

PRENTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2011

Issue No. 48

★ The Spring term has once again been an extremely busy one with many varied activities. I'm sure that everyone will enjoy a well-deserved break after all their hard work.
★ We are very pleased with all of our pupils but Year 6 especially have made us proud and have risen to the challenges put before them this year. Their achievements have been extremely pleasing with 100% pass rate to the Independent Sector and 88% pass into the local Grammar Schools. As they continue their hard work into the Summer term and the approaching SATs tests we look forward to further successes.
★ Many of our children have been busy outside the classroom this term with exceptional results. Sport has once again figured prominently this term and we are very pleased with our Netball, Swimming and Football teams who made us proud with their performances in the various fixtures and tournaments. Individually, pupils have also taken part in Cross Country and Biathlon competitions and our congratulations go to Hannah Das and Phoebe Lloyd-Hazlegreaves who both qualified for the National finals in their chosen events. Our budding thespians have also enjoyed participating in festivals and at the school's Open Day and all who did so performed with great enthusiasm and skill. Well done to all who have represented the school.

Charity

As a community Prenton Prep have once again contributed generously to charitable causes. Also several of our pupils took it upon themselves to support Comic Relief. Parneet Dhillon, Kiera Sahota and Ellie Wilson of Year 6 hosted their very own Sugar Shack and Hannah Das and Isobel Abbey in Year 5 held a sponsored silence. It was heart-warming to see the commitment these pupils showed whilst doing something positive for the good of others.

The pupils also showed great enthusiasm for the gourmet cooking of the staff on Charity Chomp day. The hot dog sausages and fruit took lunchtime catering to a new level and Unicef were very grateful for the donations.

This term the following charities have benefited.

The Poppy Appeal	£ 76.61
Easter Service Collection, Wirral Toy Library	£ 100.00
Charity Chomp, Unicef	£ 174.00
Comic Relief	£ 98.72
British Heart Foundation	£ 627.80
Making a grand total of	£1077.13

Thank you to everyone who participated in or donated to these various events, especially those children who took it upon themselves to organise various activities. It is always good to help those less fortunate than ourselves and something we at Prenton Prep are very proud of.

Easter Service at St. Saviour's

Our Juniors performed "The Easter Story" as part of our Easter Service on Wednesday, 13th April. It was a lovely performance, the Year 6 pupils read clearly and well done to our choir who supported them with beautiful voices.

All the hard work of the Junior staff was well worth it and we thank them for their efforts. Thank you also to all the families who joined us in these celebrations.

Summer Uniform

We return to school on the 5th May 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.



Urban Design have assured us that all the Summer uniform will be available during the Easter holidays.

Science Week

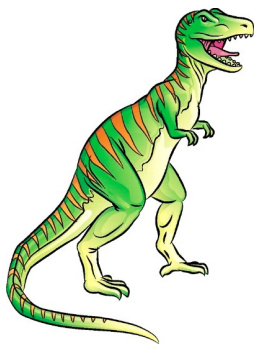
The standard of projects in this term's Science Week was, again, extremely high with some projects being particularly unusual and appearing for the first time. Mr. Jones and Mr. Paul had the unenviable task of choosing winners in each class aided by Mr Brennan who judged Pre-School. Every child who took part spoke with knowledge and enthusiasm on their presentations and we would like to congratulate them all. The winners were :

- Pre-School 1 - Samuel Hall "Our Senses", Luke Jones "Colour Changing Flowers" (joint);
- Pre-School 2 - Madeleine Clements-Bedson "Animals and Food Chains", Lily Jones "Colours of White Light" (joint);
- Kindergarten - Molly Connolly "A Foam Monster";
- Year 1 - Emma Pemberton "White Light and the Spectrum";
- Year 2 - Abigail Ineichen "Tuning Forks and Sound";
- Year 3 - Chloe Jackson "Our Solar System";
- Year 4 - Elle Nudd "Moving Illusions";
- Year 5 - Sam Cross "A Wind Turbine"
- Year 6 - Charlotte Cullen "Insulation in the House".

Pick up and Drop off times

We continue to receive complaints from both our neighbours and the local police about parking issues on Mount Pleasant. As part of our response to these complaints and to enhance our children's education we held a road safety week and Year 6 designed road safety booklets. When parking, could all parents please consider the safety of our pupils, access of our neighbours and the possibility that emergency vehicles may need to travel along the road.

PRE-SCHOOL NEWS



It is the end of another busy term in the Pre-School classroom. The children have very much enjoyed our topic about dinosaurs. We have listened to lots of stories, set up dinosaur role-play in the small world area and have been counting dinosaurs in

our numeracy activities.

