

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Leatherhead

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June



### 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

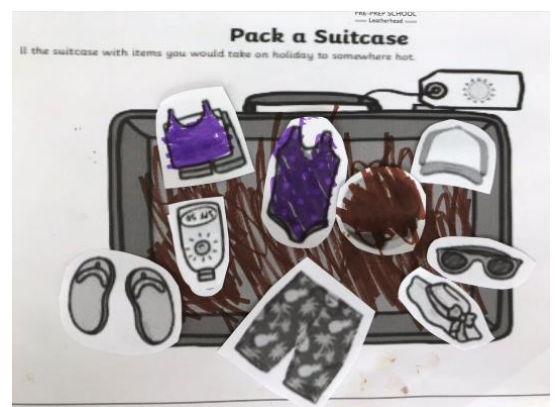
routes through shared spaces to ensure only one bubble at a time passes through, cleaning regimes of shared spaces, playground zoning, entry and exit procedures. It was a huge relief to see them all work so well when we finally put them into action! If anything, I think I am probably the person who has 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 more.

I hope you all have a great weekend.

### Welcome Back Busy Bees!

The children in First Steps have settled back into school routine beautifully and we are so proud of them. They have been introduced to their topic for this half term which is 'Summer' and have enjoyed lots of stories about going on holiday. They thought about what type of places you can stay in and were fascinated with camping as you have to "sleep outside". They then designed their own suitcase and had to think what clothes you would take to a hot or cold place. What a busy week!



## Birthdays

We always celebrate birthdays in our celebration's assembly so a big Happy Birthday to the following children for this week.

Harrison is 4 on 5<sup>th</sup> June

Sophie is 6 on 5<sup>th</sup> June

Louis is 6 on 11<sup>th</sup> June



## Don't Forget

Please remember to tune into Mrs Conlan's celebration assembly which will be loaded onto SeeSaw later today.

Enjoy 😊

## Useful contacts



**DOWNSEND**  
PRE-PREP SCHOOL  
Leatherhead

Pre-Prep Ashted	01372 385439
Pre-Prep Epsom	01372 385438
Pre-Prep L/head	01372 385437
Prep School Office	01372 372197
Extended Day	07943 134717
Admissions	01372 372311
School Nurse	01372 385409
Finance Department	01372 374842
Marketing	01372 385402
Downsend PP+	07943 134717
Downsend+	01372 385403
Mobile	07909 861280

## Land and Sea in Rising Reception

Rising Reception have been superstars this week and we are so proud of the way in which they have embraced the changes at school. As well as learning facts about starfish and crabs, they made some super handprint crabs and chalked fantastic pictures on the playground. They enjoyed music with Mrs Shaw and have been busy making shakers for next week's lesson. However, the highlight of the week for them, apart from seeing their friends, has been having a picnic lunch!



## Supertato! In Reception

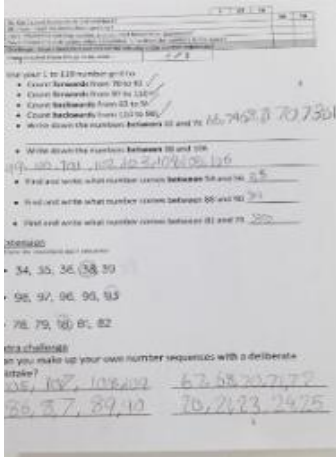
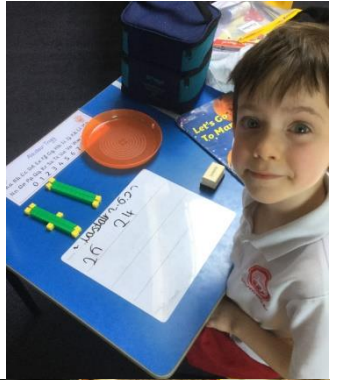
It has been so wonderful to have many of the children back in school this week. As part of our learning we have been looking at the book Supertato! And have enjoyed making our own superveg, hunting for the evil pea and making masks to disguise ourselves from the evil pea. Well done Reception, if you see the evil pea let Rabbit's and Foxes know! We built traps and wrote wanted posters to describe what the pea looked like. We even made our own "Veggies Assemble" superheroes to help in the search. In Maths this week we have been learning about ordinal numbers and using them to describe our position in a line.



