



# TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Dear Parents

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Today marks the last day of the spring term, with everyone continuing to work from home, aside from the small number of key worker children looked after on site. It has been lovely to see examples of what so many pupils have been managing to achieve in these difficult circumstances. Pre Prep children have been receiving video clips, resources and work from their teachers as well as spending time on Zoom listening to stories and talking with their teacher and other children. We have loved receiving examples of children's hard work such as a fantastic Year 1 piece of writing about a stick. In chatting to Prep pupils, I have been impressed how industrious so many are being, given the challenge of managing time more independently. One pupil was thinking carefully about a philosophical essay question, while others were answering questions on Socratic and tackling maths problems. It was lovely to join 4V in their Zoom meeting with Ms Vontzalidou.



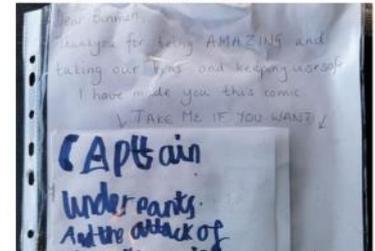
There have once again been lots of eye-catching and interesting activities shared this week, including Peter Rabbit poems, work on shapes, some fantastic imaginative writing, phonics games, superhero cake making, a Tinkerhad house design, beautiful leaf heart artwork, rainbow science and Easter crafts. We also received a daffodil dissection and shared an amazing Year 6 animation showing three types of rainfall on our FaceBook Page. Some of you may have read in the EDP about Jacob in Year 2's specially written Captain Underpants comic, which he left on his dustbin with a letter to thank refuse collectors. We hear more drawings are planned! Note that the den-building contest has been extended over the Easter holiday and we have had some great entries in already.



Should next term also start on a virtual footing, we will be taking all we have learnt over the last seven days and refining how we organise virtual learning further. We will write again before the beginning of term to confirm exact arrangements depending on how circumstances evolve. Prep pupils still with Firefly tasks to complete should not feel pressurised to finish these over the holidays as long as they have done all that they reasonably could in the time provided over the last seven days. Although the holidays will be very different for everyone, I hope children enjoy good rest and relaxation and make the most of extra time at home, through play, reading and pursuing new or existing hobbies.

Coronavirus: Jacob, 7, is comic-book hero who surprised bin collectors

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A note left to bin men by residents thanking them for their work during the coronavirus lockdown. Picture Submitted



Prior to the end of term, I also wanted to apologise for upset caused by my unguarded personal response to a *Times* article that was then published and wrongly associated with the School. Please be assured of our continued commitment to following government advice to minimise the risk to children and adults on site. Children have been spaced widely in classrooms, the dining hall, assembly and any queues, with windows always open and as much outside play as possible as well as being required to wash hands regularly and thoroughly. Various areas of the School have been closed, allowing significantly raised hygiene measures everywhere else. These include cleaning and sanitising water bottles and fountains, adding additional handwashing stations, pick-up and drop off taking place outside, planned visits by contractors cancelled, cutlery being handed to children



individually by a gloved member of staff and intensive cleaning and disinfection of hand contact points such as tables, handles, computer equipment, door pushes, stair rails and toys. This has all been coordinated thanks to the hard work of Miss Linsmith, our Assistant Bursar.

In these difficult times I wish everyone as restful, happy and healthy a holiday as possible, and look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

With best wishes

*Nick Bevington*

