



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Dear Parents

Friday 20th March 2020

Amidst all the current uncertainty, it has been a lovely week for children, full of amazing highlights. The Senior Production *Wendy and Peter Pan* was beautifully cast and wonderfully acted, full of adventure, action and sensitivity. Congratulations to cast, crew, Miss Stewart-Pond and Mrs James! 3A's assembly was a fantastic guide to the continents, while 3H performed their assembly this morning, telling the Easter story confidently, with



wonderful singing, including lovely solos. The House matches and House cross country races have all taken place in fantastic spirits, with children cheering on their peers supportively. All of these events have sadly taken place without parents able to attend and we hope that some of the pictures and footage we have taken will convey the children's fine achievements.



We have also celebrated fantastic news, such as two of our former pupils announced as Head Prefects for their senior schools, Patrick Walton at Gresham's and Matilda Hayes at Norwich High. We completed the Vocab Express Challenge and came 6th in the world, amazing considering there are now no size categories so we were up against some very large opponents! Please see the bulletin for more details. We also celebrated coming third in the country in the Satips General Knowledge Quiz with five pupils winning Amazon voucher prizes and Teddy Bowyer, our highest individual scorer, 19th nationally.



In Pre Prep assembly, Year 2 performed their Norfolk County Music Festival songs, Year 1 shared some of their favourite pieces, while Reception sang the food songs from their sadly cancelled end of term concert. Bird families talked about personal space and, this morning, children had time with their form teachers to discuss the coming weeks. Mr Lawry and his tutor group led Prep assembly on Monday, sharing important environmental messages. In Headmaster's assembly today, Prep children looked at how resourceful, determined and resilient Britain was in the summer of 1940, while facing possible invasion. We looked at the parallels with today as well as reminding children of all the good that can come from adversity. Anna Kenyon played *Arabesque* beautifully on the piano and, in true wartime spirit, we sang our hymn despite the absence of a professional pianist.



There have been numerous lovely lessons, such as Year 7 building fairground rides in DT, Year 4 creating their new home art folders, Reception engineering marble runs and Year 8 challenging themselves with their distance swims. Amidst all this, teachers have been working hard to share work with those children already absent and plan for the coming weeks, when school will involve remote learning for all but the children of key workers, who will continue to be educated on site.

We have been working hard to get everything ready, with perhaps the last link being teachers' Zoom meeting codes. We now have our professional account with this platform (they have been much busier than normal) and we will be organising teacher accounts and sharing their details over the weekend, ready for teachers to share with children on Monday. For now, please ensure that you have downloaded Zoom for free on all your devices. Children do not need an account but they may create one using their Town Close email address, thus allowing them to contact other children. During this period of social distancing, we feel it is vital for children to continue to be able to talk to friends. However, we all need to be vigilant to ensure everyone uses this technology sensibly and responsibly. We are sending guidelines home separately and please do contact Mr Woods if any issues arise that need following up.

Next week marks the start of a new reality. It was certainly sad saying goodbye to some of our children today, knowing we may not physically see them for some weeks. Rest assured, we will all be doing our best during this period. I hope you and your families stay safe and can make the most of the current adversity. We will get through this and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the flesh as soon as possible.

With my best wishes

Nick Benington

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