

Notre Dame Prep is an “ENGINE OFF PLEASE” Zone



Cutting out engine idling will help for a start - not only will it improve air quality in congested areas but it is also a potentially fine-able offence.

“Idling” often happens because of everyday traffic. School drop and collect times though, are times when car engines should be turned off for the benefit of the environment.

Idling engines put more exhaust fumes in the air. These fumes contain harmful gasses including carbon dioxide, which is bad for the environment. Engine fumes also give out nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons and these are linked to asthma and other lung diseases.

Please follow the 10 second rule!

**If you are stopped in the carpark for more than
10 seconds**

PLEASE SWITCH OFF!

After School Clubs and Schoolbuddy

- Bookings for ASC/Homework Club will go live on SchoolsBuddy, on the 1st of January 2022.
- To assist parents, we have shortened the cut-off time to 12:00 pm on the day of the ASC session in question. Bookings will therefore need to be done by parents before the cut-off time.
- Should you require ASC care after the new cut-off time (in case of emergency) the office will be able to assist, however, a £10.00 penalty charge will be made on top of ASC charges, due to late booking.
- Please note: Although the cut-off time has been shortened significantly, the cancellation period is still 24hrs. Should you not cancel 24hrs in advance, there will be no automatic refund.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

- Extra-Curricular Clubs booked in Autumn 2021 will continue from the 10th of January 2022, until February Half Term, in order to make up missed classes due to COVID-related restrictions.
- Extra-Curricular clubs with spaces left will also be made available for booking @ £5.00 a class.
- Please note we are awaiting schedules and availability from Miss Becky How, regarding Street Dance (P4-P6). There will be no bookings available for this Club until everything is confirmed. We'll keep parents updated and informed.

News from the classes

Caterpillars...

This has been the busiest of terms in the Caterpillar nursery! We began the term with our 'All about Autumn' topic. The children had fun collecting leaves in the garden and exploring the changing of the seasons. We looked at the beautiful autumn colours, replicated them through paint mixing alongside looking at the different shapes and sizes of the leaves. The children enjoyed leaf printing and making autumn collages. We also practiced threading using large laminated leaf prints. We then moved on to learn about hedgehogs and hibernation, watching a short clip of a hedgehog collecting leaves to make a cosy winter bed. The children enjoyed replicating this in our messy tray. We made hedgehogs from pine cones and also used dried spaghetti to make hedgehog spines.



The children celebrated Diwali and Bonfire night. We were lucky enough to enjoy treats provided by one of our parents to celebrate Diwali. The children also made paper plate diva lanterns, expressing their own preferences through choosing the colour of paint and decorations. We finished off our Autumn topic by planting primroses, forget-me-nots and bulbs in the children's flower bed.

Before we knew it, it was time to decorate the nursery and begin our exciting Christmas activities. The children have been singing a range of Christmas songs, with Jingle Bells being a firm favourite! We have been reading the story of the First Christmas as well as one of our favourite Christmas books; 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Father Christmas.'

After watching a clip of a choir singing hymns in church we were inspired to make some stained glass windows to decorate the nursery. While making Christmas art folders each child practiced ordering the letters in their name and decorating the folders with paint and stickers. In addition, each child has made a calendar to take home. We themed our calendars around the seasons with each child making a picture to represent each season. We are looking forward to ending the term with our Christmas lunch and party!

From Miss Smith and Mrs Lynch, we wish you all a very Happy Christmas!



Butterflies Nursery

We have had a very enjoyable and busy time in Butterflies this term. Our autumn theme involved many trips into the school garden enabling the children to witness changes that happen throughout autumn and into winter. We all enjoyed collecting leaves and other interesting natural objects for our display table for the children to investigate and identify. The children made several forest creatures such as; a prickly hedgehog, a fox and two owls, which the children were able to relate to the story of 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell that we read over the week.

As part of our theme, 'All about me' all the children took part in food tasting where they enjoyed trying and naming different fruits. Comments such as; "feels kind of weird, spiky and green" were used to describe a Kiwi fruit and Clementine's were said to be "yummy!" They also sung 'Little Jack Horner' especially when trying a plum!



To celebrate Diwali a Hindu festival, the children made sparkly necklaces and explored using natural materials such as, coffee and turmeric that were used to make Mehndi patterns. This led into our topic of 'Colours' exploring and using different resources. We started with the story of 'The Colour Monster' with the children made some very imaginative monsters. They then used their hands to mix colours to make bonfire pictures, before adding glitter for sparkly firework and 2D shapes to make rockets.

Butterflies read stories of Elmer the Elephant, that helped us look at the colours and patterns on the elephants and using these for our creative activities. The children then had lots of fun looking at primary colours, experimenting mixing and making new colours. We then made light and dark colours by adding black and white paint.



