



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace... so that you may overflow with hope”

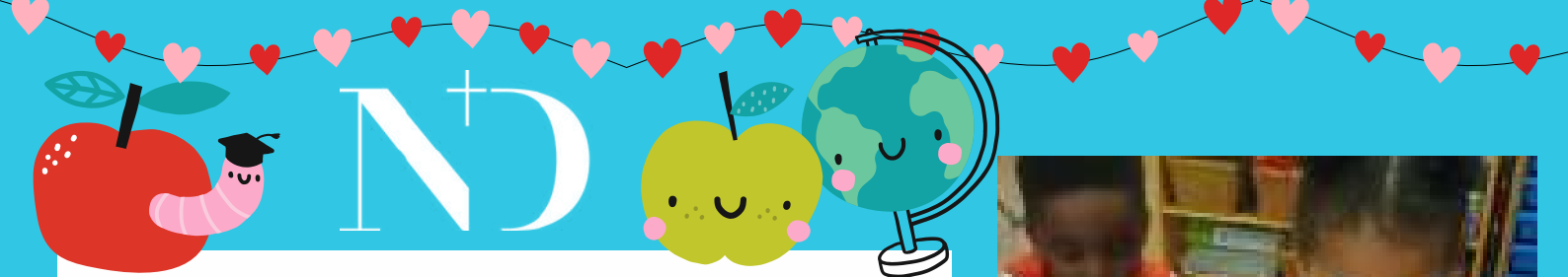
Romans 15:13

Our first half term has been full of the usual excitement a new term brings, with lots of looking forward to new challenges and experiences for the year ahead.

It goes without saying that the children were all their usual fantastic selves during our Independent School Inspection and they did themselves proud, confidently speaking to the inspectors and talking about their school. We look forward to sharing the full report with you very soon! There has been a steady stream of special days and occasions to mark this half term. Lunar New Year was celebrated by all and the children were particularly excited by getting up close to a rather fantastic lion costume brought in by one of our Governors. Children's Mental Health week was a particular highlight with all. The whole school focussed on the importance of recognising and talking about emotions through a range of activities in class and of course everybody enjoyed our screening of Inside Out 2 in our 'NDPS Cinema'. More recently, we have marked Safer Internet Day with a whole school assembly, live lessons and lots of practical activities across all of the classes. 2025 is a Jubilee year, themed "Pilgrims of Hope". Catholics worldwide are invited to embark on a journey of renewal and reflection. It encourages our children, families and teachers to embrace hope as a guiding principle in our daily lives and calls for our communities to come together, support one another, and cultivate a hopeful outlook towards the future.

We hope you have a restful half term break!

Mrs Campbell & Mrs Laudan



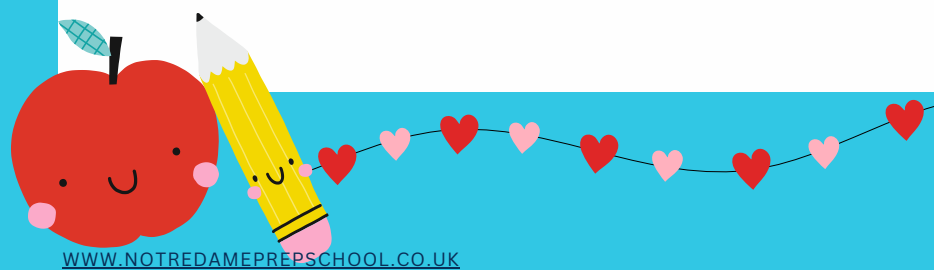
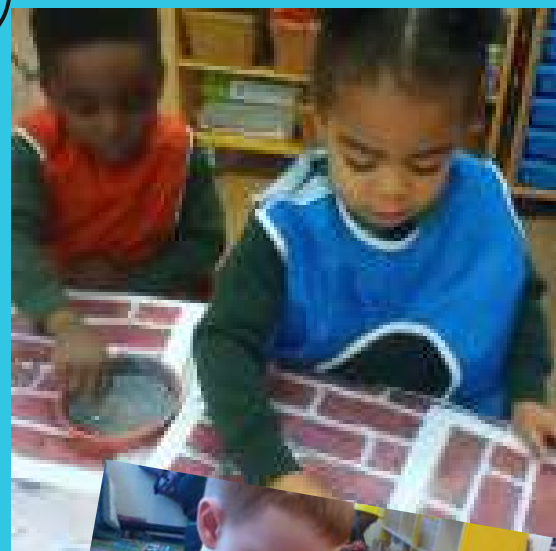
Minibeasts

