

# PRENTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2016

Issue No. 64



## FOND FAREWELLS

As we reach the end of another extremely successful year it is, as always, tinged with sadness. We say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils as they take the next step on their educational journey. Academically they have achieved another excellent set of results in entrance exams to local independent schools as well in the 11+. More recently they have also attained pleasing results in the new format of the SATs.

Their departure from school in a "Limousine" capped a particularly enjoyable end to term, with the emotional leavers' assembly, the trip to Llongollen and the residential stay at Barnstondale amongst their highlights. This is a talented group of children who have the potential to succeed in all they do and to be a great credit both to us and themselves as they continue on to the next stage of their education, we are sure they will make us proud. Good luck to them all; they will be greatly missed at PPS!

## STAFF NEWS

This term we bid a fond farewell to Mrs. Tolcher who is retiring. During her time at PPS she has made a huge impact as the Year 2 teacher, not least in preparing a series of children for KS1 SATs. Her high levels of pastoral care have gone hand in hand with exceptional teaching and a commitment and passion for every individual pupil which has ensured that all pupils who have passed through her care have achieved their potential. She has also been a terrific supporter of all school events and will be much missed!

Another stalwart of the school, Mr. Brayley, is also retiring this year. He has combined the roles of minibus driver and After-School Activity supervisor for many years and has helped shape the future of countless members of the Prenton Prep family. He will also leave a big hole to fill in the school community.

As a result of these retirements we are very much looking forward to welcoming our new members of staff. Mrs. Anneke Beecroft will take on the role of class teacher in Year 2. She has been the Year 2 teacher at another Wirral school and has eighteen years teaching experience. She has already been into school on several occasions and met the children in Years 1 and 2. We are sure that she brings the right blend of experience and enthusiasm to enhance our staff team.

Mr. John Robinson also joins the staff and, as an experienced minibus driver, will be transporting the children to their various lessons and events. Mrs. Anne Bailey, an experienced Nursery Nurse, will be taking on the After School Activity duties from Mr. Brayley working alongside Miss Davies, who recently replaced Mrs. Landsborough and has already made a huge impact in her time at the school. We are sure they will be very valuable additions to the staff and that all member of the PPS family will give them a very warm welcome.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

The new term begins on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September and all children should be in Winter uniform, including sensible, flat black shoes and black or navy coats without coloured trim.

Please ensure that all children arrive at school each day in complete uniform, including hats as we aim to maintain high standards.

As increasing amounts of time are now being spent chasing lost clothing, **please also check that all items of uniform are clearly and indelibly named.**



## CHARITY

As is tradition, the children took part in our annual sponsored swim this term. All the pupils put a lot of effort into both the swim and the fundraising and we were very proud of them. The total raised was £1350.00, which we will be sharing between our regular local charities Claire House and Alder Hey Children's Hospital. Our third charity this year will be the Firefighters Charity, each receiving £450.00.

We are very proud of the work PPS does regularly for charity and it is also an important aspect of citizenship as it raises our children's awareness of local and global issues, reminding them how fortunate they are.

## P.P.S. PRODUCTIONS

The Summer term was especially memorable for the quality of entertainment across our varied school productions.

Our Foundation Stage put on a play called "Helping Humpty Dumpty". It was a lovely, humorous presentation which explored the trials and tribulations our oversized egg face when falling from the wall. The pupils showed great confidence and enjoyment in their acting. The Infants play "Pirates versus Mermaids" was an amusing representation of life on the high seas. It was a very polished performance by a talented group and was much enjoyed by all who saw it.

At the Gladstone Theatre the standard of all the routines was once again extremely high. We are so proud of our talented pupils and their self-assurance shone through on the stage.

Year 6's production of Oliver was the highlight of the evening and they were ably supported by the other junior pupils.

All the staff have worked extremely hard in making this quality of production possible and deserve great recognition for their efforts.

## DROP OFF and PICK UP

Once again we have had complaints from the police and our neighbours on Mount Pleasant due to inconsiderate parking at drop off and pick up times. There are also safety implications to these parking issues, which affect all of our children, including safe crossing areas and the necessity of emergency vehicles to access the road. Therefore we would like to ask all our parents to remember the access requirements of nearby residents and to park respectfully.





