

# PRENTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2017

Issue No. 68



## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

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

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

This year's Infant production was "It's A Baby!" which was a delightful portrayal of the Christmas story with a very harassed innkeeper who just wants to get some sleep! Everyone who saw it said how much they had enjoyed it and all the pupils did a brilliant job. It was lovely to see the smiles on their faces as they performed.

The Junior Carol Concert at St. Saviour's Church told the Christmas story through a singing narrative and Carols. There was also a traditional nativity scene from the Year 3 pupils. It was pleasing to see so many members of the Prenton Prep. community there to celebrate with us and to hear so many comments on the children's beautiful singing. It was lovely to see so many pupils involved. Special mentions must go to those who sang solos. It is not easy to stand up in front of such an audience and they did particularly well.

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

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

## PPS IN THE COMMUNITY

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

The NSPCC were grateful to receive a donation of £205.00 collected at our Junior Carol Concert at St. Saviour's Church.

The Spider-Ede appeal, a cause close to one of our swimming teacher's family, will also receive £115.00 generated by the staff "No Christmas Card" initiative.

Our EYFS held a MacMillan Coffee Afternoon in September which contributed £130.00 to their Cancer Support Charity. Thanks must, once again go to Mrs. Chadwick for the delicious cakes she made to assist in this event.

Wirral Food Bank were delighted to receive the donations collected at our Foundation Stage Harvest assembly and we were proud to donate to such a worthy cause.

It was also lovely to welcome representatives from the main charities we supported in the summer into our assemblies this term. They each collected a cheque for £510.00 and talked to the pupils about their work. We supported our regular charities Claire House and Alder Hey. Our third charity this year was The Wirral Dyslexia Association. Our School Council also arranged two events within school and raised £162.00 which they decided to give to Children in Need. It is always pleasing to see the pupils initiate charity fund raising themselves so well done!

In preparation for Christmas, year 2 delivered festive cheer, handmade calendars and a nativity medley of favourite songs, to the residents of Corona House. The children sang beautifully and were very sociable afterwards when meeting the residents.

We are very proud to support and raise awareness of these local and national causes and thank all parts of the school family for their generous contributions.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

We continue to have issues arising from un-named uniform items. Therefore please would all parents ensure that all items of uniform are clearly and indelibly labelled with their child's name.

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

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



## SCHOOL COUNCIL

by Ava Gathercole & Scarlet Clarkson, Year 6

The School Council is a very important part of school life here at Prenton Prep. Our school raises money for all different charities with the help of our School Council. One of the charities we have raised money for this term is Children In Need. We raised £162.00 by holding a sweet stall, we also collected our old pound coins from home as Children In Need can still use them. On Halloween [31<sup>st</sup> October] we also had a fancy dress competition and we made donations.

The School Council meetings are held in the year five classroom we share all of the ideas from our own classes' suggestion box. The meetings are held by the year five teacher, Mrs Hughes. After the meetings the School Council come back with information that they need to tell the class. This information includes what charity we are going raise money for next, what activity we are going to do for the money for that charity and we also have votes for what the students want to do for that charity which is good because we want it to be a fun activity that all the students will enjoy! And we also will remind our class to write suggestions in the suggestion box. We also go out and recycle every Friday, as this is good for the environment.



## STAFF NEWS

We were delighted to welcome Miss Jennifer Hacking and Mrs. Michelle Booth onto the Prenton Prep staff over the last term.

Miss Hacking has officially taken over the pastoral care of our Pre-School class, after covering Mrs. Merrin's maternity leave at the end of last term, and has settled into the school extremely well. Mrs. Booth joined us in December as a one-to-one learning support assistant. She already knows the school very well as a parent and will, I'm sure, become a much valued member of the team.

Mrs. Merrin decided not to return from her maternity leave in order to spend more time with her son Joshua and we wish them many years of happiness. We have already enjoyed his visits to us recently!

