

PRENTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2016

Issue No. 65



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

This term we have seen some wonderful productions and performances from pupils of all ages across the school.

The Foundation Stage pupils performed "Whoops-a-Daisy Angel". The children looked lovely in their costumes and the confidence and enjoyment in performing at such a tender age was fantastic. The audiences were delighted and well entertained.

This year's Infant production was "Christmas with the Aliens" which was a unique portrayal of the Christmas story as told by children to aliens who had landed on Earth! Everyone who saw it said how much they had enjoyed it and all the pupils did a brilliant job. It was lovely to see the smiles on their faces as they performed.

The Junior Carol Concert at St. Saviour's Church told the Christmas story through traditional narrative and Carols. These were interspersed with readings, poems and a dance. It was pleasing to see so many members of the Prenton Prep. community there to celebrate with us and to hear so many comments on the children's beautiful singing. It was lovely to see so many pupils involved. Special mentions must go to those who sang solos along with the members of Year 6 who narrated clearly. It is not easy to stand up in front of such an audience and they did particularly well.

The hard work and commitment of the staff in putting on these presentations is exceptional and much appreciated by all.

Father Christmas also took time to visit the school on the last day, joining the Infant and Foundation Stage Christmas parties, with a small gift for each child. The wonder and joy on their faces was, once again, a delight to behold.

PPS IN THE COMMUNITY

Once again Prenton Prep. has been actively working in the wider community.

Home-Start Wirral was grateful to receive a donation of £220.00 collected at our Junior Carol Concert at St. Saviour's Church.

Clatterbridge Cancer research will also receive £87.50 generated by the staff "No Christmas Card" initiative.

Our EYFS held a MacMillan Coffee Afternoon in September which contributed £180.00 to their Cancer Support Charity. Thanks must, once again go to Mrs. Chadwick for the delicious cakes she made to assist in this event.

Forum housing were again delighted to receive the donations collected at our Foundation Stage Harvest assembly.

It was also lovely to welcome representatives from the main charities we supported in the summer into our assemblies this term. They each collected a cheque for £455.00 and informed us what the money would go towards. We, once again, supported our regular charities Claire House and Alder Hey. Our third charity this term was The Fire Fighters Charity.

Altogether these are wonderful contributions to the needy, confirming the generous nature of all parts of the PPS community.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

As you will be aware Cain of Heswall are now our uniform stockists and the transition to date has been very smooth. We would like to thank them for their efforts.

We do however continue to have issues arising from un-named uniform items during the Autumn term.

Therefore it is extremely important that parents ensure that all items of uniform are clearly and indelibly labelled with their child's name.

The children should continue to wear Winter uniform when we return for the Spring term, including sensible, flat black shoes and black or navy coats without coloured trim.

There have also been numerous issues of children arriving at school in incomplete uniform. As we aim to maintain high standards, please ensure that all children arrive at school each day in correct and complete uniform, including hats and coats.



HELP MAKE PPS A HEALTHY EATING SCHOOL

In keeping with the initiatives the government have introduced in the maintained sector, we would like to reinforce healthy eating at Prenton Prep. School.

We will be providing children with cordial in activities and avoiding chocolate biscuits after sports fixtures in order to reinforce our message.

We will still provide treats for the children at appropriate times but will attempt to minimise using chocolate for this.

We are asking parents to support us in our efforts by ensuring that the pupils are given healthy options in their packed lunches, as detailed when your child begins the school, rather than crisps and chocolate. It would also be preferable if the children could bring either a piece of fruit or a plain biscuit for their break-time snack.

Please also try to limit the drinks you send to school for throughout the day to water.

We are sure that all parents will feel as strongly as we do on this issue and thank you all for your support in this matter.



STAFF NEWS

We were delighted to welcome Mrs. Clare Taylor and Mrs. Jennifer Griffiths onto the Prenton Prep staff over the last term.

Mrs. Taylor has taken over the pastoral care of our Year 3 class and the coordination of P.E. within the school from Miss Toft and she has settled into the school extremely well.

Mrs. Griffiths is our new cleaner and has become a much valued member of the team in her short time with us.

Miss Toft has already secured a job closer to home and we would like to wish her every success in her future career.

TRAFFIC ISSUES:

Over the last term we have once again had several complaints from our neighbours and parents of the school regarding parking issues and unsafe driving on Mount Pleasant at busy times.

