



CLOSEUP

LIFE AND LEARNING AT TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL





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Welcome to Close-Up.

Close-Up chronicles a year in the life of Town Close, offering a retrospective review of our School family at work and at play. Through a myriad of images, we hope to capture the essence of what makes our School so special by providing a unique insight into the dynamic and creative learning environment our pupils enjoy and the abundant range of trips, activities and events that shape a year at Town Close.

Whether you are a prospective, current or alumni of the Town Close family, we hope that Close-Up gives you a clear picture of the magic which unfolds each year at the School.

townclose.com



Christopher Wilson, Headmaster

Christopher Wilson joined Town Close and immediately looked to the future, building on the School's strong, national reputation as one of the country's leading prep schools.

On the back of winning the TES Pre Prep/ Prep School of the Year Award, Town Close attracted an extremely strong field of candidates in their search for a new Headmaster to replace Nicholas Bevington who was in post for 8 years.

Mr Wilson joined the School from Lockers Park School in Hemel Hempstead, where he had been Headmaster since 2012, and brought a wealth of experience and knowledge of the prep school sector.

'The prep school sector of education is an incredible one to work within. This period of education encapsulates the most formative years of a child's growth and learning. In these early years, in addition to the classroom curriculum, pupils learn an array of interpersonal skills, find their talents and passions, and develop distinctive traits that they will carry through to their secondary education. I feel abundantly fortunate to be in a position to teach, guide and support children through this most exciting period in their lives.'

Prior to Lockers Park School, Mr Wilson spent 11 years at Winchester House School where he taught Common Entrance and scholarship maths as well as coaching rugby, hockey and cricket. He studied Rural and Environmental Economics at Newcastle University, before taking a mathematics conversion course and PGCE at Homerton College, Cambridge. Mr Wilson is married to Hayley and they have two daughters, Amelia and Florence, who have also joined the School.

'Town Close has proven to be a very special place to work and learn and I relish the school years ahead.'

Mr Wilson impressed the governors with his educational philosophy, forward-thinking attitude and modern outlook whilst conveying his personable nature and warm approach in his interactions with children, parents and colleagues alike.

Mr Wilson said 'I am thrilled to lead a formidable team of staff who continue to inspire and give our children an exciting and fulfilling year of learning and growth, inside and outside of the classroom. It has been a pleasure to work on Close-Up and reflect on another wonderful year at Town Close. We hope you enjoy it!'



The interview of the year

'10 Questions with Mr Wilson', is an in-depth interview with our Headmaster, hosted by nine industry experts who pose the big questions of the day!

Watch the full interview [here](#)



The School

Town Close is a co-educational Prep school for children aged 3-13, located in the heart of the city of Norwich. Offering a comprehensive curriculum and an abundance of extra-curricular activities within its fifteen-acre site, the School is well

known as a feeder school for a number of leading local and national senior schools. To meet the Headmaster or to visit the School, please contact Admissions Manager, Amy Jones on admissions@townclose.com



THE AUTUMN TERM
AN EXCITING
NEW YEAR



A wondercrump, gloriumptious, splendiferous, phiz-whizzing Roald Dahl Day!

The School marked Roald Dahl Story Day with a range of interactive and fun activities for the pupils to celebrate Dahls' storytelling genius. A Woodland Trail hunt, featuring props from Dahl's stories, led our Pre Prep and Years 3 and 4 children around the Woodland Walk as they discovered the objects hidden amongst the trees, identified them and then worked together to decipher which story they came from.

Mr Twit style beard making in Years 3 and 4 inspired the children to write accompanying captions

that challenged them to incorporate alliteration, adjectives, similes and metaphors within their writing and even invent a few of their own 'Dahlesque' words to describe the decaying food within the beards.

Years 5 and 6 created their very own collage of Mr Twit; Pre Prep fashioned their own BFG dream jars; the whole School enjoyed a Roald Dahl quiz; and cries of 'I've found a golden ticket!' echoed around School as the children enjoyed a Golden Ticket Hunt around the grounds!



Geographers enjoy a residential field trip

The first trip of the academic year saw our Year 8 geographers visit Flatford Mill for a residential field trip. Flatford Mill is a field study centre located in beautiful Constable country, set amidst the quintessentially English countryside of the Dedham Vale in Suffolk, on the banks of the River Stour.

On day one, in bright sunshine, the children completed field sketches of the local environment and took part in a fieldwork bucket challenge where they had to devise their own investigation using the equipment

presented to them. An equally warm and bright second day took them to visit the Essex coastline as they studied freshwater habitats, collecting data and comparing managed and unmanaged coastline at Walton-on-the-Naze.

On their return to School, the data collected will be recorded and analysed to form the backbone of their Common Entrance geography projects, and the practical, outdoor experience will only strengthen their understanding and enthusiasm for the subject matter.



Gardening Club

In their lunchtime Gardening Club, our Year 2 gardeners got straight to work filling their Town Close trug with compost before expertly planting their strawberry runners!



Walsingham visit

Our Year 6 children travelled to Walsingham for a fascinating church trail day, visiting the Methodist, Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches as well as the Anglican Shrine. A comprehensive tour and exploration of each site gave the children a first-hand experience of the distinctive religious buildings and an insight into how different denominations worship.



Welly Wanging

There was a big cheer for the return of a beloved Town Close tradition - Inter-House Welly Wanging! All ages took up the challenge to become the Welly Wanging Champions. There was tension, there was suspense, there was excitement and, most importantly, there was a whole lot of fun! Upton was crowned the Winning Welly Wanging House of the Year!

