

NDPS Newsletter May 2022

Dear Parents

This has been 'simply the best' half term! School has been buzzing and right from the first day too. The difficulties we had last term with staff absences have all but dissipated and rehearsals are going very well for our Musicals at the Playhouse. These, our Prize Giving for Prep 6 at the cathedral and our Summer Fete are huge highlights each year and we are very much looking forward to them.

Wishing you and your extended families all the very best for the half term holiday.

Staff Movements

We have always been very proud of how long our staff stay with us! It is right and proper though, that staff move on and take up opportunities elsewhere when the time is right. Mrs Potter and Miss Harris have been with us since 2008 and 2015 respectively. We are enormously grateful for their outstanding input over this time and wish them well come September. We have no doubt that they will continue to impress with their industry and flair in their new roles and we hope that they will keep in touch - they will not be far away!

Mr Wright is moving on in September too in order to further his teacher training. I'm sure you will all agree that his input with our singing has been tremendous. We are very grateful and wish him all the best.

Our long history of training teachers of the future meets the end of another cycle again with Miss Potter and Miss Grange embarking on the PGCE courses from September. Huge thanks to both of you and we are in no doubt that you will impress wherever you land once qualified!

Mrs Donovan is returning after this half term break post maternity leave. Come September, she will team teach Prep 4 with her maternity cover teacher Miss Galer. This is a part time post and Miss Galer will be leading on Thursday and Friday. Miss Galer has been so impressive that she will also be taking responsibility for Class Music across the school from September and in case you weren't aware, Music is her specialism.

We have been similarly impressed with Mr Hook who is completing his teacher training with us this term. Mr Hook will be our Prep 3 teacher in the new academic year (well done!)

The remaining classes have the following teachers:

Prep 6	Mrs Bradbury
Prep 5	Mr McGrane
Prep 2	Mrs Thornton
Prep 1	Mrs Campbell/Mrs Laudan
Pre Prep	Miss Grand

First Holy Communion Classes

It is with regret that we have decided not to run these classes next year. Parents are asked therefore to consult with their parish priests and they are assured of assistance with the planning process.

Mini Beasts - Caterpillar and Butterfly Nurseries

We have all had lots of fun during this half term and have been fortunate to enjoy the beautiful weather. This enabled both Caterpillars and Butterflies to spend time playing outside and exploring the garden.

Our themes during this half term have been, 'Nocturnal Animals,' 'Mini Beasts' and 'Dinosaurs. Butterflies children learnt about 'Nocturnal animals' for their first topic. They made colourful owls by painting their hands, spiky hedgehogs, spiders and badgers. We looked at life cycles and recreated the life cycle of a spider, where the children learnt about the different stages. To help with this theme we listened to many stories and talked about night-time creatures. Caterpillar children explored 'Mini Beasts' as their first topic. The children made creatures out of play dough, made lady birds and enjoyed counting their spots! They hunted for mini beasts outside and in the sensory tray using magnifying glasses to get a closer look. Both nurseries took part in our next theme, 'Dinosaurs.' They all enjoyed painting, sticking and decorating dinosaurs. Butterflies children learnt about the differences between dinosaurs, being herbivores or carnivores and how to pronounce their names! We took our theme outside, to hunt for dinosaur bones and played 'follow the leader'- a Tyrannosaurus Rex. The favourite book during story time was, 'The Dinosaur who lost his Roar!' At times this proved to be quite noisy!

We all particularly enjoyed our weekly PE sessions on the field together. Butterflies have been participating in obstacle courses in readiness for sports day.

We also had a visit from 'Mini Monsters.' The children listened intently to interesting facts about the creatures, that included, an African land snail, a milk snake, a bearded dragon and even a tarantula! They all took great interest in guessing how many legs do you think a millipede has? There were lots of answers from the children from ten to millions. The children were very brave and demonstrated great care when touching and handling them.

Both nurseries celebrated the Queen's Jubilee along with the other classes and enjoyed dressing up in red, white, blue and purple. They made Union flags and crowns, wearing them with a sense of pride for picnic and party games. It was a truly enjoyable day!

