

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Epsom



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom
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Friday 5th June 2020

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Message from Mrs Conlan

It has been wonderful to welcome our children and families back to school this week both in person and virtually. We are delighted to have so many children back in school with us but we also completely understand the reasons parents have for choosing to keep their children at home still. We will be here ready to welcome your children back when the time is right whether that be this term or in September.

The children back in school this week have adapted and amended as brilliantly as we expected them to this week demonstrating those all important skills of resilience and flexibility. A huge thank you to parents for sharing the story I sent last weekend with your children. They were prepared for the measures that would be in place and have accepted and followed them amazingly.

A number of parents have asked how the bubble system is working for us this week. I am really pleased to report it is working really well. Our planning in advance of the return

was incredibly detailed and planned for internal space, one way routes through shared spaces to ensure only one bubble at a time passes through, cleaning regimes of shared spaces, playground zoning, entry and exit procedures. It was a huge relief to see them all work so well when we finally put them into action! If anything, I think I am probably the person who has struggled the most to get used to the system. Not being able to pop in and out of classrooms is very alien to me, but of course, I must ensure that I am not the person to 'burst' a bubble. I loiter in doorways, avoid any corridors when there is movement around the buildings, gaze out of my window and dispense sanitiser at a full arms length to see the children and school in action. My new normal!

A few parents have also asked about holiday club this Summer. While I am hoping that we can go ahead, currently we are unable to get the approval to go ahead. I have been advised we need to wait for further Government guidance to be issued but don't know when this will be coming. As I know more, I will let you know.

DEPA News

With school doors back open, it's lovely to see fellow parents and teachers again, albeit from an appropriate social distance. Mostly it's wonderful to see the happy faces of our children reunited with classmates.

A big welcome back from DEPA. For those still at home, we hope you and your families are safe and well and we look forward to being all together again.

Summer is traditionally a busy time for DEPA. Clearly this year is different, but we've put on our thinking caps to find other things DEPA can do to create some fun for our children.

The first of these is ice lollies, which we traditionally sell in the summer term. This year, thanks to a very generous donation to DEPA, we will give out FREE ice lollies every Wednesday for the rest of term. To ensure we adhere to the safety requirements, teachers will give each child a lolly at the end of their school day on behalf of DEPA. We hope it brings a little extra smile during the week.

One Step At A Time



Tahira from Year 1 and her sister and brother (Sophia and Khalil) who are both former Epsom Pre-Prep pupils have been busy fundraising for a local children's charity, Jigsaw4u. So far, they have completed half a million steps since half term and their goal is to reach one million. This has been an inspiring and fun way to help less fortunate children and if you would like donate to this wonderful cause, please [click here](#) for a link to their fundraising page

Thank you for your support!

Now That We Are Back

It has been an absolute joy for all of the teachers to be back in school this week with so many of the children and also to be able to continue to connect with children at home through the online platforms that had gradually become our 'new normal'. Outdoor learning is at the heart of the curriculum we have planned for this half-term, alongside learning how to stay safe in school. While the week began bathed in glorious sunshine and ended several degrees cooler, we'll continue to make full use of our marvellous outdoor space to nurture the children's curiosity, develop their problem-solving skills and to foster collaborative-working and effective communication. The perfect antidote to screen time and several weeks of being parted from friends! **Mrs Lisa Burns**

We have started our topic on Journeys and Transport and we have been sorting and colouring trains this week, counting out groups of vehicles, making traffic lights but most importantly having fun together. We have been working on waving our arms around like helicopter blades to help reinforce our social distancing and doing plenty of handwashing. The weather has been so lovely for our new lunchtime routine of an outdoor picnic lunch in our FS bubble. Well done First Steps. **Mrs Jane Simpson**



What busy children Rising Reception have been this week. They began their new topic 'Land and Sea' by discussing which animals live on the land and under the sea, making a smiley shark puppet, narrating their own sea stories and have learnt a very long fish name - Huma Huma Nuka Nuka Apua'a!