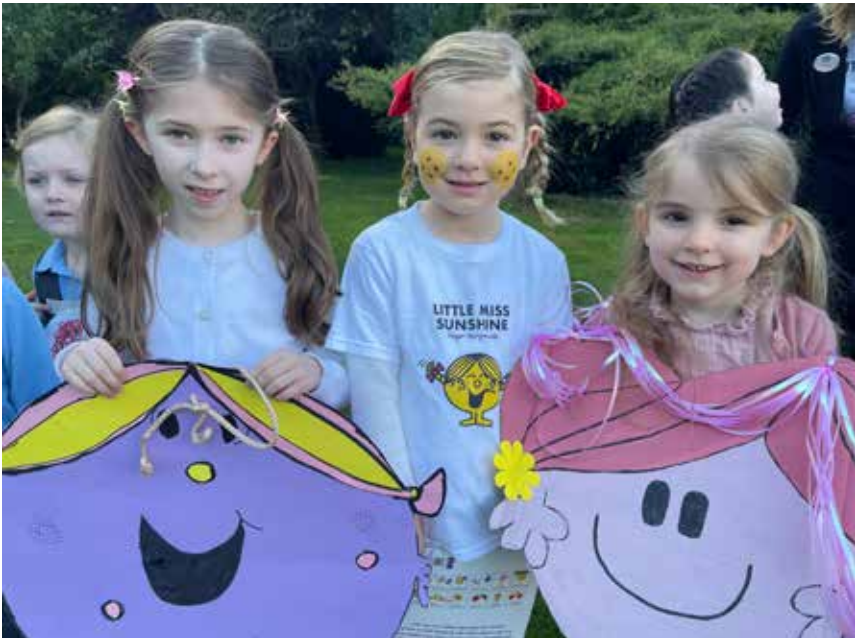
Watch Mr Wilson's inaugural Welly Wang!





Hockey coaching

We were delighted to welcome the men’s England and Great Britain Hockey Manager and England indoor hockey coach, Andy Halliday into School for an indoor hockey masterclass with our Year 7 and 8 girl’s. The girls enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of hockey before an Olympic themed Q&A session.



50 years of Mr. Men and Little Miss

We marked 50 years of Mr. Men and Little Miss which saw all our incredible little people enjoy a week of fun and learning. The week was launched by a whole School Assembly that delved into the history of the books and saw Mr Chapman create some of our favourite characters in balloons whilst we all learnt how to draw Mr Tickle!

Activities throughout the week included balloon modelling of favourite characters, creating and making our own new characters in French, a themed trail

around School and a Mr. Men/Little Miss food challenge. Finally, there was a dress up day and Mr. Men/Little Miss parade before a delicious Mr. Men themed lunch! During the week, children also wrote jokes and created their own characters which were published in a Mr. Men/Little Miss themed joke book. A copy remained in our Library for the children to enjoy and another copy was sent to our chosen charity – The Jenny Lind Children’s Hospital at The Norfolk and Norwich Hospital Trust – for the children in hospital to read and enjoy!



Horstead residential

Year 6 children were beyond excited to have the opportunity to visit the Horstead Centre together and enjoy an overnight adventure!

A thrilling range of activities were included over the two days with the children taking part in climbing, bouldering, canoeing, archery, paddle boarding and bush craft as well as working together to take on the infamous crate stacking challenge! In the evening, a night walk in the early evening sunshine prepared them perfectly for a bonfire party with games, songs and the obligatory toasting of marshmallows!

The trip provided a fantastic opportunity for the children to relax together, test themselves on the different activities and build strong relationships for the year ahead. Thank you to all of the staff at the Horstead Centre and to the team of Town Close staff who accompanied them.



OVERNIGHT ADVENTURES



Exploring in the forest

Thetford Forest was the destination for Year 1 as they explored the forest environment in readiness for their upcoming half term focus on nocturnal animals. They enjoyed exclusive use of the Forest Shelter and dedicated treehouse, undercover picnic area and heated cabin, as well as numerous adventure play areas. They also followed the sculpture trail and took the opportunity to collect an abundance of autumn treasures!



Greenpower Challenge

Our Year 8 F24 team competed in the Greenpower International Finals at Goodwood Motor Circuit, racing against 65 other electric IET Formula 24 kit cars from all over the UK, all vying to be crowned the F24 Champions.

Greenpower Education Trust CEO, Paul van Veggel, introduced the day: ‘The Greenpower Challenge exists to inspire young people to enter the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). On show today is the end result of all their work and the challenges they have overcome. I am constantly impressed with the effort, resilience, and dedication that all our competitors put into the project, but especially at these finals when the last 18 months have been so disrupted for them.’

After an overnight stay at Truleigh Hill Youth Hostel, the children rose early to prepare for a morning practice session, allowing them to gain vital experience of the track and make adjustments to the car before racing began. A parade lap preceded the four twenty-minute sprint races, with the team all taking turns to drive or offer trackside support. Facing stiff competition from many senior schools and colleges, our children held their own in the four races, finishing an extraordinary 19th out of 65 and 5th overall in the kit car category.

Congratulations to the whole team who worked brilliantly together, soaking up the incredible atmosphere whilst thoroughly enjoying the experience. Thanks also to Mr and Mrs Buck and Mr and Mrs Anthony who accompanied and supported the team.



POLE POSITION





Charity

Each year we support a charity which is voted for by our School Council. The Jenny Lind Children's Hospital at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was one such charity. We welcomed Lauren and Mercy to Pre Prep to introduce their charity to the children. Let the fundraising begin!



PTA firework night

Oh what a night! Fabulous fireworks, delicious food and great company. Huge thanks to all of the PTA for their incredible work to organise and deliver a true highlight of the Town Close year.

EVERY DAY IS A LEARNING DAY





Everyone’s unique

We wore our odd socks with pride throughout School to celebrate our individuality and uniqueness on Odd Sock Day!



Children in Need

Our Senior Dance Group supported Sophie Ellis-Bextor on her 24 hour Danceathon for Children In Need! Miss Goddard and the Group donned glitter, their Pudsey inspired clothing and dancing shoes and joined singer, songwriter and model Sophie Ellis-Bextor on her BBC Radio 2 Danceathon for Children in Need. Having been selected as one of three supporting dancing acts of the hour, the children danced along to tracks, lending their support to her campaign to raise as much money as possible.

Watch the children perform with Sophie.



