

# DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



## Epsom



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom  
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Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July

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### Message from Mrs Conlan

Had someone told me last September that this year there would be a nationwide closing of schools with children being out of school for 10 weeks, teachers moving to teaching online and a return to school in bubbles, I think I would have told them not to be so ridiculous and laughed them out of the room! However, here we are, and it has all happened. Thank you to you all for your patience, understanding and support over the last term, but also not forgetting the two terms before. The last term doesn't define the year for us, but it is certainly something we won't be able to forget! I know I have said it at different times over the last few months, but I want to say a final, mammoth thank you to my amazing staff team who have shown flexibility, resilience and determination this year to ensure the very best for the children at the school. They certainly deserve the most restful of Summer breaks with as much screen free time as possible!

I'd also like to say a big thank you to Mrs Burns for being such a super Head of School this year. It was always going to be difficult for me releasing the reins on my baby, but her brilliance has enabled a smooth transition for me into my new role this year and will continue into my next new role next year.

Whatever you are doing over the break, wherever you are or aren't going, I hope you all have a happy, healthy Summer. We look forward to seeing you in September for the start of a new year. Take care and best wishes. **Mrs Vanessa Conlan**

### DEPA News

We can't believe it's the end of term already and our final update for the year.

Sadly, coronavirus halted many of our plans but looking back we've still done a lot.

We've arranged multi days, Christmas cards, Valentine's Day cookies, Mother's Day gifts, Halloween and Christmas decorations, organised a Christmas party and a visit from Santa, held two parent social events, introduced a new recycling scheme and, with Santa's help, we delivered three new bikes for the playground.



### Summer Concert

Well done to the entire school for performing a super end of year concert. Non-plussed by last minute changes to the location and set, the children sang, spoke and performed brilliantly and it was a fitting way to recognise how much they have all developed and grown over the year. While, the current restrictions prevented us from inviting all parents to our Summer Concert this year, we hope that the photos on page 4 and 5 give you a flavour of the event. We hope to be able to share a film with you soon.



Whilst we couldn't do many of our summer activities, the children have received ice lollies each week, we created a fun-filled summer fair @ home pack and, this week the children took home a summer activity pack for the holidays.

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## The Week That Was

Our final week in First Steps has been all about Summer fun and making memories. We have designed and made sandcastles, painted underwater sea pictures, performed in the end of term concert and had a little end of term party. We are so proud of your children and will miss all our little First Steps faces. It has been an absolute pleasure to be a part of the children's learning journey and we wish you a very happy and restful summer break. **Mrs Jane Simpson**



What a fabulous last week we have had in Rising Reception. On Monday we had our beach day and in true British style the weather was overcast and a bit windy, but that didn't stop the children playing in the water and sand, enjoying a donkey ride and an ice lolly. They performed their Talk for Writing story and sang beautifully in the Year 1 celebration assembly and have continued to be enthusiastic learners throughout. It has been a great year and I am extremely proud of them all. **Ms Chantael Clayton**





We have had a lovely week practising for the Summer Concert during which the children sang beautifully. We have also had a busy week completing lots of fun activities and talking about how excited we are to move up to Year 1 in September. The children have been amazing this year and have all worked so hard. They should all be very proud of what they have achieved in Reception. Don't forget to pop down to say 'hello' next year. I wish the children all the best for Year 1 and hope you all have a wonderful, restful summer. **Mrs Sharon Butler**



The Year 1 children have spent much of this week learning their lines and perfecting their singing for the end of term concert. The children loved performing 'Rapunzel', especially as this was their Talk 4 Writing text last half term and it was wonderful to see them act and sing with enthusiasm and energy in equal measure yesterday. In between rehearsals, we have also found time to add coins beyond a pound in Maths, produce a super piece of Art based on Edvard Munch's 'The Scream' (thanks to Mrs Burbidge) and to enjoy the story of 'Flat Stanley'. I am enormously proud of all that each child has achieved. Every one of them has flourished and become more independent and they leave us excited and ready for the challenges of Year 2, which is as it should be. Thank you to parents for your support throughout this year and I hope that you and your children have a restful and fun-filled summer break. **Mrs Lisa Burns**



## Staff News

Many congratulations to Miss Goldsmith who has completed and passed her PGCE (Post-graduate Certificate in Education) and to both Miss White and Miss Coles who have also completed BAs in Early Years Education. Well done to Miss White for achieving an 'A' for her dissertation. We are delighted for all three ladies, but sad to say goodbye to Miss White today as she is moving to Wallace Fields to undertake school-based teacher initial teacher training next year. We wish her much happiness in her new role and know that her new class will be very lucky to have her teaching them.



## News from main site

The main site is abuzz with excitement about the now rapid construction of the new Performing Arts Centre. The external walls and roof are in place and internal walls and glass is now taking shape. The Arts Centre will house a music technology suite, music rooms and music pods for one to one music lessons and also, a theatre that we will be able to use.



## Summer Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all our summer born children who will celebrate birthdays between this week and the start of the Autumn Term:

- 8 July - Elijah (age 3)
- 15 July – Jugo (age 3)
- 25 July – Sonia (age 6)
- 1 August – Eric (age 4)
- 5 August – Ralph (aged 5)
- 18 August – Tommy (age 6)
- 21 August – Ethan (age 5)
- 21 August – Skyla-May (age 4)
- 23 August – Aniyah (aged 5)
- 28 August – Keira (age 7)
- 4 September – Sophie (age 6)
- 8 September – Samuel (age 4)



# Summer Celebration

## Concert 2020





## 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

Sophie who has come to the end of her time in First Steps and who has worked hard and blossomed into a lovely little girl.

### Hedgehogs

Skyla-May for painting a great seaside picture.

### Reception

Sophie for engaging brilliantly with the curriculum all year

### Year 1

For all the children in Year 1 for rehearsing hard and performing so brilliantly in the Summer Concert.



## DEPA News contd

We couldn't have achieved so much this year without the help of many people. Thank you to Mrs Conlan, Mrs Burns, Mrs Tucker and the teachers for your support throughout the year; to Class Reps for your help; and to Sheila Patel for all your work for DEPA in recent years, including being Co-Chair this year. Finally, thanks to the parents and families who have supported DEPA.

Here's hoping next year brings a little more normality. Have a safe and happy summer. **The DEPA Team**

## Reminders

The first day of the Autumn Term will be **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September**. We are planning to return to school with our Early Birds and Extended Day offering (with some adaptations to mitigate viral spread). We anticipate that Early Birds will start at 7.45am and Extended Day will run until 6pm. However, there may continue to be a need for staggered start times for children arriving from 8.30am. Similarly, we are planning to resume serving hot lunches in school, although the organisation of the lunch service may need to be adapted for the time being. We will be in touch at the end of August to confirm the return to school drop off and collection timings and lunch arrangements.

A few parents have asked for an up to date uniform list. The current list on the school website is accurate and can be found by clicking [here](#). There are no uniform changes in the Pre-Preps, although the girls winter tunic does now have the Downend logo on it. For the next academic year, 20/21, a tunic without a logo still continues to be part of the uniform. From 21/22, the girls tunic must have the logo on it please.

## Mathletics News

Congratulations to Sonia for achieving silver and bronze Mathletics certificates and to Darcey who was awarded a bronze certificate.

## Goodbye and Good Luck Year 1



Inspiring Young Minds