



NOTRE DAME
PREP SCHOOL



Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life.

PROVERBS 22:6

As we approach the end of another remarkable academic year, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and pride for all that we have achieved together at our beloved Catholic school. Welcome to the final edition of our school newsletter for this year.

This past year has been a testament to the strength, resilience, and dedication of our entire school community. Despite the challenges and uncertainties that we have faced, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to providing a nurturing and inclusive environment for our pupils to grow academically, spiritually, and emotionally.

Throughout the year, we have witnessed countless achievements and milestones, both big and small. Our pupils have demonstrated exceptional academic prowess, artistic talents, and athletic achievements. The Preps 3 to 6 Musicals were simply exceptional and not for the first time.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the unwavering support and guidance of our dedicated teachers, staff, and parents. Your tireless efforts and commitment to our mission have truly made a difference in the lives of our pupils. I do hope you enjoy the latest update and all the photographs.

As we bid farewell to our Prep 6 leavers, we celebrate their accomplishments and the bright futures that await them. We are confident that they will carry the values instilled in them during their time at our school and make a positive impact on receiving secondary schools.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support, trust, and faith in our school community. Together, we have created a nurturing and empowering environment that fosters growth, learning, and spiritual development.

May the summer break be a time of rest, rejuvenation, and quality time spent with loved ones. I look forward to welcoming you all back in the next academic year, as we continue to strive for excellence and uphold the values that define us as a school.

Rob Thornton, Headmaster



MINIBEASTS

This half of the term has brought us beautiful warm weather. As a result, our children have been able to enjoy lots of fun activities outside as well as inside the classrooms.

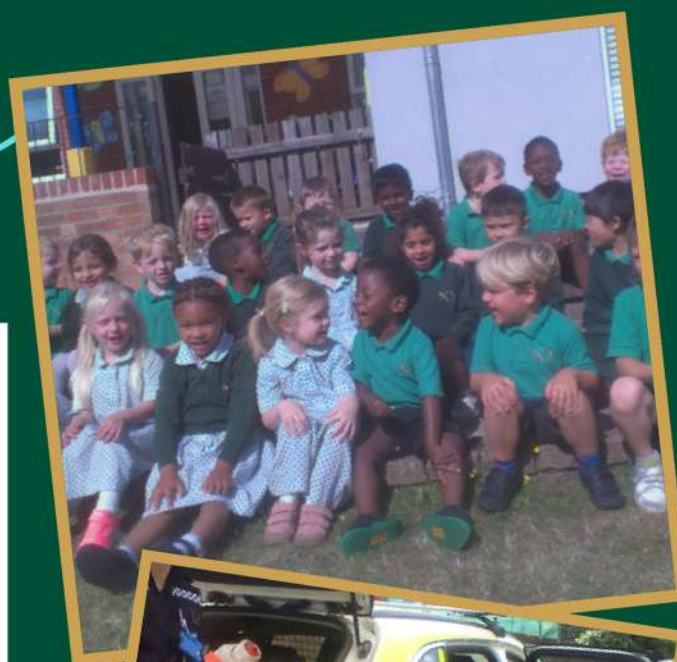
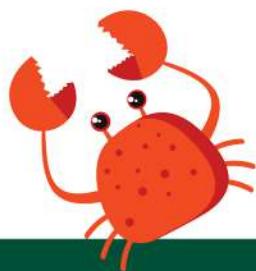
They have especially enjoyed getting stuck into the messy play in our mud kitchen and endless water play fun.

Our themes have been Pirates followed by Under the Sea. The children set up their own pirate ship and mutinous renegades were made to 'walk the plank!' Vast hordes of treasure were recovered from the bottom of the ocean floor and shared amongst the hearties!

On Monday of this week, we were visited by a team of police officers who are parents to several of our children. They very kindly demonstrated equipment, allowed the children to sit in their vehicles, and even dress up in their uniforms!

We are very proud of our children and their achievements and wish them all the very best of luck as they either move up our school or onto pastures new. We would like to thank you for your endless support this year and wish to take this opportunity to wish you an enjoyable summer.

Mrs Potter & Mrs Sophocleous
and the Minibeasts team.





PRE PREP

It has been 'All about Minibeasts' this half term.

Everyone enjoyed the creative elements within this topic, making their own ladybirds out of clay, using their fine motor skills to weave webs for spiders and producing their own snail collages, inspired by Henri Matisse's famous artwork. A highlight has been witnessing a life cycle in action. The children have been fascinated by the changes which have taken place with our classroom caterpillars, from tiny creatures hungrily munching food, to chrysalises, to their final transformation into Painted Lady butterflies.

The children have all written their own diaries, recording these amazing stages and were delighted to finally release them into the school garden.