We had a lovely trip to Birkenhead Park to see the signs of Spring. We saw lots of daffodils growing, new leaves beginning to form on the trees and birds building nests, including a Heron who was making his by the lake. It was quite a windy morning but that didn't stop us walking around the lake and, of course, finding time to explore the play area before heading back to school.

Our topic next term will be Superheroes. As always children are invited to bring in items related to the topic, in particular stories and non-fiction texts. Please ensure that they are clearly named, to enable us to return items safely.

We will also be continuing with the Sound Table next term, revisiting some of the sounds we have already covered, starting with:

b on Monday 9th May

i on Monday 16th May and

y on Monday 23rd May

Our next visit will be to Woodchurch Library on Wednesday 18th May.

We are looking forward to getting to know Ava, Fatima, Holly and Rory, who will be starting Pre-School after the Easter holidays.

KINDERGARTEN'S NEWS



This term KG children have enjoyed learning about Textiles and Camouflage.

They used hand lenses to examine different fabrics textures and patterns, practised weaving using paper strips and painted their own textile designs.

The children discussed reasons why animals need to use camouflage. They created pictures with parrots in a bright jungle, tigers against grasses and trees and tall giraffes in a sandy textured background. The outdoor role-play area has been very well used as a "hide", created using large, army style, camouflage netting. Our visit to the Blue Planet Aquarium enabled us to see, first hand, brightly coloured tree frogs, alligators, snakes and fish all in their natural setting.

All of the children have made very good progress with their number skills and reading and are developing a fluent, cursive writing style. They are looking forward to learning more skills next term.

NEWS FROM YEARS 1 AND 2

Year 1 and 2 were disappointed this term when the planned trip to the Potting Shed to decorate a plate for the Easter Eggstravaganza was not able to go ahead.

However Mrs. Mok saved the day and all the children made a wonderful clay eggcup, decorated with hedgehogs, birds' nests, snakes, rabbits, squirrels, butterflies and snails. When they were finished Mrs. Mok fired them in her kiln.

We also had a pretend Art Exhibition to display our African masks. We all had toy money and imagined it was real so we could buy a painting with it. Mrs. Mok came and cut a ribbon to open the exhibition. We had pretend champagne and little snacks.

Year 1 and 2 also enjoyed a beautiful, sunny morning in Birkenhead Park, looking under big logs and stones to find minibeasts. The Ranger gave us magnifying glasses and containers to put the creatures in whilst we tried to identify them using a laminated poster. We found woodlice, spiders, slugs, worms and baby snails. We also walked over to the lake to feed the ducks. Abigail recalls: "We looked under the rocks to find the toad. We didn't find him because it was too cold for him to come out." Scarlotte remembers: "There was a Cormorant in the lake and it isn't supposed to be there because they live in rivers. It was eating all the fish and the other birds didn't have any to eat. We had to try and shoo it away."

Keira also remembers the Mad Science assembly for KG and Years 1 and 2: "Kinetic Katy came to school and brought some worms for us to look at. We fed them potato and learnt that they suck food when they eat."

YEAR 3'S SPRING NEWS

Year 3's trip to Underwater Street by Mollie Behan

There were lots of activities, my favourite was the climbing frame where I had to climb up the wall to the top and sit on it! I dressed up as a witch and a princess and worked in the food shop. We learned circus acts and I was best at juggling with the scarves, which I got stickers for. We also took part in the Science lab where I was in the balloon race. I made lots of things, such as a magic wand and a fridge magnet in the shape of a sea shell.

Year 3 went on a Historical Trip to Chester Report by Oliver Howard and Ben Jones

We parked the minibus by the river Dee and we could see where the Norman's built Chester Castle on the nearby hill.

Then we walked to the Grosvenor Museum. First we went into the Roman Galleries and saw models, pictures, coins, pottery, an arch and gravestones.

Next we had a workshop with a teacher. We were shown a map of Chester and a picture of the city wall at the time of the Romans.

We got to examine real Roman remains like tiles, pipes and pottery. Ben also got dressed up in a Roman costume.

After lunch we walked around Chester with a Roman soldier. We actually had to march, shouting left, right, left, right in Latin! When we returned to the museum we carried on looking around the galleries and visited the shop before it was back to school.