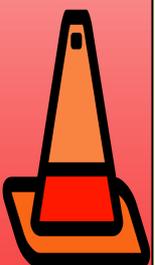
The safety of our children is of paramount importance to us all at Prenton Prep. and we ask that all parents consider the pupils arriving or leaving school at busy times. We do not want an incident to remind us of our responsibilities!

Also please ensure that, should the emergency services need access to School or any other part of Mount Pleasant they would be able to pass through. At present this is a genuine concern!

Please also park considerably as our neighbours are entitled to immediate access and exit from their own properties.

Another issue which has been raised again is that Nun Close is a private road and that this should not be used for school parking. I have been advised to warn parents that traffic wardens and police have been requested to monitor the situation in the future.

Also on this issue would parents please try to observe the unofficial one way policy we have on Mount Pleasant at drop off and pick up times (passing with school on your right) as this makes life easier for all.





Infant News



KINDERGARTEN NEWS

It is the end of another busy term, in KG. The children have continued to work hard and that has shown in the progress they have made in their reading, writing and number work. They have also grown closer as a group and clear friendships are continuing to develop.

Our topic this term has been celebrations and festivals. It is a good time of the year to cover this topic as there are so many celebrations and festivals for us to learn about. We began by celebrating the Hindu festival of Diwali, sharing first hand experiences with Lara of how she celebrated with her family. We then moved on to Remembrance Day. The children observed two minutes silence at 11 o'clock on the 11th November and learnt about the significance of wearing a poppy.

More recently we have been celebrating the Christian Festival of Christmas. We have read many different versions of the Christmas story and of course, the children acted out the story for our nativity – "Whoops-a-Daisy angel". They demonstrated how much they have grown in confidence during both performances of the nativity. It has been a busy term rehearsing for the nativity, but also an enjoyable term, because the children have been enthusiastic and excited about it right from the start. We hope you enjoyed watching it, as much as we enjoyed performing it.

On Thursday 15th December, we visited Santa in his Grotto, at Gordale Nursery. The children wrote letters to Santa, which they posted in the special post box. The elves met us and took us into the Grotto. It was very cosy inside. Santa spoke to each of the children, asking them what they hoped to get for Christmas. Santa reminded the children to leave a mince pie out for him, on Christmas Eve and to go to bed early. He also said that Rudolph still likes carrots. All the children were given a present and the money made by the Grotto was donated to the Hospice of the Good Shepherd. Next term our topic will be Space and beyond. We will be learning about the solar system, space travel, the first landing on the moon and aliens.

We will continue to develop the cursive writing style and read every day, except Friday. Phonics will focus upon segmenting and blending words, rhyme, writing words as we hear them and building up sentences. In Maths, we will be introducing subtraction, re-visiting addition and estimation and learning about doubling and halving.

YEAR 2 NEWS

In September Year 2 went on a trip to the **Lady Lever Art Gallery**. The children took part in a 'Draw to Explore' workshop and then took on the role as 'detective' searching for as many different species of animal hiding in various artwork around the gallery. As you can imagine they enjoyed the challenge and were complimented on their enthusiasm, by our guide Jo.

The children enjoyed an "awesome" (*in the words of several children...*) trip to the **Light Cinema** to watch 'The Iron Giant', the perfect film to round off our English unit on 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children were keen to draw comparisons between the giant in the traditional fairy tale and the giant in the American animation. An enjoyable trip was had by all!

In preparation for Christmas, Year 2 delivered festive cheer, gifts and a nativity medley of favourite songs, to the residents of **Corona House**. The children sang beautifully and were very sociable afterwards when meeting and chatting with their "new friends". We were very proud of them!

"It was nice to ask them questions and get to know them." **Kitty**

"I don't normally talk to old people. I really enjoyed getting to know them." **Miguel**

"I loved singing for the nice people." **Elicia**

"I like meeting new friends." **Tom**

PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

This second half of the autumn term has again been very busy, and has consisted of a lot of practising for our Christmas nativity 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel'. I'm sure you will agree that it was a fantastic performance and the children should be very proud! All of the children have settled into a routine and enjoy playing and working with their friends in the classroom.