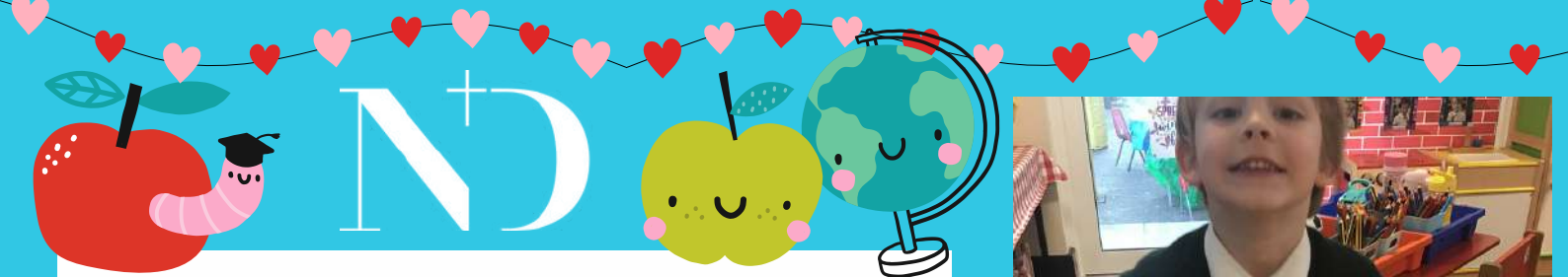
We began this term with our Winter topic, learning about the season through lots of fun craft activities. We made a “Snowstorm in a Jar” where the children were fascinated by the bubbles! They also baked and enjoyed a yummy apple crumble after we talked about winter fruits and vegetables.

Our second exciting theme was “Under Construction”. We had lots of fun building and demolishing towers and developed fine motor skills by building walls using playdough and wooden blocks. Filling up construction vehicles with pasta, oats, rocks and sand was very messy and noisy but the children loved doing it!

We celebrated the Year of the Snake by decorating printed snakes with paint and glitter. For Children’s Mental Health Week, we read “How Are You Feeling Today?” by local Norwich writer Molly Potter and talked about different feelings in our circle time.

We role-played using a castle, performed puppet shows in our theatre and made masks of our favourite characters and creatures, and of course we read lots of fun stories.



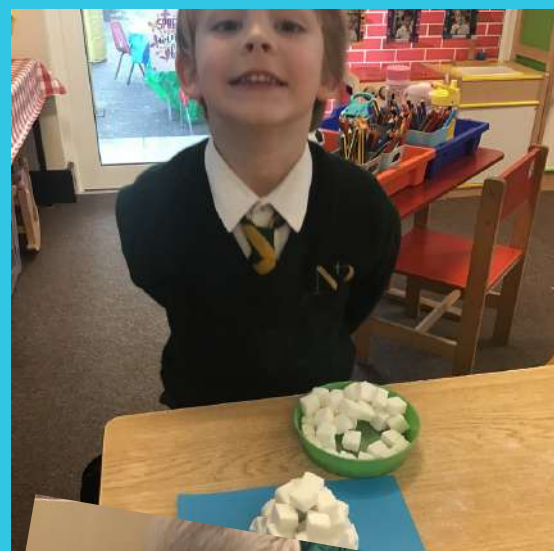


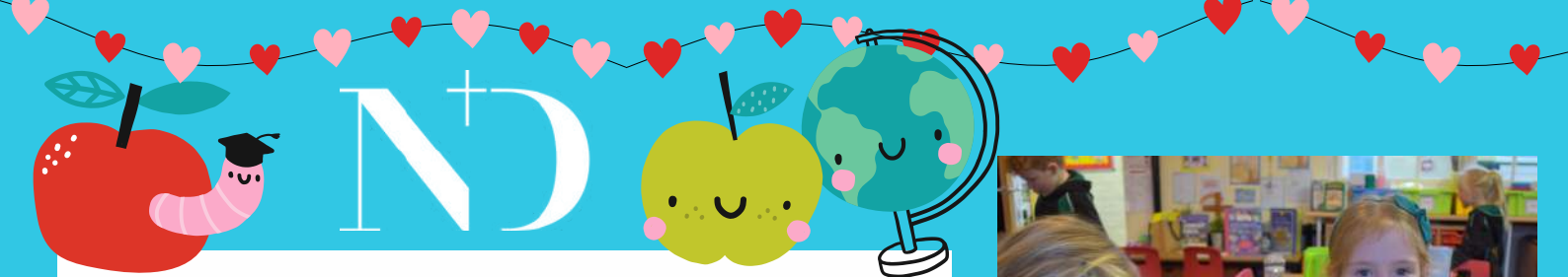
Pre Prep

Pre Prep have had a super busy start to 2025. The children began by learning about the Polar regions. Everyone was excited to turn themselves into an Arctic explorer before going on an adventure to find some of the different creatures which live in this fascinating part of the world such as a walrus and Arctic fox. As a class, we created a log book detailing all the information we had learnt. Our work also included investigating how to free coins which had become trapped in ice, building igloos using sugar cubes (much harder than you imagine), creating Polar Bear collages and rescuing penguins from shaving foam, before putting them in colourful ABAB and AABAAB patterns.