# Infant Trips



## PRE-SCHOOL NEWS BY MRS. MERRIN

What a busy year we have had in Pre-school! This term we have looked at the topic Animals. The children have enjoyed learning about their favourite animals, and how they can help us, as well as how we need to look after them. Along with the other topics this year, the children have learnt a lot and worked hard in order to create some fantastic pieces of work.

This term has been particularly busy, with our Foundation Stage Sports day and although was rained off, was enjoyed by the children several days later! The children certainly enjoyed practising their races in the lead up to it. We also spent a lot of time practising for our summer concert, 'Helping Humpty Dumpty'. We had fantastic time and all the children put in a lot of effort learning their lines and singing. Pre-school enjoyed celebrating the Queen's birthday sharing a picnic with the rest of the school during the PPS garden party. Great fun was had by all. Well done to the winners of the crown competition!

Most recently, we went to Cheshire Ice Cream Farm with KG, where we spent the day playing hard and eating ice cream. After the children had worn themselves out in the indoor soft play area, they enjoyed a picnic inside, so despite the rain, (again) we had a great day and all the children were exceptionally well behaved!

## KINDERGARTEN'S NEWS

It is the end of a very busy year in KG and the children are ready for their long summer break. I am sure that you will agree at how much the children have grown in confidence and that this was very much in evidence during their performance of this year's summer production, "Helping Humpty Dumpty". It is amazing how they develop the confidence to stand up in front of the parents, sing songs from memory and remember their lines.

Our topic this term has been journeys and transport. We have read lots of stories about different journeys and looked at fiction and non-fiction books to learn about transport. The children have talked about the journeys they will travel on this summer and the places they will visit. We have looked up the different destinations on the map and made pretend passports.

All the children have continued to make progress with their reading, working hard at home and in school. Thank you so much for giving up time to read with your child every night, it really does make a difference. We have also continued to reinforce the cursive style of writing and the topic journeys has given us the opportunity to write stories about journeys.

It was a warm, but wet day for our summer trip to Cheshire Ice Cream Farm. It was also a very busy day, with lots of fun activities to take part in. On arrival at the farm we enjoyed our snack, before heading to the soft play area to burn off some energy, have a run around and build up an appetite before lunchtime. It was lots of fun with slides, ball pools and climbing equipment.

It made such a difference having our hi-vis vests to wear, which made us stand out from the other children and easier to identify. Thank you again to our amazing Parents Association.

By the time we had finished running around in the soft play area, we were all hungry and thirsty, so we had our picnic in the lunch room. After lunch was the most important part of the day. It was time for ice cream, in the ice cream parlour.

There were so many flavours to choose from that it was just as well we had all chosen our favourite before we went. It was delicious!



## YEAR 1 SEE THE LANDMARKS OF THE WIRRAL

Year One went on a Geography field trip to find out about some of the landmarks of the Wirral peninsula.

Rhys says, First we went to Bidston windmill. It was built at the top of a hill because it is windier up there.

Talia noticed that the sails on the windmill didn't go round any more but found out that when it was working the sails made the huge mill stones turn around to grind the wheat into flour.

Elicia remembers that we had a walk at the top of the hill and stopped to look at the view across to Liverpool. We could see a football stadium.

Naomi tells us, We could see the big wheel near Albert dock and the tall radio city tower.

Tom says, We saw the two cathedrals. One looks a bit like a wigwam and the other is really huge! Then we drove to Seacombe for a close look at the river Mersey. We saw one of the Mersey ferries stopping at Birkenhead.

Anna remembers seeing the Liver Buildings and the two Liver birds on top of one of the buildings.

Talia told us the myth of the Liver birds. If they should ever fly away the city of Liverpool would be flooded!

The next stop was Birkenhead docks, says Rhys. James remembers that we saw the bridge over the water which lifts up when a big ship needs to get through.

Nevaeh found out that the docks were where the ships loaded up or unloaded their cargoes.

Beau says, Then we went to Birkenhead park. We had our snack there and then a little playtime. We wanted to go into the playground but it was closed because the workmen were laying a new surface. Central park in New York was based on this park. Saskia remembers walking around one of the lakes and a lady told us to look out for baby birds. We saw ducks with ducklings and geese with goslings. Weren't we lucky!

