



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

NORWICH'S FINEST PREP SCHOOL • FOR GIRLS & BOYS • 3-13 YEARS

Year 1 Curriculum Information

Week Beginning 17th October 2016

Dear Parents

What an exciting week we have had! Our assembly this week was led by Revd Dr Patrick Richmond from Christ Church, Eaton and he talked about healing and comfort, linking it to our charity, Nelson's Journey. Bird Family meetings were our full introduction to charities; children were asked what a charity was and children shared names of charities that they had heard of or supported. We talked about Nelson's Journey and the work that they do in bringing back smiles to children and families. Children then heard all about 'worry eaters', adorable cuddly toys who gobble up your worries into their zip-up mouths!

Thursday was 'wear something purple day' in aid of Nelson's Journey. We were very impressed with the children's outfits and we thank you for your contributions. Children also decorated our famous shortbread biscuits for a friend, to make them smile! We set them a challenge to design their own 'worry eater', with a prize awarded for a person in each class. Sarah Hyde from Nelson's Journey came in today to judge our entries and award the prizes. We were really impressed with all the entries and creative ideas.

On Wednesday, we welcomed the PTA for their AGM and coffee morning and also James Mayhew for an exciting day of talks and workshops. James is the author of the 'Katie' series and is an amazing illustrator. He told the children stories whilst he drew and painted illustrations. He told the Year 1 children the story of the Swaffham pedlar! James also talked about practising ideas and the importance of making mistakes. He said he enjoys making them, as it is all part of learning. We thank James for an amazing day...look out for some of his beautiful art work as it begins to adorn our Pre Prep walls.

Today we welcomed lots of grandparents for coffee and cake before visiting their grandchildren's classroom and all the children from Reception to Year 2 joined the Prep children for a whole school assembly, where Mr Bevington shared the Julia Donaldson story *A Squash and a Squeeze* and its many messages!

Literacy

This week the children have looked at a new sound and story in literacy and they have been working incredibly hard to remember their sentence rules. The children have also been pushing themselves to use their best writing, concentrating on keeping their letters on the line and orientating them correctly.

Mr Fereday's group learnt the 'ee' (What can you see?) sound and grapheme this week.
Mr Fisher's group learnt the 'oo' (look at a book) sound and grapheme this week.
Mrs Wilson's group learnt the 'or' (shut the door) sound and grapheme this week.

In handwriting this week, we looked at the letter 'u' learning the name for the letter and its sound. The children learnt leads and joins for 'u' and looked to place it into words using these flourishes.

The children created a 'thank you' letter to James Mayhew for his amazing workshop with us on Wednesday. They mentioned what they enjoyed about his session and all had positive things to say.

Numeracy

In numeracy, the children have been learning a new method to add larger numbers together. The children have been learning to 'count on' from a number on a number line. This has allowed them to complete sums which they could not solve mentally. The children focused on placing the larger number from the sum first before counting on from this greater amount. This has led to them being more efficient in their work.

Other lessons and activities:

In art this week the children have designed a 'worry eater' of their own in support of our charity 'Nelson's Journey'. The children thought carefully about their designs considering colour, shape, height, arm length, eye shape and head design.

In computing the children have been extending their maths skills, playing some addition games on busy things. In the process the children have been improving their mouse and keyboard confidence while working.

In games the children combined into two groups to play some relay games and parachute games. This helped the children to work as a team and with new team mates. The children thoroughly enjoyed the games and look forward to lessons similar to these in the future.

Over half-term your child might like to:

- Read the additional story books sent home for half term with your child and practise the red words sent home.
- Try writing the red words in your home activity book without looking to improve the spelling and sight recognition of these words.
- Play board games with your child which require them to 'count on' with a classic game like snakes and ladders; two dice instead of one could be used to add an extra challenge.
- Share a James Mayhew book with your child and have a go at tracing or drawing one of the beautiful illustrations in the book.
- Have a go at the allocated maths game on Active Learn which looks at counting on and backwards on a number line.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 7th November: Start of second half of term

Thursday 8th December – 8.30am-10.00am: Year 1 coffee morning in the Pre Prep hall followed by the Year 1 Christmas production in the Read Hall

We hope you have a wonderful half term break with your children.

With very best wishes from Mrs Wilson, Mr Fisher, Mr Fereday and Mrs Harries

Melanie Harries