



NOTRE DAME PREP SCHOOL



MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

The start of this term seems ages ago now doesn't it? We have been very busy indeed this term and as usual our Nativity Plays and Carol Service have been significant highlights. Our children performed and sang with such style and professionalism and I feel very proud indeed.

We are all looking forward to the holiday and our whole staff team would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and good New Year too. Thank you all too, for your generosity with Christmas gifts again this year.

This term has been packed with activities, trips and plenty of visits from prospective parents. Our new style Newsletter captures much of this and I do hope you like the new format.

Our Open Days have been very successful this term and we have welcomed some new pupils to the school. It is lovely to watch young people settle in so quickly, such is the welcoming and familial nature of our staff and pupil bodies. We succeeded too with our recent ISI inspection and The Sunday Times's review of Prep Schools last weekend was tremendous. 38th Best Prep School in the country and 'top' in East Anglia is quite an achievement and especially so as we are completely non-selective. As always, the continued support of our parent body makes this possible; thank you.

My highlight this year was our Carol Service and it felt a privilege to train such hard working choristers. I think I will do it again!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all well at this special time of the year; Merry Christmas.

- Mr R Thornton, Headmaster

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- WEDNESDAY 4TH JANUARY - BACK TO SCHOOL
- THURSDAY 2ND FEBRUARY - STAY AND PLAY
- TUESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY - OPEN MORNING
- FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY - END OF HALF TERM



NURSERY

This term has been very busy for Caterpillars and Butterflies. All the children participated in lots of enjoyable activities. The themes we have followed were, 'All about me', 'Autumn', 'Colours' and 'Christmas'. During our 'All about me' topic the children made play dough, family trees, drawing and painting self portraits.

We looked at different books and read lots of stories connected to feelings and emotions. Using leaves, acorns, pine cones and conkers, we looked at the beautiful colours replicating them through paint mixing, leaf printing and making autumn collages.

We made hedgehogs from clay and paper plates, and used different resources to make their spines. Some children created foxes faces from leaves adding sticks to make hand held masks. In both nurseries the children enjoyed describing the fireworks they had seen on Bonfire night and made very colourful and sparkly pictures. We listened and learnt the Rainbow song this helped them to create own rainbows.

Butterflies had a wonderful time joining Pre Prep for our Nativity performance, working extremely hard learning lots of new songs. I'm sure you all agree it was very successful.

The children enjoyed making cards, festive decorations, and sending letters to Father Christmas, ending the term with our Christmas parties.

On behalf of all the staff in Minibeasts and myself, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you again in January.



PRE PREP

Pre Prep have enjoyed a fun filled half term! We began with the topic, '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.

This was followed by looking at the festival of Diwali. The children listened with interest to the story of Rama and Sita, created colourful diya lamps and investigated how to make the shadow of a puppet larger or smaller.

Our English lessons have focussed on the story, 'Room on the Broom' by Julia Donaldson. The children worked hard to produce rhyming strings, have written their own spells and found out about speech bubbles. This work concluded in an exciting trip to the Playhouse Theatre, where this story was brought to life on stage.

Our highlight of the half term has been our Nativity play, 'Away in a Manger'. Pre Prep worked incredibly hard to learn their lines and, with the help of Miss Galer, all the songs and actions. The children were delighted to perform this tremendous show for their friends and family.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!



PREP ONE

What a busy half term P1 have had. After painting pumpkins and making a moving spider toy, we learnt about Diwali. We heard the story of Rama and Sita and the children made some fantastic Rangoli patterns. In English we have focussed on developing our writing. The children showed their understanding of choosing adjectives by describing a helpful robot. The children marked Remembrance Day by writing poems using similes. In Geography we have started learning about the UK. We went on a virtual walk around Norwich spotting both physical and human geographical features.

When you read this, we will have performed our Nativity play 'Hey Ewe'. The children worked extremely hard learning their lines and songs, performing beautifully on the day for their families. The children have learnt the story of Christmas through stories and activities and have had of fun creating lots of Christmas crafts. After experiencing Santa's Grotto at the Christmas bazaar the class wrote to Santa's elves asking for a grotto in the classroom. The letters were so persuasive and thanks to a little Christmas magic, the elves built a grotto in Prep 1, which delighted one and all!

We can confirm that everyone here has been extremely good and so should be appearing on the 'nice' list. From us all in Prep 1 have a happy and peaceful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2023.



