



Newsletter – Summer Term 2021

What a bizarre year we've had. It's reasonable to say that we're all looking forward to returning to some semblance of 'normality' come September. It is interesting to me that this is not the first time I have said this and I find myself repeating my own words! It is fair to say that none of us had any idea before Lockdown, how Covid would still be having a significant impact on our children's education.

I feel the same as before though, I'm hoping that the new school year will allow limitations to be eased and that we will be able to see our school much closer to its former self. Many parents have asked me if some of the measures we presently have in place will be lifted completely in time for the start of the September term. I'd do anything to see all restrictions lifted, and I am pretty sure I have seen the light at the end of this particular tunnel. I am proud of the entire school community for adhering to our safety measures throughout the year — classes going home as a result of a Covid positive tests have been rare. This demonstrates that despite being difficult at times, all of the risk assessments and procedures we have implemented performed really well for us. So, for the time being, we're anticipating a return to normality for the start of the new academic year.

Pupils hopefully will take part in After School Clubs, play with children who are younger or older or perhaps drink from water fountains! This is what we are hoping for. However, we have learnt much in the way of circumspection over the last year and we will keep a close eye on developments and edicts from the Department for Education over the Summer break. You are assured of updates if the planned reduction of restrictions becomes hindered.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you, our parents, for your continued support of the school over the past year. Being able to rely on your support has made the past year possible frankly and I understand completely that I have not been able to honour all requests. I also want to thank our incredible team of adults, who have worked tirelessly both in class with your children and behind the scenes.

I hope you will be able to take some time to rest and rejuvenate after we close, we will be thinking of you all, we will be contactable and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Smith'.

Caterpillars



In Caterpillars we made the most of the few sunny weeks and enjoyed lots of water play in the outside area. The children practised their pouring skills, investigated floating and sinking, and explored seaweed. Once we had finished playing, the children used it to water our herbs and flowers.

In addition to this the warm weather provided us with an opportunity to talk about keeping ourselves safe in the sun by wearing hats and applying sun cream. We talked about the importance of staying hydrated and drank lots of water. Best of all we enjoyed eating our morning snack outside in the shade.

We have been playing lots of group games, rolling the ball to one another and singing songs. This has helped the children practise sharing and taking turns plus building their confidence in using their voice in a group.

The children have also been learning about different types of transport. As a part of this topic the children chose a vehicle to make from pre-cut shapes; we had a super selection of buses, cars, trains, boats and a green tractor!

Recently the Caterpillar children have enjoyed meeting new friends who have come in to meet us ready for joining us in September. The children have been extremely welcoming and kind, making all the staff feel very proud. We have also been spending time with our friends in Butterflies and are looking forward to finishing off the term with a joint lunch time picnic and sports afternoon.

Wishing you all a sunny, relaxing and wonderful summer. We are looking forward to seeing you all again in September.

Butterflies



The children in Butterflies have had a very enjoyable half term. We welcomed the lovely sunshine that enabled us to take advantage to play and explore outside.

Our main theme the children focused on half term was 'Transport' They participated in creative activities such as; making colourful hot air balloons, boats, shaped trucks and a fantastic hand printed rocket card used for Father's day and Grandad's day. We hope you liked yours.

The children sung songs connected to themes such as 'Wheels on the Bus' and 'Down at the Station'. We took the opportunity to have a picnic inside and had a great time, sharing teddy bear stories, games and laughter.

During our PE lessons, the children practised many different running races in readiness for the Sports Day that we shared with Caterpillar Nursery. All the children and staff had a wonderful time – everybody was a winner!

We have had a fantastic half term sharing many happy times. However, we are sad to say goodbye to those lovely children who will be leaving Butterflies nursery. Some will be moving into Pre-Prep or starting Reception at another school, we wish them well as they start a new chapter in their school lives.



On behalf of Mrs. Pittaccio, Mrs. Lambert and myself, we would like to wish you all a very enjoyable summer and thank you for your continued support during a very challenging but successful year.

Pre Prep



The last half term has, as usual, rushed by with lots of learning, exploring and fun. With Miss Townsend we have been learning about rainforests and after discovering lots of information, the children created their own leaf booklets. We listened to Paddington Bear stories and the children wrote letters to Paddington and then created some extremely tasty jam sandwiches (a change from the usual marmalade!)

The half term finished with the arrival of a number of letters from Pirate Pete McParrot and the children have enjoyed writing back suggesting a list of useful things he will need to take on a trip, designing a pirate ship and of course giving him lots of ideas of places to hide treasure. We all made treasure maps and then went on a hunt of our own to see if we could find the hidden treasure!