The children have been busy with festive activities, such as; a snowman calendar where the children were able to count down the days for Christmas... A beautifully made Christmas card, where the children tried very hard cutting out their own trees to decorate and made novel Father Christmas from different shapes, along with other festive decorations.

It was good to see you all at our Nativity performance earlier this week and hope you enjoyed this as much as we did. We are very proud of all the children and are sure Father Christmas will be visiting them soon.



On behalf of Mrs. Pittaccio, Mrs Fernandez and myself, we wish you a very enjoyable Christmas and look forward to seeing you all again in January.

Mrs Sophocleous

Pre – Prep

What a busy half term Pre – Prep have had!

We began by thinking about 'Light and Dark'. The children learnt about Bonfire Night and how to keep themselves safe near fireworks. They particularly enjoyed finding out about Guy Fawkes and produced some excellent 'Wanted' posters, along with some beautiful firework art. We have also learnt about Diwali. The children listened to the story of Rama and Sita before skilfully creating their own Diva lamps from clay and carefully painting their own Rangoli patterns. We have continued to learn our phonic sounds and the children are now reading and writing words independently – Well done everyone!

Pre Prep have also thought about Advent and how this is a special time. All the children have made an Advent promise which are currently displayed on the Advent tree in the library. They have enjoyed learning a new 'Christmas joke' each day with our class Advent Calendar. What do snowmen eat for lunch? Ask Pre Prep and they will tell you. The highlight of the half term has to be our Nativity Play. Everyone worked incredibly hard to learn their lines and the words and actions to lots of fun songs. The children were delighted that they able to share 'The Sleepy Shepherd' with their families in person and felt very proud of themselves after a tremendous performance.

Mrs Campbell, Miss Duell and I all wish you and your families a very 'Merry Christmas'. Stay safe and well and see you all in 2022!



Prep 1

Prep 1 have had a fantastic Term, ending with their Nativity with Prep 2. It was so special to be able to invite parents back into School to watch this year. The children had all worked so hard to remember the songs and their lines, bringing a festive lift to the end of the year. We had a brilliant trip to the Norwich Puppet Theatre, making our own toy puppets with the focus on our Topic – The History of Toys. It was so enjoyable to see so many pictures of Parent's, and Grandparent's toys, which the children could compare with their own. This topic was then extended to our English work, in which the children wrote their own stories about a Lost Toy, using the book 'Knuffle Bunny.' The children have particularly enjoyed our DT sewing project this half term. They were required to plan and design their own Christmas puppet, sew, and decorate. Prep 1 have found a real love for sewing and a talent for it too! These have been displayed outside our classroom, attracting lots of compliments. In PSHE, we have been exploring good manners, when and how these should be used. We also discussed anti bullying on 'odd sock day' and how to be kind

every day to others and ourselves. In addition, we have enjoyed regular weekly meditation, which Prep 1 are now experts at. Prep 1 enjoyed going on a seasons hunt outside – looking for features of Autumn, and then all too quickly into Winter, with snow flurries!

The naughty elf has been up to his usual antics in Prep 1 in December, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed looking out for every day.

The children have shown a huge amount of progression in their reading, writing, number work. They have completed a long term with gusto and maturity.

Well done Prep 1 – you have all worked so hard and can look forward to a fun Spring term ahead.



Prep 2 have had a very action packed half term!

In Maths we are learning the beginnings of multiplication and division and learning to create arrays.

In English we have read the story of “The Journey Home” and created our own stories about endangered and extinct animals.

In History, we have been learning about nurses through the ages including Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole and have made comparisons between nursing and hospitals in times past and the present day.

We have been thinking a lot about kindness in PSHRE this term and have invented games to play which include all our friends as part of Antibullying week, for which Prep 2 very much enjoyed comparing odd socks.

In Science we have been learning about different materials and took a learning walk around school to investigate what different structures were made from.

In Art we began this half term making spectacular Bonfire Night inspired firework pictures before moving our focus onto a variety of seasonal crafts which involve significant amounts of glitter!

In RE we have been learning about baptism and keeping promises and are now concentrating on Advent and the Christmas story.

The main focus of our endeavors of late has been our Key Stage 1 Nativity play the "Bethlehem Builders". From our first rehearsals the children worked incredibly hard to learn their lines and all were excited to be part of this. We had a wonderful time working with Prep 1. All children were amazing on the day of the performance, acting and singing with great enthusiasm. It was wonderful to see so many parents in school too.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy 2022 to you all!



Prep 3

We have had lots of fun this term in Prep 3. We have explored land use and maps in Geography and made up our very own towns too, we extended our learning by using these concepts to help us with our very first Big Write!

