



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Year 1 Curriculum information

Week Beginning: 29 January 2018

Dear Parents

In Bird Family meetings this week the subject was worries and mindfulness. The 'worry eaters' that children had been introduced to via last year's charity, 'Nelson's Journey' were re-introduced to children, as well as talking about mindfulness and how to manage feelings of worry or anxiety. In assembly, as part of Storytelling Week and in preparation for World Book Day in March, Mrs Harries shared one of her favourite childhood stories, Mr Tickle by Roger Hargreaves, with the children. We also talked about the fact that Mr Tickle needed to understand that if someone didn't like being tickled, they could ask him to stop, and that he should do so straight away!

Following the story, Mrs Harries set the children a challenge! This is completely optional, but something we hope will appeal to children across the Pre Prep. They have been asked to invent a new Mr Men or Little Miss character and to tell their story, or to write a new story for a current character. We will be presenting prizes for the winning entries on World Book Day (more details to follow).

Literacy

On Monday morning, we completed our weekly spelling quiz. The children have all been working hard to practise their handwriting for homework and we have been impressed with the standard of work handed in. Mrs Wilson's literacy group have been learning how to read and write 'oy' (toy for a boy) and have read a story about a lost tortoise. Mrs Brown's group have been learning how to 'ow' (blow the snow) and read a story called 'Chips' which inspired their writing. They also enjoyed making chip cones and tasting chips! Mr Fisher's group have been looking at 'ou' (shout it out), read the story 'Bats' and made a poster about nocturnal animals. Mrs Parker's class have been learning 'ar' (start the car) and have read 'We can all swim'.

Maths

In maths this week, the children have been learning about 3D shapes. They have revised the names of the shapes and have been spotting them around the school, completing a tally chart to find out which shape is the most common. They have also been exploring the properties of these shapes, for example, experimenting to see which shapes slide or roll. They have learned about faces, vertices and edges and some children have made 3D cubes using nets, geostix and marshmallows and cocktail sticks. We have also enjoyed singing the days of the week song and reminding ourselves which days come before and after a given day (e.g. today is Monday, what day was yesterday?).

Other lessons and activities:

- In games lessons, the children have been putting their running skills into practice on the woodland cross country trail. They tried to use long strides and focus on stamina rather than speed. The children stretched and relaxed with a yoga session as a cool down.
- The children have continued to become acquainted with modern artists. While Willow and Larch have studied Andy Warhol, Maple and Lime have looked at sculpture and the work of Giacometti. They have used tin foil and skewers to make human models

with long limbs in the style of Giacometti. They have also been very successful at drawing the human form using wooden mannequins.

- In topic, the children have been comparing the features of the city and of the countryside. They learned which countries form the UK and have designed a tourism poster for Norwich.

Optional activities over the weekend:

- Your child has been given their home learning handwriting and spelling book. These books will contain weekly spellings set by their literacy teacher. The words are a mixture of high frequency words and words containing the grapheme they have been focusing on in their literacy groups. Your child could try writing the word 2-3 times in their book and to attempt to learn the words ready for a spelling quiz on Monday. Please encourage your child to use joined up writing like that modelled in their book and always to write in pencil.
- You may like to logon to Active Learn and play the allocated game 'reel it in'.
- You may like to help your child make a personalised timetable of the week. They should practise writing the days of the week in the correct order and they may wish to draw a picture of something they do on each day.

Music Coffee Morning

Please be reminded that Mrs Koczur, our Head of Music, is leading a musical coffee morning for parents in the Pre Prep hall on Monday 5 February between 8am and 9am, to which you are most warmly invited. She will be bringing musical groups from across the School to entertain you and she will talk to you about learning instruments at Town Close.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 2 February – 4pm - 6.30pm: PTA Movie Night (Pre Prep)

Monday 5 February – 8.00am – 9.00am: Music Coffee Morning in Pre-Prep Hall

Thursday 8 February – 5.00pm - 7.30pm: Parents' evening for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (in the Pre Prep)

Online booking system: Go to the Parents' Booking System in the Parents' Information Centre on the school website and login using your email address and password. If you have not logged in before, your password will be **townclose**. Make sure you have the appropriate child selected. Click on the Parents' Evening button and click on a purple Available button. To cancel a previous booking click the red cancel button where you previously booked.

Thursday 1 March: World Book Day – dress as your favourite book character and author visit

Saturday 17 March – 10.00am - 11.30am: PTA Easter Activity Morning in the Pre-Prep Hall

We hope you have a lovely, restful weekend with your children.

Mrs Brown, Mr Fisher, Mrs Parker, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Harries

Melanie Harries