

## NDPS Newsletter March 2022

Dear Parents

The end of another term then! It has been the most difficult yet since the start of the pandemic and in particular, due to staff absence. Not a day with a full compliment of staff and one day with nine members of staff out. I wish not to bleat and in fact am thrilled that this has come as a surprise to some parents today. We have managed much more by way of large group work and the talent displayed in the Easter Concert made for a superb end of term. We are heading in the right direction then and I am looking forward to next term very much. The Wales trip with our Prep 6 children will be a highlight.

Not for the first time I thank you for all your support and especially when full delivery has not been quite possible. Please have a joyous Easter break with our children.

Atvb

RT

### Mini Beasts! Caterpillars and Butterflies



The children in both Caterpillars and Butterflies have been extremely busy and have had an interesting and eventful few weeks. The topics we have participated in during this half term have been 'Spring' and 'Easter'. They have joined in with lots of creative activities as well as enjoying the lovely weather and spending time in the garden. First, the children looked at different shapes and used them to make great arrangements, like a heart shape house and a flying robot. While in Caterpillars the children used shapes in the sand and water trough and did lots of shape sorting.

There was great excitement on World Book day with both nursery's dressing up in creative costumes. We read a lot of stories throughout the day and had a visit from Prep 6, where the children were treated to more stories.

In both Nurseries the children painted flowers and blossom trees and in Butterflies they painted lovely daffodils during our 'Spring' theme and we proudly displayed them in the classroom.



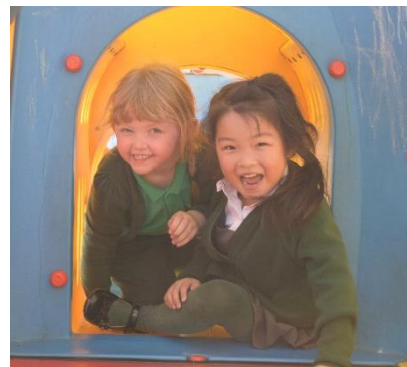
There has been great excitement every time we visit the garden to see the many changes that were happening outside, Spring flowers, blossom and the new shoots on the trees and shrubs.

The children in Butterflies have enjoyed making a den together, it even had a door and windows! In Caterpillars the children like to see the flowers appearing on the plants that they planted.

There was a lot of excitement when the mums came for a visit. The children sang a special song and there were a few tears from the mummies too! The children enjoyed discussing why their Mummies are so special and made beautiful cards to take home. We hope you liked yours!

Both nurseries finished the Spring term celebrating Easter by reading special stories and going on Easter egg hunts. The children made fantastic Easter bonnets at home and took part in a parade.

On behalf of all the staff in Caterpillars and Butterflies Nurseries we would like to wish you a peaceful and enjoyable Easter Holidays



## Pre Prep

Pre Prep have been embracing the warmer weather we have been enjoying of late, learning all about the season spring. The children have been on a walk around school searching for signs of spring, learnt about life cycles and investigated waterproof materials – important when considering spring showers! The children have also been making full use of their super new canopy and have been enjoying carrying out their learning both inside and outside of the classroom.



In English, the children have enjoyed listening to lots of stories by Julia Donaldson. They have written some excellent 'What am I?' animal descriptions inspired by the book 'Monkey Puzzle', learnt about the use of speech bubbles after reading 'What the ladybird heard' and written a simple newspaper report detailing the heroics of 'Superworm'. In Maths, we have focussed on learning the names and properties of 3D shapes, using coins to pay for items in a shop and number bonds to 10 (and beyond!).

One of the highlights of this half term was having the opportunity to visit Easton College and take part in their 'Multi Skills Festival'. The children were able to take part in a wide range of exciting games and activities which involved plenty of running, jumping, catching and throwing. Everyone was proud to receive their certificate of participation too. It has also been wonderful to see how much all the children have grown in confidence in the swimming pool.

After the fun of Pancake Day, we learnt about Lent and all the children thought about a way they could grow in goodness. They have also listened to the Easter Story, creating some beautiful stained glass windows to celebrate new life. Pre Prep are

finishing the term by taking part in lots of fun Easter crafts and activities including hunting for eggs in the school garden.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!