## TRAFFIC ISSUES:

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

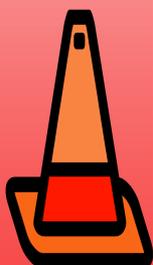
The safety of our children is of paramount importance to us all at Prenton Prep. and we ask that all parents consider the pupils arriving or leaving school at busy times. We do not want an incident to remind us of our responsibilities!

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

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

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

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





# Infant News



## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

It is the end of another busy term, in KG. The children have continued to work hard and that has shown in the progress they have made in their reading, writing and number work.

They have also grown closer as a group and clear friendships are continuing to develop.

One of our topics this term has been toys and games. All the children brought their favourite toys to school, to show and tell and write about in their writing books. They have enjoyed playing traditional games and learning about how games have changed over the years.

The children showed how much they have grown in confidence, when they performed their nativity, Shine Star Shine to their parents. We hope that you enjoyed watching it, as much as they enjoyed delivering it. We were very proud of how well they did.

We learnt about the traditional story of Christmas, performing the nativity and wrote letters to Santa, which the children took on their visit to the Grotto, at Gordale and posted them in the special post box for the North Pole. The elves met us and took us into the Grotto, where we met Mrs Claus. It was very cosy inside. Santa spoke to the children, asking them if they had been good and what they hoped to get for Christmas. We gave Santa and Mrs Claus a mince pie and took some carrots for the reindeer. Santa was very pleased, because he doesn't normally get presents. Mrs Claus said we were the best behaved children to visit the Grotto. All the children were given a present and the money made by the Grotto was donated to the Hospice of the Good Shepherd.

Next term our topic will be Space and beyond. We will be learning about the solar system, space travel, the first landing on the moon and aliens.

We will continue to develop the cursive writing style and read every day, except Friday. Please continue to write in your child's reading diary each time you read with them. Phonics will focus upon segmenting and blending words, rhyme, writing words as we hear them and building up sentences. In Maths, we will be developing our skills in addition and subtraction and estimation and introducing doubling, halving and sharing. We will continue to send the weekend diaries home. Now that the children have been introduced to all the cursive letters, please encourage them to write in their diaries themselves.

## YEAR 2 NEWS

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, Year 2 children went on a trip to Chester Zoo. The visit was planned to consolidate the term's science topic entitled 'Healthy Animals'. The children participated in a 'Curious Creatures' workshop and then set off to explore the zoo. They wrote about their favourite memories. My favourite memory of Chester zoo was visiting the islands. There were hot countries and I saw an animal called the warty pig - Veer. I loved the butterfly house because a butterfly landed on my finger and it made me laugh because it surprised me. It felt so soft - George. My favourite memory was the lions because I liked watching the lioness lie down and eat her lunch which was meat - Fabio.

I loved the butterflies because they were so colourful with brightness on their wings - Lucy. My favourite memory was the monkey puzzle because I completed it in five minutes - Emily. I liked the butterflies because outside their wing there was brown and inside the wings were all different colours. I liked their habitat because it was beautiful - Bella.

My favourite memory was the butterfly house because the butterflies had beautiful colours on their wings - Summer. I liked the rhinos because I liked the bit when they went into their house for their lunch - Jacob.

I loved watching the little rhino because he was so cute when he was following his Daddy - Thomas B.

My favourite memory was in the bat house because the bats were swooping past me and I saw bats having a group hug for fruit to eat and water to drink - Thomas G.

I loved the butterflies because they were beautiful and some of them were big and some of them were colourful and some of them were amazing - Matilda. My favourite memory was the workshop because we learned lots of animal facts - Olivia.

## PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

What a wonderful and fun filled term we have had in Pre-School. The children have all settled in so well and have made some lovely friendships. It is so nice to see new and old friendships blossom. We have been on two very exciting trips this term. In October we went to Eastham Country Park for an Autumn Walk. The children were looking for all of the different signs of autumn. They noticed leaves of all different colours; red, orange, brown, yellow and even some gold leaves! They observed that lots of leaves had fallen on to the floor and they could hear them rustling under our feet as they walked around the park. The children also collected acorns and pinecones which had fallen and looked at these under magnifying glasses when they were back in school. A highlight of the trip was finding the Bear Pit! Pre-School gathered around the Bear Pit and could hear a roaring noise. The noise got louder and louder and then out popped Miss Heaney! The children found it very funny.

