

# PRENTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017

Issue No. 66



Phew! What a busy term we have just had. There has been so much happening in school and the children (and staff) have worked so hard that I am sure they are all ready for a well-deserved break. We are already looking towards a fun-packed Summer Term and have many more events and activities planned for the children to enjoy.

Our pupils continue to astound us with their talents and we have achieved yet more fantastic successes outside of the classroom this term. Some of our pupils have competed in the Wirral Speech and Drama festival, performing excellently. Sport has, once again, figured highly this term and we are very pleased with our teams' performances. In Swimming three of our team were selected to represent the North of England team at the ISA National Finals. We were so proud when they returned from the Olympic Pool with three medals – an amazing achievement. Our netball team had a fantastic tournament in the ISA North of England High 5s finishing in second place and the football team also did us proud in their tournaments. Our Year 3 and 4 water polo team also performed excellently in the ISA North of England competition and our cross country runners have enjoyed successes in their numerous races! Congratulations to all pupils who have represented the school at any of the various activities, you are a credit to us!

Our juniors celebrated the Easter Story in our Easter Service at St. Saviour's Church relating stories about Jesus' life. It was a lovely performance with the choir beautifully supporting clear narrative.

## PPS IN THE COMMUNITY

This term has been another successful one with regards to fundraising. The PPS community have again supported a variety of worthy causes.

First up was our charity chomp, the children really enjoyed their hot dog and fruit lunch and we raised £200.00 which was donated to UNICEF.

We also had a collection during our annual Easter Service at St. Saviour's Church and raised £115.00 which has been donated to Barnardo's. Thank you once again to all members of the school community who donate so generously to ensure we are able to help a variety of charitable causes.

The Summer Term will, as always, include the sponsored swim for Years 1-6. The children always participate in this with great enthusiasm and I am sure that you will all support them in their efforts.

The money raised will, once again, be split between three charities. These will include our regular local causes: Claire House and Alder Hey Children's Hospital and a third charity will be discussed by staff prior to the start of term. If you have any charities particularly close to your heart that you would like us to consider please let us know by email and we will include them in our thoughts.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

We return to school on Wednesday 19th April and children should wear the summer uniform. Dresses and straw boaters, white socks and navy or red sandals for the girls. Black shoes are also acceptable but please avoid slip on or high heels for safety reasons, Short sleeve shirts and grey shorts are optional for the boys.

**Remember for the girls the summer dress should be purchased from John Lewis rather than our usual suppliers, Cain of Heswall.**



## OTHER NEWS

Once again our Easter Eggstravaganza was a great success. It was lovely to see so many members of the school community browsing the children's art work. Well done to all the pupils as their contributions were again of a superb standard.

Remember that our KG, Infant and Years 3&4 football clubs continue into the Summer Term. However the Netball club and Years 5&6 Football clubs have now finished until the Autumn Term. We are looking forward to the Cricket / Rounders club as well as Athletics during the summer months. Both these clubs are very popular and are now full.



## STAFFING NEWS:

Our Pre-School teacher, Mrs. Merrin, has now begun her maternity leave and we all hope that she and her husband both enjoy this magical time. I am sure that baby Merrin will be popping in to school soon and we are all looking forward to meeting them.

Miss Hacking will be joining the staff team to cover Mrs. Merrin's absence and we would all like to welcome her on board. She has already been in to school on several occasions to meet the children and parents and we are sure that the transition will be as smooth as possible. I am sure that all members of the school community will make her extremely welcome.

## PICK UP AND DROP OFF TIMES:

It is concerning that we are receiving an increasing number of complaints from our neighbours about inconsiderate and dangerous parking on Mount Pleasant. Please bear in mind the access rights of nearby residents. **It is also especially important for the safety of all of our children that emergency vehicles are able to pass along the road if necessary.** Please think about this when parking and show due consideration.

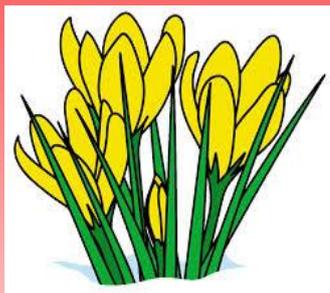


Merci

THANK YOU

Gracias

# Events & Trips



## PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

We have had another busy half-term in Pre-school and the children have continued making strong friendships with their peers. We continue having circle time and discussing how we can be good friends to one another. We have welcomed Isabella and Rio into Pre-school 1.

