



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Year 2 Curriculum Information

Week Beginning: Monday 20th February 2017

Dear Parents

In assembly this week, Mrs Harries told children the Bible story of *The Feeding of the Five Thousand* and what it teaches us about the importance of sharing. Bird Family meetings were replaced by a visit to the Read Hall for a fantastic assembly, led by Mr Chapman (our Head of Science) and Mrs Rushton entitled, 'Science vs. Magic'!

Literacy Lessons

Returning refreshed from our half-term break, we have been pleased to receive all the children's work on significant people; such a variety of subjects! This focus on history has helped us to launch into our new mini topic on The Great Fire of London.

Our guided reading has allowed the groups to access facts and information about this event at their own level as well as giving the children questions to ponder over. Following on from this, the classes have been learning a poem by Paul Perro called *The Great Fire of London*.

Other aspects of literacy covered this week have been the spelling rule of plural nouns ending in 'ies' and a new format to our word building homework. From this week we will be asking the children to create sentences to a given instruction. For example, this week's assignment was to write out questions relating to the Great Fire of London. This is a natural progression from word building to sentence building. We are certain the children will enjoy these tasks.

Our creative writing this week has been to record some favourite activities and events from last week's holiday. The teachers have been looking out for ways in which the children's writing has improved and for ways in which we can guide each child over the coming months.

Another new item on our timetable will be a weekly dictation. The words will be simple but the aim will be to focus the children's minds on listening carefully and writing clearly what has been dictated to them.

Maths lessons

In mathematics, the theme has been doubling, halving and the introduction of mixed numbers (numbers with $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ on the end). A few pieces of fruit and biscuits were divided and consumed in the process but all in the name of mathematical enquiry!

Other lessons and activities

In history we have furthered our understanding of The Great Fire of London by assembling a timeline depicting the events of each of the four days following 2nd September 1666. We have explored the methods used to tackle the blaze, the reasons why the fire spread so quickly and the aftermath of the devastation.

This week has been STEM week and our participation in events linking us with the Prep Department has been valuable, enjoyable and thought-provoking. On Monday, we were educated and entertained by a visiting scientist on the theme of 'science made simple, bubbles and balloons.' On Thursday, Year 2 teamed up with Year 4 to explore a 'mathematics trail' around some of the Prep department buildings. Finally, on Friday, mixed year groups were divided up and journeyed to different classrooms. Here they participated in practical experiments on a wide ranging series of scientific themes.

In art, the classes have been looking at the ways Tudor houses were constructed and have been designing their own unique building. These pictures will form collages both in the corridor and in the classrooms, along with more adventurous 3D Tudor buildings, informed by our recent maths work on 3D shapes.

We have quite a lot of lost property in the Pre Prep corridor. We do try to return as many items as we can, especially named ones. However, if you think you may be missing an item or two, please do check the blue tubs next to the stairs opposite the Pre Prep hall.

Over the weekend:

- Next week, we would like to mount copies of the Tudor house designs onto cardboard boxes for a Great Fire of London event of our own. Therefore, please could your child bring in any empty cereal/shoe boxes you may have, thank you.
- You might like to help your child to research information on Samuel Pepys and Sir Christopher Wren.
- Year 2 staff would like to thank all the parents who took care to listen to their children read over the holiday. This really keeps the continuity going and makes a big difference to the children's progress throughout the term.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 2nd March: World Book Day – children may dress up as their favourite book character.

Friday 10th March: Year 2 classes to Blickling Hall

We hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

Mrs Bush, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Lawry and Mrs Harries

Melanie Harries