

PRENTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2011

Issue No. 49

NEW BEGINNINGS

This time of year is always tinged with sadness as we say goodbye to our eldest pupils. Year 6 are leaving us for pastures new having had another extremely successful year. Academically they have achieved a 100% pass rate to local independent schools and due to their success in the 11+ every child is moving to a school of their choice for next year. More recently they have also attained excellent results in the SATs with 100% Level 4 in English, Maths and Science and around 50% Level 5 in all subjects. Their departure from school in a "Limousine" capped a particularly enjoyable end to term, with parties, the leavers' assembly, treats and the residential stay at Barnstondale among their highlights.

We wish all of the class every success for the future at their next school. They have all shown great enthusiasm and are a determined group of children. I am sure they will be a great credit both to us and themselves as they continue on to the next stage of their education.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The new term begins on Tuesday 6th September and children should be in Winter uniform. This should include sensible, flat black shoes and black or navy coats without coloured trim. Please remember that all children must have the new style tracksuit from September. Please also ensure that all items of uniform are clearly and indelibly named.

CHARITY

The children took part in our annual sponsored swim earlier this term and we were once again pleased with the effort and enthusiasm shown by all the children.

The total raised was £676.00, which we will be sharing between Claire House, Alder Hey Children's Hospital and The Rock of Joy Charity, supporting education in Uganda which is being visited over the summer by one of our ex-pupils Olivia Perriam.

Following on from our successful Jump Rope for Heart last term we are once again very proud that our children have done their bit for those less fortunate than themselves.

STAFF NEWS

This term we say goodbye to Mrs. Holford who is taking retirement. I'm sure everyone at the school has been thankful for her contribution to the school life whilst she has been with us.

She has been a big influence in the pastoral care of many pupils from Pre-School right through to Year 6 for more years than she will care to remember and will be sorely missed.

Miss. Edwards, Mrs. Grabe and Mrs. Hartham-Evans are also moving on. In their short time with us they have each become valued members of the Pre-School staff and we thank them for all their efforts.

Once again the next academic year sees us welcome new members of staff to the school.

Mrs. Pollard will be joining us in September to assist in KG. She has a range of experience as a classroom assistant working in other roles.

Ms Heaney, another experienced Early Years practitioner, will be assisting in our Pre-School Class.

I'm sure that they will be made very welcome by all members of the PPS community.

P.P.S. PRODUCTIONS

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

Our Foundation stage brought us Toys and Robots and gave us an endearing glimpse into their life with superbly confident voices and some beautiful singing.

The Infants kept us on the edge of our seats with their adaptation of Caterpillar Boogie. The quality of their performance was excellent, with song, dance and vocal talents on show and everyone enjoyed this superb production.

At the Gladstone Theatre the standard of all the items was once again extremely high. The Sound of Music capped another fantastic night and Year 6 rose to the challenge as they have done all year with some extremely polished performances. It was pleasing to see the obvious enjoyment and enthusiasm of all the cast shining through.

Thank you once again to all the staff for their hard work towards these productions and also to the parents for helping children with their lines and costumes.

PARKING

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. Therefore we would like to ask all our parents to remember the access requirements of nearby residents and to park respectfully.

PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

The Pre-School trip was a little different than expected as a result of the British weather. We had hoped to spend an afternoon in Ashton Park, followed by ice cream at West Kirby beach, which would have been lovely had the sun been shining but not in the rain. Instead a last minute change was made and we enjoyed a picnic lunch in the garden at school before setting off for an action packed afternoon at mini-monsters. The children had lots of fun in the soft play area and were able to burn off lots of energy. After a drink of juice and a play in the outdoor area it was time to return to school. We thought the children would fall asleep in the minibuses but instead there was lots of singing, including "The Wheels on the Bus" and many songs from the summer concert.



