

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Leatherhead

Friday 22nd May



### Message from Mrs Conlan

The whole half term has flown by in a blur and some how we have reached the half term break! Our children, families and staff have shown the most amazing brilliance, flexibility and resilience from start to finish; thank you all. Please have these attributes ready to employ again after the break as I think we will all be needing them!

We are delighted to be opening the doors of the school buildings again and cannot wait for the sound of laughter and play to permeate through the doorways, corridors and outdoor spaces. We have planned extensively to ensure a safe and as normal as possible environment for your child to return to and I must extend a huge thank you to all the staff who are supporting the transition back to school so ably and positively. Assuming we do open on Monday 1st June as we are expecting, today is the day that many teachers are able to claim back their lounges, dining rooms and kitchens as their classrooms move

from their homes back to school. A huge well done and thank you to their families at home!

Thank you also to everyone for your very positive feedback about the planning that has taken place to ready the school for opening, particularly the parent guide issued on Wednesday. Thanks must also extend to everyone who has contacted me to ask questions and to help us continue to shape our Frequently Asked Questions section. As I have said previously, we respect all decisions that parents make for their own children and families and are always happy to answer any questions to help decision making.

As we go into the half term break I wish you all a happy, healthy and as screen free as possible half term. We look forward to seeing many of you back after the half term break and reconnecting online with those we won't be seeing yet.

### Cognita Home Games

To everyone who took part in the Cognita Home Games this week, well done to you all. You have balanced, clapped, hopped and run your way to success! We have heard today that with all your fantastic efforts, the four schools in the Downsend family have taken the gold medal, winning the Cognita Home Games! This has also helped Team Europe win too.

This is amazing news and I'd like to congratulate every single one of you for taking part. A big thank you also to parents for submitting the results, the teachers and Mrs Booth for getting the results in quickly.

I think we may have some future Olympians in our midst!

What a great finish to a fantastic half term - well done everyone. Miss Hodges

### 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.

Eva is 6 on 23<sup>rd</sup> May

Chloe F is 5 on 29<sup>th</sup> May

William is 3 on 30<sup>th</sup> May

Kit is 6 on 3<sup>rd</sup> June



# Work of the Week



## Busy Bees

This week First Steps have been learning about being in the garden and Harrison has made this beautiful butterfly feeding table. He has decorated it with some printed out butterflies to entice some real butterflies to come and eat at the table. What a lovely idea Harrison.



Alexander went outside to put his butterflies all around and decorate his garden with them. It looks beautiful Alexander. Well done!



## Butterflies

Rising Reception have been looking at the sound 'h' this week and Ava not only completed her sound book but also coloured in a super letter 'h'. Ava has shown a really positive attitude to learning this week and in her own words just wants to 'get on with my good work'. Well done Ava!

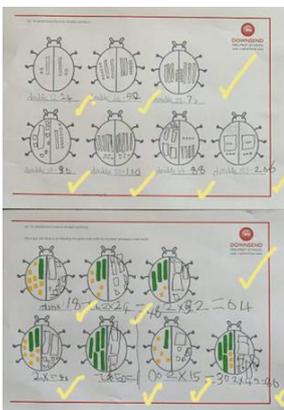


## Ladybirds



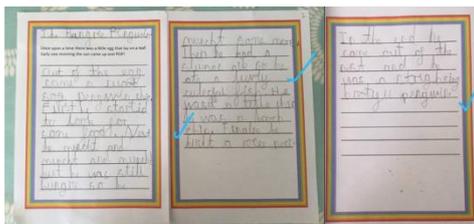
The children have been counting and working out the missing numbers this week, then filling in the blank spaces. Tommy worked hard to complete his number line and tried hard to write his numerals correctly. Fantastic work Tommy, well done!

## Rabbits



This week in Maths we have been learning all about doubles. We have been focusing on doubling numbers. Hamish was able to work out these doubles using tens and ones to help him. He also did a fantastic job of writing the number sentences that represent doubles. Well done Hamish!