### Topics and Visits

During this half term, we have looked at Spring and as part of the topic, we went on a Spring walk to Eastham Woods. The children had a great time and were brilliantly behaved. They looked for signs of Spring and were able to tick off lots of items on their checklist. Photographs from the trip and other occasions from the term can be found in the scrapbook displayed in the Pre-school corridor.

Pre-school and KG children have been busy practising this half term for their class assembly on People who help us. Pre-school were lucky enough to join KG when 3 local police officers came to school and let the children explore the vehicles and try on hats and jackets. The children had a great time!

During this half term, we have also tasted pancakes on Pancake Day and have thought about our Mummy's leading up to Mothering Sunday. We have also celebrated Easter and the children enjoyed decorating their eggs and egg cups for the Eggstravaganza.

### Next Term

After the Spring break, the topic will be Superheroes and Miss Hacking will join Pre-school when Mrs Merrin will begin her maternity leave.

## KINDERGARTEN'S NEWS

This half-term, the children in KG have very much enjoyed learning about People Who Help Us. It has been a fun topic, finding out about the different occupations that people do and giving the children ideas for when they grow up.

It has also been a lovely opportunity to learn about the occupations of some of our parents. We would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to Mr Dyer for bringing the police car and police vans to school with his colleagues to talk to us about how they help people. We would also like to say a big **THANK YOU** to Mrs Hawcutt for dressing up in her Surgeon's scrubs and teaching us about being a surgeon and Dr West, for bringing her doctors bag to school and talking to us about how she makes people better.

We have read lots of stories about people who help us and looked up information on the computer, but it was much more exciting hearing first hand, from people who actually do the jobs.

### Trip to Birkenhead Fire Station

We had a fun morning on our trip to Birkenhead Fire Station. We were met by Station Officer Andy, who was in charge that day. He took us on a tour of the Fire Station, showing us the rooms where they eat their meals, sleep, watch television and the gym where they work out, because they have to keep fit to do their job.

We went outside and the fire engine arrived with its lights flashing. Miss Heaney dressed up in the protective clothes that the Fire Fighters wear, she said they were very heavy and we all took turns at firing the water hose.

### Next Term

Next term our topic will be lifecycles. We will be exploring the human lifecycle and the lifecycles of flowers, frogs and butterflies. There will be lots of planting of seeds and beans to give the children first hand experiences of how they develop. We will also continue to practice our cursive writing, introducing story writing and in Maths continue to learn about addition, subtraction, doubling and halving.

Unfortunately we were unable to make our last trip to Woodchurch Library, but we have re-arranged this and our next trip will be on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

**In order to promote the independence of the children and prepare them for the transition to Year One, I would be grateful if you could allow them to come into the classroom on their own, unpack their bags and hang up their coats in the cloakroom. However, I am, as always still available if you need to speak to me about any matters in the morning.**

## THE BBC PHILHARMONIC COME TO SCHOOL

Pre-school, Kindergarten and Years One to Four had a very exciting visit from three members of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra who are based at Media City in Salford.

They played us the theme tune from Wallace and Gromit, told us about their instruments and told us the story of The Gingerbread Man with musical accompaniment. At the end they played The Flower Duet which was written by a composer called Delius. **Thomas Barry:** The three girls were playing their instruments really well. They had a flute, a violin and a cello. The flute was made of metal, mostly silver with a bit of gold which was the bit where the lady put her mouth to play it. She didn't blow into the flute but put her bottom lip on the gold mouthpiece and blew over the hole.

**Thomas Gilbert:** Mrs Dutton showed us how to do it with her water bottle. When the bottle was full of water it made a very high sound. Then she drank some of the water and blew over the hole again and the sound was lower. She kept drinking and each time the sound she made got lower and lower. I liked it when the lady played the cello by herself. She made the sound for the cow. I liked the violin because it made a squeaky mouse sound.

**Veer:** We learnt that the flute is from the woodwind family of instruments and the violin and cello are in the family called the strings. We found out that to make different notes on a flute you have to press down the buttons, which are called keys.

**George:** I liked the flute the best because it played twinkly music. Then I liked the violin and then the cello because it played dark, black, spooky music. The cello player said it is easy to remember the name of her instrument because it rhymes with hello!