Recently, our topic has involved Chocolate! Pre Prep were lucky enough to visit the Bridewell Museum to learn more about the history of chocolate and the links our fine city has with this tasty treat. The children were fascinated to hear that in the 1600's English privateers commandeered a Spanish ship which contained cacao beans. As the English had not discovered chocolate at this point, they thought this was sheep poo and promptly set fire to the ship. Whoops! Back at school, we have undertaken some exciting experiments related to chocolate, finding that this turns from a solid to a liquid when held in our hands while counting to 100.

Not forgetting our celebrations of Chinese New Year, listening to Bible stories including The Good Samaritan, thinking about the 'Zones of Regulation' to mark Mental Health Week, starting the journey of learning a new language and finally how to stay safe on the internet. Phew - I think the children more than deserve their half term break!





Prep 1

Happy New Year from us all in Prep 1. We have had a fun and busy start to the term. We welcomed Miss Jenner, our PGCE student, who will be working in Prep 1 until Easter. In RE the children looked at the story of Epiphany, creating some beautiful artwork showing the kings following a star. The children have really enjoyed our Polar Lands topic, creating their own fact files full of information about penguins, the environment and what it might be like to live in the Arctic. We even designed our own mode of transport to travel to Antarctica, built bridges between icebergs and made igloos out of wooden bricks which we discovered was rather tricky! Everyone really enjoyed creating their own Polar Landscape, modelling animals and snowmen out of clay to fill it and decorating it with artwork showing the Northern Lights. Prep 1 had lots of fun learning about Lunar New Year and were particularly excited to parade through the school using an authentic Lion costume and drums. I think everyone heard us!



Prep 2

Prep 2 started this term in RE by learning about the feast of Epiphany. We sang the songs from our Nativity play, learned the journey of the Three Wise Men and made some puppets. We have learned about John the Baptist and the Miracles of Jesus. We thought about goals for 2025 and created colourful snakes for Chinese New Year.

In Science we studied the life cycles of humans and compared them to different animals, including frogs and butterflies, which also linked to our English story project of 'Tadpole's Promise'. We have written letters between characters for 'The Bear Under the Stairs' and learned how to use apostrophes.

Maths this term has been all about money and equal groups before beginning to learn our times tables with lots of practical lessons.

For our History topic of 'Kings and Queens' we dressed up in regal costumes and made the rules for a day! We learned about significant British monarchs and designed our own castles.

There have been lots of cross-curricular Art lessons this term - making frogs, models of the Lost Sheep and our own versions of a painting of The Baptism of Jesus.

For Children's Mental Health Week, we talked a lot about feelings of different colours and drew faces to match emotions.

Prep 2 are overjoyed to have started their annual swimming lessons too!



Prep 3

Prep 3 have jumped into 2025 with both feet- there has been so much to do!

We have learned about what makes a volcano erupt, and of course it was lots of fun to test this out for ourselves with bicarbonate of soda and vinegar volcanoes. In English, we have explored the idea of other worlds with 'Lights on Cotton Rock', posing the question - 'If you could leave Earth and live among the stars, would you want to?' Prep 3 gave mixed responses on this!

Our RE lessons had us discussing the meaning of parables; some of these were tricky, but learning about the parable of the yeast by baking (and eating!) our own bread definitely helped! We also learned about the traditions of Lunar New Year which we shared with the whole school in our class assembly.

Our art lessons have introduced the class to the work of Keith Haring. The children loved his bright cartoons and street art and had a go themselves with paint sticks - this was so much fun!

The universal favourite of this half term has been starting our ancient Egypt topic. This has taken us in so many directions, often led by the children and their interests. We have made life-size sarcophagus paintings, learned to write our names in hieroglyphs and looked at some of the important symbols we see on ancient artefacts - and we are only just beginning with this...we have a whole class of budding Egyptologists excited to learn even more next half term!



Prep 4

Prep 4 have had a really lovely half term. The children have been so engaged in our new History topic of WWII. They have loved sharing facts and can recall so much of what we have learnt so far. Hopefully they are telling you all about it at home too!

As part of our topic we learnt about air raid shelters, the children enjoyed role playing their response to the siren, taking shelter (under the tables) and playing games to pass the time. Some of the children acted as ARP wardens to make sure the civilians made it to their shelters safely.