## Foxes



Over the last few weeks Ellie has made really good progress in writing. She is thinking about the sounds she is using in words and is making sentences even better by adding adjectives. Ellie has innovated the story of the hungry caterpillar this week and turned it into her own story called The Hungry Penguin.



## Owls

This week in English we have read 'Sharing a Shell' by Julia Donaldson. Once we read the book, we answered some comprehension questions to show our understanding of the story. Ally did so well answering the questions using the question words to help her write her answers and remembered to write in full sentences and used the sentence rules too. Great work Ally.



## Squirrels



In science this week, Year 1 have been learning to identify common plants that they may see growing in their gardens or in any other green spaces around us such as hedgerows and parks. Alastair and Lily found many examples of the plants we have been trying to identify and they were able to label them correctly. Well done Alastair and Lily!

## Day & Night in Rising Reception

Miss Corden and Mrs Hampshire were delighted with the messages of thanks they received this week as a result of the thanks and gratitude themed day on Friday. Our topic in Rising Reception this week has been night and day. We talked about what 'nocturnal' means and thought about the different animals we might see at night time. We sorted animals into daytime and night time categories and created imaginative nocturnal pictures.

**Miss Corden & Mrs Hampshire**



Jonathan



Zac



Zachary



Romina



Finn



Vikram



Honey

### Mathletics News

A big congratulations to the following children for achieving a bronze certificate in Mathletics.

Czarek, Madeleine, Chloe C, Hamish, Hugo, Liezah, Ellie, Amy, Emma, Joshua, Alexia.

Well done everyone!

### Don't forget



Don't forget to tune into Mrs Conlan's Friday story.

# In the Garden with First Steps

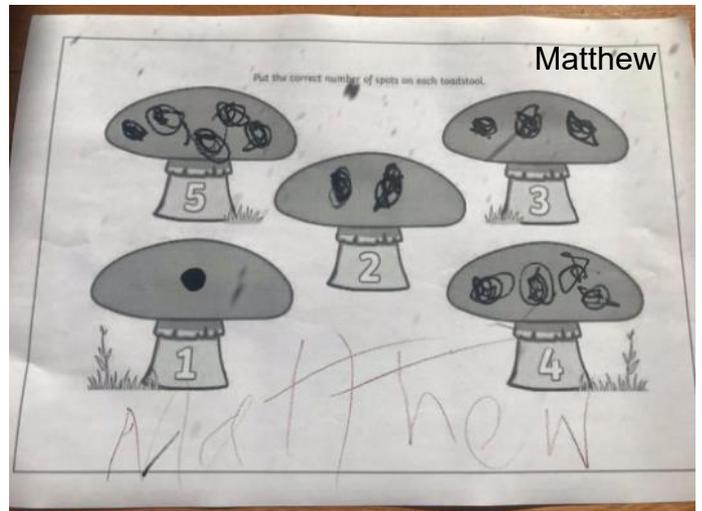
It has been another busy term in First Steps and this week we have been learning about being In the Garden. We have used photos of fairies, toadstools, gnomes and minibeasts to tell our stories. Look at all the lovely activities we have enjoyed.

Mrs Potter

Annie



Matthew



Owen

Alexander



Samuel Bugs in a Jar  
I can see 5 bugs in the jar.