**Matilda:** I loved watching them playing their instruments and I enjoyed going up to be the conductor and making them play fast and slow. I got to wear a special conductor's coat called a tailcoat and wave a stick to make them play fast, slow and normal speed. It was really good when they showed us how to make high notes and low notes with the stringed instruments. They used their fingers to pluck the strings to make short sounds and they used something called a bow which was a wooden stick with some real horses hair stretched on it to slide across the strings to make long notes. They also strummed them like a guitar.

**Veer:** I thought it was funny when Josh was waving the stick really fast. He went so fast that he dropped the stick on the floor so the players had to stop and wait for him to start again.

**Luka:** Josh fell over when he was trying to pick up the stick and when he was going so fast it was really funny.

**Jacob:** I liked the music for the gingerbread man when he walked out of his house and I liked the song we learnt.

**Penny:** The song was to the words from the story, "Run, run as fast as you can, You can't catch me I'm the gingerbread man."

**Fabio:** I liked it when the gingerbread man was walking along the path and the cow, the horse and the duck were chasing him. Three children played percussion instruments for those animals. The coconut shells were really good for the horses hooves and the cow bell was a real one that cows sometimes wear. The duck whistle was really funny. The lady with the cello made a squeaky mouse sound by playing right at the very bottom of one of the four strings.

**Thomas Gilbert:** I played the whistle which sounded like a duck, Tom in Year Two played the cow bell and Elicia played the coconut shells for the horse.

**Emily:** I enjoyed singing, "Twinkle, twinkle little star" with the instruments. I enjoyed the part of the story when the fox was saying the gingerbread man should go closer and closer to his nose!

**Olivia:** I hope that the people from the orchestra will be able to come back to our school again sometime soon!



# Events & Trips

## NARNIA

### YEAR THREE NEWS BY AMELIE STIRRETT:

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January, we visited Gillmoss Recycling Centre in Liverpool. They recycle and re-use old plastic, cardboard, glass, paper and cans in big and small machines. This reduces our impact on the planet.

A lady called Kirsty showed us around and it was fun. First, we played recycling games in the classroom, and then Kirsty took us around a balcony so we could see all the machines. The machines were numbered in green and white. The first machine separated the waste into different piles; rubbish that can't be recycled and recyclable materials. Machine two separated the recyclable materials into paper, plastic, cans, cardboard and glass. Machine three was called "The Claw." The claw picked up material that couldn't be recycled and dropped it into wagons to be taken to landfill in Wales. It was a very interesting trip and we learnt how we could recycle both at home and at school. Thank you, Kirsty.

### YEAR 4'S EXPERIENCES

#### FANTASY TOPIC IN ENGLISH by SAMUEL HALL, SCOTT HEFFEY AND OLIVIA WEIR

How To Train Your Dragon

We had to rearrange our trip for next term so thought we would share some of the exciting work we have done in class.

'How To Train Your Dragon' is a fabulous book we have recently been studying. We read the book over a few weeks; therefore there were a lot of cliff hangers which encouraged us to read more of the great book. We listened to David Tennant read us the story on CD. We have written our own fantasy story based on the story with some of us writing several chapters. We really liked spotting the differences between the 'How to Train Your Dragon' movie and book. This is an amazing topic which we have enjoyed studying in Year 4.



### YEAR 5 HAVE HAD LOTS OF FUN!

#### NARNIA by LUCY WHISKER and HARVEEN DHILLON

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of February year 5 went on the Narnia experience at St Georges Hall, Liverpool. First we watched a school perform two songs. Then a lady dressed up as Mrs McCready told us to follow her. We went into a lovely, neat room where Rose (who was the maid of the professor) was dusting the pictures. Then she split us up into our groups which was the Edmund group and the Lucy group. The Lucy group went through the wardrobe first and the Edmund group went in after. Both groups took different routes. First the Lucy group met Mr. Tumnus and went to his nice and cosy house while the Edmund group walked through the wardrobe and met the white witch. The white witch offered us some Turkish delight but unfortunately we were not allowed to taste any. Meanwhile the Lucy group were meeting Mrs and Mr Beaver and they were telling them about Aslan and the white witch. Near the end of the trail both groups met at Cair Paravel and they all defeated the white witch and became kings and queens of Narnia.

#### LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SCHOOLS' CONCERT by NINA KARYAMPUDI

Years 5 and 6 went to the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and we listened to some music by famous musicians. We listened to music by Beethoven, Bach, Verdi, The Beatles and John Williams. In some music the tension built up and got better which made it entertaining like in the 'Fire Bird'. There was also 'When I'm 64' played by the percussion and was very jazzy. There was other music like 'Toccata' by Bach and 'Aida' by Verdi. It was better listening to all the pieces of music live rather than in class. When we watched the orchestra perform you could see the different instruments playing and which bit did this and that.



### SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT by MOLLIE SMITH

This year, Mrs Hughes has formed a school council to help make the school a better place. There is one school councillor in every class in the juniors and two school councillors in year two. There is a suggestion box in each of the school councillors' classrooms where everyone can put in a piece of paper with their ideas for the school written on it, so that we know what everyone wants us to do. We have a meeting every half term and in our first meeting we could see that most people wanted us to get some more playground equipment to play with at break times. This year the school council have launched a couple of competitions to earn money to help achieve our aim. Our first competition was a pumpkin carving competition on Halloween, followed by a Christmas decoration design competition which was judged by you at the Christmas Fair. We were all very happy that so many people entered and because of that we had more money to spend on playground equipment. The money from the competitions raised about £40 altogether. All the school councillors got their classes to vote on what equipment they wanted and in the end we bought badminton rackets and shuttlecocks for the juniors and Star Wars cards for the infants. I think that they have been a big success and all of the classes seem to be enjoying their new equipment. Finally, the school council have launched a recycling programme to help save the world, so now every classroom has its own recycling bin for paper and card. The school councillors empty the bins every Friday. We have started this programme so that we can help save the world as a school. The school council gave the infants a short assembly about recycling, so that they could understand why we are doing it and how it helps to save the Earth, we also told them some facts about it. Our target is for everyone in the school to recycle all their paper and card.

### YEAR 2 TRIP TO THE LIVERPOOL WORLD MUSEUM

During Science week the children revisited topics: 'Living Things and their Habitats' and 'Animals' at Liverpool's World Museum. During the visit they enjoyed a workshop with real minibeasts and were able to experience firsthand, the awe and wonder of a giant female stick insect, millipedes, a tarantula, scorpion and a few other delights. We were truly mesmerized and learned so much from our guide Laura who was very impressed with our prior knowledge and questions. The 'Under the Sea' workshop was also a lot of fun and we were able to touch a starfish and a crab. Before we left we went on the 'Dino Trail' and explored more wonders of the natural world. The children wrote short captions for photographs taken during the trip. Here are just a few examples ...

"At the museum we looked at lots of animals... the jumping spider was really cute. It was very interesting!" **Saskia**

"We played a game with a feely bag at the museum and had to feel the rubber animals and match them to their names." **Daniel**

"I looked at the animal bones. I looked at a fly through the telescope lens. It was BIG!" **Alfie**

"When I was at the wonderful, exciting history museum I played a really fun game. We had to use our sense of touch to match up the toys. We weren't allowed to peek! When it was my turn I guessed a lobster..... and it was a lobster!" **Maya**

**George:** First we went to the bug house to look at minibeasts. Then we visited the aquarium.

**Matilda:** We saw a giant scorpion but the lady didn't pick it up because it would have flicked its tail and stung her. She showed us a tarantula but she didn't pick that up either in case it bit her.

**Veer:** My favourite part was when the lady shone the ultraviolet light on the black scorpion to show us that it glowed blue.

**Jacob:** We were shown a giant black millipede. The lady was able to hold it and she put the camera by it so that we could see it much more clearly on the screen.

**Thomas Gilbert:** In the bug house there was a huge rubber spider in a pretend web which was up near the ceiling. In the aquarium there was a broken fish tank but they didn't tell us how it got broken.

**Thomas Barry:** I liked the pictures of spiders the lady showed us, especially the dancing peacock spider. She said we should look on YouTube to see films of them dancing.

**Fabio:** In the aquarium we played a game with a parachute and we pretended to be underwater creatures. It was fun! We had to work in groups to play another game which was sorting out which creatures could move on land or underwater or both. I thought it was funny when we saw dinosaur poo fossils.