In Literacy we have learnt about poetry, finalising this with creating our very own weather poems that succeeded in painting vivid images in the readers' heads; some children even wrote some alien weather poems where jelly rained from the sky and the wind blew backwards! In maths we have mastered challenges by using the commutative law; inversion and explored different routes to help us with multiplication and division problems.

In science we have learnt all about the human body and even had a fun afternoon drawing around our friends bodies then making them into skeletons with precise labelling and detail!

Art has been very seasonal appropriate with creating some beautiful autumnal art by delicately drawing leaves and finally using these images to engrave and print our handmade tiles onto an autumn colour scheme.

RE has been great this term, learning about community and the love that God has for all. There has been a lot of time in PSHRE spent looking at consent and how our words can affect others face-to-face and online too through healthy debate, exploring empathy and understanding interpretation too.

This final week has been spent making beautiful Christmas tealight holders and planning our Big Write all about a made-up land at the top of Enid Blyton's famous 'Faraway Tree'! We have all had a great time inventing maps and descriptive writing for this task. It is clarified that all of Prep 3 have fabulous imaginations!



Prep 4

Prep 4 charged into this term like the Roman Army after making their own helmets and shields following a very enjoyable visit back in time at Norwich Castle. Here, they enjoyed handling some ancient artefacts and learned some important battle moves, which were then perfected back at school.



We finished the topic by creating newspapers about Pompeii and the eruption of Mt Vesuvius and the children were able to spend time researching this with our new Chrome Books. At the same time, we learnt about the digestive system culminating in an extremely messy exploration of how the digestive system works.



This half term we have been using the book 'How to Train your Dragon' in English and this has inspired not only creative writing and story creation, but some amazing pieces of art. Prep 4 used clay to bring their own dragon eyes to life!



We have been learning about our world in Geography by researching and comparing different countries. We made our own globes that we were able to label showing key geographical features along with some countries and continents. Science has been focused on Electricity, with a cross curricular DT project making a light up Christmas card.



The children have all worked extremely hard this year and are now looking forward no doubt to a well earned break – we just have the excitement of the talent show before we finish.

From us all in Prep 4, we wish you all a very happy, and peaceful Christmas and here's to a healthy 2022!



Merry Christmas from Prep 5!

Prep 5 have been extremely busy and have packed in so much this term that I can't include everything here, but here are some highlights.

Our main focus in English has been based around the book 'Goth Girl' by Chris Riddell. The class explored how atmosphere, settings and characters are created, studying adverbs of possibility, commas, relative clauses and dialogue punctuation; this work culminated in the children writing their own chapter for this mysterious novel.

In maths, the consolidation of key skills in mental and written calculations have continued to be our main objective and there has also been a push to improve the children's times table recall; they have all made progress!

Learning about prehistoric times, the children held debates about Stonehenge, advertised bows and arrows and made interactive booklets about Iron Age hill forts. The trip to the Time and Tide Museum enriched this topic further; here, the children learned how to make and trade jewellery, hunt animals, and even battle enemies!

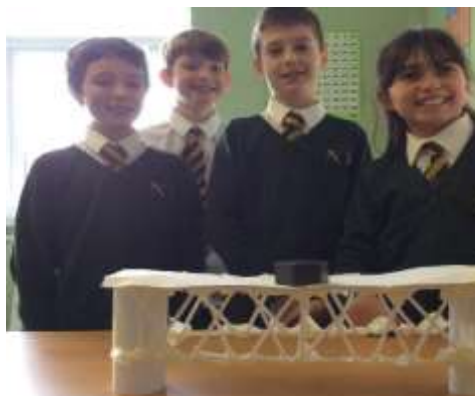
Prep 5 have shown imagination and resilience when programming their own computer games using the software 'Scratch'. Further creativity and problem solving skills were seen in our DT project term where the children learned about some of the key features of bridges and used this knowledge to make scaled, working models.



In science, the children have thought about materials and their properties, devising experiments and learning about real life application. In PSHRE, we have thought carefully about how to support others, and have started to learn about consent and permission. A highlight in PE has been the swimming lessons; Mr Arregui reports that everybody has improved and has tried very hard!

And, of course, it has been very Christmassy in class recently. During Advent, the children have been learning about Christian symbolism in paintings and traditions during this time and sang beautifully in the Carol Service on Monday. Prep 5 have also made charming pop up cards for local care home residents and have used a variety of maths skills to create beautiful Christmas art too.

Prep 5 have had a great half term; I have been proud of their hard work and enthusiasm and look forward to more of the same in the new year. Well done Prep 5!



An evolutionary journey with Prep 6

Prep 6 started this half term the way we meant to continue with some activities based around kindness and anti-bullying. We made a “Kindness and Respect” board and posted up kind words and actions we could say and do to make our class and school a better place. To reinforce this, the children have been giving out kindness tokens throughout the half term to anyone who has shown kindness to them and it really does seem to be the case that “kindness is catching”!



