



NOTRE DAME

PREP SCHOOL

Newsletter February 2022

Dear Parents

It seems but a moment since I was singing Christmas carols and not for the first time I have thought that time moves along faster in schools. Aspects of normality are certainly creeping back into school life and all being well, our School Assemblies will begin again after half term. These are such important parts of our curriculum and contribute much to our sense of community.

We are still battling with COVID infections and we have a day with 9 members of staff off work recently. I hope none of you noticed! Re-infection is definitely a theme and among adults too but we will carry on regardless!

With thanks for your continued support.

RT

Mini Beasts

Caterpillar and Butterfly Nurseries

I would like to welcome our new children that have joined both Caterpillars and Butterflies nurseries during this term. We have had lots of fun!



Our first theme has been 'Winter', activities included making snowmen with lots of happy faces. In Caterpillars, the children decorated snowmen with hats and scarves and played with cornflour in place of real snow! In Butterflies, the children made, painted and decorated bobble hats for their snowmen all are now displayed in the classroom. The children enjoyed learning new songs and joining in with the actions, such as: 'I'm a little snowman' and '10 Little Snowmen'. To finish this theme, the children in Butterflies made mittens, decorating them with snowflakes and wrote their own names on the cuffs.

Both nurseries celebrated Chinese New Year – the year of the Tiger. In Caterpillars the children painted fantastic tigers and tiger masks, by mixing colours and making stripy patterns. Whilst in Butterflies the children coloured in Chinese flags, tigers, made lanterns and masks.

Our next theme was 'Wild Animals' where all the children enjoyed playing with and naming different animals. We looked at different patterns that animals have, and imitated the moves they make. We read stories throughout the theme including 'Monkey Puzzle' and 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. The books also inspired us to create activities for the children that involved the animals in the stories. In Butterflies, the children enjoyed listening to and retelling both stories.

Both nurseries have enjoyed their music lessons with Mr Wright; enthusiastically joining in with the singing. They are very interested in the different instruments he plays and listen intently.

On behalf of the all Nursery staff, I would like to wish you an enjoyable week's break and thank you for your continued support.

Mrs S



Pre Prep

Pre Prep began this half term thinking about winter. The children have learnt how to support garden birds during these colder months and enjoyed making simple bird feeders. They have found out about hibernation and why certain animals do this. The children had a super time exploring a range of materials including sticks, leaves, moss and feathers to create a suitable bed for a creature to hibernate in. We have studied the Polar Regions, focussing on Antarctica, and created a lovely new display for the classroom. The children have also loved winter themed yoga, building igloos using sugar cubes, investigating ice and listening to Vivaldi's winter from The Four Seasons.

At the beginning of February, the children discovered more about Chinese New Year and had great fun completing a variety of activities to celebrate this event including making tiger masks, dragon dancing and even a chopstick challenge! Our current topic is 'Space'. The children were fascinated to learn about famous astronauts such as Valentina Tereshkova – the first female in space and Tim Peake who spent 186 days working on the International Space Station. Pre Prep have also taken part in their own astronaut training programme and I am pleased to say there was a 100% pass rate.

During our English lessons, we have shared some super stories including 'The Marvellous Moon Map' by Teresa Heapy. It is wonderful to see how confident the children are becoming during their phonic sessions, reading and writing short sentences independently. Well done everyone! In maths, Pre Prep have been introduced to the

concepts of doubling, halving odd and even numbers and number bonds to 10. We are finishing this half term by completing activities related to Children's Mental Health Week and the theme 'Growing Together'. We have planted some cress seeds and will be watching them for signs of growth with interest.

Wishing you all a very happy half term!

