



NOTRE DAME PREP SCHOOL



"And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power."

1 Corinthians 6:14

When reflecting on the Spring Term, we are filled with gratitude for the growth and achievements of our children. This term has been a time of renewal and hope, much like the season of spring itself. In our school, we have celebrated the blossoming of new ideas, friendships, and a deeper understanding of the world around us and we have continued to support our local and global communities through charity initiatives such as our Big Lent Walk earlier this week.

Our Easter concert was a resounding success where the children showcased their talents by singing so joyfully in the choir and playing their musical instruments, captivating the audience in St John's Cathedral with their dedication and enthusiasm.

As we approach Easter, we are reminded of the powerful message of resurrection and new beginnings found in the Bible story of Easter. Just as Jesus' resurrection brought hope to the world, spring serves as a reminder of the hope and renewal that we experience in our own lives. It is a time when we can reflect on the past, appreciate the present, and look forward to the future with optimism.

May the spirit of renewal and hope continue to guide us all as we break for the Easter holidays. We wish you a peaceful and joyful Easter break and look forward to welcoming our pupils back for the final term of the year.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Campbell & Mrs Laudan



Minibeasts

We started the second half-term by learning about farms and animals through our Funny Farm topic. The children created their own farm using paint, farm animal shapes, shredded paper and other materials. Each farm looked very different, some opted for a dairy, fruit and vegetable farm while other decided to make petting farms with all kinds of animals to feed and cuddle. For our Zoo Crew topic, we all looked at a world map and had fun playing a guessing game about the origins of the different wild animals we could see.

The Minibeasts dressed up as their favourite book character to celebrate World Book Day, we read lots of books and recited our favourite lines from different books and even had time to act out different stories.

For Mother's Day, the children used kind and lovely words to describe their mummies. They made unique and colourful bouquets of flowers before making some beautiful cards.

We have all had lots of fun playing in the garden in the sunshine, being creative in the mud kitchen and developing our gross motor skills on the balance boards and bikes.

Finally, we ended this Spring Term by celebrating Easter. The children learned about the meaning of this Special time. We made Easter baskets, decorated Easter eggs, made crowns and we had lots of fun and giggles during the Easter Eggs hunt.

Happy Easter from all the Nursery Staff.





Pre Prep

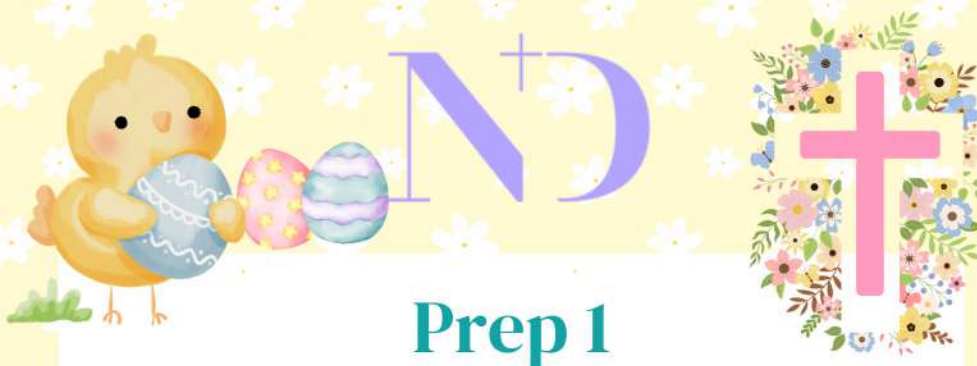
Pre Prep have had a half term full of fun! Celebrating World Book Day is always a highlight of the Spring Term and this year was no exception. The children looked incredible in their costumes and thoroughly enjoyed a day of activities related to the classic tale, 'The Tiger who came to Tea', by Judith Kerr. This culminated in a baking session, producing some delicious chocolate cupcakes with our friends in Prep 1. Luckily, the boys and girls didn't need to share these with a big, furry, stripy friend – Phew!

Our learning has also included finding out about Kenya. Pre Prep made some beautiful necklaces inspired by those worn by members of the Maasai tribe and learnt what each colour means e.g. red represents bravery. The children also enjoyed going on a real 'safari' game drive, getting into a jeep and using binoculars to spot some of the amazing creatures which live on the African plains. After listening to the story, Handa's Surprise the boys and girls thought about what questions they would like to ask Handa, and used some new punctuation – the question mark – with accuracy.

