



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Dear Parents

Friday 20th October 2017

This afternoon we welcomed a very impressive number of Pre Prep grandparents to the School. The children performed some of their favourite songs, Mrs Harries introduced our award-winning scarecrow, the Year 2 dance club performed a routine to *Despacito* and the 'top birds' introduced guests to our four 'bird families'. Grandparents then visited the classrooms to see all the hard work everyone has been doing this half term.



Yesterday we enjoyed welcoming some of our former pupils for the biennial Senior Schools Information Evening, which was very well supported. It was lovely to hear these older children's memories of all the things they loved about Town Close and how they had found the transitions to their new schools after they graduate our Year 8.



This week we were delighted to be presented with the Good Diabetes Care in Schools Award by David Robinson from Diabetes UK. Henry Musckett, who has had Type 1 Diabetes since the age of one, collected the award



with Heads of School, Millie Hay and Jack Blackham, and Mr Robinson gave a presentation to Prep pupils. Today in Headmaster's assembly, Prep pupils were told about research which showed how important the right mindset is to doing well. The Senior Choir gave an energetic



performance of *Chatanooga choo choo* and seven of our Year 8 pupils were congratulated for being named as prefects. 4W presented an excellent assembly about light and dark to Years 2-4 on Wednesday, while Rev Patrick Richmond led an assembly to the remainder of Pre Prep on telling the truth. Bird families focused on the importance of healthy eating.



On Monday, Prep pupils took part in the annual House Music Competition, with a *Take That* theme. As well as whole house performances, there were eight solo or small group acts with Barton crowned as the eventual winners. A group of Year 8 children visited



EngFest in London on Tuesday, with inspirational talks and workshops delivered by scientists and engineers, who also told the children how much they valued maths and science education. Reception children visited High Lodge at Thetford Forest for an adventurous Gruffalo themed day on Wednesday,



Year 8's undertook a walking tour of Norwich yesterday (perhaps they could guide you around the City at half term) and a fire engine very excitingly visited Year 1 pupils as part of their English topic. There is a group of U13 hockey players away today playing in an

IAPS tournament. I heard lots about thrilling hockey and rugby matches home and away on Wednesday and really enjoyed watching the U9 teams play with great determination and enjoyment on Tuesday.

Many children have been telling me about their half term plans and I hope they all enjoy the two week break after what has been a full and successful first seven weeks of the School Year. When we return there are swimming and hockey fixtures, a Nursery coffee morning, Year 2 Big Swim, a Pre Prep 'dress up as your favourite sports person' day on Thursday and, of course, the ever popular PTA bonfire night at Tacolneston Hall on Friday, which can be booked on the [PTA website](#).

We are also likely to have an ISI Regulatory Compliance inspection at some point after half term, which may be combined with an Education Quality Inspection. We find out at 8.00am of the week concerned and will circulate links to the ISI questionnaire at that point. ISI like to see as high a response rate as possible and I hope you will all be generous enough with your time to complete these questionnaires when the time comes.

I wish all of our children and families a very enjoyable half term break.

With best wishes

Nick Bevington

Nicholas Bevington





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PREP and PRE PREP

GAMES DEPARTMENT NOTICES

Girls' Hockey/Netball Practice

The girls' Under 11 hockey practice at 4.00pm on Monday's will change to Under 11 netball practice after the half term break. First session will take place in the sports hall on Monday 6th November. Please remember to bring your indoor trainers.

IAPS Regional Hockey Finals Results!

Very well done to the Under 13 girls' team who reached the semi-finals of the IAPS Regional Hockey Finals, narrowly missing a place in the finals on penalties.



Sailing Success

Congratulations to Charles Alston, aged 12, who has been selected for the 'National Sailing Squad' for Toppers this winter 2017/2018. To qualify he had to sail competitively and achieve top results in

the events which have taken place all over the country during the summer months. He will train this winter with selected sailors from all over the country. Well done Charles!

E-safety News

Tips for staying safer online this Halloween from Gooseberry Planet

- Take and share spooky selfies responsibly**
Trick or treating? **Keep your location secure and private** to help avoid people knowing where you are
- Always stay in a group if you are out and about**, better still to help collect more treats, **go with a trusted adult and plan to visit trusted family and friends**
- Keep your devices safe** by putting them in a pocket or bag **put them away when crossing roads**
- Turn off Geo Tags and Location** in photos and videos
- Keep your device fully charged** to help you make contact in case of an emergency
- Secure privacy settings and turn off Bluetooth** to avoid strange or inappropriate contact
- Behave sensibly, safely and respectfully and avoid any unkind behaviour
- Avoid creating, sharing, posting any inappropriate material online** or the trick could be on you!
- Save 'Checking In' until you get home** to help protect your whereabouts
- Avoid searching online for spooky videos and games** these may be scarier than you realised



New Pre Prep Secretary

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Susan McCloy as Pre Prep Secretary. Mrs McCloy joins us from Beeston Hall, where she has been school secretary for the past 16 years. She will be joining us on Monday 20th November and we look forward to giving her a warm welcome then.

The Shoemaker

Thank you to Mr Deng (Tongfei's father) for coming in to school to show the Year 2s how shoes are made as part of our Elves and the Shoemaker project.



Zoo Lab visited the Nursery children today!



Wellbeing in a Caring Community

At Town Close we pride ourselves in our caring community. The wellbeing of pupils is at the heart of all that we do, and we encourage children to care for others in The Town Close Way. From Reception to year 4, children specifically have the support of their form teacher for any matters relating to their emotional and social wellbeing. In years 5-8 the tutor would be the 'first port of call' for such matters. Talk and Share runs daily in the Prep department, where staff can offer a listening ear to all sorts of worries. Don't Worry Be Happy club runs each Thursday for the purpose of providing a comforting play space at lunchtime. In addition, we now offer a counselling service, run by Mrs Audrey Jolliffe, (Dip. Counselling, member BACP), which we believe will be hugely beneficial to children. In order to make the best use of the restricted number of spaces that are available, counselling will be time-limited. The aim of this service is to support children in their wellbeing in order to help them fulfil their potential. Referral to this confidential service is through form teachers or tutors.

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