

Dear Parents

I spent some time in the holidays going through my personal notes about NDPS. In particular, I focused on previous thoughts for the future: sustainability, occupancy, mental health and even expansion into another Key Stage. I made a good start as term began too as did the children, although things have been a little more fraught this week!

I am comforted though and not for the first time, by all the happy faces that I see around me in school. Even staff at home suffering post-positive tests are remarkably cheerful. Maybe, we have done this before now? (and see picture below). Or is the comfort derived from the realisation that children especially, are so much more resilient that I thought possible?

We are carrying on then at 'full throttle' and please be assured that measures hindering Clubs etc will be as short lived as possible.

Well done to you all for doing so well with Schools Buddy - I'm glad that I haven't had to fiddle with it!

RT



Remote learning isn't new: during the polio outbreak in 1937, some 315,000 children benefitted from education from home via the wireless.

Nursery



It has been a very busy and exciting start to the new school year for the nursery! The children have been exploring their new environment, getting to grips with a new routine and most importantly getting to know one another and making friends. For the first three weeks of the Autumn term staff have been settling in new children and welcoming back familiar faces. The children have been delighted to once again have their sand pit to build sandcastles in and dressing up to become heroes, monsters, doctors or wherever their imagination takes them.

We have been fortunate in having beautiful weather since returning to school and we have made the most of this; using every opportunity to spend time in the garden. The children have enjoyed exploring their natural surroundings, using magnifying glasses to take a closer look at the plants and insects. The new digging area has been a hugely popular, giving the children an opportunity to use spades and small world construction

vehicles as well as helping them develop sharing and turn taking skills. Without a doubt one of our favourite activities so far has been hiding dinosaurs in shredded paper in the garden. This provided much delight amongst the children (and with staff being surprised by the children's tidying up skills!)

As the term progresses, we are moving into more focused activities based around our 'All about me' topic. A big thank you to all the families that have provided a photo for our family tree display; the children love to point out their family and find their friends pictures too. A super conversation starter and an opportunity to celebrate all our families!

—Miss Smith & Mrs Sophocleous

Pre – Prep

Starting school is a big step, but Miss Duell, Mrs Campbell and I have been incredibly impressed with each and every one of the children in Pre Prep, especially those who are new to Notre Dame. Well done! You should all be extremely proud of yourselves.

Our initial topic has been 'All about me' The children have created their own self-portraits; in a traditional manner, looking in a mirrors to capture their features as closely as possible with paint but also using fruit inspired by the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo. The children have created their own crowns and decorated them with repeating patterns before being knighted as a King, Queen, Prince or Princess. They have learnt about their five senses and enjoyed testing these out – particularly their sense of smell

(everyone recognised chocolate!). We have thought about how to clean our teeth and why this is important. I'm sure the tooth fairy will be most impressed with the children's brushing. There has also been time to sing songs including 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' and play games such as Fruit Salad.

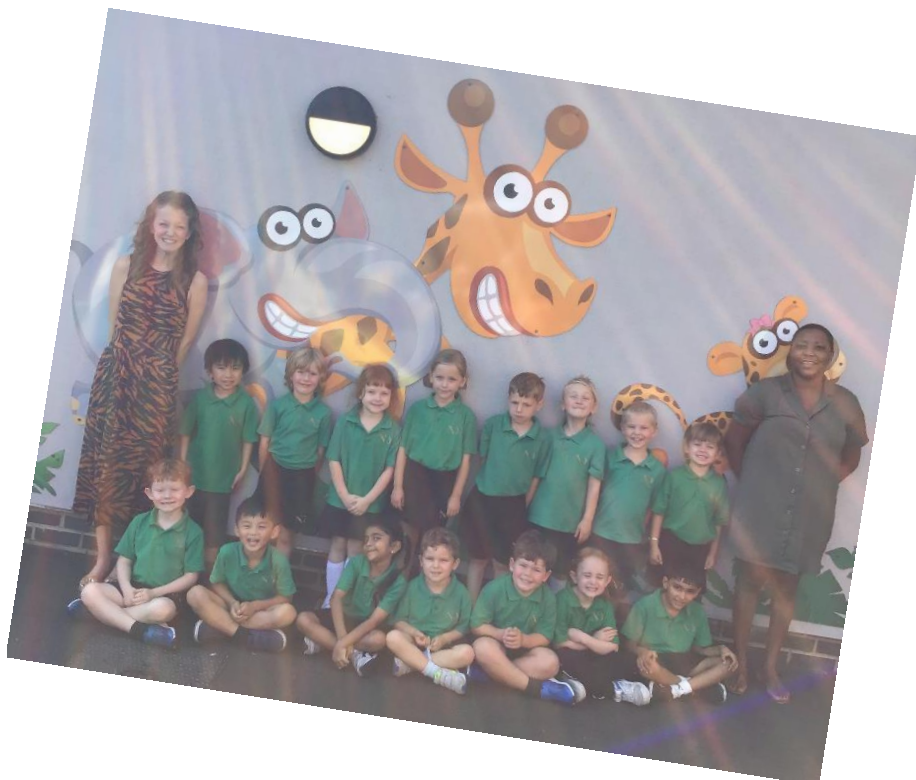
Our focus for the coming weeks leading up to half term will now be continuing to learn lots more phonic sounds and the topic 'Harvest and Farming', which contains lots of fun and exciting activities! –Miss Grand



Prep 1

Prep 1 have had a super time back at school! They have been treated to not only time with Miss Harris, but with Mrs Campbell too! The children have enjoyed counting forward and backwards in Maths, reading books about how to be brave, and drawing self-portraits. We have explored the classroom, the school and surrounding areas to draw maps, and looked at different types of animals. In PSHE, the children have been thinking about friendship and our community. Friendships have been built, and I have been thrilled at how keen the children are to learn and be back in School after the Summer. We have a class trip booked in for next half term, which will bring more excitement in the context of Toys! Onwards to Christmas!