As Pre-School have been so good this term they went on a well deserved trip to Santa's Grotto at Gordale. Before leaving the children decided that it would be a great idea to take Father Christmas a mince pie and take something yummy for the reindeers. So, on Tuesday morning the children made some magical reindeer food to give to Father Christmas so that the reindeers had enough energy to fly through the sky all night on Christmas Eve. Father Christmas was ever so grateful for the children's thoughtful ideas. All of the children showed lovely manners with Father Christmas and said please and thank you when asking for and receiving a gift.

## YEAR ONE VISITS TO CHESTER CATHEDRAL FALCONRY CENTRE & CONWY CASTLE

The trip to **Conwy Castle** was a part of Year One's study of houses and homes through the ages in history.

Charlotte remembers that the castle was built by King Edward the first of England and he built lots of other castles in Wales. Ruben found out that king Edward built eight other castles and Conwy castle used to be painted bright white.

Harley says, We saw where the drawbridge would have been and it was pulled up to try to stop enemies getting in. We saw the well and we found out that the well is the most important thing in a castle. That is where they got their drinking water.

Robin noticed the grooves in the walls where the portcullis used to be raised to let people in or lowered to keep them out. They also used huge wooden beams to slide across the gatehouse entrance. This was another way to keep out attackers.

Avarni counted eight towers around the castle.

Libby-Lee enjoyed seeing the big room where the king used to eat his meals. It was called the great hall.

Emily saw the big bread ovens where they used to bake the bread. The top of the bread was for the king and the rich people. The middle of the loaf was not as good as the top part and was eaten by the ordinary people and the bottom was hard so they used it as a plate. After it had been used it was given to the animals to eat.

Jenny enjoyed seeing the special rooms for the king and queen and the huge, metal sculpture of the king's head hanging in one of the rooms.

Emily remembers watching a short film in one of the rooms. It was shown in the fireplace and was about king Edward.

### **The Chester Cathedral Falconry Centre.**

Lara: It was quite a long journey but when we got there we saw all the birds of prey or raptors. They were falcons or hawks. The little bird was cute. It was a kestrel. Sometimes you can see kestrels when you are travelling on the motorway. They can hover on the spot whilst they are looking for food.

Aimee: We saw a golden eagle and it was very big. Her name was Grace. She was in a big cage and when the lady, Kayleigh, put some food through a hole in the wall Grace came over to eat it. Grace was given dead mice to eat.

Jenny: There was a black vulture. Her name was Tinks. She was an American black vulture with a bald head. Tinks had no feathers on her legs and they looked white because she weed down them to keep herself clean. Tinks was funny because she was lazy!

Ruben: Kayleigh was feeding the fast peregrine falcon with dead, one day old chicks. She was using a lure to get it to fly really fast.

Charlotte: I liked the owls. One had a face shaped like a heart. That was a barn owl. His name was Bodge. Barn owls hunt at night and you can tell that by the colour of their eyes. Bodge had dark coloured eyes. We found out that owls have really good hearing and this helps them to hunt for their food.

Leo: The ears on owls are not like ours. One ear is up high and the other is down low. They listen for movements so that they know where to find food.

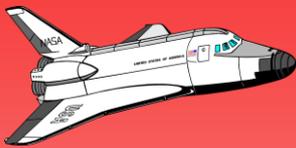
Libby-Lee: Munch and Mush were two eagle owls. They looked as though they had ears sticking out of top of their heads but they are just plumes of feathers to make them look pretty to get a mate.

James: The eagle owls had orange eyes so they hunt at dawn and dusk. Owls with yellow eyes mainly hunt during the day. Day hunters have coloured eyes and night hunters eyes are dark.

Sidney: I enjoyed stroking the ferret. There were two but Fin, one of our guides, only got one out. It was very wriggly so we weren't allowed to hold it.