Remembering together

Mr Kendrick delivered an emotive Remembrance Assembly in November to our Prep children with a two minute silence observed at 11am in the Read Hall and all of the individual classrooms watching the Assembly remotely.



Residential trip

Year 8 pupils went on a residential to Cornwall with Mrs Sims, Miss Warner, Mrs James, Mr Walker and Mr Sanders. They had a fantastic time exploring and learning about the local area and were fortunate to have incredible weather for their time away, despite it being November!

The trip was designed to enhance their learning in geography, history and science, and gave them opportunities to explore the topics of sustainability and the environment.

On their first full day in Cornwall, pupils visited Lizard Point where they were accompanied by a tour guide who taught them about the geographical features of the local area; all of the students were amazed by the beautiful views and landscape.

From there, the group travelled to St. Michael's Mount. They spent the afternoon exploring the castle and learning about the history of the island. Back at the hostel that evening, the pupils were given a talk entitled 'It's a Hard Rock Life'. They learnt about the history of mining in Cornwall and were able to pose questions to an ex-miner which they all found absolutely fascinating.

The next day, the group travelled to the Eden Project. They spent the morning working with the Education Team at the Eden Project and reflected upon how we are all linked to the world's rainforests. They explored the rainforest biome and were intrigued to see and learn about so many plants, especially the cocoa trees, and some animals! In the afternoon, the group visited the Mediterranean biome, and enjoyed an hour of ice-skating. On returning to St. Ives, the group visited the harbour and enjoyed some Cornish ice-cream before heading back to the hostel for the evening.

On the final day, the group travelled home via Carnglaze Caverns. The group were able to learn about the important role that it had played in the history of the area. After this, the Year 8s enjoyed visiting an American Diner before starting the journey home.

CLASSROOM CORNWALL



RUGBY AND GIRLS HOCKEY



#TEAMTOWNCL
OSE



Reindeers fly in to school!

Two very special visitors arrived at Town Close as part of our festive Woodland Trail! Our Pre Prep children ventured out on a magical walk through the trail in search of Father Christmas’s missing reindeer. Finding willow reindeer along the way and enjoying a surprise encounter with Mrs Christmas, the children then discovered the real reindeer, Dancer and Prancer, Christmas music and some seasonal snow at the end of the trail.

On day two, we welcomed families from the local community who were equally taken with our festive visitors. It was truly a magical couple of days and we were proud to have raised over £700 for our School charity, The Jenny Lind Children’s Hospital.

Watch more here.





Interactive history

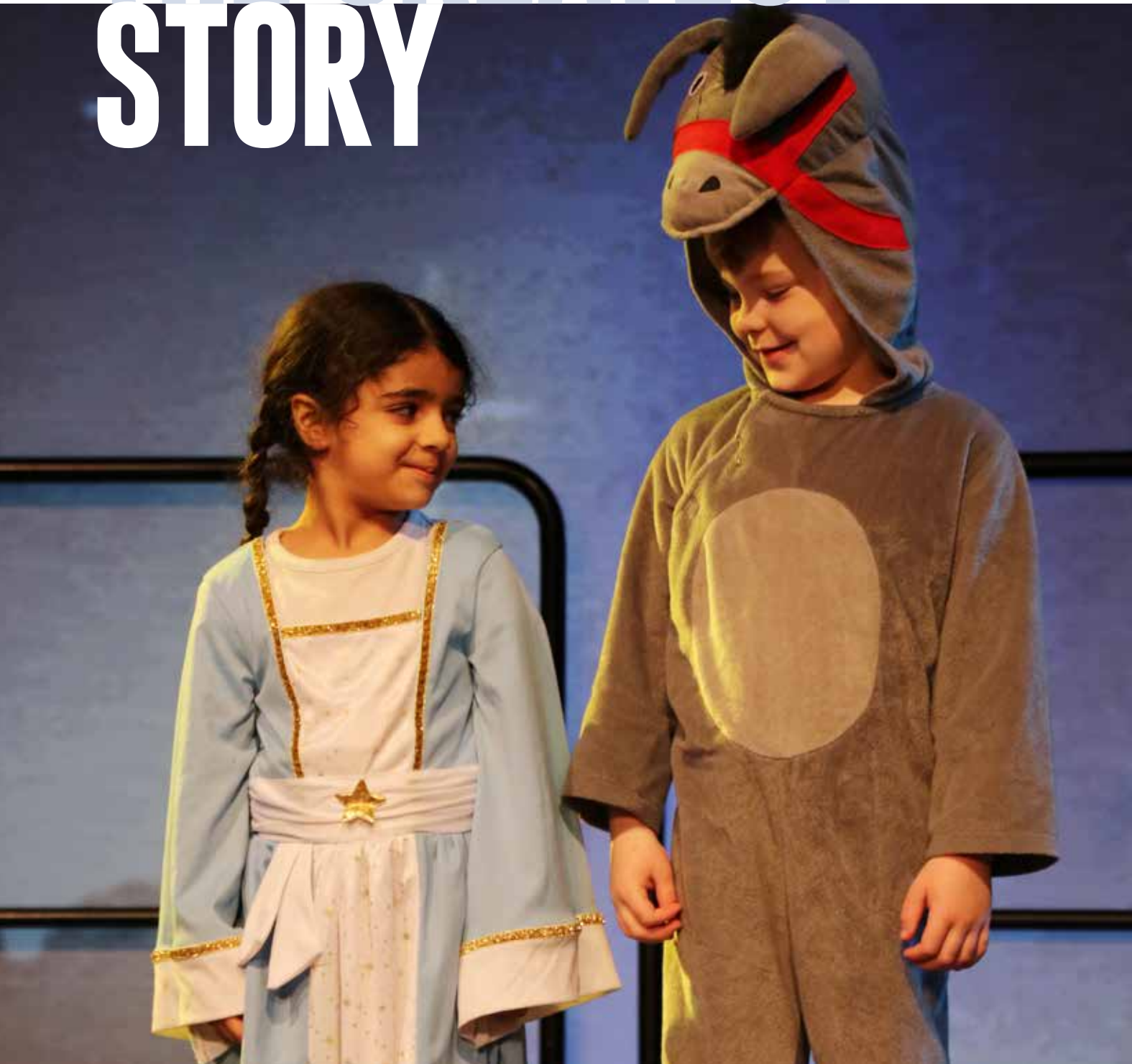
Our Year 3 children ventured out to Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse on a Neolithic day as part of their topic ‘Footsteps into the Past’. They took part in four interactive sessions that gave them a fantastic insight into Stone Age farming, hunting, shelter building and tool making.



