



## Newsletter July 2022

Dear Parents

Please enjoy our last Newsletter for this academic year. This term has had so many highlights and we are genuinely thrilled with the academic success of our leavers in their SATs. Prep 6, you have been a delight and we ask please that you remember us and visit us on occasion. You have done so well in being aspirational to our younger pupils too and in some cases helping our very youngest in Nursery Classes – we wish you all every success. Well done to all our school children as well and do all enjoy the holidays safely.

As previously mentioned, we say goodbye to Mrs Potter, Miss Potter, Miss Harris, Miss Grange and Mrs Lynch. We are grateful for all your hard work and we will be thinking of you in your new work or studies.

A truly happy summer to you all.

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### **Mini Beasts - Caterpillars and Butterflies Nurseries**

This half term has been both an exciting and busy time for Caterpillar and Butterfly nurseries. The warm weather enabled us to spend lots of time outside embracing nature in the school garden. Caterpillars had tricycle races, imaginary lunches, and tea parties in the playhouse. They had lots of water play using various equipment and enjoyed playing in mud and getting messy! Butterflies had endless fun building dens, exploring, and played lots of games, such as hide and seek.

Our theme was 'Flowers and Growing'. There was great anticipation and excitement waiting for plants to grow. In Caterpillars they planted sunflower seeds. We discussed what makes seeds grow and it was a pleasure to see the children's faces when small shoots appeared. In Butterflies, we planted cress seeds and waited patiently for them to grow. We all talked and learnt about different parts of a flower and it was good to hear some of the children describing this amongst themselves. In both nurseries the children participated in creative activities, including sticking, painting and even using 2D shapes to make flowers. In Butterflies, they learnt about Vincent Van Gogh's famous 'Sunflowers' artwork and the children painted their own interpretation of his work. This resulted in some beautiful paintings.

It was lovely to welcome back parents to sports day which we shared with Pre Prep. Mr. Arregui made sure everybody had a great time, especially the children. We also enjoyed parents being part of our

play and stay sessions. I know the children were very excited to show their mums, dads and even grandparents, around the nurseries. Thank you for making this such a success.

It has been a great year for everybody in Mini Beasts. We are very proud of all the achievements the children have made. It will be sad to say goodbye to those who will be leaving us and wish them good luck as they move into Pre Prep or start new nurseries and schools.

On behalf of myself and all the staff in Mini Beasts, we would like to wish you an enjoyable summer and thank you for your continued support.





Mrs. Sophocleous

### Prep 1

What a fantastic half term Prep 1 have had, to round up a wonderful year. 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 and positivity 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 all about all the amazing buildings built in London – particularly amazed by the Gherkin and the Shard! Prep 1 had a fierce Sports Day – with all children taking part, and showing support and encouragement for their peers.



The children have always had a competitive nature, however it was clear how supportive they were of their peers doing well too. It has been amazing to be a part of the children's progression and development this year; academically, socially, and emotionally. Prep 1 have the ability to bring a smile to all, and I often have comments from other members of staff about the joyful nature of the class, and I know they will carry this on into Prep 2 – wishing you all the very best for the rest of your school life!



## **Prep 2**

Prep 2 have had a fantastic end to the academic year! Everyone has worked very hard this term. In Maths this term we began by learning to tell the time – revising o'clock and half past, as well as quarter past and quarter to. Everyone enjoyed making their own clocks to practise telling the time at home. As well as this, we have been learning about weights and measures. Children have been learning how to use a balance scale – finding objects in the classroom which have the same weight and then weighing, measuring and comparing. In English, for our topic of 'Rosie Revere, Engineer' we have written some super letters to Rosie encouraging her not to give up on her dreams and in our cross-curricular Art project, we have designed incredible machines, gadgets and helmets from recycling materials kindly sent in from home. Our Science topic of Plants has been an interesting one and children have learned how plants grow from seed. We have also planted Nasturtium seeds as well as watching the class herb garden grow and have enjoyed taking a turn to nurture and water their own plants.

