



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Year 1 Curriculum information

Week Beginning: 26 February 2018

Dear Parents

What an eventful week of weather it has been! In the short amount of time we have had at school this week, we have enjoyed an assembly led by Cherry Tree class all about books, in readiness for World Book Day which we will now celebrate next week. Children are welcome to dress up as their favourite book characters on Tuesday and we are looking forward to our postponed author visit, Ifeoma Onyefulu, author of *A is for Africa*, on Thursday and some African dance themed workshops on Friday. In the dance workshops, children will have the opportunity to wear face paint; do please let your child's teacher know if your child is allergic to face paint or if you would prefer them not to wear it. Alongside the author visit and dance workshops, in which the children will learn all about Africa, they will undertake some African crafts.

Children had a great time playing in the snow on Tuesday and we imagine they have also enjoyed playing outside in the last few of days.

Literacy

As always, we have enjoyed hearing about the children's weekend news. Some children like sharing in front of the class while others prefer to share with their friends in small groups. Now that we are half way through the year, it is good practice for the children to write a couple of sentences themselves.

In literacy groups this week the children have been learning to read and spell using a new grapheme. Mrs Wilson's group have been practising 'ure' (sure it's pure). The children have also been reading words which have been altered by the suffixes 'ing' and 'ed' and tried to spell these words during dictation. Mr Fisher's group have looked at 'oi' (spoil the boy). They read the story *Playday* and wrote a description of their favourite game to play. Mrs Parker's group have looked at 'ir' (whirl and twirl) and read the story *Scruffy Ted*. Mrs Brown's group are learning how to spell and read words containing 'ar' (start the car) and have been reading *Come on Margo*.

Maths

This week's focus has been on mental maths skills, with particular attention to adding and subtracting in our heads by counting on and backwards. Some children have used their fingers to assist them with number problems with numbers up to 10. We revised pairs of numbers up to 8 and 9 (e.g. $5+4=9$) and applied these facts to larger numbers (e.g. $15+4=19$, $25+4=29$). Although we often use number squares and number lines to assist the children, we want them to develop quick recall and begin to be able to work out these questions mentally.

We have also looked at the meaning of doubling and the children have been trying to learn doubles of numbers up to double 10. They first used practical equipment, such as cubes, to work out the doubles before quizzing each other. As a challenge, some children enjoyed working out doubles of 2-digit numbers.

Some classes have been practising counting in 5s and 10s and have applied this to counting the arms and legs on starfish and crabs.

Over the weekend your child might like to:

- Complete the spelling and handwriting task set by your class teacher
- Have a go at 'Bop a Bird' which has been allocated to your child on ActiveLearn
- Draw your World Book Day character and write 3 clues about the character for the rest of the class to guess next week, e.g. 1. I have a scar. 2. I go to a boarding school. 3. My initials are HP. Who am I?
- Count your family's hands in 5s. How many fingers are there altogether?
Challenge - count the hands and feet to find out how many fingers and toes you have in your family altogether.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 6 March: Postponed World Book Day celebrations – dress as your favourite book character

Thursday 8 March: Author visit for Reception to Year 2

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

Wishing you a relaxing weekend with your children

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

Melanie Harries