We have had fun learning about different festivals and celebrations, including Bonfire night, Diwali and, more recently, Christmas. We also thought about Remembrance Day and Children in Need. Pre-School have continued to look closely at our colours and the children have enjoyed thinking about a different colour each week.

We have been to Ridgeway Library once this term and have enjoyed reading and sharing stories together, as well as exploring the library on our own. We were able to take books back to class, which we read during story time. Most recently, we spent an enjoyable afternoon visiting Father Christmas in his grotto at Gordale garden centre. The children were exceptionally well behaved and it was lovely to hear some compliments from members of the public. Pre-School certainly were a credit to the school! Well done.

After the Christmas holidays, we will begin our new topic of winter and will be learning about Chinese New Year. We will also be spending some time reading and looking at the Rainbow Fish stories. Pre-School will continue with the Jolly Phonics scheme of work, looking at 1 letter each week. In January, the children are looking forward to welcoming Charlie, Isabella and Jack into Pre-School 1.

YEAR ONE VISITS TO CHESTER CATHEDRAL FALCONRY CENTRE, THE CINEMA & CONWY CASTLE

Our fantastic trip to Chester Cathedral Falconry Centre.

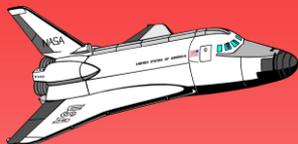
George; We looked at all the birds of prey. That means that they eat little creatures like mice, chicks and rats. **Olivia**; We saw a golden eagle. Her name was Grace like Thomas B's sister! She was really big! **Veer**; We saw two different owls. One of them hunts for food during the day and the other hunts at night. **Penny**; We learnt that the night hunters are called nocturnal and the day hunters are diurnal. You can tell the difference because the nocturnal owls have black eyes and the diurnal owls have coloured eyes. **Emily**; The barn owl was the night hunting owl that we saw. We were allowed to stroke it but only if we used the back of our hands. That was because the oil and grease from our hands would have got onto the feathers and they would get ruffled up so the bird wouldn't be able to fly. **Matilda**; The diurnal owl was an eagle owl. He had long feathers sticking out above his eyes. We thought they were ears but they were for him to show off how beautiful he was so that he could get a girlfriend! **Thomas B**; Tommy, our guide, showed us where the ears really were. One was much higher than the other. The ear hole was surprisingly big and it was pink. **Bella**; Peter, another guide, got one of the birds to fly and come to us for a snack. The bird had a bell on it so that the wardens could hear it if the bird flew a long way off. **Thomas G**; The bird was called Pipsqueak and it was a kestrel. A kestrel is special because it can hover like a helicopter whilst it looks for food. **Fabio**; Tinks was a vulture. We found out that vultures are very lazy. Tinks flew after Mr. Jones to catch the food he was holding. **Thomas G**; Vultures are very messy eaters so they wee down their legs to clean off the bits of food that get stuck on them! They don't have feathers on the front or top of their heads so that they don't get messy with food. **Emily**; Vultures eat dead creatures. All the other birds of prey eat live creatures. We also saw a bird of prey that didn't live at the centre. It was a buzzard. Two crows were mobbing it. It was soaring in circles on a thermal which is a column of air. **Jacob**; We found out that a peregrine falcon is the fastest bird on the earth. I liked touching the snake because it was so smooth. It has shiny skin because it is made of scales. The snake was called Kellogg's because they thought it was a corn snake - but it wasn't!

Our trip to Switch Island Odeon to see Kung Fu Panda 3.

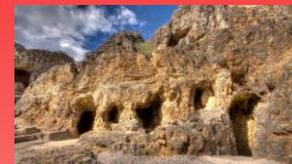
Thomas B; It was good. Kung Fu Panda was on another of his "legendary adventures of awesomeness". **Penny** remembers; One of the characters is a tiger. Her name is Tigress and she is one of the Furious Five. The others are Mantis, Monkey, Viper and Crane. **Thomas G**; Master Shifu is the senior master of the Jade Palace and he trained the Furious Five in kung fu. **Emily**; I thought Master Shifu was good. He trained Po when he was selected to be the Dragon Warrior. He decided that he was going to stop being the master trainer and that Po would take over. **Fabio**; When Po was in charge of the training they all hurt themselves. He wasn't very good at it. **Matilda**; Kai was the baddie. He took the powers from the Furious Five and turned them into zombies. He was trying to become the strongest. **George**; Po met his real father, Li Chan and they went to find all the other pandas. They were all his family. They all worked together as a team to defeat the baddie, Kai. **Olivia**; There were some turtles and Kai turned them into stone and then they had to fight on Kai's team. **Jacob**; It was a great film. In the end, with the help of all the pandas, Kai was defeated by the Dragon Warrior.