Ms Chantael Clayton



It was so lovely to welcome the children back to school this week and we have been impressed with how engaged the children have been with their learning. They have produced some lovely writing, drawing, paintings and they have made some fantastic space rockets linked to our 'Whatever Next' story. We are missing the children who are still at home, but we are so pleased to see that some of them are continuing to complete the activities on Seesaw. Well done Reception. **Mrs Sharon Butler**



Year 1 has returned to school full of the joys of the Summer Term and delighted to catch up with friends. They have thrown themselves into their new topic, "The Summer" with great enthusiasm. Whether checking on the seeds we started to grow before lockdown, creating fruit character collages and writing descriptions, or using the outdoor learning space to practise finding quarters of quantities, the children have returned raring to learn and showing how wonderfully they have matured over the course of the year. **Mrs Lisa Burns**



We are participating in the Wildlife Trust's 30 Days Wild initiative this month. It's an annual scheme to encourage children to get closer to nature and to spend time outdoors throughout the month of June.

Rising Reception spent the week in the woodland garden where Aaron made 'soup' from mud, grass and water, Oliver hunted for minibeasts and Edward made a giant telescope to look at the sky. Meanwhile, Year 1 investigated the school field for plants and animals to create a wildlife A-Z. Letters q, x, y and z proved challenging so a little artistic licence was required. Parents please be assured that we did not find a Queen Snake or an X-ray Fish in the school grounds!

Useful contacts



Ext day mob	07594170569
Pre-Prep Epsom	01372 385438
Pre-Prep Ashtead	01372 385439
Pre-Prep L'head	01372 385437
Prep School Office	01372 372197
Admissions	01372 372311
School Nurse	01372 385409
Finance	01372 374842
Marketing	01372 385402
Downsend PP+	07899 011275
Downsend+	01372 385403

Celebrating Achievement

We congratulate the following children this week:

First Steps

Stella, Sophie, Luke, Samuel, Lionel and Eashaan for being so good at adapting to their new environment this week

Hedgehogs

Edward for making an amazing telescope
Ryan P for looking after his caterpillars until they turned into butterflies

Reception

Lauren for independently writing a list of items to take to the moon
Elodie for drawing an amazing picture from 'Whatever Next'

Year 1

Arjun for working hard to produce beautiful handwriting



Top tips for well-being



We all know that healthy eating is a key element for our wellbeing and what we eat and drink can fuel and boost our moods as well as our immune systems. Here are a few tips to sneak some healthy food options into your child's lunch box.



Fruity Tuck Shop in the Fridge

Create an area in the fridge which is brimming with wholesome snacks at the ready – chopped-up fruit, blueberry portions frozen in sandwich bags, pre-cut veggie batons and sliced apple wrapped in Clingfilm. Then let your child pick out their own snacks and that way they'll feel involved in making their own choices. Channel your inner artist and make sandwiches into fun smaller shapes.

Freeze water bottles

There's nothing worse than worn withered sarnies, so create your very own ice pack with a frozen water bottle. By the time they unzip lunch, the water will be thawed, and their food will be cool and fresh – without the soggy bottoms!

Please use the links below for delicious healthy food recipes:

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-emergencies/coronavirus-covid-19/technical-guidance/food-and-nutrition-tips-during-self-quarantine>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/coronavirus-healthy-food-how-to-eat-lockdown-a9442241.html>

<https://lizearlewellbeing.com/how-liz-supports-her-immune-system/>

Mathletics News

Congratulations to Darcey for being awarded a silver and two bronze Mathletics certificates and to Diana for gaining two bronze certificates and to Victoria, Amaya and Sonia for achieving bronze certificates. Fantastic Maths girls!

Stop Press ...

We have a stock of second-hand uniform in school (all items are priced at £2, except for coats and dresses which are £5). Please contact Mrs Tucker with any requirements and we can send home clothing for your child to try on. Returned items will be isolated before being returned to stock.

Inspiring Young Minds