**Emily:** We saw a real starfish and a crab and we were allowed to touch them and describe how they felt. After lunch we went to the dinosaur section and we saw fossils, dinosaur skeletons and footprints.

**Penny:** We were able to look through a microscope at butterflies and insect skulls.

# Other Events



## STORY TELLING AND CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS by CATHERINE JARVIS

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of March we had a Story writer in and tell us a story (his name was Mr Lea) and the story was about him and his friend finding a portal in school, going back to the Vikings time and battling against the Anglo-Saxons.

Then the boys in the story come to school and their next subject was Ancient Egyptians, and they knew what they were going to do to research that!

After that we had to plan out our own story, including where it was set, who we would be taking with us and what happened in our story. We also had to structure it into a beginning, middle and end. Some of the classes wrote their story for homework, and some did them at school.

When they were all done we gave them to Mr Lea, he is going to read them all and then give us some feedback on our efforts.



## WORLD BOOK DAY BY SARAH WILLIAMS YEAR 6

World Book Day was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017. All the school dressed up in amazing fictional character costumes.

Every year our school dresses up for World Book Day. Lots of schools take part as it is a very popular national event. We dress up to celebrate literacy, and to encourage children to start reading if they don't already read much.

## THE EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA BY HARRIET DOOLEY

In the Easter Extravaganza this year we had a lot of amazing artwork on display. I'm sure it was very hard for the parents to pick their favourite time. Many people showed up and everyone had a great time. I'm sure. Every child did an amazing piece of individual artwork that their teacher picked; all the class did the same thing, but they were different designs. Pre-school did a design with some egg cups; KG did eggs on sticks; Year 1 did papier maché cracked-open egg bowls; Year 2 did papier maché eggs; Year 3 did Easter baskets; Year 4 did Easter posters; Year 5 did chick models, and finally Year 6 decorated eggs and put them in a nest, which they also made themselves.

There are many different things to do at the event: you can vote for the art displays that the pupils made and you can buy things from the stalls, like noisy putty and sticky men and, even better, Easter eggs! There is also a shop where you can buy drinks and food, because after all that running around I'm sure you would need a drink.

In the Easter Extravaganza there was a chocolate tombola where you pick 5 tickets and see if you had won any chocolate eggs. Some people were very lucky, others not.

It cost £1 for a parent or guardian to enter the Easter Extravaganza and children are free because they created the art work.

There are teas and coffees for the adults with a scone with butter and jam or a biscuit, but some people just couldn't leave them to the adults!

There were also things you could win like ladies' hampers, cakes, plastic figures (Star Wars) and a giant teddy bunny (Easter-related); if you want to win the giant teddy bear then you get a list of names and pick one and put your name on it; then to pick the winner they put the name of the teddy bear and who picked it, and then put them all in a hat and pick one out, and that's who has won it.

## OPEN DAY by CATHERINE JARVIS

This year on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March our school had an open day, where adults could look around our school with their children to see all our activities and classrooms.

The first activity we had on display was karate and everyone had to try their hardest to impress the adults.

Secondly on display were Speech and Drama, and there were some impressive hospital scenes about hair and beauty and sleepwalking.

Meanwhile people were taking visitors around the school, and talking to them about how lovely our school is (which it is!).

Then Dance and Football were on; the dancers did some stunning dances and the footballers did some tricky trick shots.

Second to last was the netball outside in the playground; they played some matches to show how they practise for a competition.

Finally our big performance: Macbeth; we showed our singing skills and did some funny acting in it.

That was the end of our school Open Day

## THE POETRY COMPETITION by HARRIET DOOLEY

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2017, we had a poetry competition. Everybody learnt a poem of their own or from a famous poet like: Roald Dahl, Ken Nesbit and many more. There were places for the top three, so if you were in the top three you got into the next round – the finals! Oooooooo!

We also had a special judge. He has a creative writing company at the Williamson Art Gallery on Saturdays. He is called Mr Charlie Lea. He is very funny and very good at writing stories, and has great creativity.

The teachers chose who got through to the NEXT round; then Mr. Lea chose the top three out of the juniors, and out of the infants.

The poetry recital of the juniors showed a good standard of memorising and reciting poems out to an audience and having confidence.

