or animal. They have all impressed Mrs Laverock and I at how carefully they have drawn their pictures, noticing details and different shades of colour.

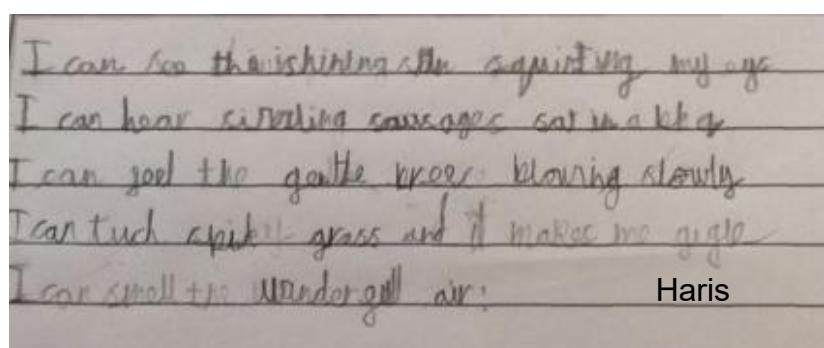
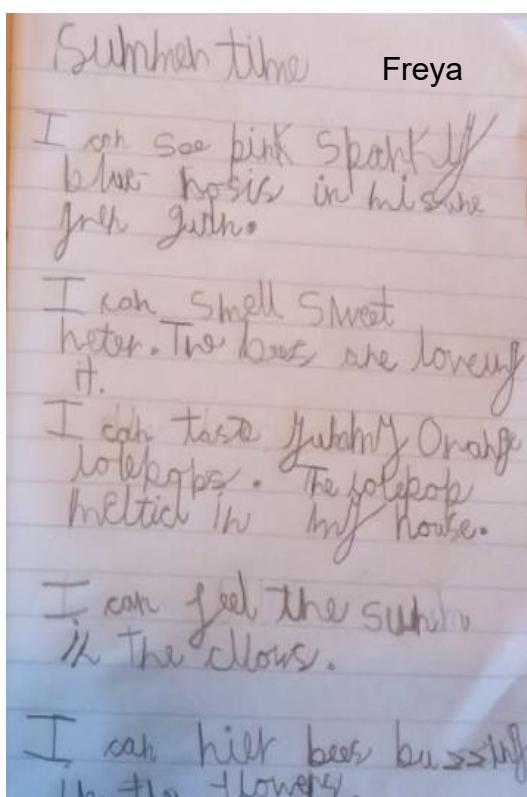
In their English lesson on Tuesday the children had to describe the Summer using their 5 senses to then write a poem. I think you will agree, these are incredible and certainly make me feel that Summer is here, even if it isn't looking like it outside at the moment!

These are just a few examples of some of the amazing work that the children have produced this week, with many more superb pieces in their Seesaw journals.

Mrs Laverock and I are overwhelmed at the engagement and enthusiasm that the children show to us everyday and we wanted to celebrate their achievements by sharing some of their work with you.

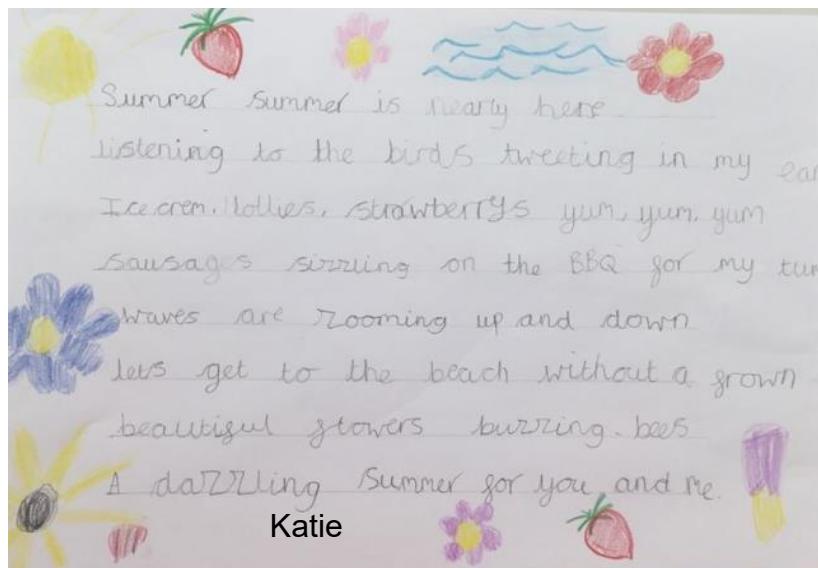
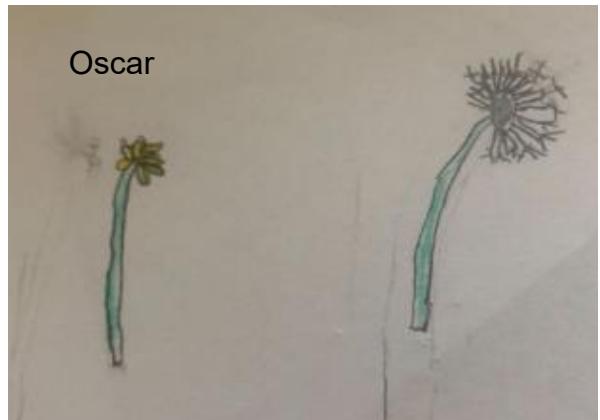
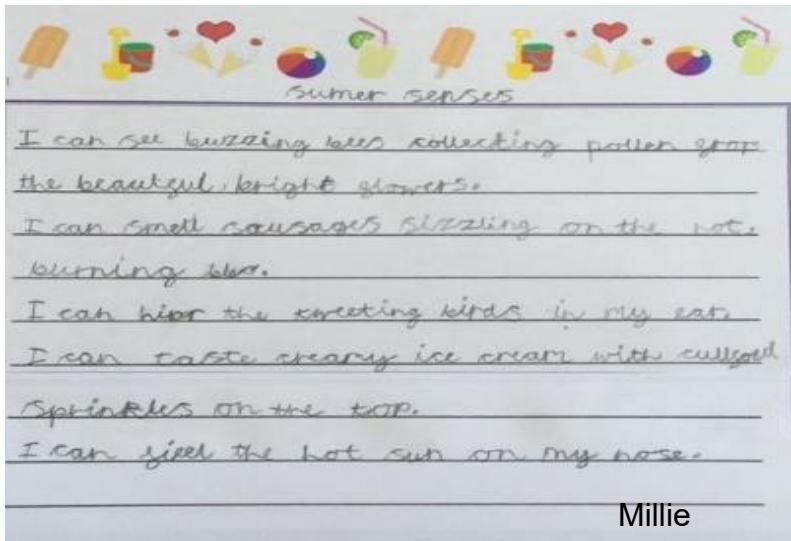
Great work Year One – give yourselves a pat on the back and a huge round of applause.