Freddie: Some of us held a snake and a lizard. The snake was called, Kelloggs and it was a king snake. It was a constrictor. The lizard's name was Ronnie and it was a bearded dragon lizard. We also stroked the shell of a tortoise whose name was Steve.





# Junior News



## YEAR 5 TRIP TO SPACEPORT

**By Luke Jones and Matthew Adams**

Year 5 went to Spaceport on 15th November. First, after taking off our coats, we went into the Space Pod. We were supposed to be in a rocket and learnt information about the planets we were flying past. Then we docked and went in the museum and we answered some of the questions on our quiz sheets. Next we went in the Planetarium room and watched a film about rockets and then we went to launch rockets in the observatory and it was really exciting. Following this we went on the simulator which made us feel that we were on a roller coaster through Space! It was great fun!

Next it was back to the Planetarium where we watched a short film about life in Space and whether it was likely we were alone.

After that we returned to the museum displays to see if we could answer the rest of the questions on our quiz worksheets.

The next part of the trip was upstairs and there were some great video games we could play along with some brilliant displays about Star Wars which we all enjoyed seeing.

Finally we had a look around the gift shop and most of us bought a small memento of our trip before we headed back to school.

We all really enjoyed the trip, it was great fun and we learnt lots of new things about Space.

## YEAR 4 ACTIVITIES

**Lady Lever Art Gallery  
by Sophie Guttridge and Lucy York**

During the second week of term, we went on a trip to the Lady Lever Art Gallery. When we got there we had to wait in a beautiful hallway full of pictures. Then a lady came out and her name was Siobhan. Siobhan showed us around some amazing rooms and then we went downstairs where there was a room full of books and a café. In another room there was art all over the walls and we found out that children had painted the pictures. Siobhan said we could paint some too and she showed us how to use pastels and paint. It was amazing! Siobhan painted a waterfall and then we all had a go at creating our own water pictures. They had different colours like blue, purple and green. We loved it!

### **Iron Age Lunch**

We got changed into our Iron Age costumes then we went to the hall and set up the tables. I did not like the lunch as the food was mostly raw! (Max Dyer)

It was great dressing up, everyone had brilliant costumes. After lunch we went upstairs and used bourbon biscuits and icing sugar to make models of Stonehenge! (Holly Cross)

For the Iron Age lunch I wore fitted trousers with a long top with a woven belt. I also wore a cloak made of woven material. After lunch we made a necklace out of clay. We also did tribal face painting with blue paint which was really good fun! (Adi Sibal)

## YEARS 5 AND 6 'WAR HORSE' TRIP TO THE LIVERPOOL EMPIRE

**By Olivia Weir, Year 5**

In November we went to see the stage play, War Horse, as both classes have studied the book in school.

As soon as Joey (the main horse character) burst into a big, strong stallion, I sat there with awe and wonder. I loved the part when the men were going to battle and the horse puppets lifted onto their hind legs. Although the scene was sad and made my heart break, I thought the dramatic movement and sound when Captain Nicholls died was fabulous. However, the most moving scene of the play for me was when Albert and his horse Joey were reunited at the end- it brought a tear to my eye.

## CHRISTMAS PANTO AT THE FLORAL PAVILLION

**by Lily Jones and Eleanor Sutton, Year 6**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of December we went to see Peter Pan for our Christmas Panto. It was for Years 1 - Year 6, and we had a blast!

We were all very excited as we travelled on the minibus, and people were singing in the back of the bus (we were in the front). When we finally reached the theatre, we hustled through dramatic crowds of milling people, trying to find their seats.

We sat down, eagerly awaiting the beginning of the show. Some people started eating their snacks. The pantomime begun. Someone came onto the stage: Tinkerbell. She wore roller-skates as she rolled across the room, singing harmoniously. Once she had left the stage we all watched the scene with the kids in their room. Their father was VERY grumpy!!! He was not impressed with the children's play, and the dog in the bedroom! He shouts at Nana (the dog) and storms out; when he does he trips over Nana, and she gets sent outside to the kennel. Then the children go to bed and Peter Pan flies dramatically in through the window.

