



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Reception Curriculum information

Week Beginning: 30th April 2018

Dear Parents

We have enjoyed a mixed bag of weather this week! As ever, we try to provide outside time for the children whenever possible, so please do ensure that both waterproof coats and sunhats are always in school!

Our Bird Family meetings looked at the subject of tolerance of others, whilst Mrs Brown led an assembly on Sidney the spider, which taught children that everything has its own special value and importance in the world.

This week our topic has moved from caterpillars to flowers as we begin to understand the role a flower plays in the ecosystem of our butterfly garden. The children have each dissected a tulip and reassembled it in the form of a picture. We labelled the basic flower parts including the parts which are under the soil. We talked about the function of each part and, to demonstrate how the stem of a plant drinks water to feed its flower, we have conducted an experiment. We hypothesised that if a flower drinks coloured water it should turn a different colour. Most of us think this will be the case but some of us questioned the idea because after all we would not turn purple if we drank a glass of blackcurrant squash! We are waiting in anticipation for the results.

Literacy

Literacy groups have taken place in the children's own classes this week. We have been thinking about the components of a good story and the importance of a beginning, middle and end. Some children have written their own stories while others have acted out their ideas for a story to their class friends. Over the weekend, as you read stories to your children, you may like to talk about the beginning, middle and end of the story. Would the children change the ending if they were writing the story? There will be opportunities to share ideas in classes next week.

We have been listening to children read and encouraging their recognition of high frequency/tricky/red words. All children are making progress and some are beginning to demonstrate their knowledge of these words in their independent writing. If you

would like to practise reading and writing words with your child there is a list of such words on the centre pages of your child's reading record.

We listen to the children read in a wide variety of contexts in school, both individually and in small groups. Please note that for practical reasons this is not always recorded in your child's reading record.

Maths

We have continued to encourage children to demonstrate their mathematical knowledge as they play, using a variety of resources. This week's focus has been taking away and counting back from a given number. You may like to challenge your child to complete a task (getting dressed, brushing their teeth, running around the garden) while you count down from a number. This should not always start at 10 or 20.

Other areas of learning

We have been busy outside preparing the Butterfly Lab. A dome shaped mosquito net has arrived along with ground covering for the Bananarium. We have been watering the plants and making sure the garden area is kept tidy. We are so excited to be watching the caterpillars change form, most have pupated and we anticipate carefully moving the chrysalides from their pots to an indoor net next week.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 8th May: Whole School Photograph

Wednesday 16th May – 9.00am - 3.00pm: Reception Trip to Holkham Hall

Friday 18th May: Pre Prep Royal Wedding celebrations

Thursday 24th May: End of the first half of term

Friday 25th May: School closed – INSET staff training day

Thursday 21st June – 2.15pm - 3.15 pm: Reception Sports Day on the front lawn

Wednesday 27th June: School closed – Norfolk Show day

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

With our best wishes from Mrs Alexandre, Miss Knightly, Mrs Laing and Mrs Harries

Melanie Harries