# A busy week in Year One

This week in Year One we have been learning place value to 100. The children have loved working with BIG numbers and can all group large numbers, partition numbers and add numbers using their knowledge of tens and ones. Those children who haven't come back to school yet have been busy with their home learning too. We miss you and hope to see you soon.

We have also enjoyed our online French lesson with Madame Roscoe, talking about our favourite fruits. Even though Madame Roscoe wasn't in school, it felt like she was here with her wonderful French songs and music!



## Bike Week

What a wonderful return to school we have had. Starting with hot sunny weather and ending on a rather chilly, windy note, it really has been wonderful to see so many happy faces coming through our doors once more.

Hearing the children's lockdown stories has been wonderful and it sounds like everyone at home had a busy time, especially getting out for bike rides when they could.

Next week is this year's Bike Week and a great opportunity to get out cycling as a family. There are so many benefits of cycling which include improved fitness and strength, immunity boosting and a better mental wellbeing, so why not dust off those helmets and get out for a well deserved, social distanced bike ride. We would love to see you riding your bicycles. Please send in some pictures to Mrs Booth or your class teacher. Enjoy!

## Pre-loved uniform sale

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.

### Events for W/C 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Mon	All day	Mrs Conlan in school
Tues		
Weds	All day	Mrs Conlan in school
Thurs		
Fri	All day	Mrs Conlan in school

# Work of the Week



## Busy Bees

Antoine has also been happy to be back at school and he has drawn this lovely picture of himself and his family at the beach. He carefully used yellow for the sand and blue for the sky and even added some little red crabs. What a lovely picture Antoine.



Leocadie has been so happy to be back at school this week and has independently painted a beautiful picture of herself at the beach. She had to think carefully about where to put her features and she chose a lovely blue swimsuit to wear to go into the sea. Well done Leocadie.



## Butterflies

As part of our topic 'Land and Sea' Butterflies were focusing on starfish and crabs this week. We are so proud of how brilliantly all the children have settled back in to our new school routine this week but special praise goes to Flo who has been incredibly helpful in class and who has worked independently to create a fantastic handprint crab.

## Ladybirds



This week we began our new topic Land and Sea. To start the topic off we have been thinking about crabs and starfish and Anton made a fantastic crab with his hands. He learnt that crabs have 10 legs and two of those legs are the pincers. Great work Anton!



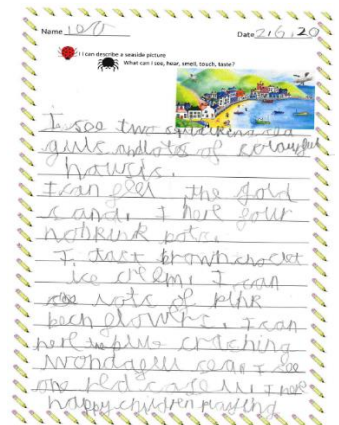
## Foxes

This week we have been reading the "Supertato" stories. Max made his own superveggie all by himself. He enthusiastically collected and added each part and even thought that adding a belt with a "s" would make it even better. Well done Max.



## Squirrels

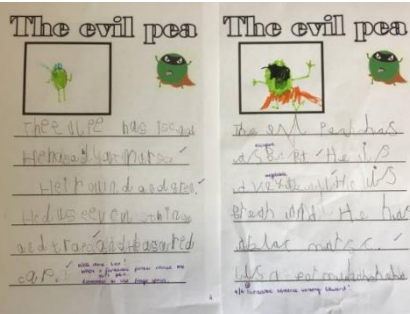
This week in Year 1 we have been learning about how to describe a seaside picture, thinking about what we might see, hear, smell, touch and taste. Leo independently wrote some super sentences using his senses and he added some adjectives to make his descriptive writing even better. Well done Leo!



## Owls



In Science this week we have been learning about plants that grow in the desert and how they have adapted (changed) to live there. Oscar and Simona worked hard to draw, label and write about different cacti and know that they have wide shallow roots, thick waxy skin and spines to protect them. They can also store lots of water inside their thick stems. Well done Oscar and Simona!



## Rabbits

This week in Reception we have been focusing on the book Supertato, the children have made wanted posters to search for the evil pea! Edward and Leo worked really hard to write their posters independently using their phonic knowledge and descriptive language. Well done boys!