Christmas treats

Our nursery children cooked up some seasonal magic of their own when they mixed, baked and iced their own individual Christmas cakes. The trickiest part of each stage of the process was resisting having a sneaky taste!

THE GREATEST STORY



Nativity performances

Our Pre Prep children treated the School, parents and families to some beautiful performances of the Christmas story.



Carols in St Peter Mancroft

Thank you to The Church of St Peter Mancroft for hosting our annual Prep Carol Service. A feast of festive carols, inspiring readings and lessons with beautiful choral performances from our Junior, Intermediate and Senior choirs.



School Alone

Our cast of Year 8 children took on another Christmas cinematic classic to deliver our final message of the year. This funny but heart warming film reinforced our belief that everything is so much more fun when we are together!

Watch **School Alone** here.



Christmas

We enjoyed celebrating the festive period with our annual fete, Christmas jumper day and delicious Christmas lunch. To support our School charity, parents purchased presents for children in the hospital from our Amazon Gift List which were delivered by Mrs Harries, our Head of Pre Prep.

A close-up photograph of two young children, a girl on the left and a boy on the right, both laughing heartily. They are wearing blue school uniforms. The background is a blurred field of dry grass or straw. The text 'THE SPRING TERM' is in white, 'BURSTING' is in large orange letters, and 'WITH LIFE' is in large white letters, all positioned on the right side of the image.

THE SPRING TERM
BURSTING
WITH LIFE



Gripping stories

During Storytelling Week, Mr Walker and Mrs Sims read popular children’s books in French and Spanish to small groups in the Library, helping the children broaden their vocabulary in different languages and develop their imaginations! The pupils enjoyed inspiring talks from guest authors, visiting the school either physically or via Zoom in the library.



Mrs Guymer’s reading ‘Bear Lair’ was a popular den, promoting reading, listening and relaxation. We also welcomed the Little People’s Drama Co. into School to take our Pre Prep children on an interactive ‘Goldilocks and the Three Bears’ adventure!

EVERY DAY IS A LEARNING DAY





Library

Throughout the year all pupils enjoy time in the library with Mrs Guymer. Bella also enjoys her time with the children, listening to them read and soothing everyone with her calming, cuddly presence.



The brightest sparks

Matched against hundreds of participants nationwide, we were extremely proud to congratulate Henry of Year 6 who came 1st in the Junior Satips General Knowledge Quiz, Evie Year 5 who came 48th in the Junior Competition, and Belek Year 7 who finished 26th in the Senior Competition. An incredible achievement for all three pupils!



Town Close T-Rex!

In support of the charity Break we were very excited to design our dinosaur and see the creativity of our children unleashed on the local community in Norwich Forum. All of our Prep children created their own Zentangles that were applied to the Break GoGoDiscover Mini ‘Breakasaurus’, aptly named Zentangleosaurus!



The Amazing Adventures of Superstan

The Year 4 cast of ‘The Amazing Adventures of Superstan’ exuded incredible confidence and energy in their two performances to friends and family.

The musical was an upbeat adventure that followed the story of Stanley Marvel, a clumsy day-dreamer whose life is turned upside down when he discovers that local hero, The Candy King, is actually a super villain who, with the help of his mad minions, is determined to conquer the world!

But Stan, aka Superstan, his crazy gran and chums have other ideas!

Plenty of laughs, spectacular songs and crazy characters gave all audiences, in the dress rehearsals and final performances, a thoroughly enjoyable couple of hours of musical theatre!



From the Heart Day

In celebration of Valentines we launched ‘From the Heart Day’. In assembly Mrs Sims and Mrs Harries talked about the history of Valentines Day and local legend ‘Jack Valentine’ before reading ‘The Invisible Web’, a story about an invisible string, made of love, that connects us all. The children replicated this string with each other in the Read Hall and in their classrooms before Mr Chapman created a heartfelt

balloon model for the School. Our PTA supported the day, gifting every pupil a chocolate hearts goody bag. Our School charity, The Jenny Lind Children’s Hospital, were delighted with their surprise present of story and activity books for the children to enjoy. Messages were placed around the hugging tree reminding us all of what we should be thankful for.



Little Snowdrops

Nursery took advantage of the beautiful spring sunshine to enjoy a snowdrop-spotting ramble in the Woodland Walk before heading back to the Nursery to paint some.

EXPLORING SCIENCE



Science, technology, engineering and maths

Our week of STEM activities launched with a fascinating Prep Assembly that explored the role that gases have to play in improving the world around us.

Throughout the week pupils enjoyed a range of activities. Year 3 welcomed 'History Off The Page' into School for 'The Geology Lab', an interactive exploration of the physical world looking at different natural materials and their properties.

Year 1 classes spent a day on rotation, trying three different egg related experiments; discovering how much salt it takes to float an egg; designing parachutes and 'baskets' to hold an egg safely when dropped from a height and designing and building their own cable cars to safely transport eggs down a zip wire.

Prep children enjoyed a Maths Quiz, working in groups to answer maths related questions in the quickest time.

Reception and Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 thoroughly enjoyed the LEGO engineering challenges set by the 'Block Bus!'. Tasked with designing houses for the Three Little Pigs (Rec) and bridges for the Billy Goats Gruff (Y1 and 2) and for bridges for Norwich (Y3 and 4), the children worked to size and strength stipulations to ensure that their designs passed the test.