PREP TWO

This term has really flown for Prep 2. Children enjoyed the story of *The Journey Home* by Fran Preston Gannon and learning about endangered and extinct animals and how to protect them before writing their own versions of the story.

In Maths we have been building our skills in addition and subtraction of one and two digit numbers, using lots of practical methods. Now we are enjoying 2D and 3D shapes – identifying shapes in our classroom and recognising lines of symmetry.

In Science, we have been learning about different materials and enjoyed building a bridge between two chairs. In our History topic of Nurturing Nurses, we have learned about significant people and how Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole made hospitals better in days gone by.

In RE we have learned about signs and symbols and the story of Advent. In PSHRE we have been thinking about how to spread kindness at Christmas and our Art lessons have been all about celebrations – including colourful poppies for Remembrance Day and lots of Christmas crafts!

Our main focus for us this term has been our fantastic Nativity play with Prep 1 – ‘Hey Ewe!’ for which everyone has worked so hard to learn their lines and sing their hearts out!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas!



PREP THREE

What an amazing half term we have had in Prep 3. Everyone is working together as a team, and we have created a wonderful happy classroom together.

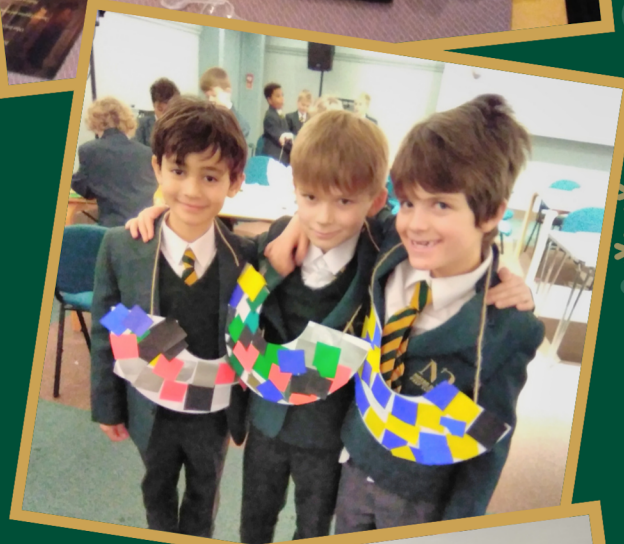
In English we have been learning how to dissect, analyse and re-write stories. We have been coming up with our own settings and using powerful adjectives and verbs to build imagery, and we have read traditional folk tales from India which the children have really enjoyed.

In PSHE we have been learning about how to take care of ourselves, emotionally and physically, learning the importance of staying fit and healthy, a good night's sleep, and knowing when, who and how to ask for support if something isn't right.

We had a wonderful trip to the Castle Museum to recap our ancient Egyptians topic. We learned a great deal about daily life in those times, including farming, construction, mummification and jewellery making. It is safe to say we have some budding young historians in Prep 3!

The lead up to Christmas has been spent with lots of opportunity for Christmas themed arts and crafts and discussions about the meaning of Christmas. The children enjoyed learning the carols which they sang so beautifully at St John's Cathedral earlier this week.

we wish you all the happiest Christmas to all of your families, and can't wait to see you the new year.



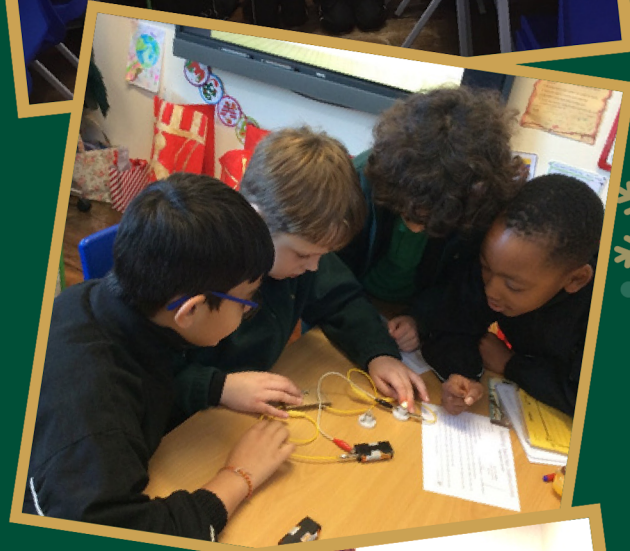
PREP FOUR

Prep 4 enjoyed a wonderful day out at The Time and Tide museum acting as a Roman soldier for the day. We participated in activities including potion making and spear throwing alongside learning about the role of a slave during the Roman times. Arguably the most important lesson of the day was how to create a successful Roman formation. The Prep 4 'Testudo' was put to the test by the willing staff members trying to find gaps with some wet sponges! We continued our learning back at school and tested out some other formations such as the Repel Calvary and The Orb. We can safely say there would be some very promising Roman soldiers in Prep 4!