### Prep 1



This has been my favourite term so far! We started off the term with a trip to Bookbugs and Dragon Tales, which introduced us to our Intrepid Explorers Topic. All the children have thoroughly enjoyed this topic – we have learnt about Mae Jamieson, Ibn Battuta, Matthew Henson, Felicity Aston, and Neil Armstrong.

We even got to speak to a real life, living Explorer on zoom, who told us all about her dream to be an Explorer and that is exactly what she does now, in the Arctic and the jungle! We enjoyed writing fact-files about Space, using the Book Astro Girl, including our own jokes – how do you organise a space party.....you planet...! We also became NASA members with real lanyards! We

finished the term reading Beegu, after she had crash landed in our classroom. We gave her advice about how to not be lonely at school and wrote to Mr Thornton to ask if we could keep her, after all she is a very friendly alien! We were able to extend our topic to our Art & DT lessons. We made astronauts, polar explorers, rockets, UFOs, and clay models of the moon. In Science we have learnt about famous scientists, including the man who invented lego! In PSHE the children became Eco warriors, making promises of how to look after our Earth. We really enjoyed World Book Day – we focused on our favourite books – Little Miss and Mr Men – designing our own characters and making pop up books about them. The children in Prep 1 have truly earned themselves a wonderful Easter break!

We will return to more exciting topics in the Summer Term; including Animals Around the World and Dinosaurs!



## Prep 2

Prep 2 have been very industrious this term!

In Maths we have been doing a lot of work with shapes. We have been learning the names of different 2D and 3D shapes. We have been sorting shapes according to the number of sides, edges and vertices and have also had a scavenger hunt around the classroom to investigate different shapes in items that we use every day.

In English, Prep 2 really enjoyed the story of "The Owl and the Pussy Cat" and making lists of important and funny things that the creatures should take with them on their journey as well as giving them directions to find the Land of the Tree Peas for their honeymoon! A surprise awaited us at the end of "Tadpole's Promise" and we made our own promises for our classroom pond display. We talked and wrote about different things

that change, predictions for story endings and told and wrote our own stories based on the text. Prep 2 loved dressing up for World Book day and learning about the Colour Monster - thinking about how different colours can represent emotions.

In RE we have spent time learning about Lent and made promises for the Lenten tree in the Library. We have learned about Palm Sunday and the Easter story. We thought about how it would have felt to be part of the



crowd watching Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey.

In Geography we have learned about maps, keys and symbols as well as making our own 3D messy maps using items from the classroom, an activity which was great fun!