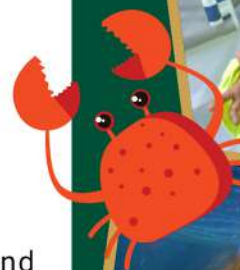
We concluded our learning with a visit from a variety of interesting creatures including Gerald the giant African land snail, Mildred the millipede, Winston the bearded dragon and even a tarantula called Trinny when Ed and his 'Mini Monsters' came to school.

Our end of year trip took us to the Sea Life Centre. The children enjoyed watching rays whilst 'underwater' in the yellow submarine, seeing the penguins eat their breakfast and being rock pool explorers, many touching a starfish!

Sports Day, with sprint races, balance bike courses and medals for all, was also a special occasion.

Have a wonderful holiday Pre Prep. Sadly, it's the end of our chapter together, but I know you will all enjoy the challenges Prep 1 will bring!

Miss Grand and Miss Duell





PREP 1

What an amazing end to the year Prep 1 have had. We started by watching our caterpillars grow and the excitement when five beautiful Painted Lady butterflies emerged was immense. Setting them free in the garden was a beautiful example of the wonder of nature.

The children enjoyed the visit from Mini Monsters, looking at and holding some fantastic creatures. We all surprised ourselves with just how brave we could be!

We finished the year by looking at our wonderful planet. We have learnt about the Creation story, making our own booklets retelling how God made our world before thinking about how we need to conserve and look after it.

Two highlights were Sports Day and our Afternoon Tea. It was wonderful to see so many parents cheering us all on and getting into the spirit by participating themselves. I'm sure you will all agree that the Afternoon Tea was a delightful opportunity to get together to enjoy friends and some tasty treats made by the children and our talented kitchen staff.

Have a wonderful summer everyone. Thank you for all your support over the year, Prep 1 is a magical place to be and the children have all worked hard this year and deserve a restful and fun filled summer.

With best wishes from Mrs Campbell and Miss Sibanda





PREP 2

The last few weeks have flown by in Prep 2!

For our Maths topic of fractions, children have been spotting and drawing halves, quarters and thirds of different amounts. We have also made tally charts and pictograms of favourite colours and fruits. In English, we have been describing the houses of 'The Minpins' and writing letters of encouragement to 'Rosie Revere, Engineer'.

In Science, we have been learning about what plants need to survive as well as growing nasturtiums from seed. We have discovered plants which survive in different climates too.

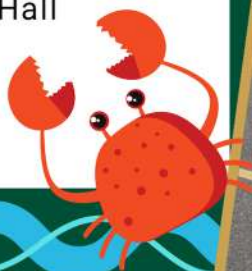
In our Geography project about Kenya, we grabbed our tickets and passports for a plane ride to Nairobi to discover the Big 5 animals and compare life in Kenya and the UK. In Art, we continued our theme and made models of the Maasai Mara game reserve and beautiful Kenyan jewellery.

In RE we have been learning about the Treasures of our World and talking about safety and new beginnings in PSHRE.

Sports Day was very much enjoyed and we all had a super time on our class trip to Bewilderwood!

Wishing you all a very happy Summer Holiday!

Mrs Thornton, Miss Thrupp and Mrs Hall





PREP 3

What an action packed half term we've had in Prep 3!

Meeting the Mini Monsters allowed us to test our bravery and to impress with well considered questions and amazing knowledge of these creatures. Following this, Prep 3 were able to explore all that Pensthorpe had to offer; with a spot of birdwatching and pond dipping - it was a fantastic way to kick start the second half of the summer term!

Our topic this term has been 'Australia'. The children have learned so much about the geography of the country, the history of the Aboriginal people and the incredible wildlife - echidnas and platypus were very popular with the group! The children also made their own Aboriginal inspired dot paintings and boomerangs inspired by traditional symbolic markings. Of course, our Australian topic would not be complete without some super koala artwork!

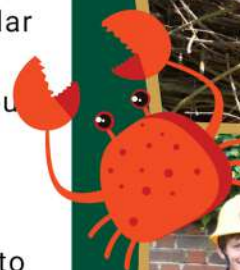
In RE we have learned about Ascension, the places which were special to Jesus and St Peter and St Paul. We have also enjoyed reading about a new saint each day, learning about their stories and how they can inspire us in our daily lives.

We cannot finish our end of term round-up without mentioning 'Dragon Days'. The show was spectacular on the night, but this was a direct result of the dedication and effort demonstrated each week in our rehearsals.

The children should be so proud of what they have achieved this term - from their attitude to learning to their friendships and desire to succeed. You are all so ready for the fun to be had next year in Prep 4.

Have a fantastic, relaxing summer!