Wishing you all a very happy half term

Mrs. Sophocleous





Pre Prep

Pre Prep have learnt about a wide variety of mini but mighty creatures including snails, spiders, worms and bees. They were inspired by the artist Henri Matisse, creating their own snail art, have practised their weaving skills by making spider webs and after considering the different habitats minibeast reside in, made their own wormery. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed exploring simple coding, successfully programming a Bee Bot on a 'Mini beast' themed grid. The children have observed with great interest the changes which have taken place with our classroom caterpillars, from tiny creatures suspended in silk to chrysalises. We are keeping all our fingers crossed that they will emerge as beautiful butterflies before half term arrives.

We concluded our learning with a wonderful visit from Mini Monsters. The children had the opportunity to meet a variety of exciting creatures including Gerald the giant African land snail, Mildred the millipede, a milk snake, Winston the bearded dragon and even a tarantula called Trinny! Throughout the session, everyone listened attentively to the visiting speaker who was able to tell us lots of interesting facts about these amazing animals.

We have finished the half term with some pirate fun. We have been singing pirate songs, counting pirate treasure in 10s, drawn maps and conducting floating and sinking experiments. There has also been much excitement related to our Platinum Jubilee celebrations. We have learnt about Queen Elizabeth and created some amazing crowns which we are looking forward to wearing for our Notre Dame Street Party.

Have a wonderful half term break,

Miss Grand and Miss Duell



Prep 1 – Summer Term 1

Prep 1 have had such an exciting Summer half term! We have been on another brilliant trip, this time to Pizza Express where the children were given the chance to make their own pizzas, and try lots of new ingredients! It was a yummy morning, and it was decided – the best trip EVER!

In Topic we have enjoyed learning about animals in all the different continents. Prep 1 have made some beautiful artwork based on our Animal theme. We enjoyed exploring different

techniques and animals across the seven continents. These included parrots, snakes, elephants and kangaroos to name but a few.

In English we have written our own versions of the Magic bed. This featured other magic pieces of furniture which could take us to other countries included in the seven continents, to see the animals we have explored in our topic. In Maths we really enjoyed exploring mass, by measuring items with cubes to see how much they each weighed, using terminology of lighter, heavier and equal to. In Science we have been watching our bean plants grow every week. We have been on wild and garden plant hunts and used leaves to identify different trees. Monty Don would be proud!

Finally Prep 1 have made some amazing jubilee decorations which are displayed beautifully outside the classroom ready for the celebrations!







Prep 2

Prep 2 have had a very eventful and fun-filled half term.

In addition to our normal school work children have taken KS1 SATs in Maths and English. Our exciting book topic for English was 'Wolves' by Emily Gravett. Everyone enjoyed learning lots of interesting facts about wolves which they had not considered before. We all made their own fact book about these fascinating and sometimes misunderstood creatures to share their knowledge. After wolves, came 'Dragon Machine', involving a hunt for dragon tails in school to increase our knowledge of prepositions. In Maths, we have been learning all about measures and have been measuring lots of lengths in centimetres and metres inside and outside of the classroom before going on to learning about position and direction.

Our Geography topic this term is 'Kenya' and before our initial slightly turbulent flight we made our own passports. We have looked at how life is very different for children in Kenya and NDPS. We have learned all about the amazing Maasai tribe, including their infamous jumping dance, which we of course, had to practice ourselves! We learned all about the Maasai Mara game reserve and the animals that live there and made our own plans for a nature reserve of our own.

In PSHRE we have been discovering how much sugar is in certain foods - some of which came as quite a shock, so we spent some time learning about how to look after our teeth. We have also been thinking about how important it is to be kind and forgive when things go wrong. In RE we have been thinking about how Jesus's disciples felt when he came back to visit them after Easter, Ascension and Pentecost and how we can spread the word of Jesus.

In Art, we have been busy learning about the Spanish artist Joan Miro. We have drawn amazing surreal pictures and made our own clay sculptures of faces using simple shapes before painting them in bright colours in the style of the artist.

Our Science topic this term is Animals and their Habitats around the World. Diving into the deepest ocean trenches, we discovered amazing creatures. We made fact sheets about them and playdoh models. Angler fish and colossal squid were the most popular!