KINDERGARTEN'S NEWS

KG have enjoyed learning about traditional toys and games. All of the children were really interested in the answers from parents and grandparents to their questionnaire and spent happy times indoors and outdoors playing games together, without batteries or mains electricity! For the second half-term we thought about farm animals and the foods with which they provide us. The children named male and female animals and their offspring and also learned the names of the places in which they live. Our trip to Farmer Ted's, Ormskirk was a great success and we visited all of the animals, the sand and diggers house, had a tractor ride, watched the bird of prey display and had a good play in the outdoor area while the weather was dry. The day ended happily with half an hour in the indoor play area before we returned to school through torrential rain!

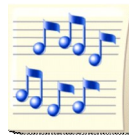
YEAR 1'S NEWS

Year 1 went on a trip around some of the landmarks of the Wirral peninsula. Emma remembers, we went to Bidston Windmill and we saw that people had been writing on the rocks. We found out that the rocks were made of sandstone so it is possible to scratch into them. Luis says, next we went to Birkenhead docks and we saw two Mersey Ferries, The Royal Iris and The Royal Daffodil. Callum recalled, when we were visiting Birkenhead Park we had fun on the playground and saw lots of baby moorhens, coots and goslings. They were so cute! Luis remembered that some people from New York liked the park so much they copied it and called it Central Park. Adam says, next we looked at Leasowe Lighthouse. It was very tall but the light had gone. It used to show people on the ships where the rocks were so the ships didn't crash. Luis recalled, we saw the River Mersey, the River Dee and the Irish Sea. We also saw Hilbre Island near West Kirby. Callum also remembered seeing the Mariner's Beacon that used to be lit to show sailors the way up the River Dee. Emma liked the last bit of the trip best remembering that last of all we visited Parkgate where we had an ice cream. All the boys chose mint choc chip but Mrs. Dutton and I both chose different flavours.



YEAR 1 & 2'S ADVENTURE WITH THE PHIL.

Year 1 & 2 had a fantastic trip to see and hear the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra at the Philharmonic Hall. The title of the show was "Dave and Phil's Intergalactic Adventure." Adam: Each section of the Orchestra wore a different colour t-shirt so that we could see the different "families" of instruments. The violinists had red and the percussion players were wearing dark green. Callum: There was a funny man called Dave who told the story of an Alien who was lost. Luis: There was a big bear called Big Bear and he found out that the alien's name was Tooty. Tooty didn't speak with a normal voice she just tooted her instrument but we could tell when she was happy, sad or cross. Emma: We had to travel all around the universe to find out where Tooty lived. The music was very loud sometimes but very nice. The drum was really loud and there were children there from lots of different schools. Adam: We sang Woody's song from Toy Story, "You've got a friend in me," so before the trip we had to learn the song on the computer. Luis: We heard the Star Wars Music and the music from Wallace and Grommit when they went to the moon. Emma: They played lots of different space music for all the planets we visited. We found out that the music for the planet Mars was written by a composer called Holst. Callum: Every time we landed on a planet they played five notes from E.T. We had to say whether it sounded like Tooty's instrument. Eventually we heard the right sound and it was played by the brass instruments. Tooty was home again and very happy!



YEAR 2 VISIT TO THE ELLESMERE PORT BOAT MUSEUM

Jasmyn Sahota: At the Boat Museum we saw the canal and it was dirty. We watched a narrow-boat go down in the lock because the man shut the lock gate and let the water out. They then opened up the gate and the boat went through. Zack Maher: 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. Emma Connolly: Millie and I painted a big sign for the narrowboat. It is now in Art Room and you can come and see it. I painted paper plates to put on the walls. I enjoyed going there.



YEAR 3 TRIP TO PIZZA EXPRESS, WREXHAM BY OLIVER HERCULES

On Thursday 9th June Year 3 went to Pizza Express in Wrexham. We tried lots of different foods they put on the pizzas. I didn't like the chillies, seasoning, jalapenos or peppers. When we made our pizzas we had a ball of dough, which we pressed then flung in the air to make it bigger and flatter. I then added some tomato sauce in a spiral and then added my toppings. We put them in the ovens and looked in the fridges while we waited for them to cook. The toppings on my pizza were olives, ham and cheese.