Alfie tells us, Next we went to Leasowe lighthouse. The lighthouse doesn't work any more because it is really old and the light is missing.

Frankie learnt that the lighthouse used to be by the sea but it isn't any more. We went for a little walk to see if we could find the sea.

Naomi remembers that we had our lunch at West Kirby. It was a really cold, windy day so we ate it on the minibus.

Josh says, Mrs Dutton told us about the river Dee which is the other side of the Wirral from the Mersey. She showed us the three islands, Hilbre island, Middle Eye and Little Eye. We found out that it is a nature reserve with special wardens to look after the wildlife there.

Miguel says, We drove up the big hill and stopped by the Mariners' Beacon. We found out that it was used by the sailors as a landmark to show the way up the river Dee to Parkgate. I saw some carvings on the stones and they looked a bit like Ancient Egyptian carvings.

Maya noticed the huge stone sphere at the very top of the column.

Anna says, Before we went back to school we all chose our favourite flavour of ice cream at the shop in Parkgate!

## YEARS 1 & 2'S TRIP TO THE LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC HALL.

Year One and Two went to the Philharmonic Hall in Liverpool to listen to and see the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

The music was sometimes peaceful and sometimes noisy. The storyteller was Carrie Burnell from CBeebies. She was the author as well. The story was called, "Mermaid".

The main characters were Sylvia, a girl who couldn't walk so she used a wheelchair to get about, and Luka, her friend. Sylvia was an amazing swimmer but only Luka knew that she was a mermaid. The two friends went off on a magical adventure with the orchestra playing beautiful music to accompany the telling of the story. Amelie: The Royal Philharmonic was brilliant. The music was fantastic and I want to listen to it all again.

Aman: I liked the music and enjoyed watching the string bass players.

The story was about a mermaid and our school play was also about mermaids (and pirates and a parrot!) I would like to go to the Liverpool Philharmonic again.



## YEAR 2 VISIT TO THE ELLESMERE PORT BOAT MUSEUM

Gurpriya: At the museum we got dressed up. I was called Mrs. White, Cody was Bobby White and Max was Billy White. We lived in one of the houses at the boat museum. We were very poor.

Nithin: We went to the boat museum. I was the dad. We were the only house with a television but it was so small and it was black, grey and white. We were all dressed up in old fashioned clothes.

Tilly: We looked in the houses and saw some old things. There were no lights and they had to use candles.

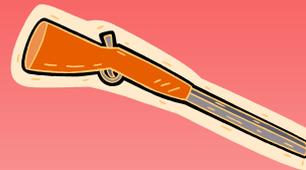
Jeevan: I saw where the family lived on the narrowboats. It was very small and squashed. The baby had to sleep in a drawer and the children slept on the floor or a bench. I would not like to have lived like them.

Adi: enjoyed it when, "We did painting and made some pictures to decorate the narrowboats."

Emma decided that, that was one of my favourite trips. I enjoyed dressing up and pretending to be a child from a long time ago.



# Junior Trips



## YEAR 3'S WATER SPORTS TRIP TO WEST KIRBY BOATING LAKE BY PIYUSH PRADEEP

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June we went on a trip to Marine Lake in West Kirby. We went on a super-fast speed boat and a colourful sailing boat.

I went on the speedboat first with the rest of the boys.

Later on we got to swap and have a go on the sailing boat which was much slower.

After we had been on the boats we went into the water which was actually quite warm we played lots of games in the water and had to try to stand up on surf boards without falling off.

I really enjoyed this trip, it was my favourite one of the year.

After we finished playing games in the water we all got to slide off an upturned boat and then all jump into the water together.

