



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Dear Parents

Friday 24th May 2019

Following our late Easter, the first half of the summer term has flown by! I hope your children are enjoying the start of half term today while staff have their training day, which is focusing on brain function and development and mental health with guest speaker Dr Bettina Hohen.

Headmaster's assembly for Prep pupils on Monday was about the importance of manners and our safeguarding measures on the School site, where staff wear silver badges, visitors red badges and parents blue badges. Children were reminded of the importance of having their salto wristbands so that they are able to enter buildings during the school day, which remain locked to outsiders. They were also instructed only to open doors for adults wearing the appropriate badge and otherwise to seek the help of a teacher. Please remember to wear your parent badges on site and ensure Prep children bring their salto wristband each day.



Pre Prep had a celebration assembly yesterday, with the Bird Family cup narrowly going to the Kingfishers and turning blue! We congratulated silver certificate and other award winners and our stars of the week. We saw fine work chosen for the wonder wall, which is well worth going to see in the Pre Prep entrance area. All of Maple Tree class stood up following their fantastic assembly about plants and growing on Tuesday morning. They also treated us to a fine re-enactment of *Jack and the Beanstalk* complete with a tall



beanstalk, a giant and a pretend axe! It has been lovely to see all three Year 1 classes performing and speaking with such confidence. Year 6 children, meanwhile, have been hard at work rehearsing for their forthcoming play *Charlie and the Chocolate Family*, which takes to the stage on June 20th and 21st.

This week our first painted lady butterflies have emerged from their chrysalises and I saw the most lovely scene this morning with half of Beech Tree Class sitting in the outdoor butterfly lab examining these beautiful insects through magnifying glasses in the dappled sunlight. When walking around the grounds after school earlier in the week I also saw four impressive deer who seem to live on site but miraculously disappear into the woods when playtime starts! We attached a "Go-Pro" camera to a Year 5 volunteer earlier in the week to capture the sheer amount of ground covered by children during lunch break. We will edit a sped-up version after half term.



Pupils in Year 4-6 have been busy completing school exams this week, which I hope went well, while Year 7 children have had their French orals. Year 7&8 exams take place after half term and I hope that these children will combine a sensible amount of preparation for these over half term with time to relax too. Year 8's will be rewarded for their efforts in completing CE exams by their trip to the Lake District in the second week of June.



Elsewhere, I spent time with Year 3 girls honing cricket skills with Mrs Hale on Tuesday and Year 4's with Mrs Wilcox yesterday. I also enjoyed two very interesting English lessons earlier in the week. Year 8 were working on interpreting poetry, answering questions with the appropriate evidence, while Year 7 were developing the ability to write imaginatively about a picture prompt, invoking all five senses. Meanwhile, Year 1 had a fantastic trip to BeWILDerwood, enjoying story-telling and woodland adventure.

This weekend six pupils are representing Town Close at the IAPS National Tennis Championships at Rugby. Upon our return from half term, Year 1 have their trip to Gressenhall, while Year 4 look forward to their exciting residential trip to Horstead. There is Goblin racing for selected Year 6 children and the East Area athletics alongside other sports fixtures. As ever, the full calendar is on the portal, which you can also sync to any of your devices.



I wish all of our pupils an enjoyable half term break with their families.

With best wishes

Nick Bevington