YEARS 3, 4 & 5's TRIP TO MARTINMERE BY ISOBEL ABBEY, SAM CROSS & ZAC MASON

On Monday, 11th July Years 3, 4 and 5 all went to Martinmere. An excited buzz ran through the classrooms before we boarded the coach. It took an hour and a half to get there. When we arrived we saw lots of different types of birds and animals. There were flamingos and ducks with blue beaks who can also brighten up their feathers. We enjoyed it when we got to make a swamp animal and dress people up. We explained how the swamp animal adapted to its environment, fed, breathed and camouflaged itself. Then we had lunch and went to the playground and shop before it was finally time to go. It was a great trip and we learnt a great deal about animals adapting to their environment. The highlight was when we were all playing in the play area.

YEAR 6 TRIP TO BIDSTON HILL BY NATALIE MURPHY AND ELLIE WILSON

On 25th May Year 6 went on a trip to Bidston Hill to look at its history and geology. First we went to Taylor's Wood which was very interesting and adventurous. The we set off to Bidston Windmill. There we met the ranger who showed us around the mill. It was fascinating to see how the windmill worked and how flour was made. Next we headed to the Observatory, then turned to look at Penny-a-day dyke. This wall was built by Lord Stanley who wanted a wall around his private deer park. Then we went to look at Bidston Lighthouse which used to let ship captains know when there was a clear entrance to the Mersey. We then walked over to see a horse carving and the Sun goddess carving, which are said to be by the vikings, before we had our lunch. After that we zoomed off to the Bidston tunnels which were once air raid shelters but were never used as by the time they were completed the bombing was over. Now they are sealed up. Following this we saw Bidston Hall farm and, over the road, Bidston Hall which is the local manor house, dating back to Tudor times. Nearby was the Bidston Cock Pit, a place where cockerels were used to fight each other for people's entertainment. Then we looked around several historic sights in the village before visiting Tam O'Shanter's farm on the way back to school.

YEAR 6'S BARNSTONDALE TRIP BY PARNEET DHILLON

On Monday 4th July Year 6 went to Barnstondale for an overnight stay. When we arrived we were put into rooms with different names - Plums, Pears and Lemons. Once we had been given our rooms we had an hour to unpack, change and explore. After this we did a team assault course challenge before our tea. After tea we played rounders and cricket and then went into the cabin to change into our pyjamas. The we went upstairs into the hall to play board games such as Scrabble, Monopoly, Cluedo, Twister and cards. Then it was bedtime. But the boys found a massive spider in their room!



In the morning we were woken at 07.30 and had until 08.00 to get our rooms ready for inspection! Then we went for our breakfast before going back to the cabin and getting our bags to put in Mr Jones' and Miss Roberts' cars.

Following this we were split into two groups with Livingstone and Churchill with Mr. Jones and Scott and Hilary with Miss Roberts. We were introduced to our instructors, Tom and Mhairi were with Livingstone and Churchill and Hannah and Sarah were with Hilary and Scott. We then did lots of really fun activities including: teamwork challenges, archery, rock climbing and abseiling, river crossing and a sensory trail.

It was brilliant and we all had lots of fun but were really tired when we got home.

ATHLETICS AT WIGAN BY CHRIS HALL, HANNAH DAS & TOM JOHNSON



On Monday 13th June a large number of our Junior pupils went to Robin Park in Wigan to represent PPS in athletics against lots of other schools from across the North of England. We competed in nearly all the events!

Everyone tried their best and did extremely well, enjoying the experience. Four people got through to their field event finals with Sam Quigley sixth in the ball throw and fifth in the shot putt, and Hannah Das and Tom Johnson both eighth in their respective long jumps.

On the track Sam Cross finished tenth in the 600m and Hannah Das progressed to the 150m final, finishing fifth.

The tuck shop proved very popular in between races and soon ran out of sweets!