Miss Grand and Miss Duell



Prep 1

Prep 1 have had a super half term. We have enjoyed really exciting Topic work on our Country, and learning about the countries in the UK. Most recently, we focussed on the capital of our country – London. We enjoyed making London landmarks from junk modelling, such as the London Eye. In Maths we have been working on addition, and crossing over ten, using tangible objects to help further our understanding. In English, we made information texts 'All About Eggs' using the book 'The Odd Egg.' We used our learning in PSHE on the emergency services and calling 999 to then write an independent information leaflet. We can now recall when to call 999, and what an emergency actually is – this linked well to who we felt we could trust in the community. We even formed our own investigations in Science to decide what materials would be best to keep a gingerbread man dry in the rain. We tested the properties of materials to make a conclusion. Prep 1 have been focussing on kindness this half term, and how to show this to ourselves as well as others. We have been talking about working as a team and helping each other. This was put to excellent use at 'The Easton College Multi-skills' morning. I could not have been more proud of Prep 1, amongst other schools, taking part in each activity, with a brilliant 'have a go' attitude and sounds of encouraging cheers to their peers. Next half term holds even more excitement, with Intrepid Explorers as our Topic! Well done Prep 1 on a super half term!





Prep 2

Prep 2 have had a fun-packed start to the year. In both English and History, we have been learning about the Great Fire of London. We have learned a lot of facts about how life was very different in 1666 and how Samuel Pepys kept his diary buried in his garden for safekeeping until after the fire! Children have written some excellent 'Warning' posters to those who find themselves near a fire and also some super stories in the character of a cat escaping from the flames. They have also designed their 'new London' to prevent a fire spreading faster if it should happen again. As part of our Art work for this term, Prep 2 have also been very creative in making Tudor buildings in the style of Thomas Farriner's bakery complete with fireplaces and families to complement their work about the Great Fire.



In Maths we have been learning how to share and divide numbers and have done lots of work with counters and other practical objects. This is the basis for learning our 2, 5 and 10 times tables!

We are building on our phonics knowledge and each week Prep 2 conjure up some fantastic sentences containing our new sounds for each week.

In RE we have been learning about the gospels of the New Testament and been retelling stories from these. There have been some beautifully illustrated retellings of the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. In

PSHRE we have been learning about the Law and who to turn to when things go wrong. We have also been talking about different groups and concluded the term with Children's Mental Health Week and how we can help each other grow together. Everyone has very much enjoyed Tennis and Golf in PE lessons too. A very happy half term to all of you from Prep 2!



Prep 3

Prep 3 have very much enjoyed their learning journey this half term. We have worked our way through the royalty throughout British History – our personal favourite being King Henry VIII where we made comical posers advertising for the position of yet another new wife.

In Science, we have researched a diverse range of scientists: from Mary Anning to George Washington Carver. One day we were creating flip-book fact files and the next we travelled back in time to place ourselves into the shoes of a palaeontologist along the Jurassic Coast! As we looked at the lives of these amazing individuals, we questioned the stereotypes that can often partner with this area of work. This has crossed over into PSHRE with a big focal point on equality for all.

Diving back in time, we explored the realms of Greek Mythology in Literacy; writing our own tales and myths based on the selection that we explored in class. We used writing techniques to enhance our stories and pushed ourselves by flipping clauses around in sentences, using adverbs for more effect, and composing dialogue backed up with descriptive reporting clauses. Using our creativity, we designed a new pair of wings for Icarus to keep him safe when he flies too close to the sun!

Maths has been great this term, we have pushed ourselves to master compact addition by first visiting expanded addition by using our partitioning knowledge and then moving onto compact addition; becoming experts in place-valuing numbers up to four-digit numbers! We have visited time and are building our confidence using digital and analogue clocks; converting between the two and transferring our knowledge with daily clock reading challenges!

Art this term has introduced us to sculpting, drawing and painting the wonderful world of fruit and vegetables! We especially enjoyed sculpting realistic peppers and using watercolours to paint our own onions and oranges. Some of us even extended our learning and designed a face using fruit and vegetables as the features too!

We have explored the water of life in RE this term, taking a look at how the grace from Jesus is a lot like the water needed for a flower. This unit has spiked our understanding of how each person is different and that they still deserve the same level of care; just like a flower does. We have explored lots of Bible stories and better understand their fabulous symbolism and discussed how we could use those lessons in our own life.