After that, Wendy (the oldest child) takes the other children to *Never Never Land* with Peter. While they are there they meet The Lost Boys, a group of orphans that Peter looks after. They also meet Captain Hook and his sidekick, Smee, who is the 'cheeky-chappie' of the production. As the story unfolds Peter, Wendy and the kids join forces to battle Hook and thwart his evil plans. There is also a character called 'Tiger Lily in the story; she is kidnapped by Hook, and then rescued by Peter and returned to her Indian tribe. Finally, there is a fairy called Tinkerbell. She is rather an unfortunate character for much of the panto; she is fooled by Hook into revealing to him where Peter and The Lost Boys lived; she also loses her wings and her powers. Eventually though there is a happy ending (of course!).

The panto was a great trip. It is a Christmas tradition and it's always one of the highlights of the year. As much as anything, it's one of the few times of the year that we get to see the teachers sing, dance and make fools of themselves. It's also the only time that we are positively encouraged to scream and shout!



## JUNIOR CAROL SERVICE

**By Scarlet Clarkson  
& Lucy Whisker, Year 6**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 Prenton Prep held a carol concert at St Saviour's Church. It started with *Once in Royal David's City*; Louis Coughlan in Y5 sang the first verse. Then, after an introduction by the Head Boy and Head Girl, Marli and Sam shared a solo and introduced *The Angel Gabriel*; *The Angel Gabriel* was a great performance, with harmonies from the Y6's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> verses. We then went into Eleanor's solo: she sang *Rocky Rocky Road*, with beautiful harmonies by Year 6 in the chorus.

Next we had Ava who introduced *The Animals Tale*, which all the boys sang. Then it was Scarlet's turn to perform; she sang her solo and then the Year 6 girls sang *A Manger Filled With love*. Next up was Oliver and Harveen singing their solos as they introduced *Night Watchers*. Grace's solo was next, she started *We Three Kings*. Each class sang a verse of this.

Last but not least Tabitha sang her solo and introduced *The Sussex Carol*. Next up was the Year Fives and Sixes doing a Christmas remix of *Silent Night & In The Beak Mid-Winter*: that was a show stopper! Then we sang *Hark The Herald Angels Sing*. Everybody thought that was it, but they were wrong! We finished with a Christmas medley. During the medley some members of Year Six wrapped Phillip in some toilet roll to make him into a snowman! Some other children went up and down the aisle giving out chocolate coins to children in the congregation.



## YEAR 3 NEWS

**By Maya Jaffar**

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

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

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

It was great fun and the pizzas were fantastic!

## KINETIC THEATRE VISIT

**By Marli Coetsee & Tabitha Rushton**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of September Years 1-6 went to the school hall for a Kinetic Theatre performance. It was called *Down To Earth* and was science based.

It was about some aliens who were from a waterless duck planet! The aliens went to Earth to steal water through a duck-making machine!! So they sent the machine to a duck-making shop. It was blue and black with solar panels making it work. It also had a plunger as a hand and a pitchfork as the other: it had control buttons on it (the plunger is where the ducks come out). Just before the duck machine came the owner of the shop handed it down to his horrible daughter (his own flesh and blood) who ordered the duck machine.

Then the duck machine said, "Put this device in the sea because I need a big drink." So the horrible girl put the device in the sea. When the sun went in the machine shut down. Later that day he found out that he actually had the wrong baby (!), so he passed it down to his real son, and that is the story.

Everyone enjoyed it. It was extraordinary to find out that only two people played all the parts. This play explained the science behind water. We all learned a lot from it. It made everyone laugh and full of joy. It was an educational experience for everyone.



# Sports and Clubs



## FOOTBALL CLUB

**By Oliver Arnold & Sam Booth, Year 6**

Every Monday at about quarter to 4 the school football club head off to their usual football training. We focus on getting our heads up when we get the ball and looking for the perfect pass. We also practise our penalties. Our coach (Mr.Huskisson) teaches us some very useful and skilful techniques, then - in a little match at the end of the session - he expects us to use them.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October our football team left the school to go play a football match against The Firs School in Chester. We left school in the school minibus. When we arrived at the event we were greeted by their manager, who showed us to where we were playing. Our team slipped our boots on and jogged over to the pitch that we were playing on.

