



Reception Curriculum Information

Week beginning: 21st November 2016

Dear Parents

Today we enjoyed our first ever school trip to the Playhouse Theatre to watch 'We're Going On a Bear Hunt'. This week we prepared for the outing by reading the story in our classes and discussing how we can stay safe during our trip. We also received a very exciting letter from the Big Brown Bear, which prompted this week's games lesson in the woods. The children participated in their very own bear hunt and enjoyed searching for bears in the trees, whilst singing the words from the story.

Bird family meetings focused on the subject of bullying; what it is and what to do if you are ever worried about anything at school. Children thought about the importance of being helpful and kind.

In assembly this week, Mrs Harries talked about what children might do if they were to hear a long bell ring. Children knew that this was the fire bell and we discussed the importance of getting out of the building quickly, quietly and safely. We also talked about the importance of having practices and that when the bell goes off, we do not know whether it is a practice or not, so must always listen to instructions carefully and exit the building correctly. We went on to have a fire practice that morning and the children were very sensible.

Mrs Harries also shared a letter with the children, sent by James Mayhew, the author and illustrator who visited us before half term, thanking the children for the pictures and letters we had sent to him, thanking him for his workshops. He wrote to say what a wonderful day he had had at Town Close and how impressed he had been with the engagement and delightfulness of the children. We were very proud to receive this!

This week we have also been working hard on our Christmas play and the children's confidence is growing tremendously. We were even lucky enough to have a sing and a dance with Miss Skinner in the Prep department. Our singing is really coming along and we can't wait for you to hear all the songs we are learning for our play!

In maths, we revisited positional language and we have been talking in particular about going over, under and through, all of which linked to this week's story. We have also been learning about 3D shapes and their properties. The children have spotted multiple 3D shapes both within and outside the classroom in the most unexpected places and we have been creating our own models using 3D building blocks.

In literacy the children have been focusing on their handwriting skills, with fine motor control activities in each classroom, along with the letter formation. We also learnt the tricky words 'oh' and 'no' and practised using them within the content of our bear hunt story maps, in which the children recalled and sequenced images from the story.

Thank you to those parents who have brought in their child's Christmas play costumes. If you wish to provide a costume we would be eternally grateful if you could do so by Monday 28th November; this will give us time to source any missing items.

Some suggested activities over the weekend would be to practise name writing, as we still have a few children who are finding this particularly tricky. You might also like to go on a shape hunt with your child looking for 2D and 3D shapes at home or out and about. Maybe your child could even describe the shapes they find!

All of the staff would like to say a big thank you to the children for being so sensible during this week's trip, we can't wait for the next one!

Over the last few weeks, you may have seen some unfamiliar faces around the Pre Prep. We have welcomed Miss Bruce as the Teaching Assistant in Beech Tree class; Miss Garrett in the Nursery (to replace Mrs Wallace who left at half-term) and Miss While who began undertaking supply work with us but now joins us on a permanent basis to support our children in swimming lessons and in the Pre Prep. Finally, we welcomed Mr Walland who has joined our After School Care team. We welcome all our new staff to the Town Close family.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 6th December – 8.30am-10.00am: Reception coffee morning - 8.30-9.00am in the Pre Prep hall followed by the Reception Christmas production in the Read Hall at 9.00am.

Friday 9th December:

- **Christmas jumper day** – exchange your school jumper for a Christmas one in aid of Nelson's Journey. Please bring in a £1 donation – thank you.
- **Christmas fayre** - on the Prep playground starting at 4.00pm. Items that the children have made will be for sale. There will also be Santa's grotto with elves, a café, pizza and mince pies to enjoy!

We hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

With our best wishes from Mrs Alexandre, Miss Knightly, Mrs Laing, Mrs Brown and Mrs Harries

Melanie Harries