In the infants Jennifer came 1<sup>st</sup>, from KG then Elicia of Year 2 came 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Beau, also in Year 2, came 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the juniors Olivia in Year 4 came 3<sup>rd</sup>, Scarlet in Year 5 came 2<sup>nd</sup> and Eleanor, also in year 5, came 1<sup>st</sup>.

Special thanks to Mr Lea for judging the competition. It was very fair and well judged.

Everyone remembered their poems really well and we all had a smile on our faces all through the event.



## SCIENCE WEEK by FINLAY WOOD

This year we had our Science Week, like we have every year and nearly everybody joined in. The Science Week is where people from Pre –School all the way up to Year 6 make science projects.

For Year 6 though this is compulsory, but for everyone else it is optional.

This year, Year 6 got to help judge the year 5's projects, along with Mr Huskisson. Whilst Mr Huskisson was judging the entries he saw a variety of projects; some were about density and others were about electricity, and one even involved making electricity from a lemon! Overall, the science week was a great time: educational and very interesting.



# Sports and Clubs

## FOOTBALL REPORT BY JOSEPH WILSON & NIKAN NOROUZI

Every Monday we have football training from 4 o'clock to 5 o'clock with Mr Huskisson our head coach, also the year 6 teacher, at Leasowe Leisure Centre. Our training routine consists of numerous amounts of strength, stamina, determination, courage and mainly enthusiasm and commitment. As captain I am the person who leads our team to victory and glory. The training involves skills such as the Maradona, the Rabona, the Cruyff Turn, Ronaldo Chop.

On Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February six lucky players went to St. James' School at Grimsby for the day to play in the ISA North, Independent School Association North, football tournament; with our manager Mr Jones & our head coach Mr Huskisson. We drove all the way to Stockport in Mr Huskisson's car and Mr Jones' car. When we got to Stockport Station, we went on a Trans-Pennine Train to Grimsby Town. Finally we arrived at Grimsby Town Station; we waited for the school bus and then boarded it. When we arrived at St James' School we were warmly welcomed by their Headmaster. When we started the tournament we scored the first goal of our first match, but unfortunately we lost the match 2-1 but our hopes were still high. Our next few games were a bit disastrous; sadly we came last out of our group, but happily we came seventh out of the whole tournament. Our next tournament was the Christopher Turner Tournament. This is held at The Oval Sports Centre in Bebington, and our school hosts this tournament. It is always a very high standard, and although we played really well and competed well in it we didn't manage to qualify from our group. Well done to The Grange School who won.

## KARATE CLUB REPORT

The karate club continues to flourish at Prenton Prep. We have lots of members from Years 1 to 6 and they all enjoy learning new skills. The Infant club have gained badges for their moves and the Juniors all took part in their gradings with everyone doing well and gaining different coloured belts. We hope you have a good Spring Break and look forward to seeing the children again when they return. Karate is excellent for fitness as well as instilling a sense of discipline. There are some spaces available in the club should any pupils wish to join. Please contact Mrs. Slater if you are interested.



## OCARINA CLUB

Our young musicians have blossomed this term! With separate recitals for Mr Jones and Mrs Aloe, the group went from strength to strength and performed their repertoire for KG and the infants in assembly. They even accompanied all of the children as they sang 'Kumbaya'. A very proud moment for us all!



## CROSS COUNTRY REPORT

Since September 2016, there have been a lot of cross country races at Arrowe Park, Higher Bebington Park and Beech House School, Rochdale. They were all a lot of fun!!! The cross country team this year is quite a good one, and not just that, we also have an amazing coach, Dr. Pemberton (the teacher of Year 4) and she takes us to cross country races and she is really fun. When we turn up at the venue we wait for everyone to arrive, then we go to a little spot where we put all of our bags down and sit down; then the races begin! We like cheering our teammates on when it isn't our turn to race and in between races we have a little snack and a drink!!!



## NETBALL REPORT BY SARAH WILLIAMS

This term we have played in two netball tournaments: the Ellesmere Collage Netball tournament and the ISA North of England, High 5s Netball Tournament. The Ellesmere Collage Netball Tournament was on a Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Our team played really well and we never gave up at any stage and kept a positive mind set. We played a lot of schools but unfortunately we came 2<sup>nd</sup> to last in the tournament, but qualified through to the Bowl Match and we won it; so we got a little trophy, but everybody played well and it's the taking part that counts. But from that tournament we know what skills we need to work on, so we can be a better team and we can learn from our experience.