In our lesson about rationing, we discussed how people had to be creative with their limited rations, particularly with treats! We followed a WWII recipe for carrot biscuits...that received mixed reviews from the children! The children have also been learning about the Battle of Britain and made some model planes. Lots of hands on History this half term!

We have been developing our multiplication and division skills and learning about States of Matter in Science. The children enjoyed investigating how different liquids behaved and practised timing how long it took to drip from start to finish point. The children have also showed off their wonderful writing skills this term and have been working incredibly hard on a recount written from the perspective of a WWII evacuee.

Overall, we have had a great half term and lots of fun has been had by all!



Prep 5

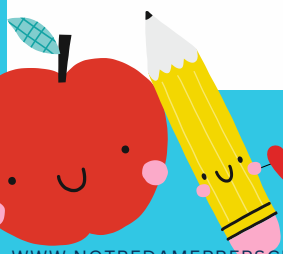
Prep 5 have been loving our Space Topic this half term! We started the term by learning all about the Space Race - the competition between the USA and the USSR. We created a timeline of the key moments of the Space Race and wrote diary entries from the point of view of communists and capitalists on the day of the launch of Sputnik I.

As the term has progressed, we have learnt all about what is currently occurring and what is planned in the future for space exploration.

We designed our own space stations and also designed and built our own astronaut helmets! We had to repeatedly layer papier-mâché to create the structural strength we required. We then decorated them using a range of materials and a hot glue gun. Finally, we had to pop the balloons and cut space for our heads to fit.

In English, we wrote explanation texts all about how a rocket works which required great efforts of research and the use of lots of technical vocabulary. In Maths, we have been learning all about fractions, decimals and percentages.

Please have a wonderful, restful half term and come back refreshed and ready to learn!



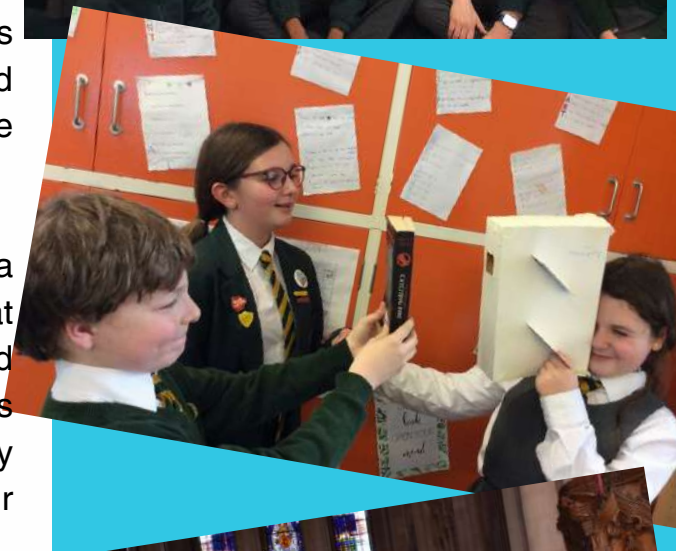
Prep 6

In Prep 6, learning has been hands-on and cross-curricular. Our Light theme in Science brought lots of opportunities for practical investigations into shadows, reflectivity, refraction and making periscopes and rainbows. Meanwhile, our trip to Norwich Cathedral for a day of Sacred Science linked beautifully with both Light and our RE topic on the seven "I am..." statements in St John's Gospel. After studying the "I am the good shepherd" stained glass window, we returned to make our own stunning "I am..." windows.

Art continued with the making of our striking Maya Masks to complement our History topic of this great civilization. Studying evidence, the children considered a variety of enquiry questions such as: "What makes them such an important civilization to study" and "Why did they become so powerful?" They even tried their hand at Maya syllabograms and Base 20 Maths!

In Computing, we have focused on strategies to remain safe online, from how to spot secure websites, to forming safe online relationships, protecting personal information and how to spot and report scams and phishing.

Our English unit on writing a balanced argument gave us the perfect opportunity to link with Internet Safety Week, researching regulations on social media use for under 16s and investigating arguments for and against banning social media for this age category. The final written arguments were impressively cogent, articulated and evidenced and will hopefully serve to help them navigate this tricky field at high school.





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PREP SCHOOL



Mini Pilgrims of Hope

This half term has seen our Mini Vinnies launch the Jubilee Year of Hope to the school in an assembly. They helped to explain Pope Francis' campaign and call for us all to be "Pilgrims of Hope" - pro-active in standing up for justice and helping those in need. Children in each year group have made colourful footprints to decorate the school ahead of our own mini pilgrimage which we will be doing to St John's Cathedral next half term (watch this space!)

Mrs Bradbury