

NDPS Newsletter October 2021

Dear Parents

It would be an untruth if I claimed that this half of term had been entirely as I planned! That said, we have remained 'in session' with minimal class closures and upset. I am indebted to our excellent staff team yet again, and our parent group for its unstinting support – thank you! The most disappointing part of this half term has been the curtailed day and I apologise for this.

We plan to be out of 'bubbles' and operating to 5.45pm from 1st November. **To this end, please keep updating us daily with positive test results during the half term break.** This may be done by replying to this email, or emailing headspa@notredameprepschool.co.uk We will announce a formal 'back to normal' all being well, on Thursday 28th October.

Many thanks again and do enjoy the break as much as you can.



Headlines.

- (i) **United Education will be running Holiday Club at Christmas from 16th to 23rd December. To book visit: <https://www.united-education.co.uk/united-camps/adventure-camps/>**
- (ii) **Parents Evenings start 8th November for 2 weeks. These are still planned to be 'in person'**
- (iii) **PLEASE KEEP US UPDATED WITH POSITIVE TESTS DURING HALF TERM**
- (iv) **Our Photographer will be back on 9th November**
- (v) **The Flu Jab team will be back - date TBC**
- (vi) **Nativity Plays are 6th and 7th December. We hope, in person.**
- (vii) **Dance Lessons to begin properly after half term subject to 'coming out of bubbles.**

T-riffic exciting news! Today our 'Breakasaurus Rex' arrived at NDPS. Our new dinosaur friend will be a part of the GoGoDiscover 2022 trail which will be launched in the city next summer. We are very excited to be taking part in this charity project for Break. Our dinosaur is yet to be named and decorated, but this will happen in the next half term, so look out for updates....



Nursery changes

Our Nursery classes will soon be back to normal ie 2 classes. The whole Nursery setting will now be called MINIBEASTS! If you are able to support us by displaying leaflets at your place of work, please let us know!



Bye Bye Laptops





Prep 5 have been enjoying using the school's recently purchased Chromebook computers to create their own websites. Every child has worked at their own computer to research and write about an area of interest. Through this work, they have learned how to search the internet more safely and efficiently, how to create hyperlinks and have had lots of typing practice too! Teachers are equipped with Chrome Tablets too!

Many pupils have shown real initiative, also working on these at home, as they can access any work saved in school using their personal Google accounts. Most of the websites have now been published; if you want to learn something new, here are the addresses of a couple of websites made in class. Enjoy!

<https://sites.google.com/pupil.notredameprepschool.co.uk/hamsterandco/home>

<https://sites.google.com/pupil.notredameprepschool.co.uk/my-anne-marie-site/home>

Communicating with Home

We are currently investigating new ways to communicate with parents about their child's progress. We understand the impact that the COVID restrictions have had in regards to access to the classroom, and we would like to find a way to share with you the wonderful things the children do in school. Prep 4 parents- you will be some test subjects for this; lucky you!

Your children will come home with some login information for ClassDojo. You can find out more by visiting www.classdojo.com or by downloading the ClassDojo app. This is a free app, and there is no cost to you at all.

This is a system where the children, parents and teachers have logins, and you will be able to see when your child has been awarded 'points' in class, and there is the opportunity to share photos and comments. You will also be able to award 'Home Points' if this is something you would like to do, too.

When the children log in, their 'egg' will hatch and they will have a cute monster avatar, which I am sure they will enjoy.

We are going to give this a test run for a couple of weeks, so please do let us know your feedback once we are up and running. After half term we have another system to test, and your opinions regarding preferences will be welcomed.

If you have any other questions, please do let me know.

Mrs Laudan.