The High 5s Netball Tournament was on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Everyone was playing with cheerfulness and a positive mind set. There were 15 schools involved in the tournament; overall we came 2<sup>nd</sup>! After the first half of the tournament there were three bands of levels: bottom was second league, middle band was the championships and the top band was the premier league. We came in the premier league, which were the best teams out of the tournament. We played really hard teams but we got through and beat some and drew some and lost a game to the team who came 1<sup>st</sup> but we played well and supported everyone. Now our team is 2<sup>nd</sup> best in the North of England! Well done to everyone involved in the netball club.



## SWIMMING REPORT BY NIKAN NOROUZI

Our swimming team always tries their best to achieve 1<sup>st</sup> place in all their races. On Tuesday our Juniors go to Europa Pools for swimming lessons, and Year 1 and Year 2 go on Friday mornings. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of January this year three of our swimmers went to London to The Olympic Pool to swim in an ISA National gala; the 3 swimmers who went were: Samuel Hall, Kaitlyn Ha and Nikan Norouzi. We came back with 3 top-positioned medals. On the 31<sup>st</sup> of January there was an inter-house swimming gala and all of the houses tried their best to succeed; it was really well fought out and in the end Churchill were victorious. Also the infants had a gala for their houses. We are all very proud of our swimming team this term and we wish them all the best for the upcoming Birkenhead and Wirral galas in the Summer term.

## ISA WATER POLO BY NIKAN NOROUZI YEAR

On the 27<sup>th</sup> February Years 3 & 4 went to Middleton Arena to play some water polo; they all tried their best and played very well even if some of the team didn't enjoy the dunking as they weren't used to it! We had a very good team who passed a lot, we scored some good goals but the most important thing was that they played as a strong team. It was quite hard to score goals because we were mostly playing in the deep end of the pool. The main positive of the tournament was that they tried their best and had some fun. We are all very proud of our Years 3 and 4 water polo team. I am sure that they will all enjoy going on to play more of this exciting sport following such a great experience.



### **INDIVIDUAL MUSIC LESSONS WITH MRS MCDONALD**

Last term Olivia Clark and Oliver Wilson took their Victoria College of Music Preliminary Piano exams and they both achieved excellent results gaining high Merits. Well done to both students who are now working towards their Grade 1 exams.

This term a number of students have been entered for a variety of examinations and if they work hard and practise every day they will do very well when they take them during the summer term.

The students entered are: Lily Jones; Nithin Karyampudi; Piyush Pradeep; Tabitha Rushton; and Joseph Wilson all of whom are taking Grade One and Catherine Jarvis will be taking Grade 2.

Playing music is the brain's equivalent of a full-body workout. Playing an instrument engages practically every area of the brain at once – especially the visual, auditory and motor cortices and as with any other workout, disciplined structured practise in playing music strengthens those brain functions, allowing us to apply that strength to other activities. Playing music has been found to increase the volume and activity in the brain's corpus callosum; that is the bridge between the two hemispheres which allow messages to get across the brain faster and through more diverse routes.

All this allows musicians to solve problems more effectively and creatively, in both academic and social settings. Making music also involves crafting and understanding its emotional content which gives musicians a higher level of executive function – a category of interlinked tasks that includes planning and attention to detail – requiring simultaneous analysis of both cognitive and emotional aspects. This ability also has an impact on how our memory systems work and indeed musicians exhibit enhanced memory functions – creating, storing and retrieving memories more quickly and efficiently. Studies have found that musicians appear to use their highly connected brains to give each memory multiple tags, such as a conceptual tag, an emotional tag and a contextual tag – just like a good internet search engine!

I believe that students who learn to play a musical instrument and especially the piano (due to the complexity of reading two lines of music) will thank their parents in future years, not only for giving them the opportunity to enjoy hours of pleasure in playing but also for increasing their brainpower.

I hope everyone has a pleasant Easter. Please don't forget to keep your child practising the piano each day as the next set of exams will be just a few weeks after lessons resume on 25 April.



### **SPEECH & DRAMA BY MISS COTTIER**

This term our speech and drama pupils have been busy working on their improvising and devising skills.

