



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Dear Parents

Friday 2nd December 2016



Year 2 heralded the festive season in style yesterday, with their fabulous production *Christmas around the World*. They sang in German and Polish and we heard Russian too as we journeyed the globe finding out how different cultures celebrate Christmas. This morning I saw Reception children in costume as they rehearsed their production and next week we look forward to seeing Year 1 and Nursery children performing too. Pre Prep assemblies involved singing practice for Christmas events and I was delighted to join the children on Tuesday, when I also told them a little more about our annual toys and tins appeal.

Revd Patrick Richmond visited Prep children on Monday to teach everyone about Advent and the significance of Christmas for Christians. This morning Prep children practised one of our carols accompanied by the magnificent new baby grand piano that has been kindly donated by the PTA. I had a quick go before everyone came into assembly, though my playing was nothing like the quality of the Junior Flute Group, who performed the *Star Wars* theme with such polish and the Single Reeds who played *Arethusa* so magnificently. Music was the theme of assembly too, with children learning how Leonard Cohen's most successful song *Hallelujah* was initially rejected by his record company who thought it dreadful! Year 3 were brilliant in their soloists' concert on



Tuesday and 3A delivered a brilliant assembly on Wednesday, dramatising Anne Fine's *Bill's New Frock*. Bird family meetings, meanwhile, focused on feelings and emotions and how we manage them.

Tessa McNamara recently wrote to the Prime Minister requesting that cycle helmets be made compulsory and the grateful reply from Mrs May was shown to Pre Prep children this week. Meanwhile, in response to feedback from neighbours, I was at the Newmarket Road entrance at pick up time. There was a lot of congestion caused by cars arriving well before 3:50pm, a number belonging to parents of children in Year 4 or above. Southbound cars were also entering before northbound cars, rather than taking turns. By 4:15pm all was clear, showing that we do have the capacity to manage pick-up without congestion if we can persuade everyone to stick to the allotted times. We are looking at ways to manage this more proactively from next term and, in the meantime, ask all parents not to arrive before the allotted time at these gates.



This week there was a dancing competition in Nursery, work on days and months in Reception and learning about money in Year 1. Year 2 were practising voice projection in readiness for their performance and working on their doubling and halving, while Year 4 have today enjoyed

a exciting trip to Norwich Castle. There was success on the hockey field for our U13 A team who won the regional competition with a fabulous last-minute goal. I welcomed Mr Lockyer, Headmaster of Royal Hospital School in Suffolk, on Wednesday and we visited a number of classes, including a Year 8 maths lesson where we worked out prime factors. Year 5 pupils explained their current computing project, while in science another Year 5 group was learning how some of the science in *Star Wars* is wrong. One person gave an excellent explanation about sound and vacuums.



In addition to the plays, there is the Christmas Ensembles Showcase in the Read Hall on Tuesday evening, 3V's assembly and the Christmas Fayre on Friday. All children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on this day in return for a suggested donation of £1 to Nelson's Journey. The Christmas Fayre takes place after school and is open to all children accompanied by parents. City College have kindly allowed us to use their staff car park (opposite the Pre Prep vehicle entrance) from 3:45pm on this day. Please note that the two playgrounds will only be open to parents collecting children who are not going to the Fayre.



I wish you all a lovely weekend.

With best wishes

Nick Bevington

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Making reindeer food in the Nursery and the oldest pupils meeting the youngest ones!



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BULLETIN BOARD

PREP and PRE PREP

Short Stories Competition

Last term Ezara-Mai Downes (Year 8) ran a story writing competition to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital (last year's School charity). GOSH were so impressed with the stories written that they will be publishing one per week on their website at gosh.org in the news section. The first story *How the Giraffe Got a Long Neck* by Ilir Gjoka was published on Sunday 27th November with the others appearing as follows:

- The Penguin Ward* by Gemma Peters
- Anyone know how to get to England!* by Lottie Smith
- How the manta ray found its sting* by Maddy Harries
- How the cheetah learnt to run* by Zara Hunter
- Ellie the saviour* by Mirte Meijer
- Ice cream for the Queen* by Oona Foster-Amienne

The stories have also been published in a booklet which will be available at the Christmas Fayre for a donation to GOSH.

Toys and Tins Appeal

A reminder that we are supporting the Toy and Tins Appeal again this year. If toys and tins are brought to the Prep Department they should be taken to the Deputies' Meeting Room. Pre-Prep Department parents are asked to give their donations to their child's class teacher. The deadline for contributions is **Monday 12th December**.



GAMES DEPARTMENT NOTICES

All PE lessons for the remaining two weeks of term will be cross country so please ensure your child has their outdoor kit at School. Swimming lessons will continue as timetabled.

Christmas Jumpers

Please remember that all pupils across the School can wear a Christmas jumper to School next Friday 9th December in return for a donation of £1 to Nelson's Journey.



Parent Lanyards

Please can parents make sure they wear their parent lanyards whenever they visit the School site and please contact either of the School offices should you need a replacement.



Christmas Fayre

with

Santa's Grotto

Friday 9th December 2016
From 4.00pm on the playground

Christmas crafts and gifts:

- Festive bird boxes
- Snow globes
- Miniature stockings
- Mulled wine spice bags
- Tree decorations
- Christingles
- Biscuits

Enjoy hot drinks from 'Cafe2U' fresh pizza from 'The Wood Kitchen' and delicious mince pies from the TCH catering team
PTA Cake Sale

Visit **Santa's Grotto** and receive a present and a certificate from Santa's Elves
£6.00

PTA

PTA Cake Stall at the Christmas Fayre



The PTA would welcome your contributions of cakes, cookies, tray bakes etc. for their cake sale at the Christmas Fayre. (We have a strict no nuts policy and please also provide a list of the ingredients with your goodies.) PTA members will be available at stop and drop and in the Prep playground to receive goodies from 8am-8.30am next Friday. In the afternoon please bring any items directly to the PTA stall on the playground.

Year 2's Around the World at Christmas