THE YOUNG WRITER'S COMPETITION by Chloe Jackson, Year 3

We sent some of our English work off to a competition to try and get it published we all wrote kenning poetry. Here is mine about my sister:

She's a funny laugher
She's a nappy filler
She's a dummy sucker
She's a fat shepherd's pie
She's a bed pusher
She's a face grabber
She's a fashion statement
She's a vicious girl
She's a stairs looker
She's lovely!



YEAR 4'S TRIP TO THE EGYPTIAN DISPLAY AT LIVERPOOL MUSEUM by Ayeden Saranjam-Gassab

Best of all was the discovery centre because we got to look at eyes from Ancient Egypt, but we could not touch them because other children had pushed them into the foam. Jake and I put our hands in canopic jars and we did little puzzles with hieroglyphs on them.

There were also mummified babies and a mummy with no nose; it was disgusting. I found the tomb with the hieroglyphs amazing because it was ruined in the Second World War and glued back together and it felt smooth.

On the first trail we went on, there was a little movie we watched about a Pharaoh and we all found it very interesting. I also liked the room outside the classroom because it had pottery, some from Egypt and it all had lots of detail.

I really enjoyed our trip to the museum and would like to go again.

YEAR 5 VISIT TO BIRKENHEAD PRIORY By Hannah Das

"On Thursday, 13th January Year 5 went to Birkenhead Priory. The first building we saw was the chapel. It's very big and it had a clock on it (which must be quite recent). After the chapel we went into a big space that used to be a building but is in ruins now. If you were to stand in the middle on the right side there was the monks' lounge. To the left hand side was the visitors' lounge. There were visitors because the monks used to row people across the River Mersey but they couldn't row on stormy days so they had to stay in the priory. We knew that there were two floors because there was a fireplace half way up a wall. The archaeologists worked out that the top floor was the prior's toilet and resting room. Next we went into the Chapter House, above it was the scriptorium where the scriptor wrote things. The Chapter House was where the monks gave out jobs for everyone to do for the next 24 hours. The Chapter House has now been changed into a small church where there are services every Sunday. If you were to look up in the Chapter House you would see huge sandstones that make up the ceiling. In the middle there is a keystone and if that was taken out the whole ceiling would fall in. After that it was back to the chapel. We decided to go upstairs right to the top.

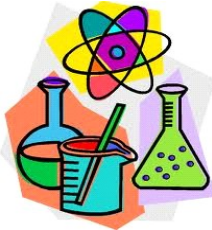
It was very high up. On the way up names of people were listed. These were the people who died in a submarine that sank. At the time everyone in Birkenhead knew someone who had died on the submarine. When we finally got to the top of the tower we could see for miles. Mrs. Jones pointed out all the important buildings and then we looked around for ourselves. The scariest part was going back down the stairs.

Soon after we went into the monks' storeroom. It had been changed into a small museum. There was a lot of interesting information about the priory.

Finally we went into the monks' and visitors' dining room. The wall is broken but on the ruin of the wall there was a little hole for the visitors to look through to see what the monks were doing. When we were finished in that room one of the workmen asked us if we would like to go down the spiral steps which were normally blocked off. It was very cool!

Eventually the trip came to an end. It was a very fun experience and I hope I can go again one day with my family.

YEAR 5 VISIT BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL'S SCIENCE FAIR



On Friday 4th March Year 5 visited Birkenhead School's 13th annual Science Fair. We saw lots of experiments and demonstrations. Some showed the effects of vacuums, chemical

reactions, explosions and more.

There were also lots of reptiles, scorpions, tarantulas, snakes, owls and much more. One large snake was wrapped round all our shoulders at once!

Some of our favourite parts of the Fair were: Adding chemicals to give different coloured flames (Heather); Setting my hand on fire (Hannah); Holding a snake for the first time ever (Jamie); Holding a scorpion (Isobel); Holding Sparky the Python (Sam) and Alchemy - turning base metal into silver or gold (Christopher).

YEAR 5 & 6 VISIT TO THE ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC

Year 5 and 6 have both been to experience a Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra performance this term.

Hannah Das recalls Year 5's trip:

When we got there and were shown to our seats we were very surprised to find we had been given a box. These were at the back but had a really good view!

After about 5 minutes the presenter of the show, Alistair Malloy, came on and gave a brief introduction. The first piece we listened to was "Sunrise". This was one of my favourites because it was a very soft sound containing mainly the string instruments.

The next piece was "Star Trek through the Years", which sounded very energetic and lively, using quite a lot of percussion. "Ride of the Valkyries" was next. The ending was fabulous with lots of percussion, my favourite family of instruments.

My least favourite piece followed this and was "Prelude". It started well but got less energetic! In the next piece the clicking sound from the drums was really effective. This was an African piece called Ingoma.