We have also been thinking about how we should look after our oceans by taking care of our rubbish and recycling in the right way to make them a safer place to be.

We wish you all a lovely half term!

From Mrs Thornton, Miss Grange, Miss Potter.





Prep 3

A wonderfully diverse half term, Prep 3 has enjoyed a range of engaging topics across the curriculum and beyond. We have been inspired by the warming weather by exploring the wonderful world of plants – planting peas and watching them grow on the windowsill. We experimented with different conditions to see if our seeds would germinate and enjoyed dissecting a flower to see the intricate structural form inside. We were lucky enough to visit the marvellous Bookbugs and Dragon Tales Bookshop for a workshop and story about nature.

In History, we have travelled back in time to visit the gruesome yet fascinating world of Crime and Punishment through the ages. Using debates and trials, we have been able to contextualise our learning and gain an empathetic view and understanding on how it must have been for many people.

With skilful writing, we have concentrated on our persuasive advertisement techniques this term in Literacy. From designing and selling our own super-toys, to dissuasively writing an open letter about one of our favourite foods – this was a tricky task indeed! We have ended the term exploring poetry and how to write in the simple and progressive forms to amplify our writing techniques.

This term in PSHRE, we have spoken widely about respecting others, showing kindness, and your personal right to disagree. We spent a week being an ‘anonymous friend’ to a random classmate by leaving them clues and making sure to say cordial things to them – this was a lot of fun! PSHRE stretches across all our topics inside and outside of the classroom with lots of opportunities to help us learn.

We have put our mathematical minds into full-acceleration mode this term by building our knowledge through grid multiplication, symmetry, irregular shapes, and partitioning techniques to help us double and half numbers. It has been great to explore and update our maths toolboxes with some technical problem-solving this term.

In RE we have been visiting Ascension Day and Pentecost – creating story maps so that we could remember with precision, and then retelling the events with accuracy and understanding. We spoke about what it would have felt like to have been there for Ascension Day and how Mary must have felt when seeing Jesus again for the first time after he was crucified.

Overall, it has been an inspiring and delightful half term! We have worked extremely hard with our friends in Prep 4 to get our summer musical off to a fabulous start – we are so excited to show you at the Playhouse next month. All the children in Prep 3 should be extremely proud of themselves and all that they have achieved.



Prep 4

This half term the class have been busy inventing their own 'Cracking Contraptions'. Taking inspiration from Wallace and Gromit we initially thought about what sort of contraption to make then, after drawing detailed blue-prints, everyone wrote detailed explanations that explained how the different contraptions worked and of course what they did. In true Wallace style, the children also thought about what might go wrong!

The children have enjoyed their learning about World War 2, including diary writing inspired by the life of Anne Frank, and thinking about the life of an evacuee. Our work on World War 2 continues after half term too!

Our Science lessons have continued to offer many opportunities for hands-on learning. We explored the garden, scouring it for different creatures (the illuminous slug was a particular favourite!) The children have been learning about how to classify different living things and of course, the whole topic was enhanced by a visit from Mini Monsters. We met close up a number of amazing creatures and the children were fascinated; asking both interesting and challenging questions while sharing knowledge and experience. Many of us surprised ourselves with just how brave we could be.

In RE we have been talking about who and what inspires us, thinking about the different traits we admire in others. The children came up with some really inspirational people that showed they had really thought about what they looked up to in others. We used this to talk about what sort of a person we wanted to be so that in time, others might be inspired by us.

We are now all looking forward to and working hard for the summer musical (oh and a visit to Harry Potter....)



Prep 5

During this short term, Prep 5 have packed quite a bit in! The children have enjoyed our letter writing unit in English, using real letters written by historical figures as a springboard for their writing – we have all written to our favourite authors and a few of us have already received a response. More recently in English, Prep 5 have focused on the ‘The Jabberwocky’ by Lewis Carroll; it has been wonderful to see the children’s journey, from initially treating the poem with skepticism, to embracing the nonsense fully, memorizing and performing it from heart and writing their own imitation poems. Prep 5 and 6’s upcoming production ‘Wonderland’ (also inspired by Lewis Carroll) is starting to take shape and I have been impressed by the acting and singing in rehearsals so far.

