



Friday 25th March

Dear All,

What a lovely week it has been in school! The weather has been glorious and there have been lots of opportunities to be outside, enjoying the fresh air. We are very grateful to Claire Trundell who came into school on Tuesday to start the gardening project with Acorn class and she will be in next week to lead another session with both classes as the children begin to grow seeds in their groups. We would love for this to be a project for the whole community so, if any other parents (or grandparents, or friends) would like to be involved then do please get in touch.

Sadly, Mr Jones – who has been our caretaker for many years now, as well as a Midday Supervisor at one point – has decided to retire at the end of term. He hopes that with surgery he will be back up to full strength soon and might even be able to come back at some point in the future. But, for the moment we wish him all the very best and hope that he has some time to relax. We will miss him very much. Mrs Utting in the office has also decided to leave to take up a job with more flexibility. Again, we will miss her very much and wish her all the best for the future. These roles will be covered by a cleaning company and the office staff at Erpingham whilst we recruit. We currently advertise vacancies on the school website and the county website, if you have any ideas of other places which might attract good people then please do let us know.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs L Watts – Executive Headteacher

This week in class...

Pre-school: Preschool have been very interested sharing stories this week. They have read to each other using the book's pictures and their recall of the stories and some of the older children have also started telling their own 'Once Upon a Time' stories. Tracey has been scribing these stories for them so that they can then go on to create their own books. We have also begun our massive revamp of the rear play area where, once tidied, we plan to grow our own vegetables for snack.

Acorn: Acorn class have been mapping their puppet stories and creating a sequenced storyboard to elaborate on them. The puppet project made it into the North Norfolk News this week. It has been great to showcase all of the children's hard work this term both at the Forum and through the paper. Our science topic this term has been properties of materials and this week children have been experimenting to find out what materials make the bounciest ball.

Oak: In swimming, years 5 and 6 have practised their life saving and swim the 25m skills and are looking forward to another session before Easter. On Tuesday, we learned more about World Water Day which is celebrated on the 22nd March each year. With help from a live information session hosted by Anglian Water, the children learned about the water cycle, water scarcity and how charities like Water Aid aim to improve access to clean water and sanitation around the world. The children have also begun to prepare their Presentations of Learning on ancient Egypt which, this term, will be recorded digitally. They have also started their write ups of our visit to Norwich Castle Museum.

Forest School News We have been having such lovely weather we have been getting excited and planning some of our warmer weather activities such as paddling in the stream and fishing. We have enjoyed making boats and racing them down the river and have managed to stay quite dry! Our game of Kubb that we have been playing has become very gripping with some amazing matches and some super impressive throwers! I think it has become a firm favourite. We had a great time watching some funny shows performed by the children. Some great slapstick acting and some wonderful singing too, I think we need to make a woodland stage area!



Dates for your diary

Y3/4 Forest School – Friday 1st April

Y5/6 Swimming – every Monday afternoon

Oak class book look - Tuesday 29th March @ 2.45pm – all welcome!

Owl house fundraiser – Wednesday 30th March

End of Term – Friday 1st April

Back to School - **Wednesday** 20th April

Oak & Birch Gymnastics – Tuesday 26th April

Oak & Birch reward trip to Bewilderwood – Wednesday 27th April

Acorn Gymnastics – Tuesday 3rd May

Y6 surfing – Thursdays 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th of May and 16th and 30th of June, details to follow

Family Learning afternoon – Wednesday 11th May – all welcome!

Acorn trip to Hall Farm – Tuesday 17th May

1 Minute Maths To complement work in the classroom, White Rose Maths has produced a new app called 1 Minute Maths. It is free to download and can be played on laptops or tablets. The app is brilliant for building number fluency and confidence. It is suitable for **Reception through to Year 6** and covers topics such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and subitising. There is no login, just download and play: <https://whiterosemaths.com/resources/1-minute-maths#download>

COMMUNITY NEWS

Puppet project about refugees proves moving for primary pupils

Children at Northrepps Primary School have put together a moving and unexpectedly topical project on the experiences of refugees as they lose their home and have to search for new beginnings.

Pupils from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 were guided by class teacher Kate MacMillan to follow the school's current topic of "Journeys" but she wanted them to focus on the human element, rather than transportation, vehicles and routes.

"Given that the topic could be upsetting, we approached the idea of refugees through stories and also ran workshops with parents," said Mrs MacMillan. "We wanted children to understand that a refugee is lost and looking for a home."

A member of The Puppet Tree Norfolk in West Runton kicked off the project with a workshop in the

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classroom, helping to make the puppets authentic.

"We looked at different materials, which represented different skin colours," said Mrs MacMillan.

The children worked carefully and thoughtfully to create their puppets and then they not only gave them names, but invented stories for them about their journeys.

"The children gave them Syrian or Afghan names, and the stories they made up had elements of their own lives which they had woven into them," said Mrs MacMillan.

In their stories, all of the puppets came to the UK.

One of the inspirations for the project was "Little Amal", a giant



Jade, from Year 1, with her refugee puppet at Northrepps Primary School.



Ralph, in Year 1, taking great care to create his refugee puppet for the "Journeys" project at Northrepps Primary School.

partly-animatronic puppet which was used as the centrepiece of a performance art project called "The Walk" in 2021, which represented a Syrian refugee.

The puppets, including everything from children to old people, were exhibited at The Forum in Norwich and are now

back in the classroom. Parents have been invited to meet the puppets and the children have been reciting their characters' stories to them.

The children really enjoyed the project, according to Mrs MacMillan, and the puppets are now almost like real people to

them.

"Through the project the pupils realised that other children have struggles which, although different from their own, gives them a commonality with them," said Mrs MacMillan. "It was about empathy and the pupils clearly empathised with their puppets."



Volunteers wanted! We are always looking for opportunities to get the children reading. Now that Covid has passed (hopefully!) we would love to invite parents, carers or friends to come into school to hear children read. If you or anyone you know would be willing to help out then please let Mrs Watts know. You don't have to commit a lot of time and we can be flexible to suit you. It would be lovely to develop these links between home and school.

Family Learning On Wednesday 11th May we will be holding a Family Learning afternoon in school. There will be 3 activities and the children will rotate around them in mixed age groups. The theme for the afternoon will be Planting & Growing. We will start at 1.30pm and parents, carers and other friends or family are warmly invited to come along and join in with the activities. Preschool will also be involved and younger siblings are welcome.