Mrs Laudan & Mrs Willamson





PREP 4

Prep 4 have had a bustling term filled with captivating activities! One of the highlights was our trip to Gressenhall where we delved into a WWII themed day. Engaging in immersive activities such as home-guard training and ration cooking workshops, we gained a deeper understanding of life during that era.

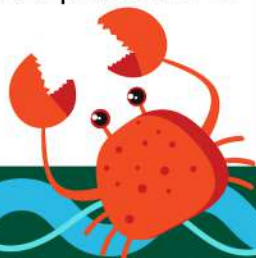
Notably, one of our favourite topics was Anne Frank, where we explored her life through perspective. Channeling her character, we crafted narratives, painting vivid and emotional imagery of her life in the secret annex. It was a remarkable exercise that allowed us to empathise with her experiences and appreciate the power of storytelling.

Amidst all the excitement, we dedicated time and effort to our summer musical production, "Dragon Days." Focused rehearsals throughout the term honed our skills and ensured that we delivered an unforgettable show. Each and every student contributed their talents to put together a sensational performance; they really made us proud!

Prep 4 have truly embraced the spirit of adventure and creativity this year. Through historical exploration, literary immersion, and the magic of theatre, they have grown both individually and as a team.

Well done to all of you – it has been a pleasure to teach you!

Miss Galer & Mrs Johnson





PREP 5

During this half term, Prep 5 enjoyed reading the book 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo, and the children have engaged with this modern classic, using a range of writing, map making, drama and discussion. As one of the main characters in the book is an amateur Japanese artist, we have been studying various artworks and styles in Japanese culture, from Hokusai to Manga!

In our 'Vikings' unit, some highlights have been drawing portraits of Viking warriors and creating a presentation using Google Slides about their own chosen area of Viking life. The children have also been using the computers to create 3D models, using the program 'SketchUp'.

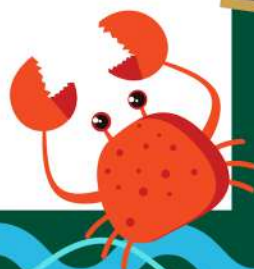
In RE, the children have looked more closely at some passages Genesis, writing beautiful prayers praising God for the wonder of His creation, and discussing our role in caring for it.

Another obvious highlight this term has been performing 'The Jungle Book'. The acting and singing were superb, and the Prep 5 children worked so hard in rehearsals!

And wasn't Sports Day a great day? It really showcased the determination, enthusiasm and effort that has been present in so much of Prep 5's learning this year.

Well done, Prep 5!

Mr McGrane & Mrs Litwa





PREP 6

So long, farewell... to Prep 6

The last half term in Prep 6 is always a whirlwind – and this year has been no exception. With our student teacher, Mr Smith, leading Maths, the children enjoyed some engaging contextual work centred around booking a summer holiday. Mums and Dads watch out – they're experts now!

In RE, they learned about the Jewish festival of Yom Kippur, before moving on to learn about Catholic Social Teaching, and working in groups, to rewrite the school's mission statement to embody them. Mr Thornton was impressed with the results!

Our rehearsals for *The Jungle Book* reached a crescendo with an INCREDIBLE performance at The Playhouse which wowed the audience and left us all riding the wave of euphoria. Prep 6 really did give it their all and should be very proud indeed.

With thoughts moving towards the end of their primary years, the children planned and filmed iMovies in Computing about the best features of NDPS. In preparation for their end of term picnic, and to link with their Climate Change presentations, they learned how to make a variety of plant-based patties, then designed their own in groups. Yesterday, they enjoyed their own creations of beetroot, spicy Mexican bean and Portuguese Chickpea burgers in a final celebratory picnic for Mr Smith's last day with us.

It is with such great fondness that I say farewell to my wonderful class of '23. You've been the best, Ore, Scarlett, Aria, Lily, Maya, Marta, Anouk, Evangeline, Johnathon, Christian, Aaron, Fynnley, JJ, Lily, Ocean, Nathanael, Kitty, Cameron, Florence, Daniel, Dylan, Cleo and Sebastian. Please come back and visit! Wishing you all a wonderful summer break, from Mrs Bradbury, Mr Smith and Ms Lansom



ND NOTRE DAME PREP SCHOOL



Prep 1 with their 'helping hands' made in RE



Prizegiving at St John's



**"FOR SO THE LORD SAID TO ME,
"I WILL TAKE MY REST,
AND I WILL LOOK FROM MY DWELLING PLACE
LIKE CLEAR HEAT IN SUNSHINE,
LIKE A CLOUD OF DEW IN THE HEAT OF HARVEST."
ISAIAH 18:4**



IGNITE assembly



Thank you Miss Galer!

**WE WILL
MISS
YOU!**

