



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Year 1 Curriculum Information

Week Beginning: 21st November 2016

Dear Parents

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!

Literacy

One of our ongoing writing focuses is applying the correct letter height, distinguishing between tall letters, short letters and tail letters. Mr Fisher's focus sound this week has been 'air' (that's not fair) while the key focus text has been 'Snow'. Mr Fereday's group have been learning the grapheme 'oo' (poo at the zoo) and looking at the 'Tug, Tug' story. Mrs Wilson's group have explored the 'Look Out' text while 'ou' (shout it out) has been their phonics focus. In class handwriting sessions we have been practising the cursive letter 'j'.

Numeracy

We started the week by completing an assessment. This proved very useful as it gives us information about what the children are able to do as well as areas for development. Our main focus has been non-standard units of measuring length. We have used varying objects such as cubes, playdough and paw prints to measure the length of classroom items. We have emphasised the need to start exactly at the start of an object and measure all the way to the end of an object. We have also discussed and started to use standard units of measurement.

Other lessons and activities:

- In computing the children have enjoyed continuing their work on algorithms. They were tasked with making their own snake maze this week and writing the correct commands to get through. We looked at short hand commands as a way of simplifying the process e.g. LT for left turn and FD3 for forward 3.
- We created some lovely autumnal pictures during art using a collection of leaves to colour rub.

- In topic we have begun a series of experiments exploring materials. Mr Fisher's class experimented with floating and sinking while Mrs Wilson's class looked at waterproofing. Mr Fereday's class explored magnetism. For the next two topic lessons we will be rotating the classes so that all children have the opportunity to participate in the experiments with all three Year 1 teachers.

Thank you for your support in providing costumes. Please be reminded that you only need to bring items for your child's costume if you received a letter in your child's book bag last Friday. Please can you ensure you only provide the items requested as we would like the larger groups of characters to look the same as much as possible. If you did not receive a letter, then we have already provided your child's costume for them at school. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher or Mrs Dewsbury.

Over the weekend your child might like to:

- Play Kim's game. This is where you write around five high frequency/red words on a whiteboard/post it and give your child a few moments to look at them. You then cover one of the words and ask your child to say/write out the missing word.
- Practise their non-standard measuring of household objects. Any non-standard unit of measure can be used, the more creative the better!
- Practise the delivery of their lines for the Christmas play, particularly in terms of volume and clarity.
- Share their library book with an adult and read their class reading book(s)

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:

Thursday 8th December – 8.30am-10.00am: Year 1 coffee morning in the Pre Prep hall from 8.30am-9.00am followed by the Year 1 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 made by the children will be for sale along with a Santa's grotto with elves, café, pizza and mince pies!

Tuesday 13th December – 2.15pm: Christ Church Eaton service for Year 1 and Year 2 children

We hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

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

Melanie Harries