Our trip to Conway castle in North Wales.

Olivia; Conway castle was really big and it was amazing! The toilets were dark and smelly. **Jacob**; There used to be a drawbridge which went up and down. People could only get into the castle if the drawbridge was let down. **Thomas G**; We saw the huge gatehouse. The soldiers guarded the entrance and they had to look out for people who might try to attack the castle. If the castle was under attack they had to fight the baddies! **Matilda**; There were eight towers altogether and a lot of windows called arrow slits where the soldiers could hide and fire their arrows in a battle. The king and queen didn't live there all the time but when they came to visit they had their own rooms inside the castle. **George**; There was a huge sculpture of the king's head in one of the rooms. **Penny**; There were a lot of stairs inside the towers and we climbed up some of them. Instead of a banister to hold there was a rope. **Emily**; There was some grass like a garden, inside the castle. There used to be a kitchen, a stable for the horses and other buildings inside the walls where we saw the grass. **Fabio**; There was a big statue of a soldier made of wood there and we had our photograph taken by it. In one room there was a pretend fire. It was showing a film about the castle, how it was built and what life was like for the people who lived there.



Junior News



YEAR 5 TRIP TO SPACEPORT

By Lily Jones

On Wednesday 16th November Year 5 went to Spaceport in Wallasey. We watched a few space clips about the launching and landing of rockets and a space challenge called the Google Lunar X prize. We also went on a space simulator and everyone loved it! We had to do a few worksheets and use the exhibits to help us answer the questions. Then we had about half an hour to play in the fun experiment section upstairs. This was all about the science of sound. Everyone loved the trip.

ISA SWIMMING GALA

By Lewi Foran

On 26th November I went to the Macclesfield swimming gala with some others from the juniors. It was a really big pool and busy. I went with my mum, dad and sister and they watched us swim.

We all swam as well as we could and I got some PBs in my races.

Some of us got through to the national finals in London.

We also won the trophy for Year 6 girls so we're North of England ISA Champions!



YEAR 4 ACTIVITIES

Lady Lever Art Gallery Trip

When we arrived at the Lady Lever Art Gallery we looked around and tried to copy lots of really, really, good paintings. My favourite part was the room with all the naked statues. In that room there was a domed roof a bit like the domes at Chester Zoo. The gallery was very interesting. There were lots of pictures of people drawn in different ways. **By Sam Hall**

We went to the Lady lever Art Gallery and saw lots of art like paintings and statues. We also saw Queen Victoria's bed. At the top of the bed it looked like a pineapple without its leaves. It also had a canopy that looked like a tent. My favourite bit was drawing a picture of the two boats and the sea without looking! **By Matthew Adams**

Iron Age Feast

On the 30th November Year 4 and Year 6 had an Iron Age Feast. We did pottery, shield making and built Stonehenge out of Bourbon biscuits. We had lots of juicy meats that Iron Age people would have had and we had fruit like apples, plums, strawberries, blueberries and raspberries. All our tribe members had bread, butter and honey. When all our tribe members huddled together we had a war with other tribes to the beat of the drum.

By Poppy Tuohey and Olivia Weir

YEAR 6 TRIP TO THE ANCIENT MINES, GREAT ORME

By Yan Xu Chen

Year 6 went to the Great Orme Mines on the 2nd November. We all enjoyed the trip. One particular person in Year 6 was scared of caves but enjoyed it a lot. The cave had a few levels, but we were only allowed to the first three levels. There was a gift shop to buy gifts and most of the people in our class bought gemstones. Did you know that the mine was going to be converted into a car park? It was only when they did an underground survey and discovered the mine, that they changed their plans!

It has safety precautions for people going into the mine; that is why they ask you to wear a helmet. They also did surface excavations to see the prehistoric landscape, and the oldest part of the complex was mined 4000 years ago. There is also a smelting shelter where you can learn how they make their melt the copper, and mix tin with it to make bronze. There is a cavern underground where you can see all sizes of excavations; the children had to go in to find malachite; this is the rock that contains the copper.