Our exciting cross-curricular topic, Evolution, involving Science, English and Design and Technology, has captured the children’s imaginations. Our Science topic took us through fun activities such as: extracting the DNA from a banana to learn about the building blocks of our genes; pretending to be birds pecking worms in the garden as we picked up green and natural-coloured cocktail sticks from the grass with tweezers to understand how natural selection works.

Through the wonderful novel *Darwin's Dragons*, we learned about Charles Darwin and his expedition on The Beagle to the Galapagos Islands. Having researched animal species unique to the Islands, the children each chose one to make into a moving cam toy in DT lessons for their Galapagos exhibition (cue: saws, glue guns and lots of fun!)

Meanwhile, they applied all their learning in English to write highly accomplished biographies and Wikipedia reports on a "newly discovered"



Galapagos species (of the children's own invention!). They thoroughly enjoyed imagining and drawing these, putting all their animal classification skills to good use.



We rounded up the topic with a class debate on genetic modification and a fascinating talk from Mr Uauy (Jose in P4's dad), on DNA, genetic modification of foods and its application in the real world. He was most impressed with the intelligent questions from our budding scientists!



We ended the term extending our kindness into the community and writing jolly, decorated Christmas letters to some of the elderly residents of local care homes. Rounded up by all the Christmas crafts, Carol Service and party, all in all, it's been an action-packed and thoroughly enjoyable term for all.

A Happy and Healthy Christmas from Prep 6!



Re-launch of Houses

This year, in order to ignite a little more healthy competition amongst the children and involve staff more, we have re-launched the House system in the school. Instead of three houses, we now have: St Clare, headed by House Mistress Miss Harris; St Francis, with Mrs Bradbury as House Mistress; St John with Miss Grange and Miss Potter

jointly as House Mistresses while Mrs Donovan is on Maternity leave; and last - but very much not least - Mr McGrane as the House Master of St Acutis (a modern-day saint and Patron Saint of Computer Programmers).

In order to promote our four new Houses and educate the rest of the school about their saints, Prep 6 researched and wrote fact files about them as well as interviewing each of the House Mistresses/Master. Created on the new Chrome Books, their work has made a fantastic display outside the lunch hall.

We will aim to hold one House event each term to focus and unites the whole school, excite the children and introduce some healthy competition! The first event was the end of term Talent Show. Houses gathered together two weeks ago to decide acts and start practising. Meanwhile, children were given the additional challenge of making a persuasive, colourful poster for their House.

This morning, Preps 3 to 6 gathered in Houses in the hall to watch. With the School Council presiding at the back, we were entertained by 22 acts ranging from musical performances – some duets - on the piano, drums, violin, accordion and saxonette, to singing, gymnastics, acting and comedy. School Council members then voted for the top 5 acts (not including their own House!).

The winning acts were: in first place, Prep 5's Kitty and Aaron representing St Francis with a humorous re-telling of Cinderella (Windy-rella!), written by Kitty; in second place were some martial arts manoeuvres from Prep 5's Fynnley, from St John; and third place Prep 6's Miriam, from St Acutis, playing a lively piece called "Tartan Ribbons" on the accordion.

Extra prizes were awarded to St John and St Clare for being the most supportive Houses, while in the poster competition Acutis were pipped to the post by a jubilant St Francis.





Winners

August 2021

First Prize	£15	Sue Clamp
Second Prize	£10	Mrs Bradbury
Third Prize	£5	Mr O'Herlihy

September 2021

Quarterly Prize	£50	Mick Bell
First Prize	£15	Yanis Akinola
Second Prize	£10	Eleni Karakoidas
Third Prize	£5	Oscar Harwood

October 2021

First Prize	£15	William Lyons
Second Prize	£10	Mrs Campbell
Third Prize	£5	Sue Clamp

November 2021

First Prize	£15	Graham Warne
Second Prize	£10	Swee Chia
Third Prize	£5	Kim James

December 2021

Quarterly Prize	£50	Lily Mitchell
First Prize	£15	Clare Harsley
Second Prize	£10	Mr Morrice (Scarlett B)
Third Prize	£5	George Potter

LINKS TO PICS!

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Butterflies/Pre-Prep Nativity

Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Fete

Christmas Lunch

Preps 1 and 2 Nativity

Talent Show

We will Miss you Mrs Warne!

To finish off, do enjoy Ore's lovely poem - and...

Merry Christmas to you all!

A poem by Ore (Prep 5)

Family is something that will never flee,

It's the best thing that can happen to you and me.

As the stars in the night sky glow,

You will know that family is the best thing that is ever known.

I can see a family right now,

It's like we are so many puffy clouds.

We are Notre Dame Prep School,

And I think it's very cool!