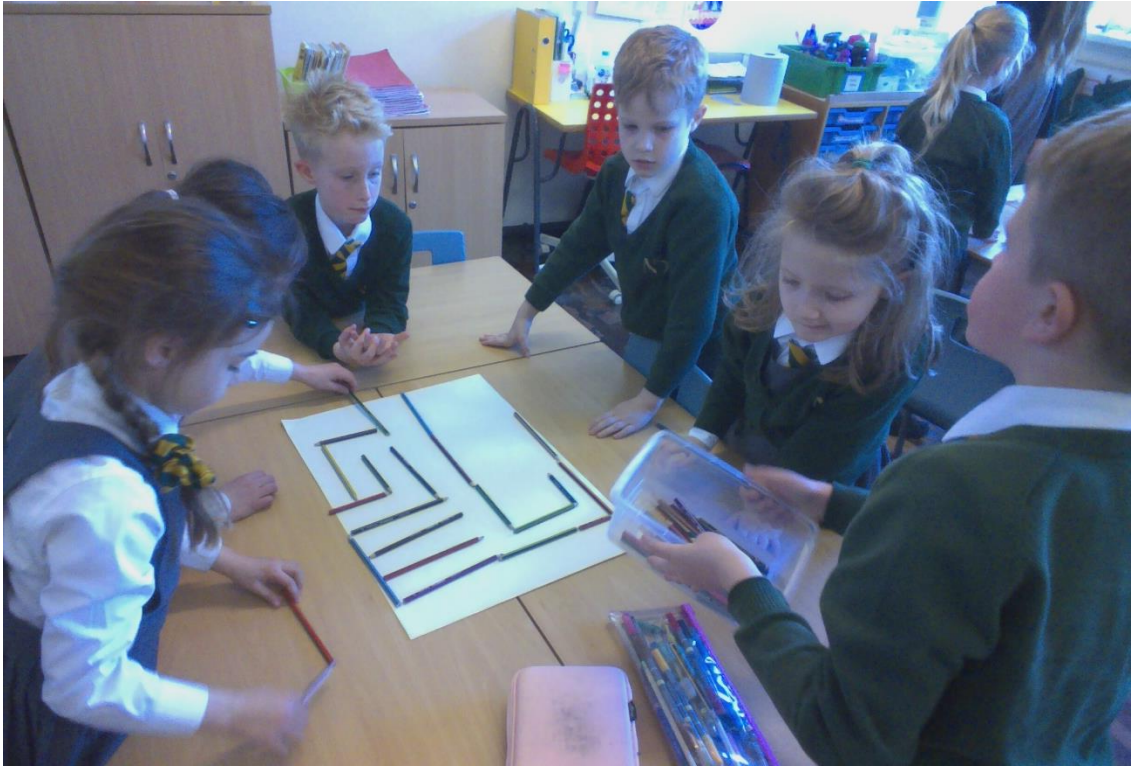
Our Science topic this term was Living Things and their Habitats - learning about how animals obtain food, including humans. We started off by categorising things which are alive, non-living and never alive. Prep 2 particularly enjoyed Science Day too - investigating animal skulls and making molecular models using marshmallows and cocktail sticks.

In PSHRE we have thought about how we are different to others, but also the same and compared our likes and dislikes. We have talked about the importance of sharing in relation to the story of the Rainbow Fish and how God feeds us with food, truth and love.



Art this term has been very exciting - we began with amazing pictures of cats based on paintings by Paul Klee and have also used oil pastels for oil pictures, made models of frogs to accompany our English topic and also been very busy with cards and crafts for Mother's Day and Easter.

A very Happy Easter to you all from Prep 2



## Prep 3



This term, Prep 3 have thoroughly enjoyed delving into the topic of 'Extreme Earth' - exploring natural disasters from tsunamis to volcanos; and, tornados to earthquakes. We took a virtual visit to Pompeii and put ourselves in the shoes of a survivor who witnessed the whole volcanic eruption process! To enhance our learning further, we had fun recreating such volcanos in class. We even put our creative hats on and produced scenes and in-depth diagrams that corresponded with those natural disasters – we had everything from interpretive dragon volcanoes to mega-tsunamis!

In Science, we travelled to the core of the Earth, exploring layers, fossils, and different classifications of rock types. We have been carefully piecing together diagrams to show the layers of soil that help form the Earth's crust, and then dug deeper to discover the way in which the Earth is formulated. Grasping the concept of fossilisation, we were able to become knowledgeable about each step of the process and the different discoverable fossils.

We have been methodical mathematicians this term, learning how to convert time using analogue and digital clocks. Not only that, but we have mastered expanded and compact addition using place value to drive us. We have revisited using our number-line frog to help us become superstars at subtraction – challenging our abilities by using tricky 3-digit numbers. We finished this term by creating our own bar charts and pictograms to present data all about some of our friends in Prep 3.

In English, our concentration this term has been on diaries and recounts; with a focal point around 'flawed characters'. We have learned how to write from the perspective of different characters including animals; finishing our unit of work with a fantastic diary all about an animal that gets itself into a 'sticky situation' through no fault of its own. We ended the term with a nod to poetry, composing some fabulous rhythmic potion poems with a two-beat repetition running throughout.

Good Friday has been our topic this term for RE: from writing conscientious three-step prayers for Lent; to ordering the events leading up to Jesus's crucifixion; and, creating some beautiful stained-glass windows to represent the resurrection of Jesus and his courageous selflessness.

In Art and Design, we have been learning about different ways to draw bodies and, in this last week of term, we have produced a superb range of Easter Crafts -- using our well-practiced and skilful watercolour techniques to help make our artwork 'pop'!