IRON AGE LUNCH

By Mollie Smith

On Wednesday 30th of November Years 4 and 6 had an Iron Age themed lunch. We enjoyed a selection of brown bread, oatcakes, meat and fruit. We also got to enjoy Iron Age drinks – ginger beer and red or white wine! We also dressed up as Iron Age people. Some of our costumes were made of hessian potato sacks, picnic blankets and blankets, but some of us went for the easy option and bought fancy dress! Dr. Pemberton even painted blue patterns on our faces! When we had finished our lunch, Mr Huskisson told us the story of Beowulf and Grendel. It was very funny and we all laughed. It ended happily... until we found out that Grendel had a mother!

After that we all got to choose an activity to do. There was pottery (making things from clay), architecture (making Stone-Henge from Bourbon biscuits) and shield making (painting shields made of card). I chose to do pottery and we had a lot of fun. It was quite difficult but we all managed it in the end! We made pots, vases, ornaments, bowls and a big mess! Everyone else did either shield making or architecture. In the shield making they designed a shield and then painted it. Then they divided into tribes and made a speech up together. Whoever had the best speech got to have the teacher in their tribe! In architecture they made some really life-like models of Stone-Henge... apart from the fact that they were made of chocolate biscuits and icing - not stone!

At the end of the day when we had all finished our activities we had a fake battle with no contact involved at all. It was really fun, even though my side didn't win. We all had a really good time and learned lots about the Iron Age: what they did, what they wore what they ate and more! It was really fun experiencing it for ourselves and we will never forget the time when we went back in time 2000 years!

KINETIC THEATRE - "ROBIN & THE WITHERING WOOD"

By Catherine Jarvis and Sarah Williams

The Kinetic Theatre in September 2016 and performed a play called 'Robin and the Withering Wood' to Years 1 to 6.

The show was a version of the famous fairy tale, Robin Hood, that most of us know.

The cast told the classes the story, but with a twist. While they were performing they also taught us a lot about photosynthesis and the cycle of life. The villains were a witch and the Sheriff of Nottingham. The heroes were Maid Marian and Robin Hood. The wood had started to wither because the witch took ingredients from it. Her potion was to stop Robin Hood winning the archery tournament. Robin Hood drank the potion, and it made him go wobbly. In the end Maid Marian saved the day and Robin finally won the golden arrow. The story came to a happy ending, and we all enjoyed it, whilst learning some interesting science.

THE CHRISTMAS FAIR By Mya Mayling Casey

At 6.00 pm on the Friday 25th November our school had a Christmas fair. At the beginning of the fair all the juniors sang at the entrance of the school. We sang "Away in a Manger" and "We Wish you a Merry Christmas".

At the fair you could do a number of things, like the chocolate tombola, or a Where's Santa game. If you are a nail varnish fan you could get your nails painted for just one pound. You could also see SANTA in his grotto and get a present and a photo taken. There were also lots of toys and books and some delicious cakes for sale. Yum! There was also beer and wine for the adults in the bar.

At the end of the Christmas fair results were announced for prizes, like Name The Teddy Bear and the chocolate tombola. It was such a fun experience and I am sure everybody had a great time.

JUNIOR CAROL SERVICE

By Catherine Jarvis

This year on Wednesday the 14th of December the juniors performed their Carol Service at St. Saviour's Church, for parents to enjoy. Firstly Reverend Joe, came up and said some prayers and welcomed everyone. Then we started.

The first Carol we sung was 'Once In Royal David's City' with the congregation. The first verse was sung by Mya Casey, who sang beautifully. After that we read some poems. Some of our favourite songs were 'Carol of the Bells' and 'Infant Holy'.

This year we changed things, with all the boys singing a song, and all of the girls singing a song. All of the boys sang 'We're The Guys With The Camels', which was a particularly funny song with actions in it (they smashed it!), which the parents really enjoyed. Then the girls sang a lovely song in Swedish called 'Sankta Lucia'.

