

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Leatherhead

Friday 26th June



Message from Mrs Conlan

We have made it to the end of the week without melting...just, although I think it was certainly touch and go for me yesterday! As the Summer term reminds us why it is called the Summer term, planning is well underway for the Autumn term and within the staff team we have been talking about Christmas of all things!

I won't be sending information out about September planning at the end of the term this year as we don't know what is going to happen over July and August yet and I fear anything we decide upon and share will change. We are planning for every eventuality on the continuum of fully open to back to full lockdown but hoping to be somewhere on the end closest to fully open. We have a system that works well in school currently so if we had to return in the bubble system, things would be fine.

However, there are a number of elements within our 'normal' working day that are missing currently and they are the focus of attention and planning so catering, clubs, on site specialist teaching, wraparound care and an exciting and varied calendar. I am confident we can restart the provision of hot lunches in September even within the bubble arrangement and we are also confident that we can continue with a balance of online teaching/videos with the introduction of some live on site carefully planned specialist teaching. Clubs and wraparound care very much all depend on whether or not we can mix children between bubbles and so they remain a work in progress.

We are planning for them as plan A so we are prepared to go ahead if allowed but plan B will be a delay in getting them up and running again if maintaining the integrity of the bubbles remains a priority. I can assure you if we can get the wraparound care up and running, we will. As an extensive user of wraparound care myself, I absolutely understand the necessity of this service for parents.

In terms of the calendar, we will be emailing a draft calendar along with a draft menu to you at the end of term and then we will confirm the calendar once we know more about the term ahead. No trips are in the calendar yet, unless booked last year for the year ahead, but should this opportunity open up for us, we will work hard to get them in the calendar at that point. My feeling is that next term could be a transition calendar, hopefully moving to a completely normal calendar by January 2021 but we just don't know at this point.

With confirming September arrangements, I will keep Summer holiday communication to an absolute minimum, purely on a needs must basis but once we reach the week before term starts so around 3rd/4th September, we will start sharing information so we are all ready for the return on Wednesday 9th September.

Mrs Conlan

Space Stories in Foxes

This week for writing week Reception have been writing their own space stories. They thought about what their own trip to space would look like and what would happen when they got there.



Birthdays

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

Lily is 6 on 26th June

Rosie is 3 on 27th June

Honey is 4 on 18th June

Alexander is 3 on 1st July

Arthur is 4 on 2nd July

Have a lovely day 😊



Seeing Aliens in Rabbits

This week in Reception we have been learning about space. The children were set a challenge of writing a short story about going on a trip to Space. They all had a go at writing their own stories independently with many of them seeing Aliens whilst on their journeys! A range of great imaginative stories written. Well done Reception!



Ahoy there Ladybirds!

This week Rising Reception have been looking at Pirates. Ladybird class have enjoyed designing their own pirate flags with a skull and crossbones and making a treasure maps.



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

Butterflies learn the letter 'L'

Butterfly class have been learning all about the letter sound 'L' this week. They practised writing the letter in the air with their magic fingers, in glitter and on paper. They thought of lots of objects beginning with this sound and drew pictures and labelled them. Their favourite 'L' word was lollipop!



First Steps love mark making!

To celebrate 'Writing Week' in First Steps, we used a range of different materials to make marks. We had some messy activities and used cornflour with brushes and shaving foam and paint. We also had some of our favourite mark making activities such as, the sand to draw circles and lines. Some of us are getting very clever and can even form some recognisable letters.



Cooling off!

The children in Rising Reception had a lovely time cooling off in their boat paddling pool this week. They took their shoes and socks off to have a little paddle together. It was so very hot they really needed a little dip to cool down!



Events for W/C 29th June 2020

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

Squirrels Sea Creature Tongue Twisters

Here are some photos of children in Squirrels class writing their sea creature tongue twisters.



#247 Challenge

On Wednesday 24th June it was National Writing Day and one of the challenges was the #247 challenge. The children needed to write a story that contained only 24 words and it had to start with 'One day.' Owls class worked hard to write their stories, quickly realising that stories need much more than 24 words to make them exciting. Lots of editing went on but all of the children managed to succeed. Well done Owls class, that was a tricky challenge!



Healthy Eating!

Year 1 made fruit kebabs this week as part of our science focus on healthy eating.



Work of the Week



Busy Bees

This week in First Steps we have lots of stories about going to the beach. Annie used her brilliant cutting skills to cut out her beach ball. She then dressed the little girl so she was ready for the beach and decided which flavour ice cream she would like to take. Good thinking Annie!



William used his imagination skills to build an "enormous water wall" so that the pirates could not get onto the boat. He spent a long period of time building up his water wall to make sure his ship was safe. Great work William!



Ladybirds

This week Rising Reception have been thinking about pirates. Honey has made this terrific treasure map. She has added some trees, mountains and some nasty pirates that she needs to avoid to find the treasure. Honey has marked where her treasure is buried with a X. Great work Honey!



Butterflies



Ahoy me hearties! Butterfly class have been learning about pirates this week and Florence designed a 'wanted' poster for her very own pirate who she named Captain Redbeard. She sounded out and could write many of the letters of his name and so is very deserving of work of the week. Well done Florence!



Foxes

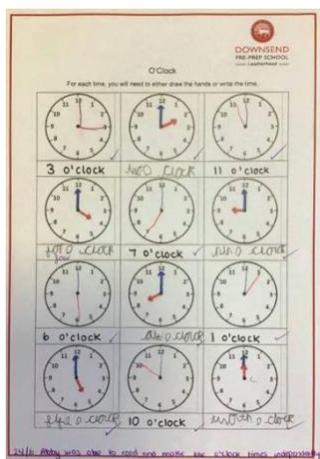
Blake – For amazing Miss Ellis this week with his clock work. Blake was able to show o'clock and ½ past times on his clock and wanted to learn even more so asked for extra work. Great attitude to learning!



Rabbits



This week in Maths, the children have been working hard to read the time. Abby was able to read and make the time using o'clock. She even had a go at writing the time in words. Well done Abby!



Squirrels



For our English writing activity this week, Year 1 have been learning how to write a tongue twister about a sea creature. Emma chose to write about a crab and used a dictionary to find lots of interesting words beginning with the letter 'C'. She then used some of those words to write this terrific tongue twister. 'Clever, clumsy, crazy crab is crawling.' Well done Emma!

Owls



My tongue twister:

A family of fish fell in five!

My tongue twister:

Forget Rob the Robot Ray
Take a Rose, Rob Kiel

In Year One this week we have been using the dictionaries to find words beginning with the same letter, to help us make sea creature tongue twisters. The tongue twisters contained words all beginning with the same letter which as Year One will tell you, is called alliteration. Miss Hodges was very impressed with how well all the children did but has chosen Sophie and Haris as Owls Class work of the week for their impressive tongue twisters. We challenge you to say these really quickly!