



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Dear Parents

Friday 11th January 2019

It has been lovely to welcome pupils back after the Christmas holidays and I wish everyone a Happy New Year! Mrs Harries talked about New Year's resolutions in Pre Prep assembly, encouraging children to set positive targets and to keep striving for them even if they did not succeed every day. We also elected this term's new "Top Birds" in Bird Family meetings and we look forward to seeing these children taking on their new responsibilities in the coming weeks.

Headmaster's assembly started with a beautiful waltz, played by Nora Østergaard on her flute. The assembly itself took children through the events leading up to next Tuesday's key Parliamentary vote on the EU Withdrawal Agreement and the unprecedented uncertainty surrounding what may happen next, with only 77 days left before our scheduled departure. We also congratulated the large number of Town Close pupils who have been selected for county cricket sides and Ella Snowling for her part in *Aladdin* at the Theatre Royal, where she has been playing *Yum Yum*. Her final performances are tonight and the Sunday matinee.



This week I have seen a number of our Year 8 pupils to practise interview skills and it has been a joy to share their hopes and ambitions and see their confidence in discussing a range of issues. I wish those taking senior school entrance assessments in the coming weeks the best of luck. At the younger end of the spectrum, I chatted to our Reception pupils who were busy

searching for a polar bear in the grounds yesterday. They talked enthusiastically about their new project to me in the library today and I am sure they will enjoy their trip to Norwich Castle next Friday when, amongst other activities, they will be going on a bear hunt.



Elsewhere, I saw Year 6 pupils studying the characters in *Macbeth* during their English lessons and Year 4 children practising their inference skills as well as learning how to use a thesaurus effectively. Year 2 children were producing some very impressive writing and starting their Great Fire of London topic. I joined Year 8 pupils testing their scientific understanding with questions set for them by Mr Chapman on a cloud-based iPad application, while Year 3 were learning names and locations of important places in the British Isles. Year 4 children have been rehearsing hard for their production, *Rock Bottom*, which takes to the stage in two weeks' time, and seemed



really to enjoy rehearsing with the sound equipment on Wednesday evening. Meanwhile, Year 7&8 pupils are busy rehearsing their musical *Beauty and the Beast*, to be performed later in the term.

Children in the Prep Department have begun training in this season's sports and next week sees the start of the netball and hockey seasons, with fixtures versus Framlingham Prep. Later this term, we look forward to the traditional house cross-country, as well as fixtures with other schools. It was good to see training in progress during PE lessons on our cross-country course. It has also been great to see children enjoying the six new adventure play areas around it during break times, despite the cold weather, and Reception children also having a lovely time playing on the various apparatus during their explorations of the grounds this week.



I wish everyone an enjoyable weekend.

With best wishes

Nick Bevington

Nicholas Bevington





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Safety message for older pupils travelling independently

Following a possible incident outside another school in Norwich, please reiterate to your children the importance of not engaging with strangers when travelling to and from school.



Year 4 Production of 'Rock Bottom'

The Year 4 pupils would like to invite you to their production of 'Rock Bottom' taking place at 4.30pm on Thursday 24th January and 6.00pm on Friday 25th January in the Read Hall. Tickets for both performances can be booked via the Parents' Information Centre. The production is suitable for all children apart from the very young due to the running time of 70-80 minutes, without an interval. We look forward to seeing you there!



New Year, New Library!

The Library has had something of a facelift over the Christmas holiday and the children are loving the new look! It has a new layout with a lovely new blue carpet and a reading area called 'The Reading Nook'.

GAMES DEPARTMENT NOTICES

Swimming Equipment

Please can you make sure that your child has a swimming hat and pair of goggles in their swimming kits as these are required for every swimming lesson. Thank you.



Ella's Pantomime Success

Well done to Ella Snowling (Year 3) on her 'starring role' in this year's Norwich Theatre Royal Pantomime of Aladdin. Here seen pictured between the two leading ladies (The Genie and the Princess). Ella will be appearing in this evening's performance as well as on Sunday afternoon if you would like to see her in action!



Former Pupil News

Ex Town Close pupil Tim Graham, who is currently a Captain in the Army, but is promoted to Major from July 2019, has been awarded the MBE for 'Child protection Advocate - DR Congo'. At only 30 years of age he is particularly young to receive such an award.

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A reminder that the booking system for Activate 2019 goes live on Monday 14th January 2019 at 4.00pm. As usual, there will be a 25% discount for bookings received by the 13th May 2019. The dates are as follows:

w/c: Monday 22nd July
w/c: Monday 29th July
w/c: Monday 5th August

25% DISCOUNT

New Top Birds



Avocets

Freddie Alston and James Marshall

Barn Owls
India Coupland,
Saania Moosvi and
Mimi Patrick



Kingfishers

Amelia Lodge,
Joshua Alder and
Jackson Birtwhistle



Peregrines
Alejandro Olmo Ochoa,
Amelie Fenn and
Amelia Whiley