A group of Year 5 and 6 girls sang a song called 'The Most Beautiful Story Ever Told', which was fabulous. During that song the Year 3's got dressed into their costumes and then formed a touching nativity scene. They got a really big round of applause. Year 5 and 6 'Lullaby on the Wind', which was exceptional. Our showstopper song this year was from the film 'The Polar Express': 'When Christmas Comes to Town.' Some Year 6 girls performed a dance during the instrumental section.

Finally, we all sat down, sang 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing', and then we all had drinks and mince pies. It was another great year for everybody.



YEAR 3 NEWS

By Gurpriya Dhillon

In October, all of Year 3 went on a trip to Pizza Express. I went on the minibus, we went on the motorway.

When we got there, we took off our blazers and cardigans, then we washed our hands and got on with the pizzas. First we made the base out of dough. Then we put the sauce on, followed by the cheese. We cooked the pizza in the enormous oven which could fit about 32 pizzas in it! While the pizzas were cooking, we decorated our chef's hats.

When the pizzas were ready, we were allowed to eat either one slice or two. We took the rest of the pizza home in a take-away box.

It was great fun and the pizzas were fantastic!

Sports and Clubs

FOOTBALL BY YEAR 6 FOOTBALL REPORTERS

Fixtures: Our first fixture was away against Kingsmead School and we took our whole squad from football club. It was the first time we had played together as a team after we had lost several players from last year's Year 6 class. We all worked very hard and played some lovely football but unfortunately lost the game to a strong side.

On Sunday the sixteenth of October some of the Year 5 and 6 football team set off to Shropshire to the Ellesmere College tournament. Most of the football team thought they were going to Ellesmere Port, but it turned out that we weren't even close. Our first match was against Ellesmere College, the school that hosted the tournament. In that match our amazing football team won the match 1-0, thanks to all our players, who worked so hard! Our football captain, Joseph Wilson, scored the only goal of the match. We didn't concede any goals because of our two defenders (Finlay Wood was especially strong) and goalkeeper, Luke Jones of Year 4.

Unfortunately in our remaining four games we did not get enough points to get through into the knock out stages of the tournament. But overall we had a wonderful learning experience!

The on the eighteenth of October some of Prenton Prep's football team went onto an astro-turf pitch to face Abby Gate College in a friendly match.

The formation for our five-a-side team was a 1-2-1 line up. Last year when the football team were facing Abby Gate College they played well, but this year's team were extraordinary.

We conceded some goals throughout the game, but we kept on going. Mr. Jones made sure that everyone got a fair chance and subbed on and off. It felt like we were a premier league team; we had good chemistry.

In the end we nearly lost count of the score.

Fortunately Mr. Jones was keeping count and told us the score, and he said that the score was 6-3 to us.

We won by scoring free-kicks and defending really well; also, you cannot forget about the people who ran up and down the wing, and finally the crosses that people made for the striker to smash the ball into the back of the net.

Football training 2016: We train every Monday with our amazing coach Mr Huskisson, the year 6 teacher. He teaches us how to score brilliant goals. He also teaches us skills, like half-volleys on the wall, how to score great penalties, the best skills like The Maradona, The Rabona, The Cruyff Turn and The Ronaldo Chop. We also have Infant and Year 3 & 4 football sessions, which are taken by Wirral Sport Attendants at Leasowe Sports Centre. Overall we have a fantastic time training.



CROSS COUNTRY BY NIKAN NOROUZI

This term teams of Juniors have had several cross-country races, mostly at Arrowe Park, on the fields at the back of The Oval in Bebington, and one in Liverpool. The races are tough, and there are lots of good runners there. Dr. Pemberton and Mrs. Booth organise the team for us. There are separate races for boys and girls. We always do our best, and just go out and enjoy ourselves. Everybody tries really hard. We all help and support each other in the races. People who have done particularly well in cross-country this year are: Emily, Lucy, Oliver, Philip, Nina and Sam Booth. Cross-country has been great; it's enjoyable, challenging, and a great way to stay fit! Why not give it a try?



SWIMMING REPORT By NIKAN NOROUZI & ROSIE TUOHEY

On Friday the 18th of November 2016 our swimming team went to Middleton Arena. Everyone travelled there in different cars in the snow and hail, so all the team ended up being a few minutes late. The result of being late was that a few people missed their races.