This final week we have spent lots of time exploring Children's Mental Health Awareness Week: finding lots of ways in which we can be more mindful and observant of emotions for ourselves and other people. It has been a great way to end this half term and we are very looking forward to exploring our new topics when we come back to school soon!



Prep 4

It's been a busy half term in Prep 4- We have enjoyed reading the book 'The Firework Makers Daughter' and used this to describe characters, develop story plots and of course design our own fireworks!

In Science we have carried out a number of experiments linked to our topic exploring different states of matter. We have made gas by mixing solids and liquids, observed the different states of water and melted chocolate although there was a great deal of disappointment when this wasn't eaten!

There have been some fun sporting events to complement our usual PE sessions in particular the girls performing exceptionally well at netball when visiting another school.



In our Topic lessons this half term, we have studied China, looking at the different geographical areas of the country, exploring the Chinese culture and learning more about the Lunar New Year, and creating our own Tiger pictures inspired by this, and the art of Henri Rousseau. We even had a go at writing Mandarin, and designed our own Willow Pattern plates. We finished this half term looking at the Winter Olympics- we decided Bobsleigh or Luge would be the most fun to try out!

We finished this half term celebrating Children's Mental Health Week. This year's focus was 'Growing together'. We spent time thinking about how we had grown and changed and how we support each other. Talking about how we have all developed was made so much easier when Mrs Campbell pointed out just what we all got up to when we were in Pre-Prep!!!



Prep 5

This term, our main topic has been Ancient Greeks history and mythology. The children have really enjoyed creating a class book named 'The Further Adventures of Odysseus' and it has been a real labour of love, showcasing some excellent writing and illustrations. Prep 5 have also conducted their own research using the internet and class books to write about their own specialist areas and to make fact files about Greek gods. Seeing as the Ancient Greeks developed democracy, the children have also held debates and written persuasive and informative arguments on a range of topics.

The artwork produced by Prep 5 has also been inspired by this fascinating civilisation; they have depicted the Ancient Olympics on their own vase designs, created masks that were inspired by Ancient Greek theatre and drawn charcoal pictures of mythical monsters and beasts.



In Maths, an emphasis on number work, particularly times tables, has continued over the past few weeks although other areas have also been explored, such as learning more deeply about 2D and 3D shapes. In RE the children have produced work about the memorial sacrifice of the Eucharist, through conversation, writing and drawing. Prep 5's science topic has been forces. The children have enjoyed exploring different types of forces, such as air and water resistance, and have devised experiments to assess friction of materials.

In Computing, we have learned about developed their understanding of computer systems and how information is transferred between systems and devices. They have also thought more deeply about e – safety. Some of the children enjoyed making an multiple choice quiz using Google Slides. As well as learning about spam and viruses earlier in the term, they have taken part in a successful 'Safer Internet Day' this week, celebrating their role in creating a safer internet, whether that is whilst gaming and creating content or interacting with their friends and peers.

PSHRE continues to be very important to the school, and Prep 5's focus this half term has been to think about consent, and, when learning about homelessness, the children have made board game and taken part in a formal debate about this issue. It is also 'Children's Mental Health Week' this week and the children will be creating poetry to about what it means to 'grow together'.

Once again, I cannot express how impressed I am by Prep 5 so far this term; for such a short half term, they have packed in an awful lot! The children have worked extremely hard and have been a delight to teach.



Prep 6

An electrifying half term in Prep 6

This term, in Prep 6, we have enjoyed much practical, cross-curricular work in Science and DT around the topic of Electricity. We began by investigating static electricity in order to understand electric current, conductors and insulators. The children then went on to investigate the effect of different voltages on the function of components (right), using their findings to plan their own group investigations to see how changing components affects the function of them.

Using their knowledge of circuits, Prep 6 then went on to design and create Victorian rooms for a museum (below), complete with a working light and switch, which they all thoroughly enjoyed.