Year 7 and 8 pupils enjoyed a coding and robotics masterclass by the Royal Air Force Youth Engagement Team based at RAF Marham.

A huge thanks to all of the visitors and School staff who made the week such a fantastic exploration of STEM.





Roald Dahl performances

Year 5 enjoyed a brilliant day working with @konflux.theatre.in.education. In a short period of time they learnt a play about Roald Dahl which they performed amazingly to parents at the end of the day. When not rehearsing they made ‘delicious’ or (disgusting) Snozcumbers!



Pancake Day

We love pancakes! Children in Pre Prep enjoyed cooking pancakes together for their morning snack and at lunchtime we all feasted on pancakes for pudding.

GETTING STUCK INTO BOOKS



World Book Day

Our Prep children enjoyed an extended Assembly to celebrate books and our love of reading. In costume, staff presented the books that have inspired them. Then there were costume parades, book charades and 'Play Your Books Right'.

In Pre Prep we welcomed Bookbugs and Dragon Tales for a storytelling and activity session to stimulate their imaginations.

As part of our World Book Day celebrations this year, we were pleased to host the Scholastic UK Travelling Book Fair in School. Children visited the Fair over the course of the week, compiling a wish list of books that they would like to read, with the option for parents to make a purchase should they so wish.





Treasure Island

Our senior cast delivered two swashbuckling performances of ‘Treasure Island’ to friends and family, impressing the audience with their professionalism and energy. Congratulations to all the cast and crew as well as to director, Mrs Beasley and contributing staff: Mr Hewitt, Mrs Chitty and the gap students.



Star players

We were extremely excited to participate in Norwich City FC’s ‘Active Canaries’ health month. Over the course of 4 weeks our creative catering team incorporated a nutritious recipe, linked to a Norwich City first team player, into their lunchtime service. Dimitris Giannoulis’s Greek chicken flatbreads, Tim Krul’s vegetarian sausage, red lentil and tomato stew, Teemu Pukki’s Finnish fish pie pasta bake and Josh Sargent’s macaroni cheese all featured.



Team Lotus tour

Our Year 8 F24 team were honoured to visit Classic Team Lotus and to be guided around the collection of 58 cars by Clive Chapman, son of Team Lotus founder, Colin Chapman. It proved an inspirational afternoon for our pupils who took the opportunity to ask plenty of questions and to find out more about the evolving car designs and the world class engineering. Thank you to Clive for the opportunity and for giving his time so generously.



Sutton Hoo trip

To augment their learning on the Anglo Saxons in History, our Year 4 pupils ventured out to Sutton Hoo National Trust and enjoyed a fascinating tour of the burial mounds, sand tray archaeology and a session exploring the incredible exhibits on display in the museum.



French language

“Merci beaucoup”, Big Wheel Theatre Company for entertaining and teaching our Years 6, 7 and 8 pupils with ‘Voulez-Vous’, an interactive re-imagining of a French game show performed entirely in French with plenty of surprise appearances and activities along the way!

The session concluded with some delicious crêpes to enjoy in the sunshine.



Dawn chorus

Arriving in School to the melodious sound of our Prep Orchestra rehearsing an uplifting medley of tunes for the upcoming Spring Variety Performance!

SMILES GET TOP MARKS



Awards

Town Close was selected for two awards, both related to the happiness and wellbeing of our children. We were selected as one of 5 finalists for the Muddy Stilletos Best Schools Awards 2022, in the category 'Best Sense of Humour'. The award is aimed at celebrating the fun and true spirit of what makes a school special for its pupils. Our shortlisting for the Independent Schools of the Year Awards in the category of 'Student Wellbeing' also focused on the pastoral offering at our School.

As a nurturing, positive school we have always considered the wellbeing and happiness of our pupils, staff and families a priority. The backdrop of the pandemic and its impact upon school life gave new focus to this priority as sustaining a happy, dependable and safe place to learn became of critical importance to our community during periods of home learning, isolation and numerous restrictions.

A concerted effort by all throughout saw our sense of community grow, partly due to initiatives solely focused on promoting togetherness through fun and laughter. This last year has built on these ideals, promoting their benefits further and striving to ensure that those who learn together, laugh together!

Some of the initiatives which stood out to the judges included special themed days; Dinosaur Day, Reindeer Day, Rainbow Day and Better Together Day. Our pupils also enjoyed visits from comedians and comic authors as well as school traditions like the stalwart House event of the Town Close Calendar, 'Welly Wanging' that guarantees smiles and laughter each year!





Watch our pupils and parents complete their 5K challenge.



Eastern Daily Press fundraising

In response to the EDP’s appeal and in common with many other organisations and individuals we felt, as a school and a community, compelled to support the people of Ukraine during the desperately tragic situation in which they found themselves.

In the first instance we asked our pupils, their families and staff to commit to 5 kilometres of activity (choice of activity being their own) in return for a £5 donation.

Walking, jogging, running and swimming were popular activities. However, hiking, camping, roller-skating, sailing, scuba-diving, skiing and even a walk with an elephant took place.

Additional fundraising activities saw pupils and staff at break time running home made craft, bakes and book stalls. The result saw over £5,000 raised in total for Ukrainian charities with over £3,300 going to the EDP’s specific fund.



