



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Dear Parents

Friday 28th September 2018

I write as I travel back by train from the IAPS Heads' Conference in Wales. A central theme has been predictions of the skills our children will need in a world of increasing AI and automation and what we as educators can do to equip them for open-ended tasks demanding analysis, creativity and collaboration that sometimes leave traditionally educated students floundering. There was much to re-affirm the value of our broad curriculum, which encourages intellectual curiosity and adventurousness, and useful research from around the world to guide further future development. I also attended a mental health seminar that underlined the importance of social media supplementing real relationships rather than substituting for them.



Back at school, Mrs Harries led a Pre Prep assembly where Mr Brave taught children about courage, while bird families talked about how together we can all make playtimes happy. Headmaster's assembly with Mr Parker began with Ava Gulliver-Jary beautifully singing *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* from the *Wizard of Oz*. The Assembly looked at "The United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development" (another theme of my conference this week) and the children were asked what they could do to help and make a difference. This was followed up in tutor group sessions later in the day and will be the focus for the next few weeks.



On Tuesday the U8 girls played their first competitive hockey matches against Gresham's. We enjoyed a wide range of other matches in glorious sunshine on Wednesday, with some encouraging performances from both girls and boys. Congratulations to the U11 girls who came an impressive third out of sixteen in the Framlingham College tournament.



On Thursday the Food Committee met for the first time and decided to focus on puddings this term! Today, Year 8 had a fascinating walking tour of Norwich with Mr Kendrick, looking at medieval streets, buildings, churches, trading areas, waterways and the juxtaposition of the old and more recent urban developments. 6L have started work on comparing churches following their trip to Walsingham and Year 7 are starting to learn how to write their first essay in the newly rebranded Theology, Philosophy and Religion curriculum. Our form teachers enjoyed meeting Year 3 & 4 parents yesterday evening and I hope that these consultations were useful. Little Acorns have been growing in confidence and throwing themselves into dance, swimming and painting. Year 1 were guessing which baby photo went with who as part of their "humans and animals" topic. Reception reviewed another book as part of the Royal Society's Young People's Book Prize and Year 2 wrote imaginative excuses for animals unwilling to help in the *Little Red Hen*.



Next week we look forward to welcoming a visitor from the Wherry School to assembly to talk about this year's charity, chosen by last year's School Council. We look forward to

meeting Year 8 parents on Monday evening. Also on Monday, Year 3 are travelling to the Time and Tide Museum in Great Yarmouth. On Tuesday there is an orchestra workshop with Norwich High and Norwich School, with a concert following at 4.30pm. When friends and family will be most welcome. For our Prep pupils, the first A2L (attitude to learning) grades are being sent home on Wednesday. On Thursday we look forward to the evening of Music and Poetry in the Read Hall starting at 7.00pm. And finally on Friday, a very lucky group of Year 8s travel to Rockingham for the finals of this year's F24 electric go-kart racing series, which we are proud to have made in our inaugural year!



I wish everyone an enjoyable weekend.

With best wishes

Nick Benington





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BULLETIN BOARD

PREP and PRE PREP

Individual and Class Photographs

You should have received, via your child, a pack (as pictured) with details of how to order your child's individual photograph. Please click [here](#) for the Bentley log in page.



Class photographs are also available and can be viewed in your child's classroom. These can be ordered online by clicking [here](#) or by telephoning Bentley Photographic on 0844 2570057.

Please note that the deadline for orders of either individual or class photo to be delivered free-of-charge to the School is the **10th October 2018**. Orders placed after this date will be delivered directly to your home and postage and packing will be charged.



Lexia

Children who attend Lexia are positively encouraged to access the programme on their home computers too. If any parents are unsure how to do this, please contact the Learning Support Department by emailing

Mrs Rymarz on frymarz@townclose.com.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NOTICES

Orchestra Concert

A reminder that next Tuesday 2nd October, from 4.30pm to 5.00pm, you are invited to attend a massed concert of musicians from many visiting schools, as the culmination of an afternoon workshop. Town Close School's Senior Orchestra will be part of the ensemble. The concert will take place in the Read Hall and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Prep After School Care

If you are booking your child into Prep ASC following an activity, such as clubs, matches, games practice etc., please ensure that you select the appropriate activity they have been involved in so that a packed tea is available for them when the activity finishes. Please do speak to the Prep Office should you need any further clarification.

Food Committee

The newly elected Food Committee, who met yesterday for the first time. Their job is going to be to work with the catering staff to help contribute ideas about the menus, help reduce food waste and to understand more about catering at school. Their first task is going to be to share information about possible new puddings and find out from their classes which ones the children would like to see on the menu!



PTA EVENTS



Quiz & Curry Night
Friday 12th October 2018
AGM at 6.30pm Quiz at 7.00pm



Bonfire Night at Tacolneston Hall
Friday 9th November 2018
Starting at 6.00pm

To book tickets for both events please visit the PTA website by clicking [here](#).

This week in Pre Prep...



Charity Black Tie Dinner

A group of Pre Prep parents are organising a 'Charity Black Tie Murder Mystery Dinner' in aid of [NANSA](#) on Saturday 10th November 2018 at the Assembly House. To find out more information please [Email Clare](#) (Little Acorns) or call 07769663001.

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