Prep 5 have consolidated and built upon mathematical concepts such as place value, metric measures and ordering and converting decimals, through practical work and investigations. In DT, the children have developed their understanding of more complex free-standing structures and how they can be strengthened and reinforced. They have gained knowledge and understanding about how to join and shape materials, and have applied these skills to create marble runs.

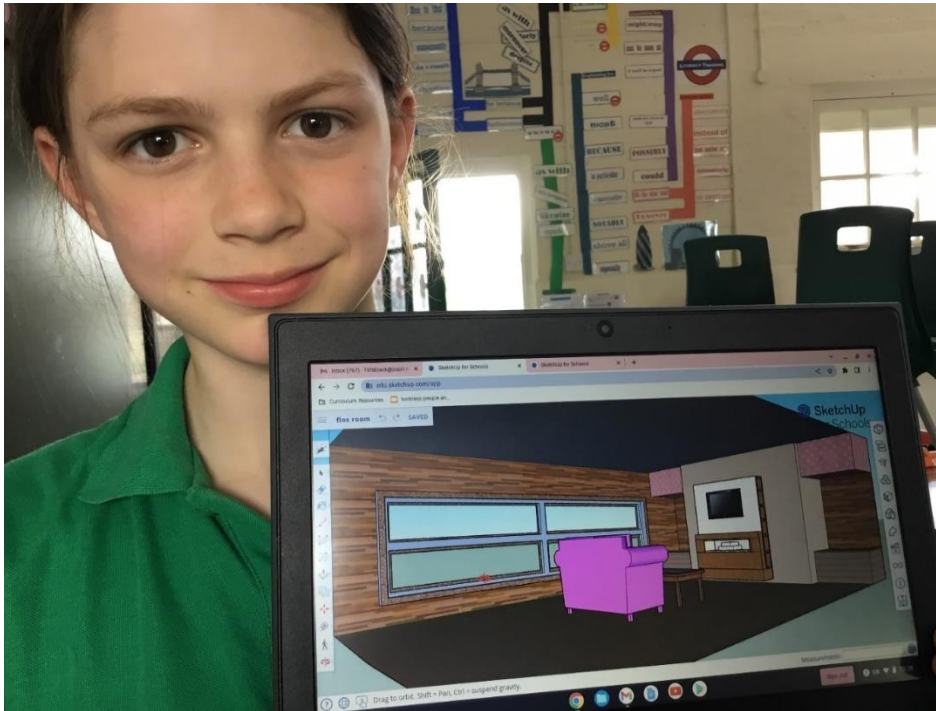
In both Science and PSHRE, Prep 5’s main focus has been under the heading, ‘How we Grow’. During these important lessons, the children have shown maturity and great interest in learning about how both animal and human life cycles, particularly when discussing changes to bodies. The children have analysed data and created graphs using computer software, created excellent posters and have even taken on the role of agony aunts!

In RE, Prep 5 have revisited stories from the Bible, such as when disciples met Jesus on the road to Emmaus and when Moses received The Ten Commandments’, leading to some thoughtful work. In computing, the children have used the software ‘Sketch Up’ to create 3D models of rooms and have used word processing to present their writing. In French, Prep 5 have started to learn how to tell the time. During PE, Mr Arregui has been impressed by the skills and focus that many of the children have shown when developing their tennis game.

Our Geography topic, ‘Enough for Everyone’ has given Prep 5 the opportunity to consider the needs of the planet, finding out where power and food come from, and looking at ways in which natural

resources can be conserved. The children have considered how their actions impact on others around the world, and to think about the changes that they could make to try to ensure that natural resources are shared so there is enough for everyone.

Prep 5 continue to impress and delight. Thanks Prep 5 – keep it up!



Prep 6

A roller-coaster of a half term for Prep 6

Prep 6 have been on an emotional rollercoaster as well as a real-life one this term! After a month of intense revision, hard work and concentration leading up to and taking their SATs, they packed their bags and were whisked off last week by myself, Mr Thornton, Mrs Johnson and Mrs Potter for a week of thrills and adventure in the stunning Snowdonia National Park.