We were all proud of our swimming team and we all did very well. Mr Jones (our head teacher) was very proud of all the medals on his neck. The staff who gave people the motivation they needed were: Mr Jones, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Hall. It was a great experience for everyone and we all had a good time, and McDonalds afterwards! We travelled to our next gala in cars, and our destination was Macclesfield Arena for the ISA North of England Competition. We started with a warm up; girls went first, then the boys went second. This gala was the qualifier for London (ISA National Finals at the Olympic pool). Race after race we did better and better, until we finally got some 1st, 2nd and 3rd place medals. We always came in the top eight. The qualifiers for London were: Nikan, Kaitlyn, and Sam Hall. Our Year 5 & 6 Girls were 1st in their section and are now the North of England Champions! WOW!

We are all grateful to the staff that supported us, they were: Mr Jones, Mrs Taylor and Mrs. Booth.

We are, once again, very proud of our swimmers this year.



WATER POLO

By Mistique Beau Jones

We take part in some water polo competitions through the year and always enjoy playing this exciting sport.

In September some of the Year 5 and 6 pupils went to the ISA North of England tournament in Middleton, Manchester. When we got there we started playing as soon as we had got changed.

Our first game was in the shallow end and we played very well coming away with a draw. Then we watched some games. Then it was our team on again, so we all got in the pool, apart from 2 people. Some games were in the shallow end and others were in the deep end; which was harder work but, as we have some very strong swimmers we all still played well.

Our team played very well in all of the games winning all our remaining group games. This meant we had got through to the semi-finals!

We played Beech House School in the semi-finals and managed to win a close fought game so we had made the final!

Everybody had played so well in the tournament and this carried on in the final. We had lots of chances but, unfortunately lost by one goal. Still we were very proud to finish in second place in the North of England competition!

NETBALL CLUB By Harriet Dooley & Sarah Williams

We have a netball club running in our school for children from Years 3 to 6. The club is run by Dr. Pemberton (Year 4 teacher) and Mrs. Taylor (Year 3 teacher).

This term we have had lots of fun in netball, and also learned things as well, like new stretches, new techniques and new games.

Matches On the 30th September 2016 our netball team went to a netball fixture at Bidston Tennis Centre. It was against Abbey Gate Junior School. We all played a good match and everyone had a good time and worked well together. Unfortunately we lost narrowly but learned a lot from playing our first fixture of the season.

Skills In netball club we learn new skills every session – like how to improve our passes and our shooting techniques. There are three different passes; they are called: chest pass, bounce pass and shoulder pass. In netball every week we do practice matches, and that helps us to get better at knowing what's ahead of us. We also develop mental skills, such as confidence. Netball helps you gain confidence because some matches you have are victorious, but other times you have a loss; but you shouldn't get yourself down, because failure makes you stronger as a person.

We all really enjoy netball club every Tuesday, and we look forward to having more fixtures in the next term.

SPEECH AND DRAMA REPORT BY MISS COTTIER

This year the speech and drama pupils performed in a very entertaining speech and drama assembly on Thursday 24th November 2016. The children who attend speech and drama were given a theme which was 'the holiday', it was then up to the pupils at Prenton Prep to devise their own scene, this means the children created and co-wrote their own original, comic scenes about the airport and the aeroplane, this is great fun; however it does require patience and skill.

Year 5 and 6 opened the show in the 'airport', they displayed an array of comical characters with 'airline issues', there was a very good use of both regional and international accents! Year 3 and 4 took the audience on to the aeroplane, using clever setting and staging to create the aeroplane; they had equally entertaining flight issues! The Infants performed super lively interpretations of 'holiday' poems, building their confidence and skills in public speaking. This was performed with great success. Well done everyone. Eleanor Sutton, Yan Xi Chen, Yan Xu Chen, Matilda Emmett, Olivia Clark, Adi Sibal and Amelie Stirrett have been working extra hard in preparation for their Trinity College London Speech and Drama examinations which took place on Saturday 26th November 2016 at St Saviours Parish Hall Oxton. The results were outstanding with every pupil receiving a 'Distinction' the highest mark you can achieve! Well done everyone. There is clearly lots of talent at Prenton Prep!

Next year we will be working towards the Wirral Speech and Drama Festival to be held on Saturday 18th March, letters inviting children to perform in the festival went out earlier this half term, if anyone still wants to enter please contact Miss Cottier ASAP. There will also be a speech and drama performance in the Schools Open Day in March.