By the end we were all quite tired. Overall we thought it was a good day out and we all enjoyed it, especially as we got no homework!

NETBALL BY JESSICA PRICE & PHOEBE LLOYD HAZLEGREAVES

On Thursday 4th May we competed in a netball tournament against 4 other schools. It was held at Leasowe Recreation Centre and organised by our school. The standard was very high and lots of goals were scored! Our first match was against Liverpool College, a very strong side, who played very well and managed to beat us 6-2.

The second match we played was against Avalon School. They played really well and gave us a real run for our money but we managed to prevail and win.

We managed a good 7-1 win in our next match against Carleton House who we have played in numerous matches.

Our final game was against another team we have played regularly, Beech House. Many of these games have been tight affairs but on this occasion we managed to come out victorious. Liverpool College were the overall winners but we were very proud to finish second. The tournament had been a great success; competitive and entertaining but most of all lots of fun!



PPS SWIMMING TEAMS

Sam Quigley and Marcus Ronayne-Sambucci recall the Birkenhead Schools' Gala. This was the first of a series of important galas. All our team swam really well and managed to win. This is the sixth successive year that we have won this important gala and by winning we get to defend our Wirral School's trophy!

Marcus Ronayne-Sambucci reports on the Wirral Schools' Gala: There were over 120 school eligible to take part in the competition of which this was the final. It was a tight event and we were not sure how we were doing for a long time. In the end, due to a strong team effort and many excellent swims, we manager to come out as winners for the third year on the trot and fourth in five!

Phoebe Lloyd-Hazlegreaves and Sam Quigley tell of the Merseyside Schools' finals. We had qualified for the Merseyside Schools' finals by winning the Wirral event and had been placed in the small schools gala, held at Wavertree on July 2nd as part of the Merseyside Youth Games. We had won this last year and were determined to successfully defend it.

We did very well as a team and individually in all of our races. This was even closer than the Wirral Gala but when the result was announced we were delighted to have finished **first!!**

We each got a gold medal and there was a nice shield for the team. We had all given our best and it paid off!

Phoebe Lloyd-Hazlegreaves, Jessica Price and Marcus Ronayne-Sambucci remember the English Schools Swimming Association Relay competition. In which all primary aged schools in England can participate.

On Wednesday 4th May our team went to Everton Park to compete in the regional qualifiers of this competition.

We were in the small schools category and had entered teams in both the freestyle and medley relays. We swam very well and managed to claim first place in both events, taking us through to the national finals in Sheffield.

On 18th June we took part in these finals. We really had to swim well as the standard was extremely high as you would expect from a national finals! In the freestyle relay we performed very well and managed an eighth place finish. The whole team were proud to be eighth best in the country in our event!

The Medley team, however did even better. They swam superbly and managed fourth place, just missing out on a national medal.

Mr. Jones and Miss Roberts were extremely proud of our achievements, as we ourselves were.

Once again our swimming teams have performed superbly and deserve every praise for their successes - all at Prenton Prep are extremely proud of every one of them (M. T. R. Jones)

ART EXHIBITION BY PARNEET DHILLON KIERA SAHOTA & CHLOE TRAYNOR

On Thursday 26th May we held an art exhibition in the school hall. Every pupil in the school did their own masterpiece. Pre-School did rainbows, KG did parrots in the rainforest, Year 1 & 2 did underwater scenes, Year 3 did aboriginal snakes, Indian crowns was Year 4's topic, Year 5's theme and Year 6 did window views.

Parents could view and buy their child's piece. Everyone had lots of fun doing it, the parents enjoyed the exhibition and more than 80 pieces were bought, raising over £100-00 for the school!

SPEECH AND DRAMA REPORT BY MISS COTTIER

This term all the speech and drama pupils have been busy preparing for this year's Summer Concert. This year the drama scenes were themed around Roald Dahl's interpretation of famous Fairy Tales.