Staying in the pretty Betwys-y-Coed, the children experienced a variety of adventure activities: white water rafting on the River Dee; a climb to the ruins of Castell Dinas Bran in Llangollen; an exciting roller-coaster ride down a forested hillside and, new this year, orienteering around a beautiful remote lake followed by gorge-walking (a popular day). More sedate activities were the tram ride from Llandudno to the top of the Great Orme for spectacular views, witnessing the awe-inspiring Swallow Falls, beach combing for shells and rounders in the local park. Followed each day by fun and games back at our hostel, the children, without exception, had a fantastic time and all reflected on how it has helped their independence in readiness for high school, encouraged bravery to try new things and cemented friendships.

But before their residential, we still managed to pack in some fantastic learning! In English, we revised journalistic writing, crafting newspaper reports on the nerve-wracking Triwizard trials in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, which revealed we have some budding news reporters in our midst. Meanwhile, in Art, we sought inspiration from our learning in Science about the human body and the circulatory system. In *The Art of the Human Body*, the children studied microscopic images of blood, made blood smoothies (which they drank!) and used their knowledge of the different functions of blood cells to create a fantastic exhibition of detailed and varied acrylic studies of red and white blood cells, platelets and plasma (not for the squeamish!). This was followed by a close study of the function of the human heart and some incredibly realistic clay sculptures of this fascinating organ. We now have some very promising candidates for Medicine!

In RE, we have been preparing for the forthcoming Pentecost, learning about what it means to be a witness to Christian teaching, and considering the enormity of the task Jesus left the disciples to carry out after he was gone. In Topic, the children have learned all about Globalisation and supply chains, considering their impact on the economies of developing countries. Finally, in PSHRE, Prep 6 have begun their lessons about growing up and moving on. This half term, they focused on the changes in their bodies and emotions.

Our final week has been a Jubilee-themed week, with children learning about events in our Queen's reign in order to write and decorate letters of congratulation to Her Majesty, which will be sent off to the Palace.

On top of all of this, Preps 5 and 6 have also found time to learn the songs for this year's Summer musical, *Wonderland*, based on Lewis Carroll's classic, and are already well into rehearsals. Watch this space for what will, I am sure, turn out to be an impressive show.



LINKS TO PICS:

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/qwSbVMz26MnrzHhu5>

Stay and Play with Minibeasts

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/vrDkb16aVcpebwXG9>

Prep 3 Bookbugs

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/hoeKv8fgKkqPr2aB7>

Prep 1 Pizza Making!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/8oN8RY9cN8LXvBC36>

Prep 4 Mini Monsters

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/WrvpQ63bRMPmuuuB8>

Prep 6 Day 1: Blists Hill

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/PZDwgPYsjDvrz1pB7>

Prep 6 Day 2: White Water Rafting

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/LhESouVckaw5R7Hh7>

Prep 6 Day 3: Swallow Falls

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/jVJwH65FQYpLd8cd8>

Prep 6 Day 4: Coaster/Tram/Beach

Prep 6 Day 5: Orienteering/Gorge Walking

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/nYMSmtGWamM9WXs97>

Dates for the Diary

Monday 6 th June	Back to School Prep 5 to Eaton Vale (till Wednesday)
Tuesday 9 th June	Mass in school 9am
Friday 10 th June	Non-Uniform Day
Saturday 11 th June	Summer Fete
Sunday 12 th June	First Holy Communion St John's at 11am

Thursday 16th June	Whole School Photograph SMART UNIFORM PLEASE
Wednesday 22nd June	Preps 3,4,5 &6 Musicals at Norwich Playhouse
Thursday 23rd June	KS1 Sports Day in school
Friday 24th June	EYFS Sports Day in school
	Prep 2 to Bewilderwood
Tuesday 28th June	Prep 4 to Harry Potter Studios
Wednesday 29th June	Upper School Sports Day at UEA
Thursday 30th June	Pre Prep to Sea Life Centre
	Nursery Stay and Play morning
Friday 1st July	Prep 3 to Pensthorpe
	Open Morning
	Preps 3-6 Disco 6.30-8.30pm
Tuesday 5th July	Prep 6 Prize Giving St John's
Friday 8th July	Last day of term
Monday 11th July	United Education Summer camp starts