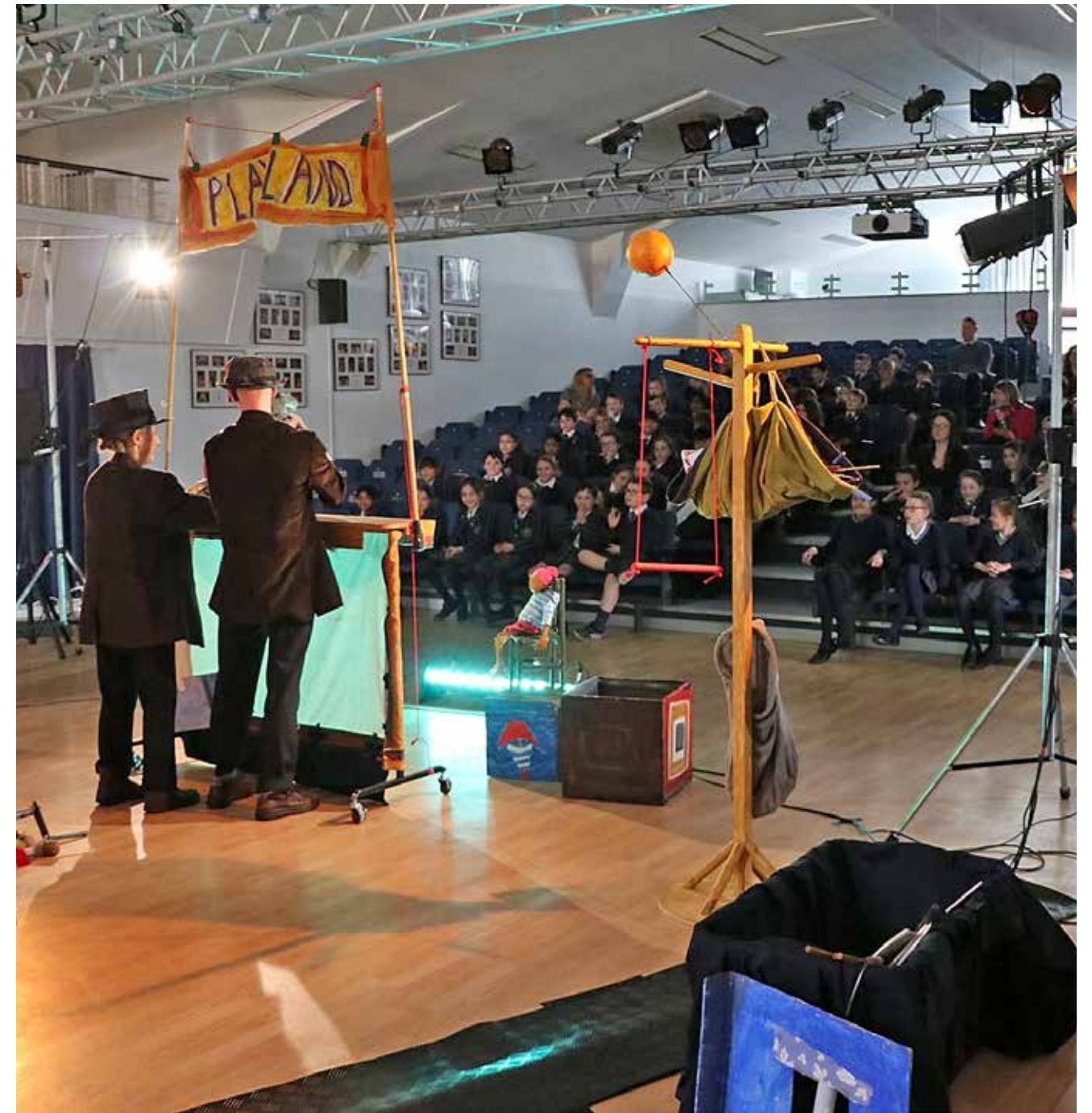
Prep School Variety Performance

The Spring Variety Performance proved a truly uplifting celebration of talent and togetherness as our Prep pupils entertained their peers, friends and family with fantastic dance, music and gymnastics performances. A round of applause to all who contributed and to Mr Woods, Miss Goddard and Miss Skinner for overseeing rehearsals and the performances.



History Off The Page

A whole hoard of Year 4 Vikings joined a Viking village Lord in the year 878 AD for a day of activities and battle training. They mixed their own ink, braided, created pottery, learnt to charge in battle and to arrange their own shield wall. Later they transformed into archaeologists to excavate and classify artefacts. Thank you to History Off The Page for an immersive day of learning and fun.



Norwich Puppet Theatre

Years 3 and 4 were extremely excited to welcome the talented puppeteers from the Norwich Puppet Theatre into School. They performed a re-imagining of the classic fairy tale, Pinocchio, that took their audience on an adventure of self discovery that explored what it means to love.



Hockey tour

Town Close’s inaugural hockey tour for children in Years 6, 7 and 8 proved a huge success with high performance hockey coaching and competitive matches hosted at the Nottingham Hockey Centre interspersed with a range of fun activities including ice

skating and ten pin bowling, as well as an adrenaline-filled day out at Alton Towers! Even the snow could not cool the enthusiasm over the course of the tour. With huge thanks to the accompanying staff: Miss Hewitt, Mr Woods, Mr Coulthart, Mrs Wells and Mr Iaccarino.



Cross Country

From Year 1 to Year 8, children are able to enjoy our cross country course through the Woodland Walk.

Select pupils in Prep also take part in Regional and National Cross Country competitions, whilst all Prep pupils enjoy the fiercely contested House Cross Country competitions in the Spring Term.

NETBALL AND BOYS HOCKEY



#TEAMTOWNCLIFF



DELIVERING EXCELLENCE



Top inspection report

We were proud to have received the outcome of an Educational Quality inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI). The ISI issued the highest grading of 'excellent' on the quality of the School's work in both pupil achievement and personal development. "We are delighted with the inspection outcome", Head, Chris Wilson said: "It is testament to the school's commitment to providing the best educational and pastoral environment for all our pupils."

You can read
the **full report** by
going online here.





THE SUMMER TERM
TIME TO
CELEBRATE

EVERY DAY IS A LEARNING DAY





PTA summer social

Over 230 event tickets, 434 raffle tickets, a great sponsor, brilliant raffle contributors, a lot of drinks and plenty of fun casino action – all making a grand total (after costs) of £4150 raised and a host of brilliant memories.



VENTURING OUT



HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

Historical Norwich tour

Our Year 8 children were captivated by a guided historical tour of Norwich led by our very own historian, Mr Kendrick. Taking in the religious and secular medieval architecture of our city, they learnt about the city's prosperous past as the largest and wealthiest provincial city in England, second only in importance to London.



