

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Leatherhead

Friday 12th June



Message from Mrs Conlan

We have welcomed more children back to school this week and I am delighted that a good number more are returning next week also. I hadn't realised that as a school, we are outside the norms in welcoming all of our children back full-time rather than on a staggered timetable. We are so pleased that we have been able to open fully for your children and thank you for the faith you have placed in us in sending them back. Our measures continue to work well and the children are now fully versed in bubble arrangements! The children have also been brilliant this week with slightly draughty classrooms and continuing to go outside lots – thank you for the extra layers and the rain coats!

We continue to have lots of circle time activities in school giving the children plenty of opportunities to talk about how they feel, share any worries they have and to more generally support them in making sense of the World around them. However, now the children are well settled into the routines, as you will see from the content in this weeks newsletter, we are well and truly back into the swing of things

on the education front. Not only are the teachers providing a safe and nurturing environment for them, they have also picked up where they left off with delivering the curriculum and ensuring the children have lots of varied and exciting opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills, understanding and all important communication, collaboration, creative and critical thinking skills through our STEAM activities too.

This week I have been looking at our usual end of term events, particularly thinking about the transition events for the children moving up to their next year group and also our Y1 leavers event. I have also spoken to the Leatherhead Pre-Prep Friends about how we could manage some kind of end of term parties. Plans continue to be made and risk assessments continue to be written but I can assure you that COVID-19 will not stop us in ensuring our children have a good end to the school year and are as ready as they can be for the new school year ahead.

Bike Week

It has been lovely to see many of the children making their way to school on their bikes this week. I am super impressed with those children who are improving their balance skills on their balance bikes and those who are off stabilisers already – much better than Miss Hodges' can manage!



Don't Forget

Please remember that we are a nut aware school and with this in mind, we ask you to ensure that children do not have any products containing nuts in their snacks or packed lunches, including Nutella, peanut butter etc. We have children and staff who have severe allergies to nuts and we want to keep them safe and limit any exposure to these products whilst in school. Thank you for your support with this.

This is a
**NUT
AWARE
ZONE**

Birthdays

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

Ava is 4 on 13th June

Oscar is 6 on 16th June



Please remember

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

Enjoy 😊

Useful contacts



DOWNSEND
PRE-PREP SCHOOL
Leatherhead

Pre-Prep Ashtead	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

Will it float or will it sink?

This week in Ladybirds the STEAM activity has been floating and sinking. The children made predictions on whether the objects they were given would float or sink. They then went off to find their own objects and test them to see if they would float or sink in the water.



Butterflies Class Water Investigations

As part of their topic 'Land and Sea' Butterflies carried out some water-based investigations. They had to make predictions about whether objects would sink or float and determine why this happened. They found out that objects made from materials such as plastic tend to float but heavier objects made of metal would sink. They also discovered that it's not necessarily the biggest objects which sink. Great investigating Butterflies!



Squirrels STEAM Challenge

Squirrels class were given the challenge of building a structure using 7 paper cups and a 3D shape in just 5 minutes. Everyone rose to the challenge and built different structures. Lily's was the tallest and she took care to make sure the cups and her cylinder were carefully balanced. Here are a few more of today's STEAM challenge structures, including Lily's tall tower.



Reception Make Pirate Ships!

This week in Reception our STEAM activity was to make pirate ships. We watched Mr Bristow make a ship using sticks at forest school and then we made ours either using sticks, junk modelling or a mixture of both. The children came up with their own ideas adding seats, flags and rigging to their ships. Before taking them home we enjoyed seeing if they floated or sunk depending on how low the portholes were!



STEAM Challenges in Owls Class

To link in with our maths learning this week, the children had a task to try to make the longest paperchain in 20 minutes. We then used our knowledge of greater than, less than and equals to from our maths lessons to count the number of chains and order them from biggest to smallest. The children thought of other ways to sort the paperchains too, including the length of them.



Eddie, Haris and Josh used sticks that they found in Owls Class field zone to create this wonderful train track, complete with bridges!



First Steps Aeroplane Race

In First Steps this week we have been learning about travelling to a holiday destination. At the beginning of the week we went down to the field and heard an aeroplane go over us! Julian had a good idea to use some sticks to be his wings and he flew around the end of the field he said, "my wheels are tucked in, I'm ready to fly!" Eryn then used one stick as a broomstick and pretended to be a witch flying past all the aeroplanes. We then went back to the classroom to make our own aeroplanes. The children all had different ideas about what they wanted their planes to look like, some drew windows with people inside, some wanted propellers on the front and others drew different patterns to make their planes look special. We then went into the hall for a race, we predicted whose aeroplane would fly highest and whose would go furthest.



Events for W/C 15th June 2020

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

Seesaw reminder

Don't forget to keep checking on Seesaw as it is still active, and your teachers will be popping things on there every so often.



Work of the Week



Busy Bees

This week First Steps have been learning about different ways to travel to a holiday destination. Scott used some lolly sticks to make a train track and thought he would like to see fields out of the window on one side and a "sunny day" on the other. He carefully joined the track together with some beautiful lines and then drew himself on the train.



Arthur chose to look at the vehicles. He was able to sort the trains and put them all together. He then counted the trains he had sorted, with support. Well done Arthur.



Ladybirds

This week in Ladybird class Riva has been selected for Work of the Week. Riva has worked very hard thinking up her own colour repeating patterns and making sure she puts the colours in the correct order. She was also able to order compare bears and building bricks. Well done Riva!



Butterflies

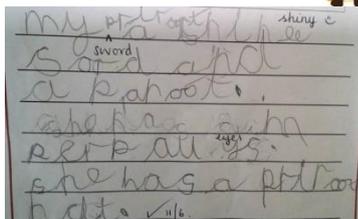
In Butterflies our work of the week is from Arthur. He used a shower cap to make a fantastic octopus and counted out the tentacles as he attached them. Great work Arthur.

This week in Reception we have been learning all about Pirates. Elise painted of her as lovely picture of a pirate and thought what she needed to include on her pirate. She included detail such as a cutlass and a pirate hat. Elise then wrote a description to warn others what her pirate looked like! Great work Elise.

Rabbits



Foxes



Beatrice has painted a lovely picture of a pirate. She thought of how she could make it even better by adding a parrot to the pirate's shoulder. When writing a description of her pirate Beatrice remembered to add some adjectives in order to make her sentences even better 😊

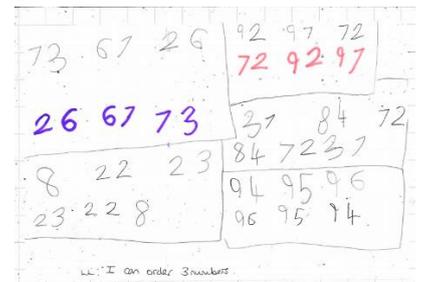


Squirrels

This week in Year 1, we have been learning how to recognise and write word contractions. Amy was able to independently read the words in full and then write the word contractions, putting an apostrophe in place of the missing letters. Amy then wrote her own sentence to show her understanding. Well done Amy!



Owls



Madeleine C has worked so hard this week on comparing and ordering numbers to 100. She found it really tricky to begin with but soon got the hang of it by making sure she looked at the tens number first and now she is able to order the numbers from biggest to smallest or smallest to biggest. Great work Maddy!