In Science we have concluded our learning surrounding Electricity. Prep 4 have enjoyed creating a range of electrical circuits throughout this unit which have included the role of conductors and insulators and making our own switches.

We have ended the year with some festive christmas cake baking, mosaic painting and writing our own legend books inspired by our learning over this last half term from Robin Hood and Beowulf.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful break.



PREP FIVE

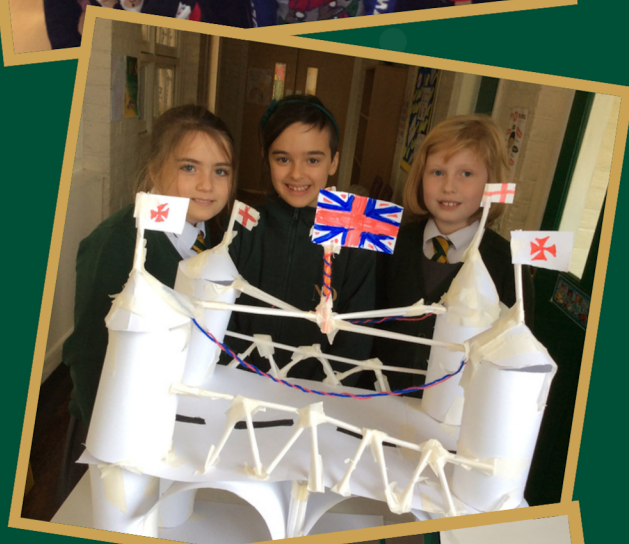
During this half term, our main focus in English has been based around the book 'Goth Girl' by Chris Riddell, which culminated in the children writing their own chapter for this exciting novel. In maths, the consolidation of key skills has continued to be our main objective, and it is exciting to report that they have all made progress.

Prep 5 have enjoyed learning about prehistoric times. The trip to the Time and Tide Museum enriched this topic further; here, the children made jewellery, hunted animals, and even battled enemies!

The class have shown imagination and resilience when programming their own computer games. Further creativity has been applied when they made model bridges in DT.

When learning about forces in Science, Prep 5 have conducted experiments. In PSHRE lessons, they have learnt about discrimination and, during Anti Bullying Week, they have about how to help one another. A highlight in PE this term has been the swimming lessons; everybody has improved and has tried very hard!

During the run up to Christmas, the children have learnt about the real meaning of Advent and have studied Christian symbolism in paintings and traditions during this time.
Merry Christmas Prep 5!



PREP SIX

This half term, Prep 6 have been on an exciting adventure through time and across the globe. Launched by Darwin's Dragons by Lindsay Galvin, we experienced the voyage of Charles Darwin to the Galapagos, to learn about how he came about his theory of natural selection. We then tested a model of this in Science lessons with cocktail sticks and tweezers to discover whether our "birds" picked up "worms" that were camouflaged green - to blend in with the grass - or the natural ones.

Along the way, we have extracted DNA from a banana and compared fossils with living relatives to find adaptations that might be advantageous for survival, ending with fascinating talk about genetic modification by Mr Uauy (father of Jose, in Prep 5). Developing their formal writing skills, the children penned biographies of Charles Darwin and Wikipedia reports on a "newly discovered" Galapagos species! In DT, they made moving cam mechanisms to animate a Galapagos animal, while in PSHRE, they learned about and drew fractals in nature, considering the relationship between evolution and the creation story.

This doesn't even begin to include how hard they have worked in Maths, Geography and Science! I am incredibly proud of how hard everyone has worked - they thoroughly deserved the Christmas celebrations we enjoyed this week.

A Happy and Holy Christmas from Prep 6!



CONGRATULATIONS DR LOUISE CAMPBELL



We would like to offer our congratulations to Mrs Campbell on the completion of her Ed D this month.

To have completed an enormous amount of work in addition to a very busy job is quite remarkable.

Dr Campbell's work, an investigation into multimodality in children's story telling at around age 5 is fascinating and dialogue is welcome!