MILITARY HISTORY

IWM Duxford trip

Our Years 5 and 6 ventured out to the Imperial War Museum Duxford, learning about the history of aviation and RAF Duxford's role as an aircraft base for the Spitfire and Hurricane pilots during World War II as well as its strategic responsibility as Sector Station during the Battle of Britain in 1940.





DRAMA AND PERFORMANCE

Theatre trips

Over the course of the year we are able to benefit from some of the great shows that visit Norwich.



THE NATURAL WORLD

African adventure

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 went on an African adventure at Africa Alive Zoological Reserve as part of their Pre-Prep wide topic on Africa and the Commonwealth. A beautiful day of animal spotting!



FARMING AND FOOD

Honingham Thorpe Farm

Our Year 2 children thoroughly enjoyed their walk at Honingham Thorpe Farm, spotting the fields of rape, barley, wheat and onions and learning more about what crops need to grow. Thanks to Mr and Mrs Alston, Mr Sisson and Dr Teresa Penfield for being our expert panel, fielding the children’s questions about mixed farming and biodiversity.



MEDIEVAL HISTORY

Dunwich and Framlingham field trip

Our Year 6 children enjoyed not one but two days out linked to their work in History. The first day was spent exploring Framlingham Castle and the historical landmarks of Dunwich that serve to illustrate the importance of Dunwich as a settlement in the 11th Century. Mr Kendrick spoke to the children about the evolving use of these historical buildings through history.





ASA camping

In the first of three exciting Adventure Skills Academy (ASA) camping trips, our Year 6 children ventured out to the Hautbois Activity Centre for an overnight camping experience. As well as enjoying climbing, abseiling and a team obstacle course, they set up their own camp and toasted marshmallows ahead of a peaceful night's sleep under the stars.



Our Year 7 ASA cohort camped at Eaton Vale Scout and Guide Activity Centre, enjoying fancy dress, buggy building and racing, marshmallow toasting, canoeing and kayaking.

Our Year 5 pupils also camped at Eaton Vale enjoying a range of fun and challenging activities including canoeing, climbing, kayaking, raft building, Jacob's Ladder and, of course, some marshmallow toasting.

GOOD MORNINGS



Class assemblies

Class assemblies give all of our children from Reception to Year 4 an ideal opportunity to hone their drama and public speaking skills. They delight in performing to their parents in the Read Hall and take great pride and confidence from this. Each class focuses on their current learning incorporating poetry, music and dance into their performances. With multiple opportunities to perform throughout the year, it is wonderful to celebrate their progress in the Summer Term.





Nursery fun

Our nursery children have loved their outdoor play sessions across the year. Crawling through tunnels, hiding in dens, splish-splashing through water, exploring the woods and gaining confidence and skill on the balance bikes. Life is full of fun at Town Close!



Kenyan culture

As part of their Pre Prep-wide topic Kenya and the Commonwealth, our Pre Prep children enjoyed an inspiring Kenyan Art and Dance workshop with Mr Gakonga creating some beautiful Kenyan artwork as well as a fun African drumming workshop with Martin Hanson.



Coffee and music

Our Prep musicians performed beautifully to our Years 1 and 2 children and parents at the Music Coffee Morning. The event offered a valuable insight into the instrumental and musical opportunities in School, hopefully inspiring our next generation of talented musicians.



Nature Club

Our Nature Club went in search of and found our resident goldcrest in the Woodland Walk! As the smallest UK bird species, it might have proven difficult to spot but the goldcrest's beautiful crest of bright feathers on the top of its head gave it away.



Storytelling Chair

Thank you to our PTA for our incredible storytelling chair for our outdoor classroom. The wooden chair features carvings of all of the birds in our four bird families, all the leaves from the trees that our Pre Prep classes are named after and a stunning acorn centerpiece to represent our Little Acorns Nursery!



Sporting talents

Over the course of the Summer Term, Prep children benefit from athletics coaching during PE lessons. Select children from across the age groups take part at regional and national events, recording some fantastic results both personally and as part of team Town Close.

Sporting prowess was also on show in the water. Parents were invited poolside to watch and cheer on competitors in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior House Swimming Galas. All our promising swimmers competed individually and in relays, to vie for precious points for their houses. As usual, competition was fierce and noise levels high, especially during the relays, but everyone embraced these popular events with great enthusiasm, competitive spirit and big smiles.

A highlight of the swimming calendar is watching selected pupils compete externally, particularly in the IAPS competition where children regularly progress through to the finals.



BOYS AND GIRLS CRICKET



#TEAMTOWNCLOSER

QUEEN'S JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



Town Close celebrated the Jubilee with a host of activities and challenges to commemorate Her Majesty, the Queen's 70 year reign. With the entire community adorned in red, white and blue, the day began with a fascinating whole School assembly about the Queen's life led by Mr Kendrick with the School orchestra providing the rousing accompaniment to 'I Vow to Thee My Country' and the National Anthem. In Prep, the children designed their own Platinum Jubilee commemorative stamps before working in their tutor groups on Commonwealth display boards – with each tutor group tasked with researching and presenting a different country in the Commonwealth. Imogen, our Head of our School Council, also posted a letter to Her Majesty the Queen on behalf of the School thanking her for her service and dedication.

Meanwhile, in Pre Prep, our children worked in their bird families to design and build a carriage fit for Her Majesty the Queen. I'm sure the Queen would be delighted to travel in any, or indeed all, of the designs the children came up with! Pre Prep were also delighted to welcome Lady Dannatt, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk to officially open our pollinator hedge in the outdoor classroom. She, also, presented all of the Pre Prep children with a special edition Royal Mint fifty pence coin to mark their achievement of becoming Young Foresters as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

Over the course of the week, parents thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Pre Prep Platinum Jubilee Art Exhibition with funds raised from the sale of art work to be donated to our School charity, The Jenny Lind Children's Hospital.

