



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Year 2 Curriculum Information
Week Beginning: 1st May 2017

Dear Parents

In our Pre Prep assembly this week we introduced our new 'Top Birds' who had carefully counted all the tokens for their bird family, celebrated lots of April and some early May birthdays, talked about each class' special people and awarded medals and certificates. We were also treated to a lovely performance by Ella Snowling on her flute. Year 2 children were invited to watch 4MR's class assembly in the Read Hall on Wednesday, which was all about money and the new pound coin!

Literacy lessons

This week the children have been:

- Continuing to write imaginative clues for their African animal riddles
- Developing reading comprehension skills through discussing and writing responses to a poem entitled 'Ronald the Rhino'
- Preparing to write a letter to a child from the Kenyan Maasai tribe in which they introduce themselves and ask questions to learn more about the life of a Maasai child
- Learning a poem about the 'Kapiti Plain' in preparation for our assembly

Maths lessons

We have continued to develop the children's confidence in adding and subtracting single and two-digit numbers. We have been encouraging them to select the most appropriate method to use to calculate quickly and accurately. These include:

Counting back in tens and ones (when the numbers are further apart) – for example $89 - 23$:
 $89 - 20 = 69$ then $69 - 3 = 66$

Using number facts (for example $20 - 6 = 14$; $50 - 6 = 44$; $70 - 6 = 64$)

Counting on from the lower number when the numbers are closer together. We encouraged the children to count on to the next multiple of ten before counting on the remaining amount to reach the higher number - for example

$56 - 48 = 8$; $48 + 2 = 50$ then $50 + 6 = 56$

Some of us have also begun to develop children's understanding of units of measurement by discussing which unit would be most appropriate to measure different things. These units include: centimetres; metres and kilometres; grams and kilograms; millilitres and litres and degrees celsius. This is in preparation for next week's focus on reading different scales.

Other lessons and activities

We have enjoyed discovering more about the culture and daily lives of children who belong to the Maasai tribe of South Western Kenya. We have been genuinely fascinated by their incredible 'jumping dance' and how they drink cow's milk mixed with blood among other traditions. We were impressed by how respectful the children were of the differences and challenges which face these indigenous African people.

We continued the theme of 'belonging to a community' and 'symbols which represent different communities' in our religious studies sessions this week.

Some wonderful 'habitats in a box' have been created this week during our science and topic sessions. The children had to consider the main features of their chosen 'large habitat' (river, mountain range, polar regions, savannah or ocean) and recreate this using a variety of materials. They set about creating animals which may live in that environment – with the added challenge of ensuring that their drawings could stand up in front of their background. Everyone approached the challenge with great enthusiasm and creativity.

Year 2 concert

You will notice in the list of dates that Year 2 are preparing a concert for you. All children will be performing in the concert, singing songs together as a year group. If your child learns an instrument and you think they would like to play a piece on it at the concert, please discuss this with your child's visiting music teacher, as they will be able to advise you as to whether they think your son or daughter is ready to perform. Once this has been agreed, please contact your child's teacher to let them know the name of the piece and the instrument they will be playing and please ensure that a copy of any accompaniment needed comes into school. Thank you.

Over the weekend:

Please ask your child to tell you all about the Maasai people. Hopefully they will recall some fascinating facts.

It would be very helpful to look at some of the measuring scales and containers that you have at home (such as jugs, thermometers, milk cartons, drink bottles, bathroom or kitchen scales) in preparation for next week's work on capacity and reading various scales.

Support your child to complete the SPAG mat which we have enclosed within the spelling folders.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 10th May – 5.00pm – 7.30pm: Parents' evening in the Read Hall. Parents are able to book an appointment slot using the 'parents' booking system'. This can be accessed by clicking on the link 'view our parent information centre' on the main school website at www.townclose.com If you have any problems, please contact Mr Shone in our IT department directly on 01603-599031 or email cshone@townclose.com

Friday 12th May: Year 2 trip to Pensthorpe

Tuesday 23rd May: Year 2 assembly in the Read hall at 9.00am

Monday 12th June at 2.15pm: Year 2 sports afternoon on the Prep Department front lawn

Friday 30th June at 9.00am: Year 2 concert in the Read Hall

Wednesday 28th June: Royal Norfolk Show – School closed

Tuesday 4th July: Moving up morning

Wednesday 5th July: Year 2 trip to Winterton Beach

We hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

Mrs Bush, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Lawry and Mrs Harries

Melanie Harries