Spring Term Celebration Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the end of term newsletter where we celebrate everything that has happened this term!

Glow in the Dark Dodgeball

Children in Years 1 and 2 enjoyed a game of glow in the dark dodgeball run by our PE providers Premier. Children were taught the game and then given the opportunity to play. It was very exciting!



World Book Day

The day started off with many parents coming in before school to enjoy a coffee and read with their children. This was really popular and created a buzz in school, getting the day off to a great start!

The children looked fantastic in their costumes and enjoyed a day filled with poetry and reading activities. One of the highlights of the morning was taking part in our "Masked Reader", where the children listened carefully to poems being read by mystery staff members and tried to guess which teacher or adult from the school was behind the mask. There was lots of excitement as they shared their ideas and tried to spot familiar voices. Some of our librarians had the chance to speak on Greatest Hits Radio to tell everyone just how much we love reading!



Children also visited Bookbugs and Dragon Tales. It was lovely to see the older children being such positive role models to younger children, helping them choose books and talking to them about their favourites. When we returned to school, the pairs spent time reading and exploring their new books together. It was a truly special day celebrating the joy of reading.



Virtual Frisbee Tournament

All children in the school took part in this term's virtual frisbee tournament against other schools. The prize, if we win, could be another sports event next term so we are waiting with bated breath to see how well we have done!



Commonwealth Day

The school council was invited to attend the flag raising ceremony for Commonwealth Day. We visited Norwich City Hall and met the Lord Mayor and the Sheriff of Norwich before heading outside to the flagpole. After a speech, the flag was raised and we were taken back inside to see the council chambers. Some of us even had a chance to sit in the Lord Mayor's chair! We had refreshments and were given a chance to ask the Lord Mayor and Sheriff some challenging questions before being given the opportunity to see the Lord Mayor's chambers.



Year 4 and 5 Visit to Notre Dame High School

Year 4 and Year 5 enjoyed a wonderful visit to Notre Dame High School, where they were invited to watch a performance by the talented students there. The Free School were treated to four different stories from around the world, brought to life through engaging performances and creative storytelling. Our children were incredibly impressed by the confidence and skill of the performers, and it was a fantastic opportunity to experience live theatre and see what older students can achieve. A big thank you to Jaime and everyone at Notre Dame for the kind invitation and for making us feel so welcome!



Norfolk County Music Festival



Year 6 took part in the Norfolk County Music Festival where they performed songs in front of a large audience including five other school choirs. Pupils were very professional, remembered all their words and represented the school fantastically. They collected a certificate from the adjudicator who said he 'loved the authentic drama' added to our singing and being 'transported to another culture with great aplomb!' Well done to everyone involved for working so hard and representing the school so well!

Money Minds

Children in Key Stage 2 were visited by Steve and Nathan from Yorkshire Building Society. They worked with the children to discuss wants

and needs and prioritising spending and understanding budgeting. Children in Years 3 and 4 completed an activity planning a school trip, first choosing what they wanted to do and then re-planning the trip with a £20 per child budget. Lots of children were disappointed to give up their choices of luxury coach travel and bunk beds but they managed to keep pancakes for breakfast!



Red Nose Day

Children across the school came together to celebrate Red Nose Day, embracing this year's theme of encouraging everyone to laugh proudly, loudly, and together.

To mark the occasion, we took part in a whole-school Silly Walk Challenge! Each class headed outside and got creative with their most imaginative and exaggerated walks. From wobbly steps to over-the-top struts, there was plenty of laughter shared across the playground. Well done to Morgan in Year 6 whose silly walk got us all laughing!

The challenge was a fantastic way to raise awareness of Red Nose Day while reminding us all of the importance of joy, community, and supporting others. It was wonderful to see every year group getting involved and enjoying the moment together.



Year 1 Trip to St Stephens Church



Children in Year 1 were invited to St. Stephen's Church to learn about how Christians celebrate Easter. They explored the Easter story and talked about its meaning and importance. They were shown a fun paper-folding method to create props, which helped them remember different parts of the story in a creative way.

Eaton Vale

Children in Year 4 took part in their first residential at Eaton Vale Activity Centre. One of the first activities was archery, an opportunity for pupils to practice their, stance, precision and focus as well as exercising upper body strength. Some future formula 1 drivers emerged during some pedal go-cart races.

Children also were shown how to safely build a fire, explored a ‘bus cave’ and went canoeing. Pupils had to work as a team to steer and power their canoes as well as try to remain fairly dry! Everyone had an amazing time and every child challenged themselves and cheered on their peers!



Art Nouveau in Norwich!

Year 5 explored the beautiful world of stained glass and Art Nouveau design. The children visited the Royal Arcade, designed by architect George Skipper, where they had the chance to see Art Nouveau architecture up close. They spent time studying the intricate stained-glass windows and noticing the flowing shapes and patterns that make this style so distinctive.



Years 3 and 4 Easter Show



This week, we welcomed parents of our Year 3 and 4 children into school to watch our Easter show. The children put in a great deal of effort to create a lively and enjoyable performance, showcasing poetry, music and dance. Thanks to all the parents who squashed into the hall with us to give your support!



Freya

Freya in Year 5, participated in a gymnastics competition on 15 March and was placed 3rd on vault, receiving a bronze medal. She also won a prize for her number sign the theme of which was 'Inspiring Women'. Freya continues to show incredible discipline through gymnastics and her creativity even after breaking her arm last summer. She overcame fear to continue to participate in gymnastics showing determination and resilience. Well done Freya- what a star!



<u>The Free School Norwich PTFA</u>

This term, we used the Alderman Norman Foundation grant we received to invest in a range of new resources for the Key Stage 1 playground. These include two sand pits, sand funnels and play tools, a mud kitchen, a water channelling game, play bricks, balancing blocks, and more — all designed to support creative, active play.



We also shared 10 copies of *The Happy Newspaper* with Key Stage 2 classes, celebrating positive news stories and inspiring individuals.

Thanks to the fantastic support from our school community, we held an Easter and World Book Day themed bake sales and raised around £300.

We're currently looking for a business sponsor for our Summer Fete, as well as star prizes for our summer raffle. If you know of anyone who might be able to support us or donate something special - such as a hotel stay, a meal for two, or a memorable experience - we'd love to hear from you. Contact the school office who will pass the message on.



I think you'll agree it has been another busy term! Have a great break and we will see you all again on Monday 27th April.

Best wishes,
Dar

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