

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'

SIS Inspection 2014-2015

Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

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Tel: 01372 385439

www.downsend.co.uk

ashteadpre-prep@downsend.co.uk

Message from the Head Teacher

Everyone is now back in full swing and settled into our new routine. The drop-offs and pick-ups are working smoothly. It's so lovely to see the children's new found confidence as they say 'Goodbye,' at the gate and make their own way to their classrooms.

The teachers and I would like to say a massive 'Thank you' to all the parents for the amazing job you have done, teaching your children at home. They have remembered so much and most of the children are right on track to achieve their end of year expectations. I think that children, parents and teachers alike have really enjoyed using the Seesaw program which is why we are now going to use this for posting homework in Reception and Year One. We love the way that the children can use different

forms of media to complete the set activity. This week, Year One were asked to find out about a significant person who has either changed events or people's ideas, improved peoples lives or had a lasting effect on the world. The children were then asked to tell the rest of the class about their person. Mrs Chipperton was able to bring up their work on the big screen for everyone to see. The children used posters, written work or a video to help them with their presentations which were so varied and brilliantly shared with the class. Seesaw allows the children to make choices, be creative and to let their individuality shine through - such a positive outcome from our Lockdown experience.

Tessa Roberts

Slippery Snails and Sneaky Spiders



Do you know why a snail is so slippery? The children in Rising Reception have been experimenting using their STEAM skills to see what happens when you move on a slippery surface. They also created a spider's web in the classroom and had fun sneaking through the spider's silks to catch flies.

Thoughts and Values

Philosophy for Children (P4C) is a firm favourite with Year One. This was also apparent during Lockdown, as the work they shared each week was so thoughtfully and creatively presented. Expressing their opinion and developing their reasoning skills greatly improves cognitive and academic skills, as well as the children's confidence and self-respect. This week, we have considered what humans need to be healthy.



Together, we decided the key factors are to eat a balanced diet, drink water, have good personal hygiene, plenty of sleep and exercise. Year One agreed that staying healthy helps you to feel happier and stronger! This is great advice for us all. Well done Year One!

Mandi Humphries



Golden Board

First Steps - Cooper is loving learning about minibeasts. This week he has carefully cut out worms, without help, and correctly sequenced them in size order. Then later in the week, his mark making skills came to the fore as he created a fabulous ant picture. Super work Cooper!



Rising Reception - This week, Rory has excelled himself! When given the question 'Why don't spiders stick to their own webs?' He carefully considered why spiders differ to other minibeasts and confidently shared his ideas with the rest of his class. Great job Rory!

Reception - Matty is thoroughly enjoying Reception's new 'Talk for Writing' story. He enthusiastically retold the story this week with all the actions and then created a brilliant 'S' map to retell the story sequence. He even made a prop for the retelling of his story at home. Superb!



Year One - Hensen loved the STEAM challenge this week and produced a wonderfully creative design. He selected a range of shapes and patterns to embellish his lined creation to great effect. Wow Hensen! Wonderful work!

Golden Star Awards

Great Hygiene Golden Stars were awarded to:

Y1 - Harrison
R - Harry
RR - Nikolas
FS - Edie



Stripes 4 Stripey

Next Thursday we will be holding a 'Charity Day' for our school charity - Stripey Stork. We are asking the children to come to school wearing something stripey along with a small donation for Stripey Stork. What they choose to wear could range from a pair of socks to a whole outfit, depending on your love of stripey clothing! During this crisis, the requests that the charity are receiving to help young families have tripled, so your support will be highly valued. Please click [here](#) if you would like to find out more about Stripey Stork.

STEAM in Action

Yesterday we took part in our first collaborative adventure. Each class experimented with an aspect of STEAM on Wednesday and then we played 'Can you guess the STEAM focus?' with each class sharing their experiment with the rest of the school. The children were brilliant at guessing the focus of the other classes. We saw Science from First Steps with their Strong Worm Challenge and Science and Technology from Rising Reception with their question 'Why don't spiders get stuck on their webs?' Reception then gave us Science and Maths with a stratification experiment and Year One created some amazing pictures combining Art and Maths. Great fun was had by all but the most enjoyable aspect was seeing all their friends in other bubbles on the screen.



Inspiring young minds