



# TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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

Dear Parents

Friday 12th June 2020

We have enjoyed educating our pupils at home and at school once again and hope that you have all had a good week, despite the very un-June-like weather. The news agenda has been dominated by the government's decision to abandon its aim to bring back all primary pupils for the last month of term (from June 22<sup>nd</sup>), recognising this is not possible for most schools at the same time as observing the very restrictive guidance put in place. The government has

said there will be flexibility for schools to take more primary pupils where they can and have promised details "in the coming days".



We share the desire so many of you have expressed for children to be able to return to physical schooling as soon as possible, whilst recognising that this has to be done in a way that is safe, not only for them but the whole of society. Once we have received the details from the government, we will look carefully at how we might bring back other primary pupils from June 22<sup>nd</sup>, whilst adhering to the guidance, and will write to Year 2-5 parents about this next week. Our thoughts are particularly with Year 7 & 8 children who continue to make a fantastic effort with their remote learning. We know that the normal end of term and Prep prize giving will not be possible and our top priority will be our departing Year 8 group. We plan a ceremony for all of Year 8 and the winners of a reduced number of prizes in other Prep year groups, with details to follow as soon as we know what will be allowed.



This week I have visited all of younger children studying at school and seen Little Acorns forming letters, Reception experimenting with floating and sinking and Year 1 learning fascinating facts about Africa. I joined 6RW for their geography class, plotting climate graphs, and saw a small group of Year 7 keyworker children joining friends online in an energetic PE lesson with Mr Woods.



There have been great outdoor activities, despite the grey skies, using material from the garden to create collages, sculptures and black holes! We also saw some impressive work in DT from Year 6-8 pupils using Tinkercad, with the children designing extremely desirable chairs from scratch. There was also a very impressive Year 8 competition winner, with details in the bulletin. From those learning at home, we have seen a French fruit salad, work on Mauritius, a special painting, a Year 7 choropleth map, natural art, super Spanish and lots of industrious maths and English work.



Art was a central theme of both Headmaster's and Pre Prep assembly. In the former, Thomas and Toby from Year 8 were challenged to draw emotions connected with colours in front of a live audience and we encouraged all pupils to participate in the Nursery "Send a Smile" initiative. Pre Prep assembly told the story *Bear's Magic Pencil* and we talked



about creativity and imagination as well as witnessing Mrs Harries' artistic skills. Elsewhere we have seen some wonderful stop motion news reports about Esio Trot from Year 3 pupils and also received news of a toy and plant sale. Last Saturday marked the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of F24 racing coming to Hethel and Mr Buck is already working hard with Lotus and Greenpower to ensure that the event will be back next year. To re-live our thrilling 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> in the two races, click [here](#).

I wish everyone a very enjoyable weekend.

With best wishes

*Nick Springford*

