

NEWSLINE

September 2021
Issue 1



North Primary School and Nursery

A Town Centre School with a Strong Community Ethos

Celebrated our 126th anniversary on 12th November. Visit www.northschoolcxxv.com



Mission Accomplished



The Big Swing was a firm favourite— pulling the string themselves to release the swing led to squeals of delight.



On the last day Bruna wore a t-shirt with the words **BE**lieve in **YOU**rself. A perfect message, that hopefully the children will live by.

45 children began their final year in primary at a PGL Centre overlooking Osmington Bay, Dorset, returning late into the evening on the 10th.

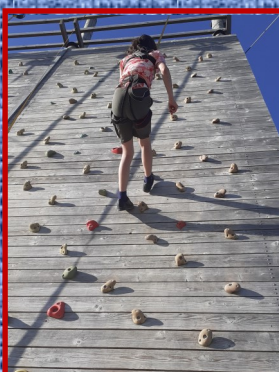
It has been over 10 years since I last went on the school journey. What a privilege it was. The children were immense. Brave, supportive and independent, visibly growing in confidence every day. They pushed themselves, left their comfort zones and took on board Danny Crates mantra, *make the most of every opportunity*. In so doing they have created memories that will last a lifetime.

The children surprised themselves with their courage and determination, encouraged and pushed by their friends to embrace every challenge. Nathan said, watching others complete the trapeze challenge inspired him to do it too. Eddie expressed it well. He said, conquering his fears on the first activity gave him the confidence to succeed at all the others. If at first you don't succeed try, try again was much in evidence too. Asiya and Aimee decided against coming down the abseiling wall at their first attempt. But they went back up and did it, with superb encouragement from the instructors. Lola said the abseiling was not just the best thing she did at PGL, but the best thing she has ever done in her life!

The staff learn so much about the children too. Who knew what an amazing wall climber Analia is? Her skill, agility and speed - it was like watching the Olympics again! Truly inspirational.

A massive "thank you" is in order to group leader, Mrs. Walker and her team—Mr. Armitage, Mrs Eves, Mrs Griffith, Mrs. Tahan and Mrs. Blackwell. From 6.45am until 10.00pm they were available for every child, and then "on call" through the night as well if required. They worked tirelessly to make sure every single child could have the best time. Mission accomplished!

The final word will go to a parent - "I would like to thank all the staff that attended the Weymouth trip with our children this week, [] had the most incredible week of his life, after many months of decision making I'm so happy that he decided to go. [] has told us about the exciting things he did, after such an excellent trip he came home buzzing and very emotional, so once again to all staff at North, thank you so much for looking after [] and giving him such treasured memories forever."



GOVERNOR'S CORNER

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Governors would like to welcome you back to school after the summer break, with a special welcome for our new families.

We have decided this year, rather than send a separate annual round up report covering the last school year, we will communicate more regularly through Newsline. We remain contactable through the office if you have anything you would like to discuss with us.

The year ahead is still set to be tricky due to the covid situation. We will continue to do all we can to keep children and staff safe and in school. I know I can count on your cooperation and support in this.

Last week I had the privilege to accompany our year 6 children on their activity holiday in Weymouth. We had a great time. The children did some amazing things, challenging themselves individually and working hard as a team. It was wonderful to see them growing up and making progress through the week, and great to have a sense of normality return.

We hope normality will continue throughout the year, with many school events being able to return, along with our sense of North School Community.

We look forward to seeing you all.

Jan Blackwell
Chair of Governors.

ASSEMBLY THEME

The theme for this term's assemblies is CHARITY. The children will be encouraged to think about others, why helping is a good thing, the importance of charity in religion and how charities work. Hopefully the children will get to hear directly from people involved in charities. And I know some of the children belong to groups that support charities. So it would good to hear their voices and we would also love to hear from parents who may want to share their experiences.

In the assembly on the 13th I shared the Harvest Assembly from 2017. That year we supported a local charity that helped refugees settle in Colchester. The assembly was written by children in Year 6, now in Year 10! [The PowerPoint is sent out with this Newsline.]

Those children's words are thoughtful and inspiring and sadly, still relevant today.

At North we welcome children from all over Britain and the rest of the world every week. And by "we" I mean staff, children and parents. We welcome them and help them settle. That is what we do. We also act as Good Samaritans if another child is in need of help.

At North we should all strive to make a difference and treat others how we would like to be treated.

Should the Children Bring in Sweets to give to their class on their birthday?

That question has caused quite a debate amongst the staff this term and I know many parents have strong views on the subject too. The custom was stopped during covid and parents have asked if it can resume. School Council debated this a few years ago. There are a whole host of issues: cost; not consistent with a healthy school; pressure on parents; not fair on children who are not allowed sweets for a variety of reasons. My Stretchy Maths Club calculated that North parents spent about £1000 a year on Haribos for these occasions - a scary sum. On balance, I have decided to stop this custom. When the new council is elected I will ask them to explore other ways for children to share their birthday with their classmates.

NSA NEWS

NSA Autumn Fayre

The NSA has decided to not go ahead with the Autumn Fayre. This month. Last term it seemed a lovely idea to hold a social event for families before the weather turned. However, covid is still present in our community and the thought of lots of adults mingling indoors seemed a little premature.

Instead the NSA will be holding Discos for the children. Look out for these dates.

The NSA would love to see new faces join them on the committee or enlisted to their army of helpers. There will be news posted soon of their annual general meeting. Don't wait to get involved. Speak to me and I can introduce you to a committee member.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 1st October	School Photos
Mon 18th October	Flu Vaccines for the children
Thurs 21st October	Final day of half term PLEASE NOTE THIS NEW DATE There is a staff training day on Friday 22nd,
Mon 1st November	Return to school
Fri 17th December	Final day of Autumn Term
Tues 4th Jan 2022	First day of Spring Term
Friday 11th February	Last day of half term
Mon 21st February	Return to school