Computing and PSHRE have been a combined force this term as we have been looking at the topic of 'Money Matters' and 'Internet Safety'. We have spent time putting ourselves in the shoes of others and trying to see why they may make certain decisions when it comes to circumstantial money scenarios; understanding why charity is so important; and, comprehending the significance of money in everyday life.

Prep 3 has very much enjoyed this term, it has been full of diverse topics that have sparked our interests. We had the pleasure of taking part in a wonderful choir performance at St Andrew's Hall; investigating various scientific routes on Science day; and, paid homage to our personal favourite books on World Book Day -- What a fantastic term it has been!

#### Prep 4



Another busy half term for Prep 4. The time is speeding by and it was lovely to see so many of you in person for parent consultations.

It's been great to get out and enjoy the sunshine; maths in the sun was a great way to explore multiplication and division! In English, we have been learning about how to build and write a persuasive argument by initially thinking of our own new and exciting sweet before creating winning adverts that would sell the product. The children were very inventive with their ideas, designing some very unusual confectionary! Building on this, the children took their learning further by writing some very persuasive letters to Mr Thornton arguing for a range of changes they felt would enhance school life. The children showed their maturity when choosing their subject with arguments ranging from changing the timetable to allow for specialist learning about different animals to longer English lessons.

Our Topic this half term is Rainforests and the children are enjoying discovering different species that inhabit these regions. The children have made detailed fact files about a creature of their choice using a range of means of research before producing their final information sheet. After looking at deforestation, the children have begun to think about how this affects not only the local area but the world in general.



Our science topic of 'Living things and their Habitats' is linked closely to this and the children enjoyed creating their own mini ecosystems in jars that we have observed growing. This topic will continue after Easter with a chance to look at different local habitats and comparing these to different places around the globe.

For Mothers' Day, the children all wrote beautiful poems for their mums and then for an exciting cross curricular twist, Prep 4 learned how to use Vocaroo to record their poems before generating a QR code to allow access to the recording. We hope you enjoyed these!

We have enjoyed some sessions exploring a STEM challenges, the first of which was to create a boat that would hold as many marbles as possible before sinking. The class worked in teams and created a plethora of boat designs some of which were incredibly unsinkable with the winning team holding well over 100 marbles! We finished off this term with another STEM challenge; to construct a tower to support an egg using only paper straws and masking tape.



All in all, it's been a busy and fun half term. The children have worked hard and are all ready for a rest and an Easter egg or two.

Have a wonderful Easter and we look forward to seeing you raring to go in the Summer term.

## Prep 5

Prep 5 have always been out of this world, so it feels appropriate that a main focus this term has been the topic of 'Space'! The children have learnt about the planets and other bodies in our solar system, showing learning through illustration, writing and role play. Further to this, the children created exciting and fantastical pictures of rockets travelling abstract galaxies, based on the artwork of Peter Thorpe.



Continuing the space theme, Prep 5 have also learnt about Tim Peake, the British astronaut. The children enjoyed writing fictional newspaper articles, diary entries and beautiful descriptions about Peake's mission. The other main topic in English has been looking at the poetry of Joseph Coelho, which has culminated in some wonderful poetry.

The main focus in computing has been vector drawing; the children have shown super enthusiasm for this and are now quite skilled at creating engaging pictures using shapes and lines, using Google Draw. Working with maps has been a

popular topic in Geography; the children are now much more adept at interpreting symbols and describing journeys. Maps and atlases have also come in useful in French, where the children have been learning how to talk about different places around the world. Thinking globally has been very much at the heart of our DT topic where, after learning about how food is eaten in different countries, Prep 5 have made meals inspired by Mexico and Germany.

In maths, Prep 5 have been on different ways and methods of dividing and multiplying, and further extension of the children's decimal and fraction understanding. In RE lessons, the class have naturally focussed on the Biblical events that are remembered during Lent and Easter. Again, role play, letter writing and the creation of a leaflet have all been part of consolidating the children's understanding of this important period in the Christian calendar

Prep 5 are very lucky to have another friendly face in the classroom: Mr Hook, a student teacher, will continue to work alongside myself. He has already proved to be a hit with the children, who have enjoyed his story telling and passion for space in particular.





