

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP TIMES



Epsom



Downsend School Pre-Prep Epsom
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Friday 3rd July 2020

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Message from Mrs Conlan

As we edge closer and closer to the end of 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 out detailed information about September yet as we don't know what is going to happen over July and August and I fear anything we decide upon and share will change. However, following the Government information provided to us yesterday, we are busy reading, highlighting and amending, adapting and updating the current set up we have in school. We continue to plan for every eventuality on the continuum of fully open to back to full lockdown but yesterday's information gave us hope that we should be at the end of the continuum we would like to be at! Within the September planning, there are a number of elements within our 'normal' working day that we 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, improve the calendar and we are also now confident that we can reintroduce our wraparound care and live on site specialist teaching. Clubs remains a work in progress and we may need to wait until January to reintroduce them.

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 term, with normal restored for January 2021.

With confirming September arrangements, I will keep Summer holiday communication to an absolute minimum, 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.

DEPA News

Roll up, roll up ...
for the Downsend Epsom Parents Association (DEPA) Summer Fair 2020.

We were really disappointed that we couldn't hold the annual summer fair this year. It's always a highlight of the school year and enjoyed by the children and their families.

Thanks to a great suggestion from a parent, we put on our Ringmaster top hats and created the Summer Fair @ Home Extravaganza pack (see separate email). The pack includes activities and ideas to help children create their own summer fair at home and require minimal materials. You can do as much or as little as you like, and if nothing else will hopefully buy us parents a few minutes peace and quiet to have a cuppa over the weekend or during the holidays. Enjoy!

Artistic Inspiration

We need no invitation to get messy with paint, paper and pens. This week, we joined thousands of children around the country to take part in Children's Art Week. The theme was 'the natural world' and here are Noemie and Keira's pieces of art in response. Priceless!



The Week That Was

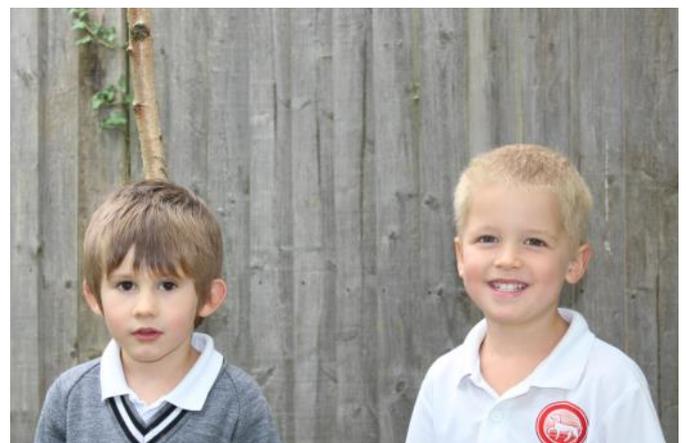
This week in First Steps we started our new topic on Summer, but unfortunately the weather let us down, but that didn't stop us having lots of fun. We loved finding lots of natural objects to make collages for Children's Art Week, celebrating the natural world.

The children also loved the Peppa Pig Pasta and had fun scooping it up and spooning it down the Peppa pig helter-skelter. We have had fun designing and decoration paper lollies and ice creams. Let's hope the weather improves for our last week. **Mrs Jane Simpson**



The weather may have been a little wetter this week, but that has done nothing to deter Rising Reception's passion for searching for minibeasts.