Then we all had to join in and sing a song called "Stars", it was a nice, soft song. The last main piece of music was from "Star Wars". It was my favourite by far and they showed Yoda on the screen as it was playing. Finally the orchestra played the "Final Countdown". Even Mrs. Fallon got up and started dancing. This was my favourite part. **Some of Year 6** have their own thoughts on the concert:

The presenter was funny and it was interesting (Marcus).

The musicians were very good (Brandon).

The music was exciting (Michael)

There was a very good atmosphere (Ellie).

It was exhilarating (Charlotte).

I enjoyed the theme of Space (Kieran).

PPS SPORTING NEWS

Netball Report by

Jessica Price and Ellie Wilson, Year 6

Throughout the term we have had a number of netball matches, we had great fun taking part and we enjoyed ourselves thoroughly.

On Monday 24th of January 2011 we had a netball match at Beech House and our A-team won 8-0 and our B-team won 6-2.

On the 28th Jan we went to Leasowe Leisure Centre to play against Aldford School again our A team won with a successful 14-2.

On Monday the 8th February we went to Moreton Hall in Shropshire and our A team won 6-1.

A Netball tournament took place at Abbeygate College on Friday 11th February. It was a very tough tournament we got through to the quarter finals by coming second in our pool.

On the 14th of February we went to Hoylelake to Kingsmead and our A and B teams both won. On the 13th of March we went to Ellesmere College, it was the first time we had gone and we came fourth out of sixteen teams.

We are sure we will have plenty more matches throughout the year and we will have lots more fun.

Parneet Dhillon and Phoebe Lloyd-Hazlegreaves, Year 6 remember the Netball team's trip to Rugby.



This year, for the first time, our netball team competed in the ISA National finals, which took place in Rugby. There were 17 teams taking part and although we played well we lost to some of the more experienced teams and bigger schools. We all swapped positions so everyone got a chance to experience different positions and we were proud to finish about 10th.

Football Report by Brandon Connolly and Sam Quigley

We have enjoyed playing football at a number of schools this term in friendly matches and tournaments.

Our first match of the term was away at Beech House in Rochdale for our Year 3 and 4 boys. Unfortunately we lost but were proud of a good team performance.



We then played two 5-a-side matches at Leasowe Recreation Centre first against Aldford School and then Avalon School. Both were very tough matches against difficult opponents but we were happy with our performances despite two defeats.

We then travelled to

Grimsby for the ISA North 5-a-side tournament we all had a great day and won one and drew one of our matches.

Finally we hosted the Christopher Turner tournament and again put in some good team performances including one 6-1 win.

Swimming Report

by Phoebe Lloyd-Hazlegreaves and Marcus Ronayne-Sambucci

Throughout the term we have competed in a number of galas and competed as a team very well with some very strong individual swimmers.

We have had a very exciting gala against Kingsmead which we won despite some very close races.

We have also seen the Inter House gala when everyone from Year 3 upwards competes for their House to win the trophy. We have a brilliant time in galas not just when swimming but also cheering each other on.

We are now looking forward to the Birkenhead Schools' and hopefully the Wirral Schools' Galas next term where we hope to retain our trophies!

Cross Country Report by Kieran Barnes

This year our school competed in the ISA North Cross Country championships in Cheadle, Manchester. Eight of us took part, we all gave our best and were very proud of three top ten finishes (Sam, Hannah and Phoebe) in races with more than one hundred competitors.

Phoebe did especially well qualifying for the National finals!



Schools' Biathlon Report by Hannah Das

On 14th November Samuel Cross, Chris Hall and myself went to Wavertree to do a biathlon. It was for competitors from the Lancashire, Cheshire, Isle of Man, Merseyside and Greater Manchester areas. We had to do a 50m swim and a 500m run, it was the first time any of us had done this event but we were determined to do our best. We all performed extremely well and I finished 4th, picking up a trophy and qualifying for the semi finals, for all competitors in the Midlands and North of England, along with Chris and Sam!

In February the semi-final took place and I was delighted to qualify for the national finals in Crystal Palace. Chris and Sam didn't make it through this time but still did really well. On 27th March I went down to London to compete in the final. My whole family was coming to watch so I was very nervous. I tried my best and came 28th. I was very pleased.

DANCE REPORT BY MISS MORGAN-HAYES

I would like to wish everyone a happy Easter and report that all pupils are working well and continue to improve. A special thank you is extended to girls from Year 2 upwards who participated in the dance demonstration on Open Day. Their performances were well received and there were many complimentary remarks from the audience so well done all! New pupils are always welcome. Any parents requiring further information could contact either Mrs. Slater or myself on 632 6513.