The trip to the Dinosaur Park was a huge success. The children loved dashing about with their friends discovering dinosaurs and after our packed lunch we had time to explore the play area before finishing with an ice-cream for everyone. The sun shone and it was a truly delightful day.



We all enjoyed our Sports day and were determined that rain would not stop play! The rain quickly stopped and the children took part in different races including running, sack races and then played dodgeball. Mr Arregui made sure everyone had a fantastic time and even the staff had a race at the end (guess who won!)

Prep 1



What a fantastic half term Prep 1 have had, to round off a year that none of us will forget. I have been so proud of all of Prep 1's efforts and the maturity with which they have approached this year. The children have always shown such enthusiasm, positivity and resilience at every point during this year.

This half term we have become dinosaur explorers, we have learnt about different types of dinosaurs, what they ate, and

why they became extinct. The children really enjoyed all the artwork to go with this topic, making fossils, silhouettes in sunsets, and numerous paper plate dinosaurs. The children also have enjoyed exploring fossils in Science using the topic Carnival of the Animals.

In English we loved using 'Dinosaurs and All that Rubbish' and now have lots of budding Architects following 'Iggy Peck the Architect.' The children were able to form a tour guide about all the amazing buildings built in London! We had the most amazing time at Africa Alive for our class Trip – seeing new animals, and in particular a new found love of lemurs by all the class.

Prep 1 had a fierce Sports Day – with all children taking part, and showing support and encouragement for their friends. I have never seen a class so pleased to see their friends win, over themselves! It has been amazing to be a part of the children's progression and development this year, both academically but also socially.

They are kind, caring and considerate to their peers and I have been so proud to call them my class! Wishing you the best in Prep 2 – I will only be next door!



Prep 2



Prep 2 have had such fun this term! We have continued to embrace nature; visiting Pensthorpe Natural Park to feed the ducks and geese, visit the flamingos and go completely crazy at both the indoor and outdoor play areas! It was so enjoyable to get outside in the fresh air and stretch our legs.

In English, we have learned to be engineers, being inspired by the book *Rosie Revere, Engineer*. As part of this work we have studied Tower Bridge and even had a go at designing our own opening bridges using a range of different materials.

In our topic work we have studied Kenya; learning about the geography of the country and everyone's favourite part of the topic – the Kenyan wildlife! The children painted some amazing African Sunset pictures with their silhouetted animals. Prep 2, I have just loved teaching your art lessons this year- you are such a talented, creative bunch!

We mustn't forget, too, that we wish Mrs Rowley all the very best as she leaves us to go on her Maternity Leave. Mrs Rowley, you bring so much positivity, kindness and fun to the classroom, and your Special Person sessions are the highlight of our week!

Prep 2, you have been fantastic this year, and I know now that you are so ready for the move upstairs in September! Have a lovely summer!

Prep 3



This term Prep 3 have been very busy! Shortly after half term, we had a fantastic day out at Banham Zoo with Mrs Thornton, Miss Pink, Mrs Laudan and Mrs Potter. In particular, the children loved seeing the penguins, sea lions and giraffes. We thoroughly enjoyed watching "Hooch" the Eagle Owl and the vultures flying in the bird show as well as spotting cheetahs, snow leopards and siamangs.

Back in the classroom we have been working very hard. In English, we have been learning about persuasive language and advertisements. Children have enjoyed working in groups to write and present their own amazing adverts for Trainers. We had some incredible designs and descriptions, including "Rainbow Hearts" to help you run faster, trainers which use magnets to make you quicker and some which even allow you to run up walls and along ceilings! We are now enjoying some Animal Poems to end this year and have been learning about the different features of poetry.

In Maths we have been learning how to make scale drawings of shapes based on their measurements. We have been using our times table facts to work out a remainder and calculating how many biscuits can be divided between plates.

Our Geography topic this term was 'The UK'. Prep 3 have been learning and finding the names of different counties, cities, mountains and rivers. Our Art topic follows on from this and we have been exploring scenes of the city and countryside, including pointillism river scenes, dramatic sunsets and cityscape models. In French, Prep 3 have impressed me with their knowledge of numbers and have been learning how to say the days of the week and different dates in French. Prep 3 are excelling with their knowledge of Scratch in our Computing lessons and can make moving animations using different backgrounds. In Science, we have been learning about Rocks. We have identified different kinds of rocks and have been thinking about what the fossils of modern-day animals might look like in the future.

We thoroughly enjoyed preparing for "Pandora's Box" and the children put their hearts and souls into all the rehearsals and both performances. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the end of the school year. Have a wonderful summer! from Mrs Thornton, Miss Pink and Prep 3.



