



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Dear Parents

Thursday 7th May 2020

We look forward to tomorrow's special VE Day Bank Holiday. It seems very appropriate that the sun will be shining and that the weekend will also see the Prime Minister's first indications of life beyond lockdown as we remember Winston Churchill's May 1945 promise that people could look forward to the "sunlit uplands of the future", to a better time when things would return to normal. Tomorrow's celebrations will not have the mass gatherings of 75 years ago but will be an opportunity for us all to gather collectively in spirit to remember the sacrifice, resilience, determination and good humour that saw Britain through its darkest hour and which will see us through this current crisis too. Mr Kendrick's whole school assembly this morning captured this spirit brilliantly and it has been lovely so see some of the children's creations, inspired by his leaflet of VE day ideas.



Elsewhere this week, I joined Mr Fisher and a group of Reception children as they shared news and read a story together via Zoom and saw a Year 7 English class working productively on the tasks set in their online lesson. My own French class managed a rousing online rendition of *tête, épaules, genoux et pieds* as we revised body parts and little words and a number of teachers have been taking advantage of the breakout rooms feature in Zoom, a great way to enable group and pairwork activities. In art, Year 6&7 children have been creating some thoughtful and imaginative Google Doodle pieces around the theme of hope. Meanwhile, a Year 7 pupil sent an extremely impressive picture of a homemade croque monsieur, following Mr Hewitt's lesson on food. In DT, many older pupils have been taking encouraging steps into the realms of computer aided 3D design, as shown by this magnificent amphibious vehicle created by a Year 6 pupil on Tinkercad.



with "Buzzy the Bee"! There was a brilliant acrostic poem written by a Year 2 pupil and we also received news of a significant sister. Other photos included a 10th birthday lockdown party, ladybirds, farm-style games and smoothie recipes. Do follow the Town Close social media feeds for lots more detail.



We have received lots of wonderful pictures of learning from home once again, with homemade playdough, a rainbow dress, volcanoes, presentations on teeth, lighthouses and fruit art all featuring. It has been good to see fine examples of reading, maths work, creative writing (we saw some particularly impressive efforts from Reception), science and spelling practice



with "Buzzy the Bee"! There was a brilliant acrostic poem written by a Year 2 pupil and we also received news of a significant sister. Other photos included a 10th birthday lockdown party, ladybirds, farm-style games and smoothie recipes. Do follow the Town Close social media feeds for lots more detail.



In the absence of organised sport, it has also been great to see children playing outside, cycling and being creative in gardens. I joined a small group of the children here at school yesterday afternoon as we played croquet on the front lawn during games time. With a little encouragement, they soon learnt how brutal one can be in this most gentle of sports! It was also lovely to see the woods bursting with life as children played on the woodland walk equipment so generously donated by the PTA. This morning some of our Nursery children joined a Year Eight boy for cricket practice.



We are all working tirelessly to deliver outstanding online learning, though we are naturally looking forward to pupils returning to school as soon as this is possible. We hope to receive the first indications of when and how children will return on Sunday, though we are unlikely to receive exact dates and guidance for some time after that. We have already drawn up a detailed draft plan encompassing many areas including cleaning, handwashing and providing extra space and will take note of all guidance as soon as it is available, putting in place every measure that is reasonably possible to safeguard staff and pupils as more children return. Equally, where we do not think measures are reasonably possible, we will be honest about that and liaise with parents as we work out how best to minimise risk. Having remained open for children of key workers, we are in a good position to scale up our current response, which has worked well.



I wish everyone a very enjoyable VE Day Bank Holiday Weekend.

With best wishes

Nick Kingston