Kindergarten interpreted the gruesome 'Twits' this scene involved Mr Twit putting a frog in Mrs Twits bed, the scene was hilarious and very well animated. Year two interpreted 'The Dentist and The Crocodile', showing clever use of a Cockney accent whilst Year 3 and 4 interpreted the very famous story of 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf' the children were creative in devising the poems in to action packed drama scenes, full of interpretation, all of the scenes were a delight to watch. There is clearly lots of talent at Prenton Prep!

A number of pupils have been working extra hard in preparation for their Trinity Guildhall Speech and Drama examinations which took place on the 2nd July. Hannah Das has taken her Grade 4 exam in Year 5; this is a fantastic achievement for someone so young. Grade five is GCSE standard. We are still awaiting the results; therefore they will be published in the Autumn News Letter. We wish them all the best of luck!

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 are welcome to join.

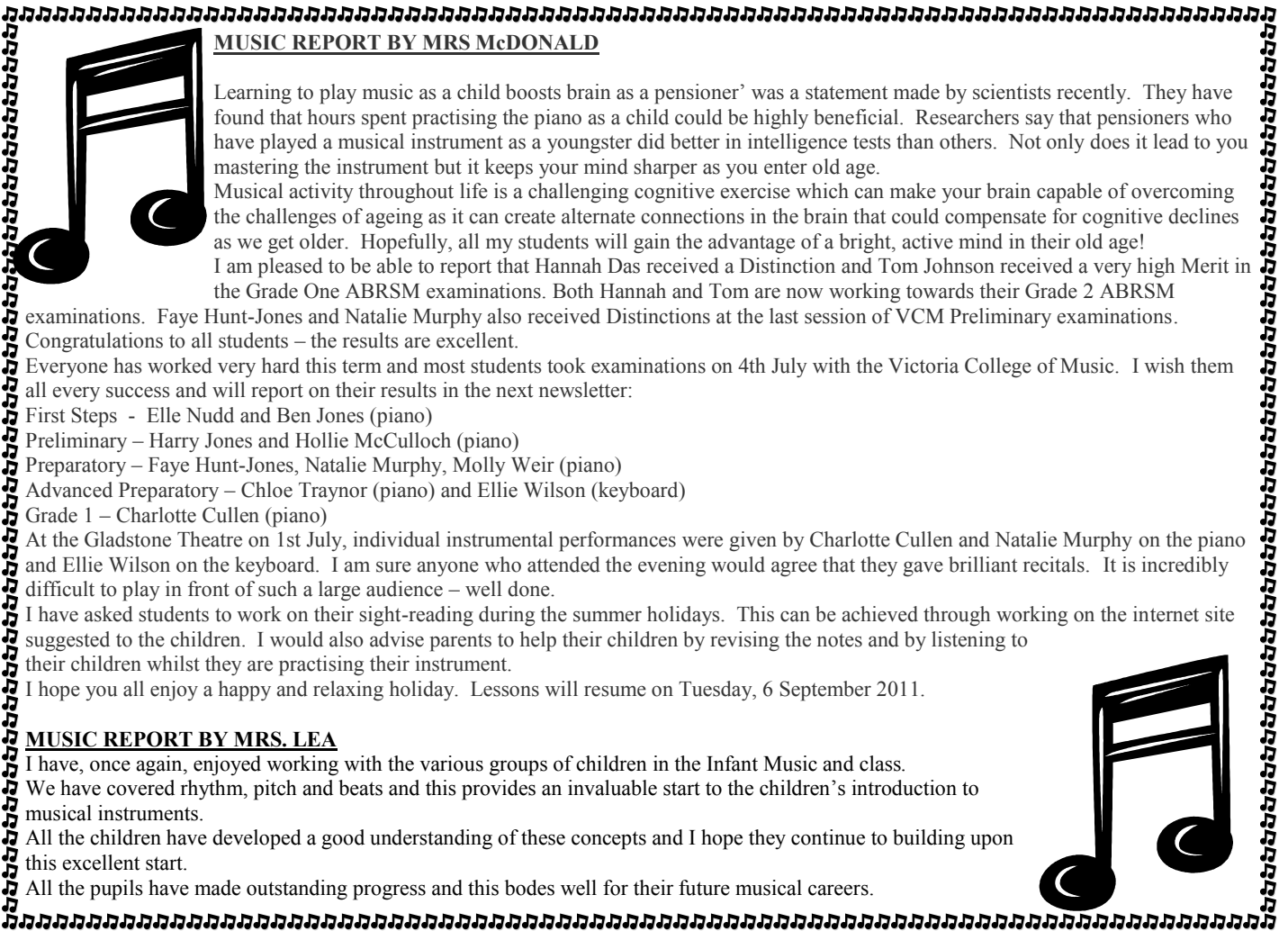
DANCE REPORT BY MISS MORGAN-HAYES

Many thanks to parents and children alike for their continued support of the dance classes. Although numbers in attendance are generally small - ensuring plenty of individual attention - there has been a steady increase in interest from the Early Years and Infant Department and Summer Term has proved very encouraging as these young children have begun to gel as a group and come to terms with the discipline of a dance class which is a key factor from the very start.



Meanwhile, Summer Term saw the small group of Junior girls together with Year 2 girls Abigail Ineichen and Jasmyn Sahota busy rehearsing for the Junior Concert held at Gladstone Theatre on Friday 1st July.

All children worked tirelessly throughout the term and produced performances on stage of which they should be proud so well done everyone. Two days later, Year 4 girls Holly Coombes, Rania Elzeiny, Faye Hunt Jones and Elle Nudd were taking centre stage yet again as they entered for the ballet examinations of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing. Their results, which they are now eagerly awaiting, will be reported in the next newsletter. And finally, a fond farewell is bid to Year 6 girls Parneet Dhillon, Kiera Sahota and Ellie Wilson. They have been dance pupils since their early days at Prenton Prep and will be sadly missed. I wish them every success and happiness as they set off to pastures new. Happy holidays to everyone and I look forward to seeing the children when term re-starts in September.



