



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Dear Parents

Friday 19th June 2020

It has been a busy week of learning and we are really looking forward to all children being able physically to return on Monday. I hope that you will all forgive the logistics needed to make this work within current guidance. Pupils will need to bring in books that have been at home as well as pencil cases (Year 3 upwards) and iPads (Year 6 upwards). They also need to have their own named water bottle (year 3 upwards) and a small named bottle of sun cream, if top ups are needed, and their sun hat. They should then minimise what goes home each day to the essentials. Thankfully, the weather is forecast to be warm and sunny all week and so there should be no need for extra layers. Games T-shirts and shorts/skorts should suffice for everyone but do keep an eye on the forecast further ahead. We certainly hope not to have too many mornings as tempestuous as during yesterday's deluge!



We have seen a number of highlights this week, including an energetic PE dance session with Miss Goddard, which I saw when touring visitors on Zoom. The children in the sports hall and at home were putting in fantastic effort and Miss Goddard was also thrilled to see the parental participation



that her "Birdie Song" routine inspired! Elsewhere, we have seen lovely smiles thanks to other pupils supporting the Nursery children's #sendasmile initiative. These included a beautiful poem read by our Heads of School. We also enjoyed hearing a piano performance of *Happy Day* by a Year 2 child who has been teaching himself since October. There have been striking paintings created by Little Acorns this week, with some intriguing abstract creations. We also saw one of our Year 4 pupils adding stones to Poringland's ever-growing Penelope Python, while another pupil in Year 4 created an amazing rhinoceros display in support of the East Harling Zoo Day appeal for Banham Zoo.



Today is the last day of our social media news round-up of home learning, though we will continue sharing regular news stories from school from Monday. Days 34-38 have included pictures of poppies, a French treasure hunt, alfresco reading, children concentrating hard in Zoom lessons and magnetic building. We have also seen children measuring their gardens, writing biographies, creating stories independently and threading African beads. There were impressive arts and crafts creations shared on Wednesday, and we have also seen natural art and face masks. Finally, in the absence of organised sport, there have been examples of children honing their skills in gardens, especially in cricket, which we are all missing at the moment. Lots of our children playing in their bubbles at school have also been having mini games too.



At school, I have enjoyed visiting Year 6 English lessons and hearing descriptions of desserts. As an added bonus, one of my visitors this week told children (from a safe distance) about his time filming wildlife in deserts, giving an excellent flavour of some of the extremes he had experienced. I saw some lovely writing by Year 1 children about the animals found in a savannah and came across groups of Reception children enjoying story time with their teachers. Meanwhile Little Acorns were whizzing on bikes and trikes in the playground and climbing to the top of their castle in the Nursery garden. It was also great to see some of the Year 7&8 lessons on Zoom and to see how well everyone was engaging in their learning. I received an email from a Year 3 parent who said how much he was enjoying Mr Buck's Zoom DT lesson, as well as his child. Mr Kendrick led a fascinating Prep assembly about the



summer of 1940 and the Battle of Britain, while Mrs Harries taught children more about our four bird family birds in Pre Prep assembly.



We look forward to all children being invited to return on Monday and hope everyone will feel able to send children, understanding the very small number of cases involving family members shielding. If your child will not be returning, please do ensure the front office knows and we will then finalise plans for sharing work with the small number of families involved.

In the meantime, I wish everyone an enjoyable weekend.

Nick Jennings