- Miss Harris



Prep 2

Prep 2 have had a super start to the Autumn Term. For our Maths topic of Place Value, we have been getting to grips with counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. In English, we have enjoyed the story of "Sidney, Stella and the Moon" and learning extraordinary facts to make our own books about the Moon. Our topic in

Geography this term is "What a Wonderful World". Children have been planning their own journey around the continents and crossing different oceans. In RE we have been looking at Psalm 139 and thinking about the hopes and dreams that God has for us and in RSE we are learning the words of the Lord's Prayer. In Science we have discovered how animals obtain food from other animals and how exercise keeps us healthy. Prep 2 really are budding artists and are enjoying drawing and painting portraits using colours to represent different emotions. We enjoyed dressing up for "Go Green" day and are always looking forward to our Friday swimming lessons!

- Mrs Thornton

Prep 3

Prep 3 has been having lots of fun this term exploring the Ancient Egyptians! We have cracked hieroglyphic codes, designed our own Shabtis and, wrapped up the week with a mummy-making competition! In Literacy, we have learned all about sentence structures and story writing, and in Maths we are mastering place value. We have stretched our scientific knowledge by predicting and experimenting with forces and, best of all, we got to take part in painting the wonderful mural by Grace Sanford – wow, what a term so far!

-Miss Galer



Prep 4

Prep 4 have returned to school with an excellent attitude to succeed. We have been thinking about the year ahead, our aspirations for the future and which skills we are hoping to improve to enable us to meet our goals! We have also considered what makes us happy and how to support our friends, and the children all produced some beautifully presented work showing their ideas. In English, we have been looking at the book 'Flotsam' which has inspired many conversations and the designing of our own mechanical sea creatures. Topic work has been focused on Ancient Rome, with the children fascinated by the Roman invasion of Britain and the heroic battles of Boudicca and her army.

-Mrs Campbell & Mrs Laudan



Prep 5

Prep 5 have returned after the holidays with big smiles and bags of enthusiasm, and have already produced some fantastic work. One highlight so far has been their English work, where they have been inspired by Roald Dahl's 'Boy' to write entertaining autobiographies, and we have had fun acting out key scenes from the book as well. Our main topic has been 'The Seaside' and the children have produced carefully observed drawings, paintings and sculpture of various sea life and shells, as well as learning about plastic pollution in the sea. They are also honing their computing skills by creating their own websites, which will be published in a few weeks. Welcome back Prep 5!

-Mr McGrane



Prep 6

Prep 6 have had a great start to the new term, with everyone eager to learn again after the long summer break. The children have all taken up their new roles as leaders of the school with verve and enthusiasm! It is such a joy to see them rise to their new responsibilities handing out and tidying the toys at break times, playing

with and looking after the

nursery children, collecting and adding up the

house points for our new houses and tidying and supervising the library

(not to mention the complete re-organisation of books they took upon themselves!)

In their learning, they have thoroughly enjoyed immersing themselves in everything Victorian in our cross-curricular History and English topic, learning about the lives of poor Victorian children and the work of Dr Barnardo. Meanwhile, our Autumn Science topic of Living Things and their Habitats has fascinated the children as they have learned about classification of living things and researched the five kingdoms of *Animalia*. In PSHE, after starting the new year making a classroom charter for Prep 6, we have widened this to look at rights and responsibilities in the wider world, learning all about the Declaration of Human Rights which has stimulated much interesting classroom discussion. Our former Prep 5 are proving to be an incredibly insightful bunch of Prep 6s and I am looking forward to what this year brings!

-Mrs Bradbury



Notices and polite requests:

- (i) Please remember not to turn left into the West End St car park!
- (ii) Please remember that it is unsafe to reverse out onto the Dereham Rd from our staff car park – better to reverse in.
- (iii) Volunteer required to help with traffic mornings and evenings.

Dates for the Diary:

Thursday 7th October	School Photos (Winter Uniform please)
Monday 11th October	Flu Immunisations in school
Wednesday 13th October	Prep 6 to Great Cressingham
Tuesday 19th October	Mass in school
Friday 22nd October	School closes for Half Term
Monday 1st November	School opens
Tuesday 2nd November	Prep 4 – A Day with the Romans
Thursday 4th November	Prep 1 to Norwich Puppet Theatre
Tuesday 23rd November	Mass in school
Thursday 2nd December	Prep 5 to Time and Tide Museum
Saturday 4th December	Christmas Bazaar
WC 6th December	Nativity Plays (TBC)
Thursday 9th December	Christmas Lunch
Monday 13th December	Carol Service at St John’s Cathedral
Wednesday 15th December	School closes for Christmas Holidays