MUSIC REPORT BY MRS McDONALD



Learning to play music as a child boosts brain as a pensioner' was a statement made by scientists recently. They have found that hours spent practising the piano as a child could be highly beneficial. Researchers say that pensioners who have played a musical instrument as a youngster did better in intelligence tests than others. Not only does it lead to you mastering the instrument but it keeps your mind sharper as you enter old age.

Musical activity throughout life is a challenging cognitive exercise which can make your brain capable of overcoming the challenges of ageing as it can create alternate connections in the brain that could compensate for cognitive declines as we get older. Hopefully, all my students will gain the advantage of a bright, active mind in their old age!

I am pleased to be able to report that Hannah Das received a Distinction and Tom Johnson received a very high Merit in the Grade One ABRSM examinations. Both Hannah and Tom are now working towards their Grade 2 ABRSM

examinations. Faye Hunt-Jones and Natalie Murphy also received Distinctions at the last session of VCM Preliminary examinations.

Congratulations to all students – the results are excellent.

Everyone has worked very hard this term and most students took examinations on 4th July with the Victoria College of Music. I wish them all every success and will report on their results in the next newsletter:

First Steps - Elle Nudd and Ben Jones (piano)

Preliminary – Harry Jones and Hollie McCulloch (piano)

Preparatory – Faye Hunt-Jones, Natalie Murphy, Molly Weir (piano)

Advanced Preparatory – Chloe Traynor (piano) and Ellie Wilson (keyboard)

Grade 1 – Charlotte Cullen (piano)

At the Gladstone Theatre on 1st July, individual instrumental performances were given by Charlotte Cullen and Natalie Murphy on the piano and Ellie Wilson on the keyboard. I am sure anyone who attended the evening would agree that they gave brilliant recitals. It is incredibly difficult to play in front of such a large audience – well done.

I have asked students to work on their sight-reading during the summer holidays. This can be achieved through working on the internet site suggested to the children. I would also advise parents to help their children by revising the notes and by listening to their children whilst they are practising their instrument.