In English, Prep 6 have been reading *Skellig*, by David Almond and working on composition and effect of their writing. With a commission to re-write an episode in the book to create atmosphere and suspense, the children penned some incredibly tense pieces, focusing on powerful sentence openers and the use of vivid description and figurative language. They then edited and redrafted their writing for a class book (above).

In Maths, our focus has been data handling and measures. The children learned to convert between imperial and metric measures, drawing conversion graphs and pie charts. Meanwhile, in Computing, Prep 6 have become experts on the World Wide Web, learning about its origins and growth, while discovering what web crawlers do and learning how to hone searches to make them more effective and be aware of sponsored content. We ended the term marking Safer Internet Day, learning about how to have fun AND stay safe and behave appropriately when playing online games.

In RE, our focus has been the Bible. The children have studied extracts from the Old and New Testaments to appreciate the sheer variety of genres and understand that all the writings have God as their source.



Meanwhile, in Topic, Prep 6 have learned how our coastline was formed, developing their understanding of erosion to include biological, physical and chemical erosion by carrying out investigations (right). We ended the term projecting forward to what the world will be like in 2050 due to climate change and population growth.

Our last week of term has been celebrating Children's Mental Health Week with some mindfulness activities and thinking about how we grow emotionally and can help others to do the same. We took an English lesson out into the garden to get close to nature, observing the natural world through different eyes, and developed images which we crafted into poems.

Norwich School Cross Country

Last Friday, 4th February we were invited to the annual Norwich Lower School XC races where our runners showed great effort in a cold and a very competitive afternoon of racing. Many thanks to parents for supporting this event and braving the cold! Special mention to those runners that got into the top ten finishers; Sophia and Nathanael Pilch, Niamh McAuley and Ayah Mohammed.

Runner	Pos
Sophia Pilch	6
Nathanael Pilch	6
Niamh Mc Auley	6
Ayah Mohammed	7
Cruz Muddel	13
Eleni Karakoidas	14
William McFarlane	15
Ezra Lekanyang	16
Daniel Szabo	17
Louis Cawley	17
Georgia Spence	19
Cameron Scott	20



JUNIOR BAKE OFF!

My name is Conor and I'm a Casting Assistant Producer at Love Productions; the company behind The Great British Bake Off, The Great British Sewing Bee and The Great Pottery Throw Down. We are delighted to say that we have recently opened applications for the 8th series of **Junior Bake Off**; a Channel 4 programme that celebrates the culinary talent and ambition of the younger generation in Britain. With this in mind, we are contacting schools in the hope that you can help us spread the word regarding this exciting opportunity.

We are looking for young budding bakers between **9-12 years old**.

Filming would take place from July 2022, but our **applications close on Sunday 13th March 2022**.

Interested bakers can apply online at - www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 21 st February	School Opens
Thursday 24 th February	Prep 1 Trip – Bookbugs & Dragontales
Wednesday 2 nd March	Mass at St John's Cathedral
Thursday 3rd March	World Book Day – Dress as a Book Character
Friday 4 th March	P5 & P6 Girls – Netball Match
Tuesday 15 th March	Norfolk County Music Festival – Preps 3 - 6
Tuesday 22 nd March	Pre Prep – Multi Skills at Easton College
Monday 28 th March	Easter Concert
Tuesday 29 th March	Mass – Preps 1- 6
Thursday 31st March	School Closes for Easter – No After School Club on this day
Sun 15 th May-Fri 20 th May	Prep 6 to Wales

- **Reports** - Children in Pre Prep to Prep 6 will have Mid-Term Reports today – please check in book bags for these!
- **Clubs** - Extra-Curricular Clubs will be available for booking soon- please look out for an email with further details
- **Uniform** – We are still in Winter Uniform until Easter, please can you check that your child's uniform is still fitting; skirts should be a suitable length and after half term, we will no longer need non-uniform sweatshirts as the weather should be more temperate, and we have the option of the School Fleece. Half term is a great time to check that everything is still named, including bags, water bottles and any uniform.