Our History topic this term was 'Kings and Queens' – we have enjoyed learning about different British monarchs and also how food has very much changed through the ages – the meals at a Medieval Banquet caused some interesting reactions – especially the pie which contains a whole deer! In RE we have been learning about Treasures and how we can look after our world, before exploring Islam. In Computing we have been creating beautiful Art work and we have begun coding using Scratch.

Our class trip to Bewilderwood on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> was a lovely day of celebration for the whole class. Everyone behaved beautifully and they were a real credit to NDPS. Everyone had a super time and especially enjoyed the giant slides – staff included!

What a lovely term it has been in Prep 2! A very happy and restful Summer Holiday to you all.

Mrs Thornton, Miss Grange, Miss Potter and Miss Thrupp.



### Prep 3

Lots of fun has been had this term! Prep 3 has very much enjoyed exploring all about the rainforests; searching through the layers to discover habitats of a diverse range of creatures and understanding the climate and weather that accompanies them. We researched a range of rainforests across the world and presented weather forecasts by using our computing knowledge to create an interactive presentation. Innovatively minded, Prep 3 eagerly took on the task of creating their own multi-layer rainforest creature; merging learning about animals to ensure that theirs was able to survive, eat and travel freely between the layers.

We had the delight of building a foundation of prior knowledge for our topic from our summer musical: 'The Emerald Crown'. Diligent and determined, the children worked hard to piece all of the intricacies together to deliver an outstanding performance at the Playhouse Theatre; they should be immensely proud of their achievements. Every child performed with confidence and happiness; a true reflection of the effort that went into the production.

Creativity has been the theme for Literacy this term as the children have journeyed using their artistic flair to compose shape poetry and calligrams. Everyone produced wonderful triangle and diamond shaped poems about a chosen animal and wrote with a natural flow and rhythm. Towards the end of this term, we explored Micheal Morpuro's 'Dolphin Boy'; using perspectives to shape our understanding of the emotions of the characters we met. We ended the unit of work with a factual look at dolphins where we contrasted fictional and non-fictional story writing and how to get the balance right for the reader.

Prep 3 have been motivated mathematicians this term. They have worked hard exploring grid method multiplication; all things shape and symmetry; angle and fractions; and, a range of division methods. Understanding place value and the importance of methodical working, the children picked up short division with ease and can now comfortably carry and find remainders.

Our RE topic of the term has been Islam and we have learnt all about the culture and practices of this fascinating faith. The children found it highly interesting and have shown a wonderful level of respect and curiosity when exploring this topic; particularly enjoying learning about the different festivals that take place over the year.

We have had a truly wonderful year full of fun and treasurable moments. Our personal favourite being our end of term trip to Pensthorpe where we explored dinosaurs, met some moths and vital pollinators, went pond dipping and had lots of fun on the indoor and outdoor play areas; an unforgettable day of nature filled fun! Each child in Prep 3 has progressed and achieved across all areas of their lives. It has been a year full of laughter and fun and I am delighted to be with them again next year in Prep 4.

Have a well-deserved summer holidays and thank you all for being fabulous!





Miss Galer and Mrs Johnson

#### **Prep 4**

Prep 4 have had a magical and extremely busy end to the year. In English we have been using the book *The Land of Neverbelieve* as a stimulus for writing. This beautiful book is packed full of creative and imaginative flora and fauna found in an as yet unknown island. The children used this to create their own imaginative creature or plant and even wrote to the Natural History Museum in the hope of persuading them to include it in their collections!

Our topic this term has been World War 2. The children have learnt about life during the war and chose an area they were particularly interested in to research independently. They were then able to present their projects to the class which they did with great enthusiasm. We all learnt a great deal about the different aircraft, Anne Frank and how Norwich survived!

We have had some huge highlights this term too. Our summer musical 'The Emerald Crown' was truly amazing. The children all worked extremely hard in the build up to the performance and I am sure you will agree, were simply fantastic on the night! Sports Day was a hot and lively afternoon. Again, three cheers to all our competitors, we had some fantastic results and lots of huge smiles during the event. It was, of course, particularly wonderful to see just how fast some of our parents are!!