Miss Hodges

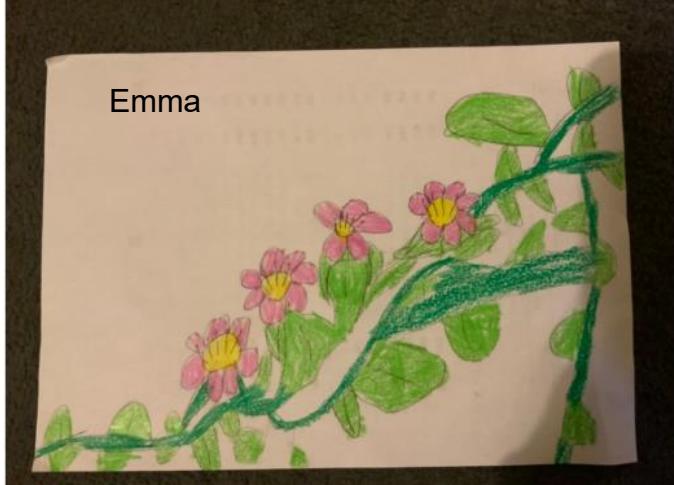


in my green garden I see pink flowers.
 I smell sausages in my garden.
 I hear birds twittering in the tree.
 I taste yummy ice cream.
 I touch dooty flowers.

Madeleine

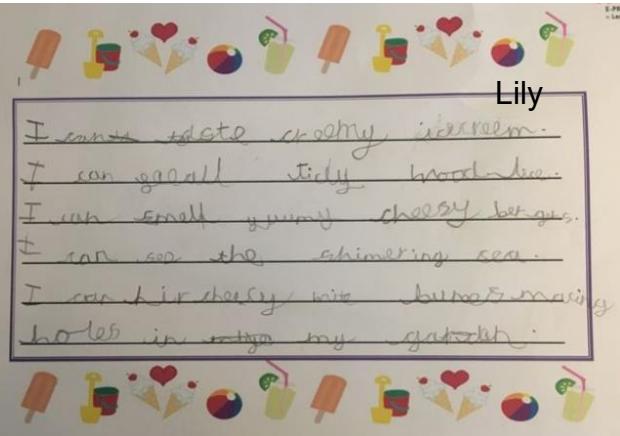


Emma



Eva

I eat cold yummie ice cream in the sun. summer is my fave in evry way I love suncream becos i get to go to the beach i love sun because i get to go in the paddling pool



Lily

I can taste creamy ice cream.
I can smell tidy woodlice.
I can eat yummy cheesy berries.
I can see the shimmering sea.
I can find cheezy bits between my holes in my jacket.

I taste cold brown chocolate ice cream, it is really yummy and delicious with a flake.

I hear children splashing in a pool, they are laughing and shouting hooray.

I feel the warm golden fluffy sand at the beach, I build sand castles.

I see a rainbow beachball flying in the air.

I smell coconut suncream. Maria-Lily

Well-being Message



Next week is mental health awareness week and in these 'strange and different times' we are all very aware that our mental health is more important than ever.

The focus for this year is kindness (how poignant at this moment) and I have witnessed so much kindness from the children on Seesaw and in the live lessons. Just listening to the children giving their friends praise about a piece of work or simply asking them how they are, has been truly wonderful, and proves to me what kind, special children we have at our school.

I'm sure the children are just as kind at home too and I would love to see any photographs of the children carrying out an act of kindness this week. Please send them to my email at amy.hodges@cognita.com

Parents, teachers and children take some time this week to think about yourselves and each other. Go for a walk, do some gardening, some baking, draw a picture whatever makes you happy, or simply sit down for 5 minutes and do nothing.

Stay well everyone.

Miss Amy Hodges

Mathletics News

A big congratulations to the following children who have gained points for their bronze certificate in Mathletics.

Czarek, Chloe C, Hamish, Leizah, Ellie, Alexia, Amy & Emma.

Well done Everybody!

Have you filled a bucket?



Following on from our 'Themed Friday', Please enjoy Mrs Conlan's Friday Story about kindness, positivity and good thoughts.

Have a happy weekend ☺

Parent Feedback (% who agree/strongly agree)

Number of Responses

32

Response Rate

39%

School Day Well Structured

93.8%

Adequate Technological Support

90.6%

School is doing a good job of providing T+L

93.8%

Teacher aware of Student Wellbeing

96.9%