Lessons re-start on Monday 9th May 2011.

MUSIC REPORT BY MRS. MCDONALD

"Several children took their Music Examinations last term and they all achieved excellent results after a great deal of hard work. They should all be proud of themselves!



Ideally, those students who take music lessons should follow a practice schedule which amounts to

approximately twenty minutes a day.

This will enable them to be effective and efficient as the routine makes it much easier to master the pieces. Unlike studying for tests or exams, piano practice cannot be crammed into the last minute or the day before the lesson. Don't try to learn a piece all at once; take it in sections and work on each section until it can be played without mistakes.

Remember that if you only practise your reading once a week it will take a very long time to learn to read properly. The same is true when learning to play any instrument. It is imperative that you practise your instrument daily.

Best wishes for Easter - I hope you all enjoy your holiday.

Entertain your families by practicing and playing your favourite pieces to them.

Lessons begin again on Tuesday, 10th May".

SPEECH AND DRAMA REPORT BY MISS COTTIER



This term the Speech and Drama pupils have been busy devising their own sketches which year 5 and 6 performed in the schools 'Open Day' and later in a drama assembly for the school. The brief they were given was 'Holidays'. Year 5 and 6 cleverly took us on a chronological journey from check in at the airport to the hotel transfer, which led to problems when arriving at a hotel

and of course the dilemmas when they reached their destination. The children displayed their acting skills by suitably characterising the scenes with clever use of accent and impersonation; they also thoughtfully costumed each character. All the scenes were timed perfectly which is a difficult skill, essential in comedy; this had the audiences in stitches!

Three pupils have been working extra hard in preparation for the Wirral Speech and Drama festival, held at Birkenhead School on Saturday 2nd April 2011. The children entered a range of classes from poetry speaking and prose reading. The pupils, once again, performed brilliantly..

ANISH LOHARURKA
MARCUS RONAYNE-SAMBUCCI

1st PLACE
3rd PLACE
3rd PLACE
4th PLACE

HANNAH DAS

I am looking forward to creating some more exciting drama scenes for the Summer Concert, which will include all children from Kindergarten up to and including Year 4. If any new pupils wish to join the fun of Speech and Drama please contact Mrs Slater to reserve your place. All pupils from Kindergarten up are very welcome.

Have a lovely Easter and I look forward to more creative drama lessons next term beginning Wednesday, 11th May".

MUSIC REPORT BY MRS. LEA

Infant Music Workshop

The Infant Music group enjoy adding music to stories using voice and percussion instruments. This term they have played music bingo with rhythm cards. They are very good at reading and playing rhythms. Using glockenspiels, they have played pitch games, including hunting for notes. They can read sound graphs, understand short and long signs and have enjoyed playing duets with percussion instruments.

Lessons start again on the week beginning 9th May.

PPSPA REPORT BY MR P JONES - CHAIRPERSON

Another Term over – where has the time gone ?!!

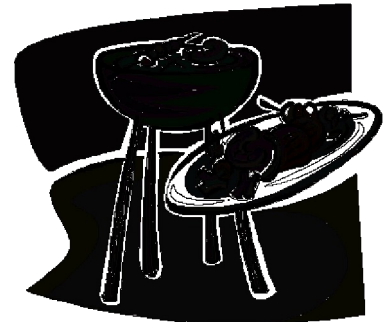
The Easter Eggstravaganza was a great success, with – I am sure you will agree - some eggcellent displays produced by the children. Additionally, the income generated from the various stalls reflects the hard work put in by the Committee Members and our helpers in organising and setting up the event.



The Spring Fling, held at the Village Hotel in Bromborough, was an excellent evening enjoyed by all who attended. Unfortunately, the numbers were well down on that required to break-even. As a result, we will need to think carefully about the event for next year. Next Term will be a short but hectic one, with the focus on our main event of the year the Summer Fair on the 11th June, quickly followed by the Barbecue on the 25th June. Please note the dates in your diary.

I would just like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you and best wishes to Jacqui Baxter, who has been a long suffering and hard working member of the Committee and whose help and enthusiasm will be sorely missed as she steps down from her role.

Finally, if anyone feels that they can spare a little time to help in our endeavours to raise funds to benefit all our children, either as a Committee Member or as an occasional helper, please contact myself or any other committee member, or through Mrs Slater.



All the staff at Prenton Preparatory School wish you a Happy Easter.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on 5th May 2011