



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Reception Curriculum Information

Week beginning: Monday 22nd April 2019

Dear Parents

The children have enjoyed two assemblies this week. On Tuesday, Mrs Harries led an assembly about our life as a journey, using stepping-stones. She explained that all our experiences, whether they are good or bad, difficult or easy, help us to grow and develop, and that it is important to take time to appreciate them. Mrs Laing led an assembly on Thursday about Earth Day. Children learnt about its origins and shared ideas about the ways in which humans are causing damage to the planet, as well as considering ways in which we can help to save it. Children helped to elect new Top Birds during their Bird Family meetings.

The Reception children returned to school enthusiastically and we enjoyed sharing holiday news. Our week has been very busy and we have managed to squeeze a lot into the four-day week.

Topics

On Tuesday, we learnt about Saint George and the Dragon. We had an interesting discussion about whether or not the story of the saint slaying a dragon was real. We decided some parts of the story were real but other parts, the dragon for example, were fantasy. Unless, as pointed out by one of our knowledgeable children, the dragon was a Komodo dragon!

Further extending our understanding of the world, we also celebrated World Earth Day. We read *The Earth Book* by Todd Parr and used the story as inspiration for making 'Help our Earth' posters. The ideas discussed link well to our topic this term. We will be exploring our local environment and, in particular, the habitat of our outdoor classroom. We were very excited to take delivery of over 100 caterpillar larvae. Each class will be monitoring a share of these, carefully observing changes taking place as the caterpillars grow in size and commence their journey to becoming butterflies. There is much work to do to prepare our 'Butterfly-arium' to ensure our butterflies have a habitat safe from predators for a short while, when they emerge from their chrysalises. Thank you to any parents who have donated flowering plants such as lavender – we would welcome further donations if possible.

Literacy

We have been assessing the children's reading progress this week. The children read regularly in school every week and this, combined with the support you give by sharing the reading books we send home, has had a significantly positive impact on their progress. We would encourage you to continue reading stories to your children and

hearing them read their books at home. Many of the children are becoming increasingly confident in their writing, too. We all wrote a sentence or two to record the arrival of the caterpillar larvae and we are sure you will look forward to seeing the children's diaries evolve over the coming weeks.

Maths

This week, we have been counting and recognising numbers and revising correct number formation. We have been exploring number bonds, learning about the different ways in which a new number can be made by adding two smaller numbers together. The children have played with a variety of manipulatives, such as Numicon pieces and coloured cubes, to help them understand the concept. We have also been writing addition number sentences to record the bonds. We played an exciting game in our PE lesson where the children, wearing one of four different coloured bibs, were asked to make teams of 5 using only two of the four colours. This was quite challenging for the children, but a lot of fun!

Games

The children experienced a carousel of activities including ball games, balancing and aerobic exercises.

Over the weekend

- You may like to help your child practise forming numbers.
- You could also go for a walk and see how many of the spring items you can find from those listed on the Nature Detectives activity sheet in your child's special book.

Lost Property

We are gathering quite a selection of lost property in the Pre Prep. Mrs McCloy is going to set up a table in the Pre Prep entrance for parents in the mornings and afternoons next week. If you think you may be missing any items, please do come and have a look!

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 19th June - 2.00pm: Reception Sports Day on the front lawn

Wednesday 12th June – 9.30am - 3.00pm: Reception trip to Bressingham Steam Museum and Gardens

Wednesday 26th June: Royal Norfolk Show day – school closed

Tuesday 9th July: Moving up day for Reception

We hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

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

Melanie Harries