We are finishing this term with lots of Easter fun – hunting for chocolate eggs in the school garden, taking part in a STEM activity (building a basket to protect an egg if dropped) and acting out the events of Palm Sunday as part of the whole school retelling of the Easter Story.

Wishing you and your family a very 'Happy Easter' from Miss Duell, Miss Thrupp and Miss Grand

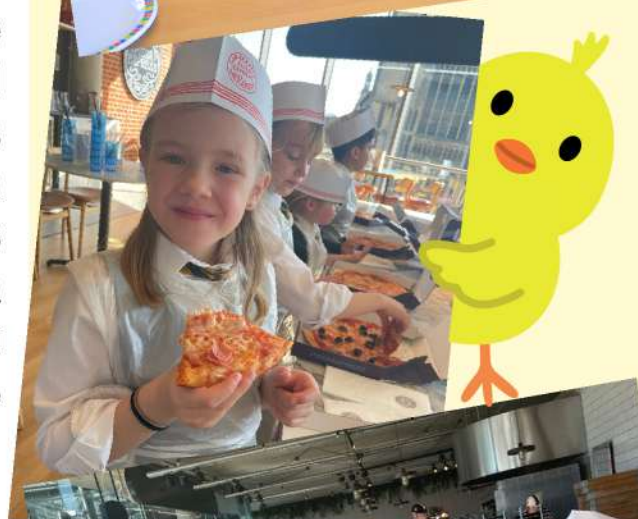




Prep 1

This half term Prep 1 have been busy exploring different traditional tales through story and drama, Little Red Riding Hood has never come across such scary wolves! We have looked at Rainforests discovering some of the interesting creatures that live there, not to mention a very famous bear! After discovering that Paddington is rather fond of marmalade, we all had lots of fun taste testing different fillers for sandwiches before choosing our favourite to make a sandwich to enjoy. We have explored the Easter story, acting out different sections within class and in assembly and enjoying learning some lovely songs to sing at the Easter Concert. We had fun participating in pancake races to mark Shrove Tuesday in our houses and have all thought about the importance of kindness and thinking of and helping others throughout Lent. Our trip to Pizza Express was hugely enjoyable and the children all learnt lots about the different ingredients that go into making pizzas before creating their own that they enjoyed back at school with salad for lunch – delicious! World Book Day is always a highlight and this year we had lots of fun throughout the day, reading with friends in Prep 6 before making muffins with Pre Prep just in case a tiger came to tea! The children have all worked hard in their swimming lessons this term and have made good progress all round. Well done Prep 1 on an amazing term.

We wish you all a very happy and hopefully sunny Easter.





Prep 2

Prep 2 have really enjoyed their cross-curricular project about The Great Fire of London for History, English and Art. In addition to learning about how the fire started, they have thought about ways to prevent fire and made superb models of Tudor houses and Thomas Farriner's bakery. Everyone enjoyed our visit to the Stranger's Hall to find out more about Norwich during these times and handle some real artefacts.

In English we enjoyed the slightly dark tale of "Tadpole's Promise" and made our own picture books, getting to grips with possessive apostrophes along the way! World Book Day was fantastic fun – sharing stories with Prep 4 whilst wearing our fabulous costumes!

In RE, children made promises for our school Lenten tree and discussed how Jesus's disciples felt while acting out the Triumphal Entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and during The Last Supper. Children enjoyed practicing our play of 'The Empty Tomb' for our School Assembly Easter play finale. We had great fun making Easter Crafts this week too!

In Maths we have had fun measuring and weighing many objects in and around school in centimetres and metres, grams and kilograms. We have also estimated and compared volumes of different containers in our work about capacity.

For our Science topic of Animal Habitats, we learned some fascinating facts about food chains and created our own 3D animal habitat collages.

A very Happy Easter from Prep 2!





Prep 3

Prep 3's second half of the spring term has been focused on ancient Egypt. From reading 'The Ancient Egypt Sleepover' in English lessons, so much topic work and watching Horrible Histories at the Theatre Royal, Prep 3 have become absolute experts! They learned about mummification, writing some excellent instructions and they even designed a life size sarcophagus for each table group, and of course it wouldn't be the spring term in Prep 3 without the infamous papier mache Egyptian death masks!