## YEAR 5&6 TRIP TO LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY BY FINLAY COETSEE

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May Year 6 went on a trip to Liverpool University and we talked about Climate Change. We looked at a PowerPoint that our guide (Jenny) had made. She gave us some booklets that, when we looked at the PowerPoint, we had to answer some questions on the sheet. The first experiment that we did was we had a long box, and had slots for barriers; so it had sections for different things to go in. We had some groups of 3 and spread ourselves out in the room. We had 2 jugs, one jug full of water and one jug full of water with food colouring. We tipped them into one of the compartments each, and we put salt into the blue water and released one of the slabs a tiny bit to see what happens. What happened was that the water mixed with the blue water; the blue water with the salt stayed at the bottom because mixing the salt into the water made it heavier, so it made the blue water sink to the bottom. The next experiment we did was we had a jug of water with a shore with paper pins on it. We had bags of ice and we put the ice on the shore and the ice in the water and marked where the water level was. We put the 2 tubs of water under heat lamps and while we waited for the ice to melt we went into a massive inflatable dome.

There was a projector in the middle of the dome and it showed a small video on what is happening to the world with pollution, and that every living species is in danger, which is due to climate change. When we got back most of the ice had melted. The level of the tub with the ice in the water hadn't changed much because ice is frozen water so it is a form of water. On the tub with the ice on the shore, the water level had risen because the ice had not been affecting the water level before. Over all we had an amazing time and we learned loads; I hope I might go there with my new school as well.

## YEAR 6'S BARNSTONDALE TRIP BY JAMES MCCARTHY

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, year 6 went on a trip to Barnstondale. Barnstondale is a place to stay (usually for schools) and you even get your own lodge: there's even an adventure park! There are a wide range of activities such as kayaking and rifle-shooting. We even had a campfire!

### Kayaking

Our first activity was kayaking. Kayaking is an activity where you sit in a one seat miniature boat and you hold a stick with two paddles on each end to propel yourself through the water. We had to wear all of our clothes in the kayak even our shoes! Even though we were all wet, we still had water vests and jackets on.

### Rifle Shooting

Our second activity was "Rifle Shooting", where we got an air rifle in the shape of a sniper and to knock metal pig targets down, but the tricky part was that the targets kept coming back up because they were attached by a string! Only a few people in my class kept the pigs down though.

### Archery

Our last, but most certainly not least activity was archery. Archery was quite hard and with help of one of the instructors (Mark), I got a shot in the yellow area! Although on my own, I either missed or got in the white!

### Conclusion

Overall (despite the weather), it was an extremely fun experience and I would do anything to go there again! It was possibly (not including Colomendy) the best trip we've ever had!

## PPS MUSIC AFTERNOON BY FRANCESCA CUEVAS-ANDERSON, FINLAY WOOD AND MYA CASEY

On 7th July, musicians from the whole school presented a music afternoon. Children who have lessons performed in the assembly hall in front of all the parents. Instruments included: ukulele, piano, ocarina, violin and guitar. Some people also sang. The teacher in charge of this event was Mrs Hughes, who is very musical. Everyone worked very hard for it and it was a great success. The parents and children all loved it!

The ukulele group included pupils from Years 1, 2 and 3. Another act was Mya Casey singing 'I Dreamed a Dream' from Les Miserable.

A Year 6 pupil, Francesca, played a lovely but complicated piece on the piano and two Year 6 boys (Callum and Finlay) performed with Callum on guitar, who is self-taught, and Finlay with 'that beautiful voice'.

The Infant ocarina group also performed as well as other soloists on the violin, voice and piano. What a lovely way to spend an afternoon!

## CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP BY FRANCESCA CUEVAS-ANDERSON

On Friday 17th June, Sue Hoffman who is the author of 'High King', came to our school. She read parts of her book, and it was amazing! Lots of us were left speechless! We all got a signed copy of it if we wanted one, and lots of people did!

She gave us lots of tips and advice on things, like how to write a good start to a story, and told us where she gets her inspiration and story ideas.

We all got to create our own creature, and there were lots of funny and creative ones! She also helped us write stories about a dragon of our choice. Year 4 also got to do a similar thing, and they enjoyed it just as much as we did.

Sue Hoffman was extremely kind and generous to come to the school, and I think everyone will remember the experience very well.



## SECRET GARDENS OF OXTON BY EMMA PEMBERTON

On the 19th June our Junior Choir sang in front of people at the Secret Gardens Of Oxtun. We performed in the school gardens where we were hosting the Hub (the main headquarters of the event).