And finally, our trip to Harry Potter. After a rather early start, we arrived, packed lunches in hand ready for our magical experience. And magical it was! A particular highlight was, when wandering through The Forbidden Forest, an extremely huge and hairy spider suddenly leapt forward. Nobody jumped – honest!! What a great trip to finish with Mrs Potter!

Prep 4 even made their own lunches on Thursday this week, including delicious wraps and chocolate muffins. We were impressed with how the class prepared (and ate!) their salad! You can see pictures here: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/QNDeehU2h3T5iUgF6>

It was too hard to choose photos for the newsletter – but there are so many for you to view on the google photos links!

It leaves us just to say – WELL DONE EVERYONE! It has been a fabulous year, you have all worked so hard and been a real joy to teach. Have a wonderful summer holiday, relax and have fun, and we look forward to seeing you all in September.







Mrs L, Mrs C, Mrs D and Mrs P

### **Prep 5**

As the academic year started to draw to a close, Prep 5 have certainly had a fun – filled few weeks. We started the term with the residential trip to Eaton Vale Activity Centre. Here, the children tried their hand at archery, climbing, shooting, buggy racing, axe throwing, raft building and much more! We had lots of fun and Prep 5 were a credit to our school in every way.

In English, we have enjoyed reading the book ‘Kensuke’s Kingdom’ by Michael Morpurgo, and the children have been involved in all sorts of creative work to really get to grips with this modern classic. As one of the main characters in the book is an amateur Japanese artist, we have been studying various artworks and styles in culture, and have created beautiful abstract images using the concept of ‘notan’, manga drawings and even origami. Prep 5 have also enjoyed learning about the Vikings and highlights from this topic include drawing portraits of berserkers and learning about Viking battle tactics.

Another obvious highlight this term has been performing in the Prep 5 and 6 productions of ‘Wonderland’. I am sure that you would agree that the acting and singing was superb, and

the Prep 5 children acted their hearts out! Both Sports Day and Thursday's special House Competition Day gave the children an opportunity to show their competitive side too.

A few weeks ago, the children also enjoyed a UEA – led workshop to support their French. They were tasked with translating a children's book to English. Over the last few days, the children have shown excellent teamwork and creativity when making some board games with their friends, based on their Prep 5 topics.

I'm sure that the children will agree with me that it has been very special having Mr Hook co-teaching alongside myself this term. We look forward to seeing more of him when he takes up a full-time position at school from September. Well done, Mr Hook and thank you for your friendliness and excellent teaching!

It has been a real pleasure to teach this wonderful class once again! Enjoy the summer, Prep 5 and good luck for next year!

Mr McGrane, Mr Hook and Mrs Lansom.







### **A Sensational Swansong for Prep 6**

One of the highlights of Prep 6's final half term has to be the spectacular performance of *Wonderland* at the Norwich Playhouse. After having worked so hard on their singing and acting, it felt like a celebration to be finally on the imposing back stage of a professional theatre with lights and a vast audience. On catching their first glimpse of their new performance space at the morning rehearsal, the children's anticipation and excitement was tangible. But nerves were put aside that evening as they confidently commanded the stage and belted out rousing songs in what everyone agreed was possibly the best Prep 6 play yet. A huge well done to all the cast!

Coming back to the classroom after SATs and the play is a hard act to follow, so much of our learning in this half term is active. In Maths, we began the half term using and applying many of the skills learned this year in the context of planning a holiday. From studying climate and temperatures of different countries and plotting temperature and rainfall graphs to find the best time to travel, to converting Euros and US dollars and comparing the prices of self-catering, half and full board hotels and % discounts, we practised the skills necessary to plan a holiday. For some light relief after lots of calculation work, we took a dive into the fascinating world of Maths in Art and Nature. The children began by making tessellated patterns using geometric shapes and then tried their hand at drawing Islamic patterns to link with their RE topic of Islam. We then moved into fractals, drawing the Sierpinski triangle and investigating the Mandelbrot set and looking at examples of this in nature, the universe and the human body – mind-boggling but fascinating stuff!