I hope you all enjoy a happy and relaxing holiday. Lessons will resume on Tuesday, 6 September 2011.



MUSIC REPORT BY MRS. LEA

I have, once again, enjoyed working with the various groups of children in the Infant Music and class.

We have covered rhythm, pitch and beats and this provides an invaluable start to the children's introduction to musical instruments.

All the children have developed a good understanding of these concepts and I hope they continue to building upon this excellent start.

All the pupils have made outstanding progress and this bodes well for their future musical careers.

Prenton Preparatory School Parent's Association Report by Mr. P. Jones, Chairperson

Dear All,



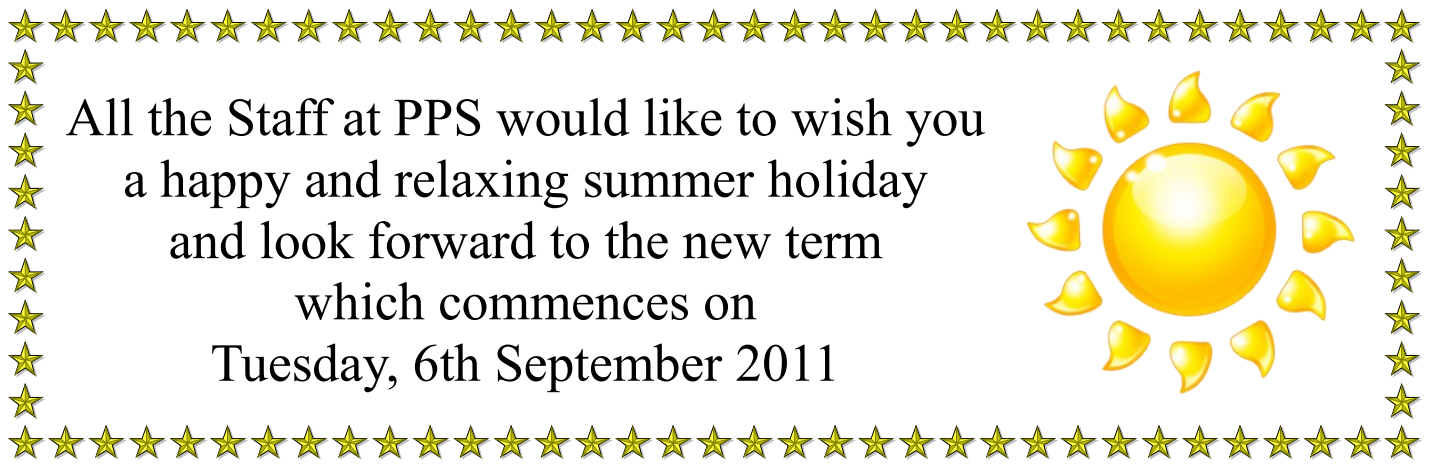
On behalf of the Committee, may I say thank you to all parents who have supported the Parents' Association throughout the year – whether that has been helping at the various events, or simply spending your hard-earned cash!!

The final academic term is always a short but hectic one, and this year was no exception. In a short space of time the PPSPA were involved in helping with the Infant and Junior Discos, followed by the excellent Art Exhibition in the School Hall. The main event of the term was, as always, the Summer Fair, which again was hugely successful – with the Gladiator Game proving immensely popular.

The final event of the Year was the Summer Barbeque, and once again we struck fairly lucky with the weather – with the worst of the rain staying away. The creature feature – aka the Creepy Crawly Man - once again went down a storm with children and adults alike. The food was excellent and the whole event seemed to embody the family atmosphere towards which the school strives in all it does.

There will be a Committee meeting in the new School year on Wednesday 14th September and the Parents' Association AGM will be held in October – formal notification will be given upon return to school in September. Any parent is

welcome to attend, and your thoughts, ideas, opinions and feedback would be gratefully received.



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 2011