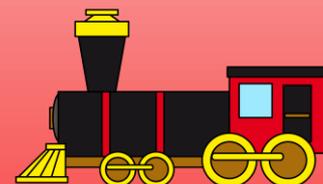
Lots of people came and watched and we sang a variety of songs like Naughty (Matilda), Rule the World (Take That), Jungle Disco (Rainforest) and the Oliver Medley. We had technical difficulties with the CD player so in the end we just sang without the music but everyone did really well and we had lots of lovely comments from members of the public who had watched us perform. The rest of the day had Morris dancing, hair braiding and lots more. Even though it rained, everyone had a great day.

## KEY STAGE 2's TRIP LLANGOLLEN BY MOLLIE SMITH, YEAR 5

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July all of the juniors went to Llangollen for the end of term trip. There we enjoyed a journey on a steam train, a tour of Carrog station, a ghost story about a station master and his bike and a 45 minute horse pulled barge trip. Mr Fisher acted as our guide when we were on our trip and he told us lots about steam trains and the stations that we visited (he even told us some disgusting facts about toilet issues for evacuees in WW2).

Then we went on the barge trip. Most people wanted to sit at the front of the barge, but some of us wanted to go in the sheltered part of the boat because there wasn't much space outside and they were getting squashed! After that we came back to school on the coach.

We really enjoyed our trip and we learnt lots about old steam trains.





# Sports and Clubs



## ATHLETICS

**BY FRANCESCA CUEVAS-ANDERSON**

Every Tuesday people who choose to go, go to the Oval for athletics club. It is run by Dr. Pemberton, Mr. Pemberton and Mr. Huskisson. We do it in any weather, which can sometimes be bad but we still have a great time!

We get timed for everything to get into levels, and people like to see if they get in the bronze, silver or gold level.

At the end of the year there is a medal for getting at least one level in everything.

Years 4, 5 and 6 get to try lots of different things, like hurdles, long jump, high jump, javelin, shot put and discus.

Everyone who goes to athletics gets to go to competitions and we nearly always do quite well in them. It's a great way to get medals, which they show at the Gladstone as well!

Lots of people are keen on athletics and it is a great way to get fit!

## SPEECH AND DRAMA REPORT

**BY MISS COTTIER**

This term the Speech and Drama pupils from Kindergarten to Year 4 have been busy working on preparing scenes based on 'Fairy Tales' for the annual summer concert. The speech and drama pupils were creative in devising and animating their drama scenes and poems. The poems were original, rewritten and adapted with the help of the children to fit Year 3 and 4's devised scene called 'The Fairy Tale Court'. The Fairy Tale Court was a super scene and the children worked extremely hard, merging the clever use of sound effects, costume changes and props in their drama scene. This was handled with professionalism and maturity beyond their years; it was extremely well acted, with superb comic timing, which the audience certainly enjoyed.

At the end of October the children will have the opportunity to enter speech and drama examinations, if you are interested in your child taking a speech and drama examination, please email Miss Cottier directly for further details.

Miss Cottier would like to take this opportunity to thank the speech and drama pupils for all their hard work this year and is looking forward to more, creative exciting drama lessons in September, 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 Kindergarten are very welcome and there will be a fun free taster lesson for pupils to try at the start of the autumn term.

## UKULELE BY MR. JOLIFFE



This year it has been fantastic to start a Ukulele Club at Prenton Prep. In September I came into school to deliver an assembly for children in Year's One, Two and Three to demonstrate how to play the ukulele. Following a good response, I have been able to put on a ukulele club every Monday morning, before school, throughout this year. As a group, the children have learnt a number of different songs and skills to help them eventually become independent players. On 7<sup>th</sup> July, at the Music Afternoon, the children were able to perform some of the songs that they had learnt.

**Next academic year...** we are looking to recruit some brand new players! If your child is interested in learning how to play the ukulele, letters will be sent out at the start of the autumn term. For further information, please visit [www.myguk.co.uk](http://www.myguk.co.uk)

## SWIMMING

**BY CALLUM CASEY AND LIAM SMITH**

Our school has a real passion for swimming and takes part in many galas every year. In many of these events we have achieved a high level of success and the school has a reputation for its excellent swimmers.