If any new pupils wish to join the fun of Speech and Drama please contact Mrs Slater to reserve your place. All new pupils to Pre-School and Kindergarten are also very welcome.



JUNIOR CHOIR BY GRACE BARRY, YEAR 5

On Tuesday 13th December some of Year 5 & 6 went to the Pyramids Shopping Centre and sang for the Claire House charity. They sang traditional carols and songs then added a fun song. The public (and some of our parents) watched us sing. The day after, the school received an email from one member of the public saying that the choir's manners were excellent and the singing was fabulous!

UKULELE CLUB BY MR P JOLLIFE & MR J HARDISTY

Throughout the Autumn Term we have been able to provide 2 Ukulele Clubs that operate on Monday and Tuesday mornings, before school. This term the children have really enjoyed the sessions and they have learnt some new skills and songs. Recently the children have had the opportunity to practice some exciting Christmas songs during the sessions. A couple of weeks ago, both Year Two and Five participated in a 'ukulele experience' session. This gave the children a little taster of the instrument and some of the activities on offer at Ukulele Club. In the Spring Term we have some spaces still available for anyone in Years 2-6 who may be interested in learning the instrument. If you would like your child to participate, you can do so by registering online at: www.myguk.co.uk

OCARINA BY MRS BEECROFT

Ocarina Club got off to a great start with 'budding musicians' from KG, Year 1 and Year 2 sharing their musical talent. The children now recognise the importance of the motto "practice makes perfect" so we can look forward to a mini-recital of our favourite tunes in a whole school assembly in the Spring Term!
Keep up the good work children!

MUSIC REPORT BY MRS McDONALD

Last term nine students took examinations with the Victoria College of Music and I am pleased to say that they all passed with Merits and Distinctions. Tabitha Rushton, Piyush Pradeep and Joseph Wilson deserve a special mention as they received outstanding Distinctions. Catherine Jarvis, Oliver Wilson, Nina and Nithin Karyampudi, Olivia Clark and Luke Jones all received excellent Merits and I am sure they feel very proud of their achievements.

Catherine and Nina are now preparing for their Grade 2 exams in 2017 so they will be very well prepared for their music lessons in their senior schools. All senior schools give students a music test on entry and then they usually go on to learn the rudiments of keyboard playing. Having a prior knowledge and the ability to play an instrument ensures students are confident and well ahead of their peers. Many children will then also be in a very good position to begin learning to play another instrument and perhaps to join the school orchestra or take a music GCSE early.

During the summer term our musicians entertained us playing their various instruments in an afternoon concert at school and the pianists all performed admirably. It was a new experience for most pupils and I was delighted with their ability to control nerves and give everyone an enjoyable concert. Hopefully, students will again entertain parents and extended families during the Christmas holidays.

I hope you all have a peaceful and happy Christmas holiday with children keeping everyone entertained playing their Christmas music. Don't forget to continue to practise and I will see you all again on Tuesday, 10 January 2017.

PRENTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION REPORT by MR. R. SIBAL, CHAIRPERSON

Our AGM in October saw a new chair take on responsibility for the PPSPA, Ravi Sibal will lead the PPSPA going forward. We have had an influx of new members joining the committee, along with existing members taking on new roles with Alan Wilson taking up the role of Vice Chair and Mike Parsons taking up the role of secretary. I would like to thank Paula Jarvis (the outgoing Chair) for her hard work and dedication over her tenure. As ever we are always looking for new parents to get involved, so please get in touch.

The highlight of Autumn term is always our annual Christmas Fair. The choir gave us another fantastic performance to start festivities and the new variety of stalls were a big success. This event raised £1922 which is our highest ever total. A big thank you to everyone who generously donated to our Christmas Fair. I would also like to express my appreciation to all the committee members, our helpers and the Staff whose hard work made the event the great success that it was.

We have managed to add to the facilities at the school this term with the addition of the 22 Tablet computers that will be a great benefit to the school. We look forward to funding new facilities in the future.

The next event is the "Easter Eggstravaganza", details of which will be posted in our Spring newsletter. Finally, on behalf of the Parents Association, I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



All the Staff at PPS would like to wish you a wonderful and enjoyable Christmas and look forward to the new term which commences on Tuesday, 10th January 2017