

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Ashtead



'OUTSTANDING'
SIS Inspection 2014-2015
Downsend Pre-Prep Ashtead

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Message from the Head Teacher

This week's newsletter is a moment in time for me as it is my last 'Message from the Headteacher'. Next Friday, will be a time for celebrations as we end an amazing but unforgettable year. However, I couldn't go without a few last words to express how much I have enjoyed being the Headteacher at Ashtead Pre-Prep, along with all the years that I have spent working at the different Downsend sites. Looking back on the last twenty years, the memories are bountiful and the cards and mementoes I have received over the years, help me to remember the wonderful children that I have taught and their amazing achievements. Throughout my teaching career my dream was to run a small school for our youngest children, personalising the learning experience for each child and making each day happy and full of wonder. The Early Years and Key Stage One age group have always been where my heart lies. The children's boundless energy, curiosity and enthusiasm for learning has given me so much delight and happiness. This has been further highlighted by the 'light bulb' moments, when a child has understood something new. Ashtead Pre-Prep is just the perfect setting for me to have been able to realise my dream. However, the

warm welcome, the family feel and the love of children only happens here because the staff team share my vision. They are incredibly hard working, creative, passionate about teaching and always positive, taking on every new challenge. This term has presented us with a very unexpected way to end the year, but in a strange way, I feel that it has brought our Ashtead community closer together. I would like to thank all our parents for trusting in us and for doing such a terrific job teaching their children during Lockdown. Thank you to the teachers for quickly learning to manipulate new technology and become 'CBBC presenters' overnight and a final 'Thank you' to the children, for remaining positive and full of smiles, just when the teachers needed a little pick-me-up. It's been such an incredible and rewarding experience over the past five years with so many friends made along the way. Christeen Hill is the perfect person to continue our ethos and will be an amazing Head of School for Vanessa Conlan, as she takes over the reins. I'm hoping that next week will be filled with memories and laughter and not too many tears!

With my best wishes, **Tessa Roberts**

Share a Story



Although the children are happy in their bubbles, they get very excited when they spot children from other bubbles playing outside or passing through the corridor. So, the teachers came up with an idea to unite the bubbles in a story. We are all looking forward to next week's 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party' which made 'Alice in Wonderland' the perfect story to choose. Each class took a section of the story to

recreate. Mrs Duke then worked her magic, putting it all together for us to enjoy. Some of the children loved the story video so much that they wanted to watch it **5** times! If you pop onto Seesaw now, you will all be able to see the fun that was had recreating this traditional tale. Next week, on Thursday, we are having an Alice in Wonderland themed day. We would like all the children to come to school wearing an Alice in Wonderland themed outfit or something special that they would wear to a party. Enjoy the story on Seesaw!



Golden Board

First Steps - Oliver DSB has amazed us all this week with his understanding and use of the new language that he has been learning, through the First Steps Minibeast topic. He has loved learning about bees and the clever way they send messages Super work Oliver!



Rising Reception - Phoebe has used her imagination this week in a brilliant way. She combined her learning about different minibeasts with the magical beasts that Alice in Wonderland found on her adventures. Phoebe created her own incredible bug called a 'Cheshire Cat Bug'. Wow! Great job Phoebe!



Reception - Harry and Federica have both been selected this week for the golden board, as they have both produced superb fact files and creative pieces of art. They used the internet to search for information and then compiled a fact file all about their favourite sea creatures. They also enjoyed painting their sea creatures on a bubbly background. Great work both of you!



Year One - Emma has thoroughly enjoyed her 'Talk for Writing' lessons in Year One. This week, after reading the story, 'The Journey Home', she wrote her own version of the story by changing the characters, the setting and some of the story elements. A great piece of independent writing Emma. Fantastic!

Golden Star Awards

Great Hygiene Golden Stars were awarded to:

- Y1 - Freddie
- R - Jennifer
- RR - Fabio
- FS - Olive

Congratulations to our Year One Superstars



Fabulous Forest School Fun!



The children in First Steps have been having a wonderful time exploring the natural world. They used different sizes of sawn off chunks of wood to create a landscape and enclosures for an exciting animal adventure game. Reya and Daisy loved chopping and cutting the herbs and greenery - 'It's just brilliant', they said as the aroma that wafted around the activity gave them an idea for a special potion - Mmmmmm..... However, the challenge



on Wednesday was to make a camp because rumour had it, that Mrs Lockyer had some hot chocolate in the kitchen. The children collected sticks from the playground to make a fire and then pretended to light it. They even had to blow underneath to encourage the flames. It was hard work! Next, they needed a shelter to protect them from the rain. Lots of rope was needed to help keep it up! Finally, the children all sat in the shelter to sing Forest School songs and to drink Mrs Lockyer's special Forest School hot chocolate. According to First Steps, it was a 'lip-smackingly' fabulous afternoon of Forest School Fun!



Inspiring young minds