



ON TO THE FINAL STRETCH!

Dear Parents

I hope this note finds you well and greetings from Llangollen and Prep 6.

Our trip to Llangollen marks for some children the crowning glory of an eight or nine year career with us. Building on the Prep 5 residential it is for many, the longest time away from home to date. This makes it important and in terms of the development of self, at least as important as a SATS examination. The children have been tremendous again this year and well done to you all. To those who are a little younger, this really is something to look forward to.

SATS are finished then and congratulations for all the hard work in Preps 6 and 2. Thank you too, for the rigorous preparation from our teaching staff. With half term on us, there is an opportunity to consider the exciting events that bring the academic year to a close. Prize Giving is a time to celebrate the achievements of our senior pupils and a chance to show them how proud we are of their hard work. Sports Days are a chance for our pupils to compete in a variety of sports and to have some fun while learning about teamwork and sportsmanship. For many, the biggest event will be our Musicals (Preps 3 to 6) at the Norwich Playhouse. Rehearsals indicate that these will be as memorable ever; I can't wait!

Wish best wishes to you all for the break.

- Rob Thornton, Headmaster

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- MON 5TH JUNE - BACK TO SCHOOL
- THURS 15TH JUNE - TRANSITION MORNING
- THURS 8TH JUNE - OPEN MORNING



MINIBEASTS

The last half term has rushed by with lots exploring and heaps of fun. Our chosen themes have been 'Minibeasts' and 'Plants & Growing'. Caterpillar nursery children have explored the garden area using magnifying glasses and produced some amazing artwork for classroom displays and have crafted their own minibeasts made from salt dough.

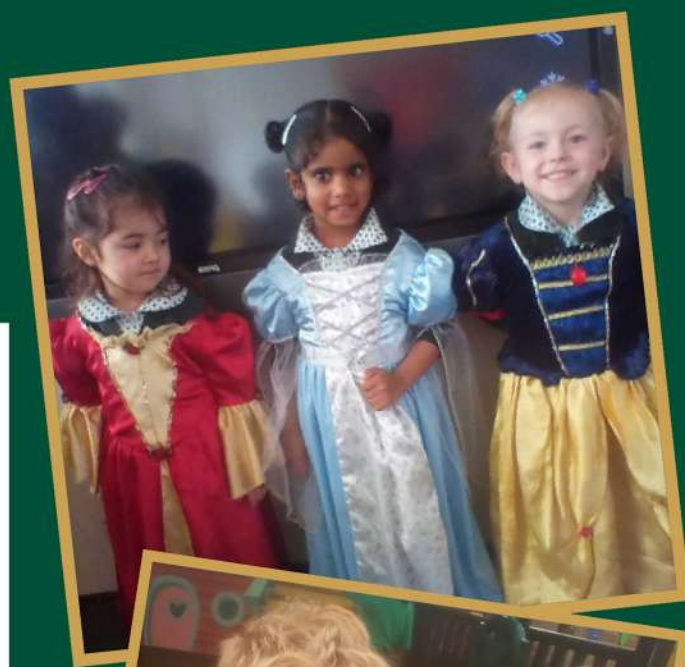
We are excited to see our newly planted sunflower seeds grow. The children counted the seeds and sowed them in pots with compost, not forgetting to water them.

In Butterflies, the children planted runner beans and eagerly waited for them to shoot. They were amazed to see the root formation and shoots appear. We are now waiting to see how tall the runner bean will grow. They sowed Marigold seeds and took turns to water the seedlings and now cannot wait to see the lovely flowers outside in our garden. We also encouraged them to create their own interpretation of flowers by using different painting ideas.

The children produced fantastic artwork adding leaves, stems and brightly coloured petals. The Butterfly children looked at various books connected to our themes like A Tiny Seed, Jack and the Bean Stalk and many others.

We had a truly enjoyable day to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. The children made Union flags and elaborately decorated crowns. We joined the whole school for a delicious picnic lunch, which we managed to enjoy just before the heavens opened!

On behalf of all the staff in Minibeasts, we wish you an enjoyable half term.





PRE PREP

It has been a half term full of fun. It began with a visit from a planetarium. Pre Prep were enthralled with the solar system presentation and the presenter was very impressed with both the children's prior knowledge and impeccable behaviour.

Our topic work has focused on dinosaurs. The children were fascinated with the palaeontologist Mary Anning's story – did you know she was the first person in the world to discover a plesiosaur? Pre Prep enjoyed making their own dinosaur fossils inspired by her amazing discovery which remains on display in the Natural History Museum to this day. The children created some amazing dinosaur headpieces and feet, wearing these with pride while singing the song, 'The Prehistoric Animal Brigade'. We have learnt about the terms, herbivore, carnivore and omnivore, as well as the habitats different dinosaurs resided in and made our own volcanos. The children were delighted to mix the ingredients which resulted in some explosive eruptions!

A highlight of the past few weeks must be King Charles' Coronation. Pre Prep enjoyed learning about our monarch's life and were impressed by the beautiful St Edwards Crown which King Charles wore at the moment of his Coronation. They all looked fantastic in their red, white and blue home clothes while eating their celebratory lunch outside at our very own 'Notre Dame Prep' street party celebration. We finished the day by listening to the National Anthem and playing 'Pin the Crown' on King Charles.

Wishing you all a very happy half term,
Miss Grand and Miss Duell



PREP 1

Well this half term has dashed by and here we are at half term already! This half term we started by continuing our topic about weather. After watching some different weather reports, the children had lots of fun presenting and recording their own weather reports. The children were all keen to act as weather reporters while a friend used an iPad to record their report. You wouldn't believe the range of weather seen in the British Isles that week! We used our weather topic throughout the curriculum by recording the weather we were experiencing for a week, writing poems about weather in English and creating some fantastic puddle pictures by blowing paint in Art.

