



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Dear Parents

Friday 19th October 2018

In parallel with the Norwich Science Festival, we have been amazed, enthralled and challenged throughout our STEM Week. From Nursery to Year 8, children have enjoyed an extensive range of visits, activities and experiments, all designed to inspire a love of scientific inquiry.

Prep children have been investigating the forces and engineering behind the building of Norwich Cathedral, programming mini robots, learning about the science of fireworks, developing their understanding of space with 'Rocket Rod' and watching a highly engaging, entertaining workshop about space physics and flight from the BBC's Rap Scientist, Jon Chase. His visit to Norwich was supported by the Science Festival and, amazingly, we were the only school who took up the opportunity for him to visit.



Pre Prep children were equally absorbed, with a range of interactive experiments from Mad Science Norfolk, a visit from Animals UK, and a host of sessions led by Mini Professors as the children investigated the seasons, the solar system and dinosaurs. I joined children for the Animals UK visit. We were fascinated to see a large boa constrictor slithering on our hall floor, we met a meerkat, chameleon and skunk and discovered that the animal resembling a hedgehog was actually a Tenrec from Madagascar. Pre Prep children also enjoyed Mr Chapman and Mrs Rushton's "science versus magic" assembly.



Mr Smith led Prep assembly about the UN's 17 goals for sustainable development and today's Headmaster's assembly taught children about England's first saint, Saint Alban, and what he can teach us about putting our friends first. James Howard performed *Coconuts and Mangoes* enthusiastically on the violin, while Daniel Xu gave a very accomplished performance of *Attitude* on the piano. Many more of our Year 5 children performed at yesterday afternoon's lovely Year 5 soloists' concert, with fine progress and promise evident from these emerging musicians. 3A took us back to the Stone Age for their assembly to Years 2-4 on Wednesday, with some fascinating comparisons with modern families.



Reception had a very rewarding trip to Thetford Forest, including following the *Highway Rat* trail, while Year 1 greatly enjoyed their visit to Banham Zoo. Year 4 and Reception children combined to race Mars Rover models to mark Reception's choice of Markus Motum's book *Curiosity* as their winner for the Royal Society's Young People's Book Prize. I joined a Year 8 maths group learning how to factorise quadratic expressions, a Year 6 Latin group using existing knowledge combined with intuition to translate unknown words and a Year 2 class during their library lesson. The [film](#) of Year 7's recent trip to the Château de la Baudonnière was released on our YouTube channel. Year 6 pupils may be particularly interested to watch it to get a flavour of what awaits them next September.



This afternoon, we have enjoyed singing, dancing and presenting to Pre Prep grandparents and showing them our classrooms. It was also a pleasure to meet Nursery and Year 6 parents for consultations and we are grateful to all parents who contributed to Year 2's Bakes and Books Sale. Last week's PTA Quiz and Curry was a great success, thanks to Chair and Secretary elect Catherine Spokes and Maeve Fox and all the volunteers. I hope lots of parents will [book](#) tickets for the next big PTA event, our traditional Fireworks party, which is on Friday 9th November at Tacolneston Hall. The PTA would also be very appreciative to hear from anyone else happy to volunteer – it is great fun! Please email ptachair@townclose.com if you can help.



The week after half term also sees a Year 3-8 swimming gala, more sports fixtures, a coffee morning for Nursery parents, Year 5's parents' evening and our traditional remembrance assembly for Prep pupils. Exam week for Years 5-8 is not until w/c November 26th, so we do not expect any revision to be needed until after half term. Years 3&4 do not have formal exams in the autumn term and therefore no revision will be expected for them.

We hope your children really enjoy the half term break.

With best wishes

Nick Bevington





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BULLETIN BOARD

PREP and PRE PREP

Religious Studies

The children in Year 5 have been thinking about all the different rooms that you might find in a mosque and have then had the chance to design their own mosques in RS lessons this week.



History Department

Thank you to Daniel Wemyss- Holden (5K) and his father who have built this model of a RAF WW2 Britain Short Sunderland plane for the History Department.



Year 3 baked chocolate chip muffins in maths this week. They were given a recipe with incorrect measurements in the ingredients, meaning they had to use halving to correct them.



GAMES DEPARTMENT NOTICES

Rugby Practice

Please note that, due to the evenings drawing in, there will be no Monday after-school rugby practices after half term.



Oliver!

Good luck to Daniel and Naomi Callow, Josephine Juette, Sophie Millington, Heidi Robinson and Sruthi Santhosh who will be performing in Norfolk Youth Music Theatre's production of *Oliver!* at the Maddermarket Theatre during the half term holidays. The shows will be at 7.30pm each evening from Wednesday 31st October - Saturday 3rd November with a matinee on the Saturday. Tickets are still available for some performances so please do go along and support them.



Black Cat!

Over the past two weeks, we have enjoyed having Wilson (formerly known as 'black cat') living in the School grounds. He had been missing from his home for over four months and sadly his owner has relocated. Jayne Williams, one of our kitchen assistants, has very kindly offered to give him a loving home, which he moved to this afternoon. We hope he has a happy time in his new home!



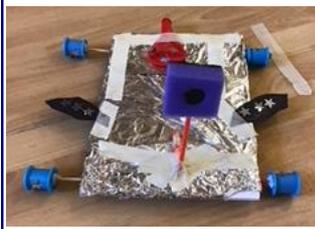
Bird Families

Well done to the Peregrines who won the bird family cup for this half-term. Here are Edgar and Kitty collecting the cup.



Science Topic

Willow class with models of internal body parts that they have been making as part of their science topic



Reception and 4R worked together in the Read Hall to design and make balloon powered Mars Rovers this morning.



Grandparents joined Pre Prep pupils this afternoon to show them around their classrooms.



Year 1 visiting Banham Zoo earlier in the week.

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