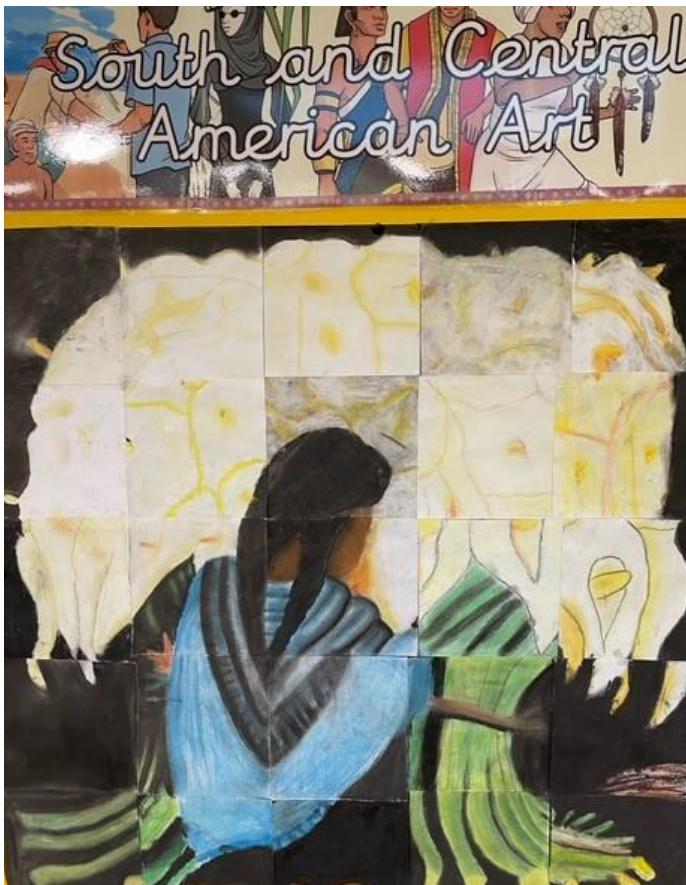
Prep 5 can always be relied upon to represent the school with just the right attitude. They sang beautifully and enthusiastically in the school choir at St. Andrews Hall a few weeks ago and, when visited by students from the UEA the other day for Science week, they engaged in the learning so well.

Enjoy the break, Prep 5 – you deserve it!

### Prep 6

In Prep 6, we started the half term with a cross-curricular topic in PSHE and English about migrants and refugees. Reading a variety of thought-provoking picture books, we based our writing around the very moving book, *The Island*, by Armin Greder. The children responded compassionately and sensitively and, when writing their own stories about “Outsiders”, chose a variety of contexts, ranging from characters that had been displaced due to war to those fleeing a polluted Earth to aliens arriving on Earth a new planet. All were wonderfully different but what resonated was the children’s growing empathy with others’ misfortune – so relevant given the current situation in Ukraine. This week, rounding up the topic, they have applied their knowledge of formal and persuasive writing by composing a persuasive letter of their own to Mr Thornton

to explain why we should take in some Ukrainian refugees at Notre Dame Prep.



In Topic, we have been learning about the ancient Maya civilisation. Starting with atlas work to discover where they lived in Mesoamerica, we took the advantage of World Book Day to delve into the Mayan belief in Gods via the book *The Chocolate Tree* which tells the Mayan folktale about how chocolate came about. Inspired by this, the children then worked in pairs to create their own Mayan folktale about how something in the natural world came about complete with their own Gods. The children then went on to learn about the sophisticated system of writing, and wrote their own name which we published in a class codex (book). After this, they plotted the journey of the Victorian explorers Frederick Catherwood and John Lloyd Stephens when they rediscovered the Mayan cities, trying their hand at drawing Catherwood’s paintings to appreciate his work with the camera lucida. Finally, we researched the importance of maize and cacao to the Mayans before celebrating the end of our topic with a Mayan-style chilli hot chocolate.