TRIPS THIS TERM SO FAR:

Prep 1 have had a super first half term back at School. We have been working hard on our letter formation, full stops and capital letters. Prep 1 enjoyed reading Willy the Wimp, and made guides explaining 'How to be Brave.' In Maths we have been counting and ordering numbers, the children enjoyed finding missing numbers and using tangible objects to count one more and one less than. In Topic, we have been exploring our school and in particular drawing aerial maps and using map symbols. The children drew some beautiful drawings of the School, and their own views of our community, and who or what makes forms a community. In Art, we have been doing self-portraits. The children have learnt how to include each facial feature correctly on the face. We explored

some Picasso portraits using collage to reflect his cubism era! Finally, we learnt about Andy Warhol's pop art genre. Prep 1 loved the bright colours and repeated patterns he used. In Science we have explored the different animals in the world, including humans. We explored diets, organising them into carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We have been enjoying doing a mindful meditation every Friday morning to reflect on the week, and practice positive outlooks and self-esteem. This has linked well to our PSHE discussions about how to be a good friend and what our own strengths are. Prep 1 were lucky enough to go to see Dippy at the Cathedral as a class. The children loved meeting Dippy and seeing how he was put together after travelling so far!



Prep 6 spent a gloriously sunny autumnal day at the Victorian school of Great Cressingham experiencing a school day in the life of a Victorian village child. In this little corner of rural Norfolk, we literally stepped back in time as we were met by school mistress, Mrs Sally North (Ma'am to the children!), ringing the morning bell as we filed in through the separate doorways marked "Boys" and "Girls".

The children then proceeded to take their pews at the wooden desks and were transfixed as their ebullient teacher, never slipping from role, tapped her cane at a huge blackboard teaching them copperplate lettering, which they dutifully scribed on their slate boards. Their morning was spent experiencing a variety of short lessons including a class reading of a moral tale, times table chanting, a mental arithmetic and spelling test and practising the harvest hymns for the

forthcoming harvest festival. Play time truly was exactly that – time to play out in the wonderful meadow, having ‘hoop and stick’ races and, in the courtyard, with marbles, skittles, a variety of wooden spinning tops, quoits and skipping ropes.

Tired from their burst of energy, the children were grateful to sit outside and eat their simple but hearty Victorian lunch before returning the classroom for their final lessons of the day: sewing lavender bags for the girls and drawing objects of curiosity from Mrs North’s fascinating cupboard of natural history delights, followed by (and this excited the children immensely) the chance to write with real ink in little ink pots and a dip pen, copying the ornate copperplate style.

Our wonderful “living history” experience was a very special way to celebrate nearing the end of our Victorian journey this half term. It will certainly remain fondly in the children’s memories for years to come.







Prep 3 went on a school trip to Norwich Castle for the chance to explore and learn more about Ancient Egypt. We had the opportunity to travel back in time to: meet an archaeologist from the 1800s who let us observe and handle real artefacts; prepare a food for a big feast by working on the land and picking fruits from trees; explore the process of mummification; how to work through the underworld by battling through stages to get their heart weighed by the great Anubis; and, we recreated our very own collar with colours to represent different aspects of the world. We ended the day with a debate about whether or not it was okay to take objects from the Ancient Egyptian tombs with great, informative knowledge to back up our opinions. All of the children had a fantastic day and thoroughly enjoyed their time at Norwich Castle.



This half term, **Pre Prep** have enjoyed a visit to Norwich Cathedral to meet a very special dinosaur ... Dippy the Diplodocus! The children enjoyed studying Dippy's skeleton which we discovered was comprised of an incredible 292 bones! Pre Prep were particularly interested in Dippy's long tail and understood that this would have been his means of defending himself against unwanted predators. On returning to school, Pre Prep have had fun creating their own dinosaur fossils using clay, taking on the role of a palaeontologist by looking for dinosaur bones in sand and writing a simple recount about their visit. The highlight of the trip for many was travelling on the minibus for the very first time! Many thanks to Mr Thornton and Mr Bell for accompanying us.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 1st Nov Back to School**
- 2nd Nov Prep 4 to Norwich Castle**
- 4th Nov Prep 1 to Puppet Theatre**
- 9th Nov School photographer returns**
- 11th Nov Prep 6 Career Interviews**
- 23rd Nov Mass in school (sorry pupils only)**
- 2nd Dec Prep 5 Time and Tide Museum**
- 6th Dec Nativity Plays**
- 7th Dec Nativity Plays**

- 9th Dec** **Christmas Lunch in school**
- 13th Dec** **Carol Service at St John's 6.30pm**
- 15th Dec** **Last Day of Term**
- 16th Dec** **United Education Camp Starts**