



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Dear Parents

Friday 15th May 2020

As we end our fourth week of term with remote learning continuing for most, our staff have been overwhelmed by the resilience and positive response of our children. One teacher shared the following with colleagues:



"Anyhow, one of the things that I will take from this awful situation is the phenomenal fortitude and resilience of so many of the pupils of our School – lesson after lesson, day after day, they have turned up, uncomplaining, and done their best to enhance their education via Zoom or in lonely ones or twos in lessons in School. Their good-bye waves, 'thank-yous', 'take-cares' and 'see you soons' at the end of Zoom lessons have, at times, been simply heart-melting and on more than one occasion after the completion of the final lesson of the day, I have been moved to tears of gratitude and inspiration."



The spirit of our pupils was exemplified in the fantastic VE Day responses we received, including a VE day Karoke version of *We'll Meet Again* and a fine portrait of Winston Churchill from one family, news of a tremendous fundraising effort for the British Legion by another pupil and lovely photos of all your decorations, outfits and VE Day bakes. One group of pupils organised a socially distanced neighbourhood gathering featuring home baked scones, VE day cards, bunting and a quiz, raising an impressive £160 for the NHS.



It was also inspiring to see so many wonderful entries for the *Learn a New Skill* competition. Isla's winning Prep entry featured creative use of Town Close blazer material to make a fine teddy bear outfit, while Teddy's winning Pre Prep entry was a video of him learning to ride a bicycle joyfully. There were myriad other new skills shared, including skateboarding, sign language, baking, learning musical instruments and even indoor rugby! Other highlights this week have



been a wonderful batch of cookies baked for James Paget, a brilliant Year 1 animation about plastic in the ocean and an impressive Year 8 Tinkercad holiday house. We also saw the launch of the bird project for Pre Prep pupils.



I saw fine examples of Year 7 children really pushing themselves in PE and an interesting discussion taking place in a Year 8 TPR lesson, while many children have been enjoying art and taking amazing photographs. A recorded Reception lesson about nature featured Mrs Laing's superb ability to arrange flowers and fashion a rainbow from petals. One Year 3 group were learning to be news reporters linked to their current text *Iron Man* and we have also seen poetry, maths paper aeroplanes, number squares, mini-beasts, animal teeth, worm measuring and a family tree. Headmaster's Assembly had a maths theme, with children learning about risk, probability and making decisions when the future is uncertain, while Pre Prep children enjoyed a lovely story from Mrs Harries that highlighted the positives that can help us to overcome misfortune.

As many of you will no doubt have read, the government has announced plans for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils to be able to return to school no earlier than June 1st, alongside children of "critical workers". A detailed letter outlining the arrangements and guidance has been sent separately to those parents. The government hopes to allow other primary groups to return later in the term alongside allowing schools to arrange meetings with secondary pupils. The guidance will inevitably need to evolve for all this to be possible, so we will communicate arrangements for other year groups when we know more.

Finally, a reminder that next week is the last week of the half term and that Friday is part of the holiday while staff have their INSET.

I wish everyone an enjoyable weekend.

With my best wishes

Nick Kingston