One of the swimming galas we participate in can enable our best swimmers to qualify for the nationals in London.

This year three of our swimmers went to compete in the ISA National Finals in London. Our 3 swimmers (Nikan, Samuel and Kaitlyn) did an amazing job, as we took home two medals which were a gold and a bronze. We are exceptionally proud and wish them the best of luck next year to get back into the London Olympic arena!

In June this year we competed in two very important galas. First we went to Leasowe Recreation Centre for the Birkenhead Schools Gala. We all competed well and swam hard but were pipped at the post, finishing in second place. However this meant that we had qualified for the Wirral finals and we hoped to go one better!

The Wirral Schools Gala was at Europa pools and also was an opportunity to qualify for the Merseyside School Games swimming event, representing Wirral. Our swimmers did extremely well; we came first and managed win 25 medals! We had therefore qualified for the Merseyside Games which was on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July.

At the games our team performed excellently with many top three finishes. We were proud to be one of the top twelve swimming teams in Merseyside!

Four of our Years five and six team members also qualified to compete in the ESSA (all English schools) National Finals as a relay team; we did very well and managed to come 19<sup>th</sup> out of every single school in England in our event!

Our Swimming team is a very good one, but some of our main swimmers are leaving this year and hopefully new swimmers will rise up to their position and fulfil their potential.



## JUNIOR SPORTS DAY **BY FRANCESCA CUEVAS-ANDERSON**

On 8th July, the juniors had their Sports Day. All 4 houses (Hillary, Scott, Livingstone and Churchill) competed against each other to win.

Lots of parents came along to watch and it got very exciting! Everyone is very competitive but made sure to still be happy if they didn't win. Activities we did included: high jump, long jump, ball throw, 80m, 400m, 600m and fun races!

It's a great day out and everyone loves it!

Well done to Scott who won the trophy (again!) and to all the individual winners, especially the super speedy mums and dads!

## DANCE BY MISS HUNT

As I write this article I am filled with so much gratitude and appreciation for the school. Unfortunately, as you may know, I was involved in a serious road traffic accident during the half-term holidays. I won't go into the details but it led to me being on crutches and unable to teach for the remainder of the term. My immediate thought, once I was home, was my classes. I take great pride in my teaching and the children here at Prenton Prep really are outstanding and such a pleasure to see every week. Fortunately two of my colleagues from my theatre school, "House of Dance" stepped in. I would like to thank Chloe and Charlotte for all their hard work therefore allowing me to recover knowing the Club was in safe hands.

I would like to congratulate the pupils on a fantastic end of term. I heard the students who performed at the Gladstone were astonishing, you made me very proud.

As for the Year 6s moving on to high school, I wish you all the best and hope you continue to study an area of the arts or a creative subject as you were such a strong group.

Finally I would like to thank the staff. Your support and understanding through this difficult time has been overwhelming. I'm so pleased to be a part of this school.

I am pleased to announce I shall be back to teach Dance Club in September. I'm so excited to see the children again and start teaching some new styles and choreography, as well as a few surprises I have in store; some new modules are in the pipeline, plus the opportunity to take part in a choreography competition and more. All will be revealed in the new term!

## ROUNDERS AND CRICKET **BY CALLUM CASEY**

Every summer term Football club changes into a Cricket and Rounders club; it is lots of fun and great exercise.

We learn how to play Rounders and Cricket properly and we learn how to bowl, bat and catch.

In Rounders we play different types like normal or mat Rounders, where instead of using posts you use mats for the bases. This takes place on Mondays after school, and finishes at five.

We have also had some fixtures against other schools and everyone played really well especially against Kingsmead when we won.

It is an exciting and enjoyable club and we have all really enjoyed this term.



### MUSIC REPORT BY MRS McDONALD

This term most students were working towards their examinations which took place on 28 June. The following students took Victoria College of Music piano exams:

Olivia Clark	A – First Steps
Catherine Jarvis	Grade 1
Luke Jones	B - Preliminary
Nina Karyampudi	Grade 1
Nithin Karyampudi	B - Preliminary
Piyush Pradeep	B - Preliminary
Tabitha Ruston	A and B – First Steps & Preliminary
Joseph Wilson	B – Preliminary
Oliver Wilson	A – First Steps

Not only do students learn the practical aspects of playing but they also learn a new language. Every student completes a few pages of theory each week which builds on their knowledge for GCSE music. By the time they reach Grade 4 in their practical and Grade 5 in their theory they are capable of taking GCSE music and gaining an excellent grade.

