



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Dear Parents

Thursday 21st May 2020

We have finished half term with some fantastic news about Year 8 scholarships. We heard yesterday that our final candidate, Sam K, has been awarded the Oundle Academic Scholarship, a magnificent achievement in one of the toughest scholarship exams in the country and all the more impressive considering his preparation was hampered by lockdown.



This caps another fine round of results with an amazing 30 senior school scholarships and other awards offered to Town Close pupils this year. A full list is included in the bulletin and my congratulations to all those children for the effort that went into their achievements.



As May continues, we have enjoyed lovely hot weather, with children at school making the most of our grounds for work and play. I had good fun giving some children catching practice on the front lawn and enjoyed seeing younger children planting sunflowers. Headmaster's Assembly, for all pupils this week, was about the wonderful dawn chorus we hear at this time of year. Children were challenged to copy Chris Baines' birthday party idea and persuade you to join them for an early morning listen during the half term week. Thank you to Harriet and Alec for their entertaining cameo performances.

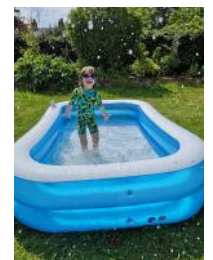


We have been grateful to receive more emails of thanks and support this week. With yesterday being national Thank a Teacher Day, we shared a special thank you tree for the Town Close teachers and teaching assistants and posted some of the kind quotes we have received on Facebook. Other highlights have included a smoothie shack with smoothies named after Mrs Hale and Miss Goddard and some fantastic Year 3 rainforest videos.

With mental health being a big issue at this time of uncertainty and upheaval, we shared an article about the benefit of school therapy dogs as part of Mental Health Awareness week. Bella has been in school this week and I saw a lovely picture of her practising her reading skills!



This week, I have seen Mr Kendrick captivating Year 7 children with his Zoom lesson on Richard III, while Mr Smith was using Quizlet over Zoom to teach his science group about forces and motion. Year 4 were hard at work writing chapter books about their 'lost thing', while Year 2 were creating imaginative 2D and 3D artwork and Reception creating potions including intangibles like honesty. As ever, we have received some great pictures of work from home including French beach projects, food chain posters, gardening and a delicious recipe. Tuesday saw a trip to the rainforest, while games time has seen lots of enjoyment of paddling pools. Miss Goddard had an energetic beach theme to her Zoom PE lesson and it was lovely to see all the children on the screen enjoying with such enthusiasm.



Half term starts tomorrow and Prep A2L grades for subjects where children have had a live teacher are now available on the Portal. We will also be writing reports for children this term, though these will be different from normal as not all subjects have continued nor have children all had their usual teacher. Class teachers (Year 4 and below) and tutors (Year 5 and above) will therefore be collating feedback from all the teachers children have had and combining this with their observations in an extended tutor report.



June 1st should see the return of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils to school, subject to government confirmation on May 28th, in addition to existing critical worker children in other year groups. It will be lovely to welcome more children back, much as the guidance for the first phase of re-opening will mean school will be far from normal at first. I will write tomorrow with final details to parents of children involved. We will continue to do everything possible to bring positivity and purpose to our children's learning in the second half of term, whether at school or at home, as well as being there to support their needs at this difficult time. Meanwhile, I wish all pupils and families a very enjoyable half term break.

With my best wishes

Nick Kemington