Meanwhile, we explored the art of Central America, through the artist Diego Rivera. The children worked at their observation skills with chalk pastel to recreate a square each of one of his flower seller paintings, which they expertly blended and joined together create a collaborative mural. The children then designed and made some stunning Mayan battle, event and death masks which are on display in the library.

Science this half term has been all about Light. We began by exploring how light enables us to see, making a fun science programme to demonstrate to younger children. Throughout various hands-on investigations, which included making periscopes out of cereal boxes, the children became proficient in the key scientific vocabulary, explaining 'reflection', 'refraction', 'spectrum', 'opaque', 'transparent' and 'translucent'. In Computing, Prep 6 have been learning how to use spreadsheets – showing themselves quicker to learn and troubleshoot than their teacher! Meanwhile, in Maths, they have been working diligently to finish the Year 6 curriculum in preparation for their forthcoming SATs.



As it is Lent, the children have reflected on which habits they would like to shed, like leaves in autumn, and which new, good habits they would like to “grow”. They wrote these on green leaves for our school Easter Lenten Tree. Following on from this, the children studied scripture to consider what Jesus meant by “I am the bread of life” and the true meaning of The Last Supper. From this, the children developed their understanding of Jesus’s metaphor of a grain of wheat, and thought carefully of practical ways that their lives can be fruitful for themselves and others. The Easter Concert gave Prep 6 a second chance to show off the songs they prepared for the Norwich County Music Festival a couple of weeks ago. This, along with baking Mother’s Day gifts and the House Egg and Spoon Race, was a fitting celebratory end to another busy and successful half term.





### Breakasaurus

Our 'Breakasaurus', officially named Notresaurus, is now complete and has made his journey back to Break HQ ahead of the start of the sculpture trail which is due to start in June. A little dinosaur, or maybe a pterodactyl, has let us know that our Dino should be found in the Forum this summer. More news to follow in the Summer Term.



### Netball Development Tournament

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March Prep 6 girls had a fabulous time and some excellent results at the Netball Development Tournament at Norwich high School for Girls. After a full afternoon of matches the outcome was an impressive 5 wins, 1 draw and 1 lost.

After the tournament the girls received lovely treats and the best player and most improving player of each team were awarded. On our team Isabel was voted as our best player and Miriam our most improving player – huge congratulations!



### Knights of St Columba

We do like to support the work of the Knights and are grateful too, for their encouragement and support with Art awards focussing on important festivals. Congratulations to Daniel, Abigail and Edward for their awards in the most recent competition.



## Spring Term Music News

Music at Notre Dame has gone from strength to strength this term. Pandemic cobwebs have begun to be finally dusted off, especially with the return of old routines such as the Norfolk County Music Festival and the Easter Concert.



Although a reduced affair by previous years' standards, the 2022 Easter Concert was a terrific showcase of talent, and a true testament to our peripatetic staff's hard and dedicated work. The evening began with a bang – literally – as the drumming boys of Prep 6 and Lillian in Prep 3 rocked the school hall with 'Coordination Cooperation' under the watchful supervision of Pete Davies. In a more staid mood, the school Ensemble performed three short Baroque works, whilst the majority of the evening was spent in the company of successive soloists, each as confidently musical as the last. In the end, a varied programme which included Duke Ellington, Tchaikovsky, AC/DC, Haydn, and *Mary Poppins* among many others ended with the performance of the Prep 6 Choir, whose tone and performance was truly exceptional. The concert was a fitting end to the term, which has seen notable musical improvements.

The children were treated to a visit from Cello teacher, Alex Hobbs, who was ably assisted by Eva in Prep 6. All children in Prep 1 and above were given the opportunity to hear the Cello in performance, and many even had the opportunity to bow a few notes. Alex will be accepting pupils at Notre Dame from next term, so if you haven't already thought about Cello lessons for your child then do please take advantage of this opportunity if you can. This was followed later in the term by a short performance for Prep 1 and Prep 2 on the Double Bass by Vilem Hais, ably assisted by William L. in Prep 6. The children were amazed at the size of the Double Bass, and were particularly amused that Mr. Wright was shorter than the instrument.