They have discovered that in the cooler damp weather snails and slugs can easily be found and the children have loved investigating them close up! **Ms Chantael Clayton**

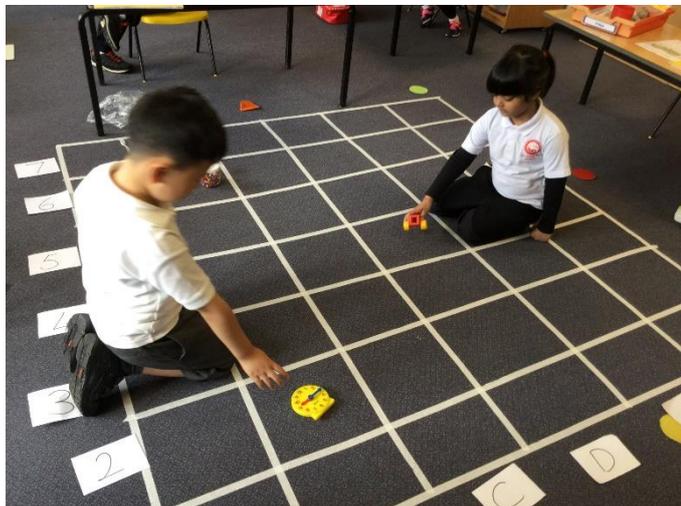




Reception was awash with pirates this week. The children plotted a story, named the parts of a pirate ship and made skull and crossbone flags, pirate hats and hooks. The week culminated yesterday with a dress up day during which some fearsome pirates walked the plank and traded doubloons. The children went on a treasure hunt, met Pirate Blackbeard (aka Ms Organ), sang pirate songs and snacked on fish and chips (crisps shaped like fish and chips). Avast me hearties! **Mrs Sharon Butler**



Year 1 stepped back in time this week to find out about Queen Victoria and how the Victorians used the seaside. The children were fascinated with bathing machines, donkey rides and Punch and Judy shows, but equally amused to learn that Victorians enjoyed fish and chips and ice creams as much as they do! In Maths, we learned about positional language and the children showed themselves to be able to follow and give multi-step instructions to locate objects practically and on maps. Meanwhile, we have been busily learning songs and words for our end of term concert, learning more about colour mixing to create some spectacular sunset silhouette pictures and dodging the rain showers to practise our tennis skills and to enjoy yet more picnic lunches outside! **Mrs Lisa Burns**



Rising Reception collected natural materials from the woodland garden and used these to enhance their drawings. The children also used the small wooden logs to design and build. Keegan made 'circles' and Aaron and Edward made a 'boomerang dinosaur'. Rising Reception are officially the most 'wild at heart' class as they have embraced the outdoors with great enthusiasm to hunt, observe, sort, collect and construct for the entire month of June proving they are nature lovers through and through.

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

Lionel for growing in confidence daily and chatting in class about Peppa Pig and the things he plays with.

Hedgehogs

Eric for writing his name.

Reception

Aaron for completing his Maths activities on Seesaw.

Year 1

Tahira for great use of positional language and following multi-step instructions in Maths



Top tips for well-being



We may not all be fortunate enough to have a garden at our disposal, and when we're confined to the same four walls the need to get outside, see green spaces, and breathe fresh air, can be great. With working from home now the norm for many of us, and the weather giving us plenty of summer sunshine, you may be yearning for a little green space to call your own or just to get out more often. Bringing everyday houseplants into your home or work-space may be just the trick to help make you feel more energised, alert, and refreshed. Much like exercising or immersing yourself in wide open, green spaces, some research suggests that taking care of a living plant can significantly reduce feelings of mild anxiety and stress. Common houseplants, such as the dracaena or peace lily can also add to the humidity of your home and can even aid dry skin complaints and itchy eyes.

Ms Chantael Clayton

Transition Events

Transition events will take place on **Tuesday 7th July** and you should have received the times and Google Hang Out links for the 'meet the teacher' evening (information evening for parents) by email. Your child will also receive a hello message from their child's new class teacher via a film shown in school on the same day. Any parents or children who miss these events will be able to view recordings on Seesaw the following day.

Please email Mrs Tucker if you have any questions that you have after the meeting and the teacher will collate FAQ sheet and send it out before the end of term.

Mathletics News

Congratulations to Darcey for achieving silver and bronze Mathletics certificates and to Diana and Sonia who were awarded bronze certificates.



Inspiring Young Minds