

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Epsom



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Friday 12th June 2020

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Message from Mrs Burns

The weather may have turned decidedly cool in recent days, but the warmth radiating from our bubbles of children continues to fill our school with cheer and excited chatter. It has been wonderful to welcome back more children through our doors this week and to see all the children settled and as curious as ever about their learning.

Walking around the school grounds (at a social distance!) gives a true insight into the breadth of experiences the children are still having, despite the current measures necessarily in place to keep everyone safe. I've seen busy First Steps children absorbed in worlds populated with planes, trains and automobiles and Rising Reception children diving deep under the sea to discover hidden treasures.

Meanwhile, Reception explored a playground full of settings recreated from 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' to inspire their use of descriptive language. Year 1 used their powers of observation and detection to learn

about the sun and light and they created their own masterpieces to represent light in the style of the Impressionist artists.

While the usual pattern of external trips and Summer Term events that fill the end of the school year may not be possible at the moment, Mrs Conlan and I are working on plans to celebrate the end of term with all of the children. While a different approach is likely to be needed at the current time, we are determined to mark the end of Year 1 in a memorable way for those children and families leaving Epsom Pre-Prep this year. Please bear with us while we finalise the plans, but we shall send out further details next week.

Wishing all of our families a lovely weekend. **Mrs Lisa Burns**

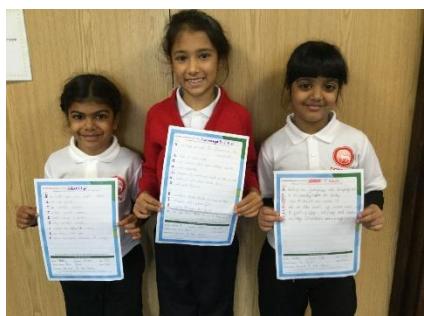
DEPA News

The DEPA ice lollies were a big hit this week, despite the distinctly unsummery weather on the day. We'll be giving out free ice lollies again this Wednesday at the end of the school day, via the teachers. Fingers crossed the sun will shine this time.

Under normal circumstances tomorrow would have been the annual DEPA Summer Fair. It's always a great day and we're so disappointed that, like so many other things, coronavirus has put paid to it this year. Hopefully, we'll be back bigger and better than ever next year.

Meanwhile the DEPA team are working on other ways to create some fun for our children, so watch this space.

Young Writers



Congratulations to Keira, Nandini and Tahira from Year 1 who have had their animal acrostic poems chosen for publication in an anthology of poetry written by 5-7 year olds. The girls included adjectives, alliteration and similes to make their poems about a Rabbit, Butterfly and Hummingbird impressively descriptive. The poetry writing initiative was created by Young Writers which promotes poetry and children's creative writing in schools. Well done girls! We are so proud of you.

Birthday



Happy Birthday to Rahul in First Steps who is three years old today.

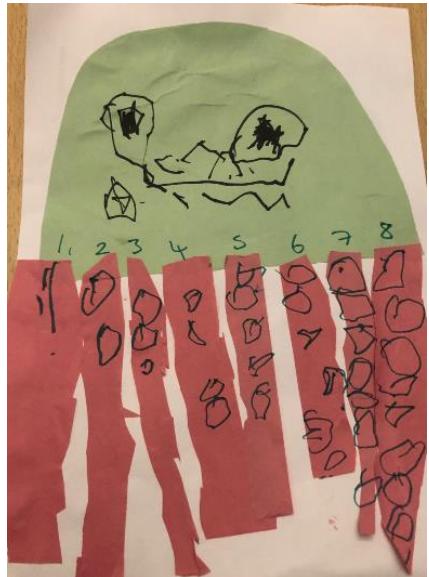
The Week That Was

This week First Steps have been talking about trains. We have coloured trains, made track patterns, cut out train shapes, made shape garages and have also been talking about transport rhyming words. We rhymed train with rain, car with star, rocket with pocket and boat with coat. Well done First Steps for another fantastic week and it is so lovely to see more of you returning to school. We would also like to welcome Theo to First Steps who has enjoyed his first few days with us. **Mrs Jane Simpson**



Rising Reception have been busy again this week earning lots of facts about octopuses. These fascinating creatures have 3 hearts, blue blood, can change colour and they have 9 brains so they are very clever. Hedgehog class made their own octopus and have also started to make their own aquarium which they are very excited about. **Ms Chantael Clayton**





Despite the cooler weather this week, the Reception children are enjoying our outdoor learning and play. This week the children have been practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s by grouping lots of objects together. We went on an exciting bear hunt through long wavy grass, thick oozy mud and a whirling swirling snowstorm. The children even had to make their way through real rain drops which began falling half-way through our bear hunt. We had a lovely day and the children finished looking for the big brown bear at lunch time! **Mrs Sharon Butler**



This week Year 1's focus text has been 'Katie and the Water Lilies'. The children learned about Claude Monet and the Impressionist art movement and they used paints to recreate the artist's famous artwork. In Science, we learned about the sun as a source of light and energy and how to stay safe in the sun, whilst our Geography topic took us to the Seaside where we found out about coastal features and how erosion and deposition changes the shape of the coastline. Returning to the topic of time, the children have impressed Mrs Burbidge and I with their efforts to master the time in five minute intervals on the clock. Games and Dance lessons, Forest School and French via video links and Seesaw films have also broadened and enriched our busy week. **Mrs Lisa Burns**



This week Rising Reception explored the woodland garden for more amazing signs of wildlife and Year 1 scavenged the field for natural materials to make wild pictures including reindeer, faces and plants.

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

Rahul as it is his 3rd birthday today!

Hedgehogs

Ted for knowing so many facts about creatures who live under the sea

Reception

Amaya for continuing to be motivated and eager to learn

Year 1

Nandini for reading and showing the past times on the clock in 5 minute intervals



Top tips for well-being



Cognita has produced a range of wellbeing resources for families which are being continually updated. A recent addition is a video podcast by Professor Tanya Byron. In this edition, Cognita's Group Director of Education, Simon Camby, together with Beth Kerr (Wellbeing Director) discuss children's wellbeing with Professor Byron. There is also a clip of Beth Kerr interviewed on ITV News about the transition back to school.

To view these resources, please click on:

<https://www.cognita.com/cognita-be-well/resources-for-families/>

Ms Chantael Clayton

News from Main Site



Work continues on the construction of the new Performing Arts Centre. The steel girders that will support the roof are now in place which means that the first floor (the Music zone) is beginning to take shape.
Ian Thorpe

Mathletics & Pobble News

Congratulations to Darcey for being awarded a bronze Mathletics certificate. Well done to Aiden, Arjun, Keira, Nandini, Sonia and Tahira for being this week's Pobble published authors. Fantastic character descriptions Year 1!

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