Having performed only once as a group previously, at Christmas, the School Choir performed two pieces at the Norfolk County Music Festival this year. Their performance was classified as 'Outstanding', and indeed it was. The focused sound and strong tone of the children was commendable, as was their excellent stage presence. Particular thanks is owed to Mrs Walker, who has been a most valuable help in preparing for these performances. Visit <https://youtu.be/aalyYMGm-rw> to watch the Choir in action!

Finally, I am pleased to announce the formation of the Schola Cantorum, a new choir for exceptionally able singers to complement our inclusive School Choir. Children have been auditioning all this half term, and once places are accepted rehearsals will be scheduled for the first weeks of the Summer Term. I look forward to another term of progress and development from this most musical school!

### After School Club & Extracurricular Clubs

Bookings for ASC & Extracurricular Clubs for the Summer Term will be going live on Monday 4 April 2022 at 09:00. Clubs will run from **25 April to 1 July 2022**.

Please note Extra-Curricular Clubs have limited availability and is set up on a first-come-first-served basis.

Clubs Available:

KS1 (Pre-Prep – Prep 3) (All Extra-Curricular Clubs will run from **15:45 – 16:30**)

Monday	Nature Club (Miss Grand)
Tuesday	Multi-Sports (Mr Arregui)
Wednesday	Pokémon (Miss Harris)
Thursday	Book & Craft (Mrs Thornton)
Friday	<b>NO CLUB</b>

KS2 (Prep 4 – Prep 6) (All Extra-Curricular Clubs will run from **15:45 – 16:30**)

Monday	Table Tennis (Mr Thornton) Minecraft (Mrs Campbell)
Tuesday	Craft (Miss Galer)
Wednesday	Chess (Mr McGrane) Summer Sports (Mrs Bradbury)
Thursday	STEM (Mrs Laudan) Multi-Sports (Mr Arregui)
Friday	Minecraft & Lego (Mrs Campbell) Photography (Mr Thornton)

Payment for Extra-Curricular Clubs are done upon booking & no refunds are available for missed sessions.

After School Club & Homework Club will continue as per usual & bookings can be done ad-hoc.

### Nursery – Prep 3

1<sup>st</sup> Session After School Club 15:45 – 16:45 @ **£4.65**

2<sup>nd</sup> Session After School Club 16:45 – 17:45 @ **£5.65** (Includes a light tea, e.g. Wrap/yogurt/fruit)

### Prep 4 – Prep 6

1<sup>st</sup> Session ASC / Homework Club 15:45 – 16:45 @ **£4.645**

2<sup>nd</sup> Session After School Club 16:45 – 17:45 @ **£5.65** (Includes a light tea, e.g. Wrap/yogurt/fruit)



### Photos from this term:

World Book Day:	<a href="https://photos.app.goo.gl/UkXxGJZkigGMS5Pk7">https://photos.app.goo.gl/UkXxGJZkigGMS5Pk7</a>
Pre-Prep Multi Skills:	<a href="https://photos.app.goo.gl/CHmwtiiEDacM3DqR6">https://photos.app.goo.gl/CHmwtiiEDacM3DqR6</a>
Music Festival Choir	<a href="https://photos.app.goo.gl/25CARrhig4VJW6zG8">https://photos.app.goo.gl/25CARrhig4VJW6zG8</a>
Our T Rex!	<a href="https://photos.app.goo.gl/syPEP7XK8ixHRREKA">https://photos.app.goo.gl/syPEP7XK8ixHRREKA</a>
Easter Concert	<a href="https://photos.app.goo.gl/N182Xg5ZfgiTNMNQA">https://photos.app.goo.gl/N182Xg5ZfgiTNMNQA</a>

### Dates for the Diary

4<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> April - Holiday Club in School

**20<sup>th</sup> April- School Opens for the Summer Term** – Summer Uniform please!

22<sup>nd</sup> April- PTA Coffee Afternoon and Uniform Sale

4<sup>th</sup> May – Nursery Parents’ Afternoon, 2pm

WC 9<sup>th</sup> May – Prep 6 SATs Week

15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May – Prep 6 to Wales

27<sup>th</sup> May – School closes for half term

**We look forward to seeing you back at school  
on 20<sup>th</sup> April!**