The speech and drama pupils were given a stimulus to base their drama scenes on, this was 'the Hospital' and it became the focus for their devising. The children explored different ideas and wrote them up into several comic 'Hospital' related sketches.

The scenes were performed for the Schools Open Day on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The series of comedy sketches were hilarious and included, 'The Hair and Beauty Accident ward', 'The Sleep Walking Incident ward' and 'The Sports Injuries ward'. All the scenes were well and acted and very convincing, the children performed very professionally as two cast members were absent due to ill health, however the children adapted with maturity.

Next term Mr Ratnaik and Miss Cottier will be devising some exciting drama scenes for the Summer Concert.

If any new pupils wish to join the fun of speech and drama please contact Mrs Slater. We would like to remind you speech and drama is open to the children in Pre School and lessons will take place every Wednesday just before lunch.



### **UKULELE CLUB REPORT**

Once again we have had an enjoyable time this term at Ukulele Club. Throughout the Spring Term we have been learning some songs from Disney movies, these include "Can't Stop the Feeling" from the movie Trolls, and "In The Jungle" from the Lion King. We look forward to performing some of these later on in the academic year.

At the start of this term the children in Years 2 - 6 were all given the opportunity to participate in a free Ukulele Experience Session. This short activity gave the children an opportunity to learn the basics of the instrument. I do hope that your child enjoyed the session and the certificate they received for participating.

Anyone else from Year 2 upwards who is interested in joining Ukulele Club can enquire and register through our website at [www.myguk.co.uk](http://www.myguk.co.uk)

### **DANCE REPORT BY MISS J. HUNT**

This term in dance club the children have had a number of different aspects to focus on.

For Open Day Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 performed a selection of the pieces we've been working on in lessons. Years 5 and 6 gave a sneak peak performance of their dance titled "Tears" which they are hoping to perform at the Gladstone theatre this year. Years 3 and 4 presented a previous dance we have worked on titled "Running". It is one of their absolute favourites and really shows how strong and disciplined the children have become. On Open Day I led a workshop styled lesson. This was in order to give the parents a clearer idea of how our dance lessons run. The children behaved extremely well and set a good example not only to those being shown around but for the younger children of the school.

This term we have focused on two different styles of dance due not being able to run the club in the autumn term. Contemporary and Street dance are definitely the favourite styles across the majority. However, I feel it's important to focus on traditional styles, music from different eras and styles that the children are foreign to. We are very excited to begin our piece for this year's school musical "Joseph and his amazing Technicolor dreamcoat". The enthusiasm and determination from the children has meant we are ahead of schedule with the choreography which is fantastic. Because of this, I have decided to challenge the Years 3 and 4 with an exciting mega mix dedicated to Michael Jackson which we have begun working on. Years 1 and 2 are also planning to feature in this piece for the Gladstone performance which they are very excited for. Pre-School and KG continue to be an absolute delight to teach every week. Their stretching, co-ordination and musicality is improving every single week.

### **PPSPA REPORT BY MR. RAVI SIBAL, CHAIRPERSON**

This year is off to a great start thanks to some fantastic events that have taken place over the last few months the Open day and The Easter Eggstravaganza!! I'd like to thank everyone who supported the events and helping us to raise over £650 net profit. All the money that has been raised has had a positive impact on school life with the addition and use of brand new ICT equipment for use across the years groups. We are looking at ways to further enhance the use of these new facilities, including Educational applications, improved Wifi across the school as well as many other projects. We are open to ideas as to how we can improve the school so please let us know.

We have recently launched the 'Prenton Prep School Parents Association' Facebook page. This is a page for **all parents** to learn about events for parents and the activity of the parents association going forward. I encourage you to join and learn about all the exciting activities we have planned (including a parents' social in the summer!!)

Another Key event is the school calendar is the "Summer Fair" on Saturday 17th June. This is a key event and as ever we are looking at how we can make it as much fun for the children (and adults) as possible!! You will see the return of old favourites as well as some new stalls.

Our finale is the "Summer BBQ" where we celebrate the past year's achievements is on Saturday 1st July. Be sure to join us to celebrate the fantastic achievements of the pupils across the school.

Why not come along to the next Parents Association meeting on Wednesday 19th April at 7.30pm in the school hall.

**All the Staff at PPS would like to wish you a wonderful and enjoyable Easter break and look forward to the new term which commences on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