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The undisputed highlight of the day was the whole School Platinum Jubilee lunch on the lawn with every child from Nursery to Year 8 and every member of staff sharing a delicious picnic lunch together. Huge thanks were extended to our Catering Team and Grounds Staff for the monumental effort in preparing this for everyone. For dessert, we all enjoyed a slice of the winning Platinum Pudding Competition entries with the joint winners' (Eddie (Year 2) and brother and sister team Gabriel (Year 2) and Claudia (Year 4) puddings reproduced by our



fabulous catering team for all to sample! Three other entries were highly commended and received a 'Town Close Handshake': Theo and Florence (Year 2 and Year 5); Ethan (Year 5); and Matilda (Year 4). Whilst all other entries received an engraved 'Star Baker' wooden spoon!

Maypole dancing completed the day's activities, marking the end of an incredibly special day celebrating our Queen and our community.





Sports Day

Sports Days are a highlight of the School calendar! Our Pre Prep athletes ran, jumped, skipped, hopped, threw, balanced, hurdled and smiled their way through their Sports Days to the huge delight of their supportive spectators. In Prep, there's nothing like Sports Day to ignite some friendly competitive House spirit, especially in the final event of the day, the tug of war!



Mr Woods was hugely proud of all of the performances on the day: records were broken; personal bests achieved; strawberries & cream consumed (thank you Town Close School PTA); and a Main Field full of positivity and sportsmanship. Well done to all of the children and thank you to all those who attended to cheer the children on in all events - we hope you enjoyed watching as much as all the children enjoyed taking part.

BRIGHT FUTURES



Careers Fair

Our inaugural Careers Fair at Town Close was the brainchild of Mrs Sims, our Director of Studies, who wanted to introduce our Year 7 and 8 pupils to the wealth of possibilities for their future careers and to inspire them to consider their own passions, strengths and motivations as they continue their journey in education. With the help and expertise of an impressive band of professionals, from a wide range of industries, the day was a fantastic success!

Thank you so much to Coleman Opticians Hearing and Vision Centre, Felicity Hancock Osteopathy, Paula Gundry Interior Design, Trendy Grandad video agency, Riverside Dental, Claire Coles Textile Artist, Fosters Solicitors, SocialB, paediatrician Dr Brightwell, Dr Johal, dermatologist Dr Ondhia, Magistrate Cassie Cox. A special thank you to Mr Nash from Leo Maritime Ltd who delivered the keynote presentation, offering an invaluable and inspiring insight into the world of engineering and his personal career path. The final message - give 100% in all you do.

As part of our Town Close Careers Fair we were delighted to welcome Stokely Howard from Trendy Grandad video agency into School for a creative advertising workshop with our Year 7 and 8 pupils.

Armed with a randomly selected product and a particular target audience, the children were tasked with creating their own story board for an advert. With an unlimited budget and no curbs on their imaginations, there were some incredibly famous faces starring in some highly creative backdrops!





Continental Breakfast

The Year 6 waiters and waitresses were brimming with joie de vivre as they welcomed their families into the French breakfast café, practising their French as they served delicious fresh fruit, pastries, baguettes and a selection of drinks.

All funds raised boosted the running total for our School charity, The Jenny Lind Children’s Hospital.



Art Exhibition

Our biannual art exhibition returned, showcasing incredible work by pupils from Years 1 to 8 celebrating ‘The Artist Within Us and The Artist Among Us’. Special thanks to our guest exhibitors, visiting artists Katie Falcon, Fred Ingrams, Tina Kirk, Claire Coles, Esther Jury, Helen White and Michele Harman. We also thank Ronaldo Ices for joining us to celebrate the opening!

FUN AND FUNDRAISING



Summer Fete

Our Prep Summer Fete was a wonderful afternoon of fun and fundraising with ingenious stalls devised and run by our pupils forming the backbone of the event. All money raised will be added to our running total for The Jenny Lind Children's Hospital Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Huge thanks to you all for your support as well as to the Town Close School PTA for the ice-cream stall and all staff, particularly those who agreed to be soaked by water balloons!





Bryan Read Concert

The orchestra, the ensemble instrumental groups and our junior and senior choirs gave superb performances at the Bryan Read Summer Concert. Every item on the programme was a highlight, with a fantastic rendition of ‘We don’t talk about Bruno’ from the senior choir to conclude an extremely entertaining evening of music.



Royal Norfolk Show

It was incredible to return to the Royal Norfolk Show and to welcome so many familiar faces to our stand. A very busy couple of days with lots of laughter, plenty of delicious food (thank you catering team) and some highly creative crafting.



The Witches

Our Year 6 cast of ‘The Witches’ delighted and terrified their audiences in equal measure, performing with incredible confidence and professionalism to re-tell Roald Dahl’s classic tale. A huge well done to the cast, the backstage and effects crew, Mrs Reeves, Mrs Webb and Mr Hewitt.



End of term celebration

Our Year 2 children and their families marked the end of their time in Pre Prep with a celebratory presentation where each of the children were given a gift and a commemorative poem to wish them well as they move up to Prep in September.



Nursery celebration

Our Nursery children transitioning to Reception enjoyed their Celebration Assembly with friends and family. They performed songs learnt throughout their time in Nursery, presented beautiful artwork and spoke about their aspirations for when they ‘grow up’. Mrs Harries presented each of them with a Little Acorns pin badge to wear proudly on their blazers next year!



End of Year Service

Our Prep End of Year Service took place at Christ Church, Eaton, Norwich, lead by The Reverend Dr Patrick Richmond. We enjoyed thought-provoking readings from our Year 8 pupils and retiring staff Mrs Jolliffe and Mrs Ogg and a sweet performance by our Year 3 choir. An inspiring address by Reverend Patrick combined to make the service a very special end to the year.



Prize Day

Prize Day guest speaker, television presenter Simon Thomas, gave an inspiring speech about perseverance and overcoming fear. A huge thank you to Simon for joining us and presenting the prizes on a memorable event for our Town Close community. We were delighted to present a cheque to our chosen charity during Prize-giving. Over the year, many events raised £9,143.23 for The Jenny Lind Children’s Hospital.