All students have also been practising for the music afternoon in July. They showed great interest in organising their pieces and all performed well for their friends and parents. It proved an extremely enjoyable for everyone and was good experience for the young pianists, playing in front of an audience.

Making music relieves stress. Playing an instrument requires your full focus and attention and stops stressful thoughts. Music education improves self-image, self-awareness and positive attitude. Students who study music have a greater sense of identity; they accomplish and appreciate more than other students.

A Musician's brain is like an orchestra. Studies have shown that when we are playing an instrument, different parts of the brain engage in simultaneous processing of a variety of information at an amazing speed. Visual, auditory and motor cortices are especially active. Making music requires and awakens mathematical and linguistic precision.

Scientists have found that playing the piano is the equivalent of a full-body workout for the brain. Left and right brain hemispheres are simultaneously stimulated and engaged. Increased volume and activity in the bridge (corpus callosum) between the hemispheres means that the brain can process information faster through diverse pathways because of enhanced connectivity.

People who play instruments are extremely effective and innovative in problem solving, both academically and socially. A musician's brain is different; they have better memories and understanding of non-verbal communication. Their co-ordination and dexterity enhance learning abilities. Their understanding of cognitive and emotional aspects of information, together with their attention to detail, help in their planning and strategy skills.

If you wish your child to achieve more at school through taking pianoforte or keyboard lessons then please speak to Mrs Slater who will place names on the list for lessons in September. There are only a few places left for next term. Lessons will resume on Tuesday, 13 September 2016.



### THE OLYMPIC READING CHALLENGE BY LIBERTY A. NASH, YEAR 6

For almost the entire summer term of 2016, the Year 4 teacher, Dr Pemberton, held an 'Olympic Reading Challenge', because of the Olympics in the summer. Every member of the Juniors was given a record sheet, for the challenge. For Round 1, each pupil would have to read a book in each of the following genres: non-fiction, poetry, historical fiction, fantasy, and contemporary fiction (modern, realistic fiction). Each genre that was completed on the challenge sheet (by reading 1 book about that genre) was worth 5 house points.

Once a pupil had completed Round 1, they moved onto the 'Elite Competition', or Round 2. This meant that they had to read a book set in each of the five continents: the Americas, Australasia, Asia, Africa and Europe. Each book read for the Elite Competition was worth 8 house points.

Pupils also earned bronze and silver medals at various stages in the challenge, and a gold medal if they completed it. It really was a Reading Challenge!



### PRENTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION REPORT BY MRS. P. JARVIS

So another school year has flown by quickly and the last term has been a very busy one for the Parents Association.

The sun came out for the PPSPA flagship event of the year, our Summer Fair, which as usual was very well supported raising a superb £2,000 profit. We boosted Grand Raffle sales by selling tickets at the Oxtan Secret Gardens - thanks to the committee members who gave their time to do this.

The end of year BBQ was not as fortunate with the weather but saw the return of 'Zimmo' who thoroughly entertained the children. We will let you know the results when we return in September.

From funds raised, we are very proud to have been able to help the School to buy a new minibus. You may also have seen by now our athletes wearing smart red vests and our infants really stand out in their new bright yellow high vis jackets. We also continue to contribute to the Year 6 Barnstondale trip.

The PPSPA events could not happen without the support of the committee, helpers and staff. Many thanks also to the people who have kindly made donations to our events. I would like to take this opportunity to send our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Mrs Tolcher and Mr Brayley who have supported the PPSPA for a long time. They will be greatly missed by us all.

The first committee meeting of the new school year is on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016, in the school hall at 7:30pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing many new faces!

Finally, on behalf of the Parents Association, I would like to wish you all a wonderful (and hopefully dry!) summer break.



**All the Staff at PPS would like to wish you a happy and relaxing summer holiday and look forward to the new term which commences on Tuesday, 6th September 2016**