Prep 4



Prep 4 have enjoyed an adventure filled term going back in time and visiting the era of World War 2. We have explored the topic in great depth and the children have worked hard to produce their own project; choosing their point of interest to build this from. As a class, we have been partaking in healthy debates and all of the children have been fantastic at listening to others and arguing their case on a structured and knowledgeable basis.

We had lots of fun on our trip to Gressenhall where the children fully immersed themselves in a day as an evacuee child in WW2. We all dressed up and took part in lots of activities including: Home Guard training with moral boosting activities; working on the land and looking after the animals; rationing and making food out of those ingredients; and so much more!

Over the last term, Prep 4 have been very busy rehearsing for their theatre production of Pandora's Box. There has been an amazing level of commitment from all of the children and we are all very proud of their achievements! Their acting skills and

musicality have been pushed and they have all gone above and beyond to achieve their goals.





Prep 5 have had a fun – filled few weeks this half term. An obvious highlight has been performing in the Prep 5 and 6 productions of ‘The Nightingale’. The Prep 5 children made the most of their smaller roles and I am sure that you would agree that the acting and singing was fantastic. The main topic this term has been our study of the Vikings; Prep 5 has been engaged in all sorts of activities to bring this fascinating chapter of history to life, including devising adverts for Viking warriors, creating Viking knot patterns and using clay to create runic messages on swords, statues and more. In Computing, the children have enjoyed creating newspaper articles depicting Viking raids and have created informative information sheets based on their own research.

Prep 5 have also been creative in the kitchen; the children created and ate delicious dips and snacks on our Mexican day, and also enjoyed making and eating German – style pretzels. Fun was had by all at our trip to Eaton Vale Activity Centre, where they engaged in archery, cooking, buggy racing, axe throwing and raft building! Prep 5 have also shown good knowledge and inventiveness when they created board games based on some of the topics we have covered over the course of the year. It has been a very exciting and energetic half term; the children of Prep 5 are more than ready for a well-earned break!



Farewell Prep 6 2021!



It has been a whirlwind half term for Prep 6. The first week was spent on our annual residential at a hostel in Llangollen, Denbighshire. We were truly blessed with dry, sunny weather which enabled us to enjoy a wonderful week of white-water rafting, a hike to the top of a local hill to Castell Dinas Bran, trips to Rhyl beach and Chester Zoo (below), and an exhilarating ride on a roller coaster through a forest!

On our return, we relived our adventures as we wrote detailed recounts in English of our amazing trip, while in Maths we have been applying our learning this year

to plan a trip abroad, not only using calculation skills for budgets, but also currency conversion for spending money, data handling for comparing temperatures and rainfall and timetables for planes and trains. Who knew holidays involved so much Maths! In Science, the children have learned all about the circulatory system and how to lead a healthy life-style, creating their own board games using their new learning.

In Humanities, we launched the topic of Global Trade and the Economy with an exciting (and very noisy) trading game where the children experienced first-hand what is like to be a poor or rich country. One group (a developing country) suffered flooding (a cup of water) which ruined their crops (paper) and therefore produce (paper 2D shapes) and were not best pleased! We have had an introduction to Hinduism in RE, learning about the spread of Hinduism across the globe, the main beliefs and gods.

It was the turn of cookery in DT, so Prep 6 have become budding chefs. First they followed instructions to make three different types of burger and sauces, then, applying their healthy eating learning, they designed a healthy burger they would like to eat, complete with fillings. On the penultimate day of term, we made our burgers and celebrated the end of our learning with a picnic in the garden.



Parallel to all of this have been intense rehearsals leading up to our final performances of Nightingale to the Prep 5 and 6 parents. The play was especially enjoyed after missing the opportunity last year. It was wonderful for the children to be able to sing their hearts out and express themselves on stage so passionately - a true celebration.

As our current cohort of Prep 6 have prepared their NDPS memory books this week, we have shared many anecdotes of fun lessons, trips, plays, matches, concerts and comical moments over the years. It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Adeola, Melina, Cash, Simran, Lucas, Kyron, Milla, Olive, Rohit, Lydia, Elise, Raffi, Nathan, Tessy, Mateo, Rosie, Alex, Bonny, Alice and Poppy. We wish them all every happiness and success for the future and hope they come back to see us soon.

Have a wonderful summer break!