The children all enjoyed learning about King Charles in anticipation of his coronation. We looked at how he would travel to Westminster Abbey and some of the key elements of the ceremony, we were all amazed at how many jewels were in his crown! For our school celebration, we all made our own crowns and had a superb picnic together outside.

In English we have started looking at books by the author Oliver Jeffers and are using these to inspire our writing by creating and describing planets and thinking of our own imaginative ways to catch a star.

For our topic 'Incredible Journeys' we have learnt about Amelia Earhart and discovered what an inspiring woman she was. The children have now started looking at space exploration. We were all fascinated to watch Tim playing ping pong with a water bubble while in the International Space Station.

In RE we have looked at Ascension Day and Pentecost and have talked about how important these are to Christians. Throughout the month of May, the children have been thinking about Mary by writing prayers of thanks to her.

We are now very much looking forward to our final half term in Prep 1. We have lots of fun things ahead starting with our trip to the Dinosaur and a special afternoon tea that we will be inviting Mums and Dads too so make sure you save the date!





PREP 2

Prep 2 have had a very interesting term and tried hard in their SATs tests in Maths and English.

Our English topic of the Dragon Machine we had fun with prepositions - hunting for dragon tails hidden around NDPS. In Maths we have been learning about fractions, measurements and volume with lots of practical measuring of lengths and capacity.

In Science we began the term with a fun show in the Starlight STEM planetarium! We also investigated how litter can affect animal habitats and made fantastic models of the ocean bed for our topic of Animal Habitats around the World.

For our Geography topic we have made our own maps of desert islands and been super sleuths with our Atlas skills - hunting place names in the UK and worldwide.

In Art we have been learning about the Spanish Artist Joan Miro and have created some super works and sculptures in the magical surrealist style.

In History for our Coronation Celebration children imagined being a Monarch for the day and designed a menu for a delicious tea party while in PSHRE we have talking about the importance of getting enough sleep.

In RE, continuing the Easter story, we have made models of Jesus's Ascension into heaven and learned about the important symbols of Pentecost.

Happy Half Term!





PREP 4

As always, Prep 4 has been full of energetic and enthusiastic learners. We especially enjoyed learning lots about WWII. The children were particularly intrigued when learning about evacuees and enjoyed using drama to explore characters and write a letter home to loved ones.

In English, we have been busy creating a newspaper report all about The Blitz - focusing on 'a bomb hitting a major city'. Working in groups, the students conducted in-depth research and then worked independently to produce articles; using their word-processing computing skills to design and print.

Science has been all about living things and their habitats this term - it's been great classifying animals and creating flowcharts of our own to solidify our learning!

We have been busy in Maths, building upon our knowledge and stretching our learning through compact subtraction and addition, understanding decimals and fractions and conquering conversion between measurements!

RE has been, as always, a wonderful opportunity to reflect and understand the values of faith. We enjoyed creating a collaborative boardgame to assist a lost person through checkpoints to help them find their way back to walk with God again. In Art, we have recreated a Frida Kahlo style self-portrait! We used our own unique interpretations of colours, symbolic items and patterns just like Frida did. Yet another wonderful half term packed full of new learning for Prep 4!





PREP 5

During this short half term, the children packed in a quite a bit, but here are some highlights!

In English, Prep 5 have been mostly focusing on letter writing, where the children have written 'fan letters' to their favourite contemporary authors (we're still awaiting a response!) and have been focusing particular on grammar and punctuation during these sessions.

They have also worked well in a short unit based on Lewis Carroll's 'The Jabberwocky' and a fun Shakespearean workshop.

The children have enjoyed our science and PSHRE sessions on 'Changing Bodies'. They have learnt about the different stages of human timeline and have shown their understanding through drawing, graph making, drama and thoughtful conversation.

Prep 5 have shown good teamwork and wonderful inventiveness when creating marble runs, and enjoyed coding to recreate a scene from the Bible.

Of course, our residential trip was the real highlight of the last few weeks. The children tried their hand at archery, canoeing, shooting, cooking, axe throwing and much more! We had lots of fun and Prep 5 were a credit to our school in every way.

As well as all this, Prep 5 have also started rehearsals for our end of year production- there is still much to look forward to this year!



PREP 6

What a rollercoaster of a half term it has been for Prep 6 – literally!

Beginning with two weeks of really focused revision and hard work ready for SATs, they went straight into an exciting first rehearsal of our summer musical, *The Jungle Book* – which already shows some impressive acting.

To engage and excite the children after their tests, much of the learning has been active and group-based. In Science, the children have been learning about the circulatory system, making a smoothie fit for a vampire to demonstrate the components of blood, squeezing Weetabix through tights (intestines) to extract “nutrients” and creating an art exhibition of microscopic blood cells complemented by posters of how nutrients are absorbed by the body.

Maths has been a week of measuring and estimating taught by our PGCE student, Mr Smith. Ever wondered how many blades of grass there are on a five-a-side AstroTurf court, or even how high the school is? Look no further than Prep 6! Meanwhile, in RE, leading towards Pentecost, the children have created stunning poems and wax resist artwork in response to imagining what it must have felt like to be one of the apostles visited by the Holy Spirit. In English, to link with our Elizabethan topic, Prep 6 have learned about Shakespeare and the Globe Theatre, and read his play *The Tempest*, spending a wonderful afternoon in a drama workshop with West End Theatre in Schools.

Fittingly, we rounded up the half term with our annual residential trip to Llangollen in Denbighshire for an action-packed week of forging new friendships, braving new activities like whitewater rafting and bushcraft, hiking and playing lots of games.

