



Year 1 Curriculum Information

Week Beginning: 18th September 2017

Dear Parents

What a busy and exciting week we have had! In our Wednesday assembly, we enjoyed a visit from some representatives from our School charity for this year, Special Olympics Norfolk, who came to tell us all about the excellent work they do. The Top Birds were asked to demonstrate a special standing long jump, which they did very well. Bird Family meetings focused on the theme of friendship and Mrs Koczur and some of our visiting music teachers came to our Thursday assembly to demonstrate some of the instruments that children can learn to play in School. Our celebratory assembly today included celebrating our first set of work for the 'Wonder Wall'. One piece of work was chosen from each class to be framed and hung in the Pre Prep entrance. Those children also received a certificate. Top Birds were officially presented with their certificate and a badge.

Literacy

This week the children have been attending their new literacy groups. Here, they have revised skills learnt in Reception and have begun to acquire new knowledge of phonics as well as reading associated texts to advance their learning in literacy. Mrs Wilson's group have begun to concentrate on digraphs and this week their focus has been 'ay'. Mr Fisher's group looked at 'qu'. Mrs Bush's group found words beginning and ending in 'sh' and Mrs Brown's created many CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words whilst disguised as pirates!

Alongside this work, our class literacy assignment this week has been to imagine many different ways to use a stick! The book 'Not a Stick' by Antoinette Portis was our inspiration. The children found it amusing that the adult could not understand the imaginative adaptations for this simple tool. The challenge was to order the pictures of the story, to label the pictures and perhaps even to describe the ingenious ideas. In preparation for weekly handwriting lessons we have been practising precise pattern making.

Maths

In mathematics the children have been using different equipment and methods to discover number bonds for 4, 5, 6 and 10. From pegs to penguins, Numicon to Unifix we have employed the lot! Once these number combinations had been determined it was a useful progression to order them systematically in order to help memorise these facts.

Other lessons and activities

In topic, we all enjoyed sharing our baby photographs as a starting point for a discussion on growth and change. We thought about the skills we learn as we grow up. We identified the types of clothes we wear at different stages of life. We discussed how people change as they get older but often retain certain features. Our discussions supported the creation of a 'Lifetime timeline'.

In art, over the coming weeks, the classes will be developing more precise skills of drawing round shapes, pattern making and cutting skills.

In computing, the children have practised logging onto the computer using their own unique user name and password. A program called Colour Magic enabled the groups to create a design inspired by Piet Mondrian.

In P.E. we have combined different methods of travelling across mats. Hopping, jumping and crawling all require concentration and coordination as well as energy! In games, some groups have been using a parachute to acquire team building skills whilst others have honed their hockey skills.

Over the weekend, your child may like to do some of the following:

- With our Active learn programs activated, the children will enjoy learning whilst having fun engaging with the 'games'. Use your login in cards to access the program and click on 'My Library' to find the activities that have been allocated. Just a reminder that this works best on a PC.
- Sharing a good book is always a good idea. Children love to be read to as well as showing off their progress. The library books your children have chosen are often an indication of their true interests. Enjoying these books will promote a love of the written word.
- We love to read about the activities and hobbies your children pursue in their free time. A photograph or a few jottings can stimulate illuminating discussions back at School. These can be added to their Home/School book.
- Any chance to use number bonds, especially number bonds to 10, will help commit these facts to memory.
- Finally, following our topic lesson on growth and change, you might like to promote open-ended thinking by asking your child what they would like to be when they grow up and why.

Please may we have any old magazines, Sunday supplements etc. for a future 'cut and stick' art lesson.

Arrival at school

Registration is at 8.25am. If you are delayed in arriving at School, please ensure that you enter the Pre Prep via the Pre Prep office and sign in there, so that we can ensure our fire registers are accurate. Thank you.

Collection

If you collect your child from Pre Prep and wait outside the Dearnaley Building to collect a Prep sibling, please bear in mind that Prep lessons continue until 4pm, so Pre Prep children will need to wait or play quietly. Thank you.

Musical instrument tuition

If you are interested in finding out more information about your child learning a musical instrument, please contact our Head of Music, Mrs Koczur on skoczur@townclose.com

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 28th September: Year 1 trip to Africa Alive

Wednesday 11th October – 5.00pm-7.30pm: Pre Prep settling in parents' evening, Read Hall

Friday 13th October: PTA Quiz Night in the Read Hall

Friday 20th October – 2.00pm-3.00pm: Grandparents' afternoon in the Pre Prep Hall

Monday 23rd October – Friday 3rd November (inclusive): Half Term

Friday 8th December – 9.00am – 9.45am: Year 1 Christmas Production in the Read Hall

Thursday 14th December – 2.00pm-3.00pm: Carol Service at Christchurch Eaton for Year 1 and Year 2 children

We hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

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

Melanie Harries