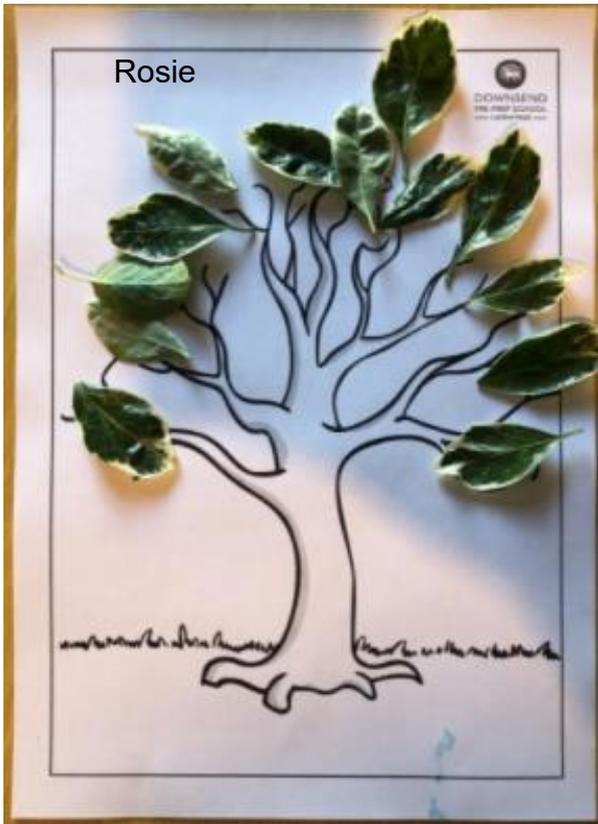


Leocadie

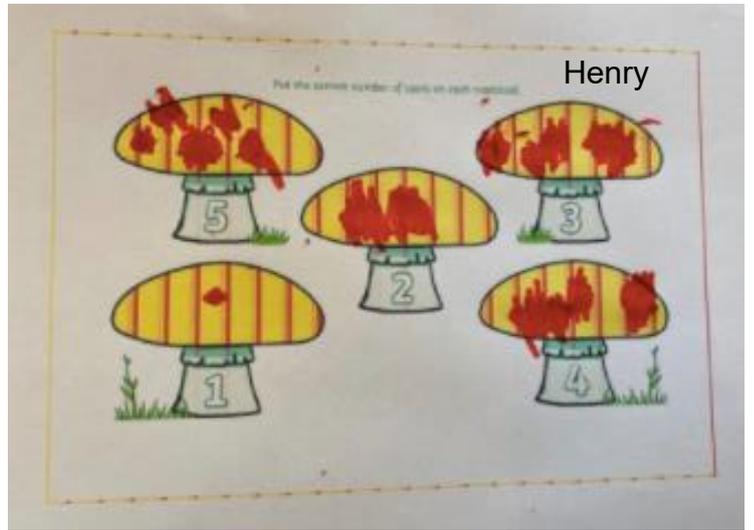


Daniël





Rosie



Henry

Eryn



Barney



Harrison



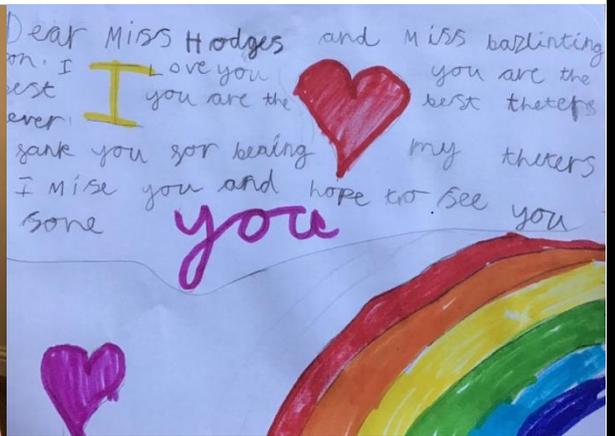
Regan



Antoine

Well done to everyone for taking part in our very first theme day about kindness and gratitude last Friday. You all produced some lovely work, from thank you cards to gratitude trees, your work was fab and the teachers that you thanked, very much appreciated your hard work. For those that joined in with the Cognita Home Games – well done. I have seen some pretty impressive table top balances, pillow balances and the distance you can roll socks is incredible! As we close our laptops and tablets for half term, I would once again like to say a massive thank you to staff, children and parents for making what has been a tough half term, an enjoyable and happy one. I hope that you all have a lovely week off school and look forward to seeing you all again soon, whether that is in the classroom or online. Take care and stay well.

**Miss Hodges**





Thank you

