

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

Friday 5 June 2020

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Message from the Head Teacher

It's grrrrrrr...eat to be back!

The children are really delighted to be in school again with their friends and the teachers are thoroughly enjoying being back in the classroom, interacting with the children. As I wander up and down the stairs, everywhere I look, there is a beaming face. This helps to confirm to me that the government's decision to open up schools again, to our young children, was the right thing to do, initiating the first step along the road for our country's recovery.

The new regime has been embraced and the children are keeping us all on our toes to make sure we abide by the rules! Hand sanitising and washing has become the norm and the children have adapted to spending time with their peers in their

'bubble' with ease. This week we have spent time talking about and sharing the children's experiences over the past weeks. The resilience of the children has amazed us. They have been really open and happy to share their thoughts and feelings but are now keen to move on and get back to the normality of the school routine.

Over the next few weeks we are planning a few special theme days designed to make the classes feel more connected and to maintain our strong community link. Next week, each class are experimenting with a STEAM theme and challenging the children in the other classes to guess which element of STEAM they have been exploring. Good luck everyone!

Tessa Roberts



Minibeasts



Slimy, slippery slugs and snails have been at the forefront of the children's explorations this week in First Steps and Rising Reception. The new topic of 'Minibeasts' has captured the children's interest and imagination. They loved the snail race activity, practising ordinal numbers, to see which would come 1st, 2nd or 3rd. Bug hunting was also a firm favourite, to see what kind of creatures they would find in the different habitats around school. In PE the children tried to move like the different minibeasts that were found in our school garden. Wiggling like a worm was just so much fun! The children have had a brilliant start to this very exciting topic, I wonder which creatures might



be in the spotlight next week? They can't wait to find out.

Julie James and Christeen Hill

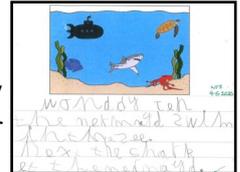
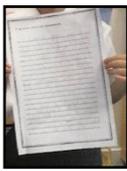
Golden Board

First Steps - Anna has loved finding out all about snails this week. She has learned that snails have four tentacles and one foot. She also amazed her teachers with her rainbow snail which she painted so carefully, keeping her brush strokes within the lines of her picture. Fantastic work Anna - we loved it!



Rising Reception - This week was Imogen's first week back in the classroom since returning from Australia. She has thoroughly enjoyed getting to know her teachers and playing with her new classmates. Imogen has bounced into school each day and has enthusiastically joined in with all the brilliant minibeast investigations in the classroom. It's great to have you back Imogen!

Reception - This week Jen has surprised us all with her wonderful creative writing. She used her imagination to write a short story about a mermaid who was eaten by a shark! Jen used her 'Fred' talk to segment the words and remembered finger spaces and full stops. Superb!



Year One - Ayrton confidently set about independently writing a fairy tale this week. His final story was fantastic as he chose some super adjectives to describe the character and settings and also remembered some punctuation too!

Golden Star Awards

Great Hygiene Golden Stars were awarded to:

Y1 - Matilda
R - Timothy
RR - Phoebe
FS - Phoebe

Congratulations to all the children who are working hard to make sure they are keeping their hands clean.

Uniform Shop

Currently, all pre-loved Uniform Sale plans are on hold until we can find a solution to support a safe environment given the current situation. Therefore, there will be no sales or intake of uniform this academic year. We will let you know once we are able to recommence our activity, but in the meantime we are working to issue the remaining cheques for all those items we sold in the last academic year.

Thanks for your understanding and we look forward to recommencing our collection and sales in the future.

Lynn Godwin

Packed Lunch

The novelty of picnic packed lunches is being thoroughly enjoyed by the children. Thank you for supporting us with this, to maintain the class bubble. Please put a small snack in a separately named box and remember to avoid nuts, sweets or chocolate. This helps us to support our healthy eating programme.

Thank you.

Year 1 and Reception love being back at school



Inspiring young minds