In Science, we continued learning about the human body and how nutrients from our food are absorbed and used. The children went out onto the playground and conducted an investigation into the effect of different exercises on their heart rate in order to find out which is the best for fitness (cue: an excuse for lots of fun running, skipping, star jumps and burpees!) Following this, we took a journey from the safety of the classroom into the world of drugs, discovering the effects of different legal and illegal drugs on the human body, also thinking, in PSHE, of reasons why young people might be tempted to take drugs and strategies for managing peer pressure. The children then put this learning to good use in Computing, planning, filming and creating documentaries through iMovie about how to lead a healthy life. We definitely have some promising TV presenters!

In DT, we hit the kitchen designing and making burgers and then planning some healthy choices of bun and burger toppings to accompany them. Burger recipes were quite inventive including a Chinese-5-spice, Italian mozzarella, Mexican turkey and Asian inspired chickpea. We celebrated the end of this topic with an alfresco lunch where all reported loving their creations!

For our Topic and English, we stepped back in time to the Golden Age of Elizabeth 1. Captivated by this adventurous time of exploration, the children learned the names and purposes of parts of a galleon and found out about the tough life of an Elizabethan sailor. They learned about Francis Drake's circumnavigation and charted the route of the Spanish Armada, before exploring the Black Death and the believed causes and cures. Would you believe they thought that rubbing buboes with bread then burying it helped!

Inspired by this, Prep 6 created some incredible homework projects to present to their classmates on an aspect of Elizabethan life. Projects were as varied as a 3D poster of the battle against the Spanish Armada to Elizabethan fashion, medicines and delicious Elizabethan baking! Meanwhile, in English, after researching about William Shakespeare, we studied Macbeth, acting out some of the original script, which some children did very well at translating. From this, the children have explored the troubled conscience of the protagonist, producing incredibly powerful letters and diaries.

Our final week in their phenomenally busy and transformative year has been revisiting their happy memories and looking forward to the next stage in their learning journey – high school. The children have considered any worries they might have and thought of strategies for dealing with them. It is thus with great sadness that we say farewell to Aritz, Isabel, Austin, Louis, Mark, Clara, Marlowe, William, Zach, Ethan, William, Joe, Eva, Niamh, Ayah, Lola, Edward, Beth, Hubert, Miriam, Hanyu and John. We wish you every happiness and blessings for the future – don't forget to visit us!





Links to Pics

Inter-house End of Term Fun!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/LnGzNNgJXyPaXW277>

Leavers Assembly

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/JQqhnGR81V6VF8C7A>

Prizegiving

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/VBhWtUeHYTupM7GL7>

Nursery Miscellaneous

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/VBhWtUeHYTupM7GL7>

School Disco

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/fojH7zDCXcpg3B847>

Prep 3 Pensthorpe

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/x2NfsnGY7izsQRGr6>

Pre Prep Sealife Centre

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/8hbdYtTKY3T6kaXKA>

Prep 4 Harry Potter

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/7ANx7tzrfVnLTb3S6>

KS2 Sports Day

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/JMwWLSceGnGc5MV56>

EYFS Sports Day

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/3GiVxCMVy4n45jEs7>

First Holy Communion

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/3GiVxCMVy4n45jEs7>

Summer Musicals at the Playhouse

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/3GiVxCMVy4n45jEs7>

Eaton Vale

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/frGoFqcemywzyytX8>

Wonderland Cast

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/hu9wwop11amRVsfd6>

Emerald Crown Cast

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/pRR53g16kGddobvY6>

Prep 2 Bewilderwood

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/VMENctMqsjsN4dDT8>

Prep 6 Through the Years – including our Leaver's Video

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/1NC2uH32vUPaF1Bs8>

#### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July                      United Education Summer Camp Starts

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August                      United Education Last Day

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September      BACK TO SCHOOL!

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October                      Prep 6 to Victorian School Cressingham

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October                      Half Term Week

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October                      BACK TO SCHOOL

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November                  Flu Jabs in School (Pre Prep and up)



Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December      Pre Prep and Prep 1 to Room on the Broom @ Playhouse

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December      Flu Jabs again in school if necessary

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December      Last Day of Term

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January      BACK TO SCHOOL!