Musical Performance Photos:

Pandora's Box

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/WADLYe6LKrHvCNf3A>

Nightingale Part 1

<https://youtu.be/oVWqsOEV7Ss>

Nightingale Part 2

<https://youtu.be/90QqvKogh44>

Nightingale Part 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gC6MvHbflqk>

Nightingale Part 4

<https://youtu.be/7EWy2hKvjtM>

Nightingale Part 5

https://youtu.be/wDgKSKov_bs

Prep 6 Nightingale Pics

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/AMpdDY7YRvE5Xhbo6>

Sports Day Photos

Nursery Sports Day:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/qkPqU3KggS4DxbWn8>

Pre-Prep Sports Day:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/pT2FZg8uvhtzMMGV9>

Prep 1 Sports Day:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/qAN7gufdzWQMgMEY6>

Prep 2 Sports Day:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ZZGQyfNhNbG19W7s5>

Prep 3 Sports

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/9Bx3TJnZENEDrbft8>

Prep 4 Sports Day:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Xv2xbXs8MKPnUCUb7>

Prep 5 Sports Day:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/2c3XgS1QL3aRkymPA>

Prep 6 Sports Day:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Rv3XW4zd3fKThWbh9>

Trips and Fun Activity Photos

Pre-Prep to Dinosaur Park:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/waGZjzsVrNp5UyZ17>

Prep 2 Pensthorpe

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/gtjm5x83Gy9e6h97>

Prep 4 Gressenhall:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/DXxDGo33PuFej7Rq8>

Prep 5 Eaton Vale:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/dkmn921s561dsCqG9>

Prep 5 make Pretzels:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/qKj682ajEFLQ1VbVA>

Other

Prep 6 Prize Giving:

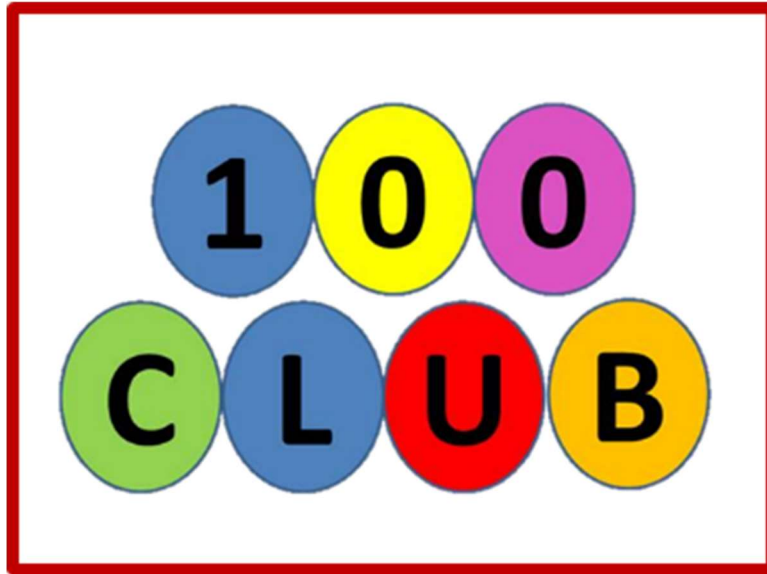
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/aoSKwkKww7kEHbX77>

Prep 6 The Last Few Days:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/vh43Thto3YnRHnMC8>

Prep 6 Memories and Dreams:

<https://youtu.be/Zo13MyGi8Uk>



Winners

April 2021

First Prize	£15	Oliver Campbell
Second Prize	£10	George Potter
Third Prize	£5	Mrs Hayward-Boyle

May 2021

First Prize	£15	Mr Shirley
Second Prize	£10	Eleni Karakoidas
Third Prize	£5	Mrs M Taylor

June 2021

Quarterly Prize	£50	Millie English
First Prize	£15	Max O'Herlihy
Second Prize	£10	Miss A Spray
Third Prize	£5	Mr Howes

July 2021

First Prize	£15	Hugh Orrell
Second Prize	£10	Lily Mitchell
Third Prize	£5	Oscar Harwood

PTA News



Frosty Friday



We raised an amazing £ 230.00



Sweetie Science Competition



We raised an amazing £178.86

The winners of the Smartie Art competition are as follows:

Lily Mitchell
Abigail Whitefoot

**Thank you for your continued
support**

Farewell to the Mitchell Family!



The Mitchell family have been a part of Notre Dame Prep for over 30 years and they are truly at the heart of our school family. In this time, 6 children have spent their primary school days at NDPS. We thank Dr and Mrs Mitchell for their amazing dedication to our school, we really will miss you all.

Thank you Pat!



It is with sadness that after 6 years of magnificent service, we are saying goodbye and thank you to Pat. After driving an HGV for 36 years too, Pat has earned a good rest and we do hope he will keep in touch! If you know anyone who would like to volunteer for this important position please do let us know.

Happy Summer Hols to you all!