When not learning about the wonders of Egypt, Prep 3 have enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day, learning about internet safety and how to avoid online scams. In Maths, Prep 3 have learned about fractions and really enjoyed a carousel Maths lesson using cubes, dominoes and dice to represent unit and non unit fractions. In RE lessons, Prep 3 have looked at the Easter story and used Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper to support their learning. Dressing up and creating freeze-frames of the painting was a particular highlight! We finished off the term with our Big Lent Walk and performing our part of the Easter story in assembly before creating 3D dioramas of the Garden of Gethsemane.

Happy Easter from the Prep 3 team!





Prep 4

Prep 4 has had a wonderful half term with lots of fun had by all. We have continued our WWII topic this half term and the children have been so enthusiastic and engaged. They particularly enjoyed being secret agents for the afternoon, solving clues that lead them to different areas of the school to get clues and crack the code! We also had our lovely trip to Gressenhall. The children looked amazing in their costumes and threw themselves into every activity, really making the most of the opportunity. We have been learning about sound in Science and the children were very interested in how their ears work and what goes on inside. In English, the children have been working hard writing newspaper reports about the Blitz. They loved typing their reports up on Canva in the newspaper format. We have started reading a new class book about Loki the God of Mischief! The children wrote brilliant character descriptions about Loki and enjoyed designing their own mythical characters before turning them into Top Trumps cards to play with. In Maths, we have been learning about fractions. They have been trying very hard and have answered lots of tricky fraction questions. We have been making the most of the warmer weather too by taking our reading books out to the garden to enjoy some independent reading time in the sunshine. Overall, it has been a lovely half term and I look forward to more adventures with Prep 4 in the Summer term!





Prep 5

Prep 5 have had another excellent and busy half term. This half term, we learnt all about Climate Change. We looked at Climate Change from both a world-wide and local perspective. We developed our understanding of the climate cycle and how human actions are negatively affecting it. We owe a huge thanks to you, the parents, this half term.

We enjoyed a fantastic visit and talk from Mr Minns, a climate change scientist and communicator who led a discussion about what we can do around the school to reduce our carbon footprint. We also enjoyed a presentation sent in by Mr Oliver, who works within the oil and gas industry, about the UK's energy consumption and what oil and gas companies are doing to reduce their carbon footprint. If you have expertise within an area of our curriculum and would be eager to share, please do contact us.

In English, we wrote formal letters to Clive Lewis MP, encouraging him to visit our school and discuss Norwich's targets for climate change. In Maths, we extracted and analysed data from a range tables and line graphs.

We hope that you have a brilliant, sun-filled Easter break and return eager to engage with the final third of the year.





Prep 6

In Prep 6, much of our learning has been around the pressing topic of Sustainability. In Geography, we rolled our sleeves up for some field study in our own school environment, learning all about the problems of plastic pollution and undertaking a bin audit in areas around school to investigate our own use of it. Prep 6 were not impressed with what they found in the staffroom bins! With their findings, they wrote a report and represented their data in bar charts.

Armed with this and all their research of plastic pollution in our oceans, they concluded their learning on formal letters by writing to a supermarket of their choice to find out what they are doing to reduce plastic packaging. We are very much hoping to receive some replies...

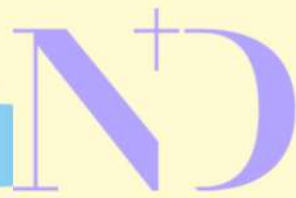
Continuing the theme of sustainability, we thoroughly enjoyed our PTA-funded STEM kits, making a series of solar-powered items including a desk fan, fairground ride and boat. The latter caused much excitement as we held boat races in the garden! Meanwhile, Prep 6 loved practical circuit-making in Science – we even made traffic lights!

Our RE began with preparing Lenten promises before exploring the events of Holy Week. One of the highlights was using historical evidence to plan arguments for or against the question, “Did Jesus have a fair trial?”, which prompted a passionate class debate. Our annual trip to St John’s Cathedral to experience some of the Stations of the Cross was an opportunity for prayer and reflection on Our Lord’s sacrifice.

With such a busy term, it was refreshing to have some wonderful singing practice preparing for our Easter concert and acting out a Passion play for our Easter assemblies.

Well done on a super hard-working term, Prep 6. Easter blessings to you and your families.





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Mini Vinnies – Pilgrims of Hope

We welcomed some new members to Mini Vinnies this term! We met to discuss fundraising events for the Summer term and charities the children would like to support, and made cheery Easter cards for the residents of St John's Care Home. Along with the rest of the school, our Mini Vinnies members walked to St John's Cathedral for our Big Lent Walk for CAFOD, where they proudly carried their Pilgrims of Hope banner.



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