Before the match we had five minutes to have a penalty competition and I was very glad to see as the football captain [Oliver Arnold] that everyone was getting their heads over the ball and shooting in the corners.

The ref blew his whistle and pointed to the halfway spot and our team jogged up to the ref to have a talk about the match. We won the kick-off and the match was under way. Sadly we lost the match 6-1, but the point was that we had fun and enjoyed it.

We also went to two tournaments; in one we came 3<sup>rd</sup> in The Bowl, and Phillip (our monstrous defender!) was crowned Player Of The Tournament, and our mini midfielder (Beau) got a special mention from the tournament organisers, since he is only in Year 3! We had a great time!

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of October we also had another tournament held at Ellesmere College and we came 2<sup>nd</sup> in The Plate competition, where Oliver and Beau got players of the tournament.

Just to give a special mention to our school football players, who are: Oliver Arnold (our football captain), Samuel Booth, Phillip Bradwell, Lewi Foran, Harveen Dhillon, Luke Jones, Oliver Wilson, Sophie Guttridge, Thomas Guttridge, Cody Ha and Beau McLoughlin.

## BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

**By Yan Xi Chen and Phillip Bradwell, Year 6**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of November, Year 6 pupils Yan Xi, Phillip, Kaitlyn, Oliver, Lucy, Samuel, Scarlet and Eisha went to the ISA North of England basketball tournament. We came to school in our kits, and took the mini bus to Ellesmere Port Sports Village. There were 12 schools overall. They were Queen Ethelburga's A, Abbotsford Prep B, The Firs, St. Gerard's, Bridgewater School, Abbotsford A, Queen Ethelburga's B, St. Josephs, Prenton Prep, Clarendon Cottage, Cransley and Brabyns Prep (A). Our group was Brabyns Prep (B), Clarendon Cottage, Abbotsford Prep A, Clarendon Cottage and Brabyns Prep.

During the match, two members of the Cheshire Phoenix Club came to meet us. This is the professional team that plays there; one of them showed us a slam-dunk. He also carried Phillip and Oliver up so they can do a slam-dunk.

After the last Match, the referee told us who would be going to the semi-finals. Since we weren't going to the semi-finals, Mr.Jones told us to sit on the benches to watch the semi final and final matches. Bridgewater played The Firs in the Final and Bridgewater School won. The standard Bridgewater School and the Firs played at was fantastic. While they got their medals, we got our certificates. In our group we had won one game, lost a few games and tied some. After that, we packed our things up and came back to school happy that we had done our best and learnt a lot.

## CROSS COUNTRY

**by Nina Karyampudi and Kaitlyn Ha**

On Thursdays our cross country team go to Arrove Park or Higher Bebington Park to race against many other schools. In Arrove Park a lot of people don't like it because it has a hill and looks harder. I think it's easier because when you go down the hill it makes us run faster, which will help you get a better position.

On Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> September a few of our pupils (Samuel Booth, Oliver Arnold, Samuel Hall, Phillip Bradwell, Kaitlyn Ha, Holly Cross, Sophie Guttridge and Nina Karyampudi) went to Arrove Park for the Wirral Athletics Club cross country competition. The course looked massive, although it was shorter than the normal course. We had to go through a tiny forest area (it was really muddy there because it was raining earlier). Then there was a giant hill at the end and that's when we started to get tired. It was the girls' race first, and everybody was ready to go. They all managed to get in the top 10; Holly Cross (year 4) came first out of the year 6's! Then it was the boys' race and they all did really well and came in the top 15. The girls team won the team trophy and so did the boys.

As well as our Wirral Athletics Club team trophies there have been several other achievements. In the Year 4 races Holly Cross has come first in all her races and Sophie Guttridge has performed well consistently coming in the top 20. Holly Cross, Sophie Guttridge, Nina Karyampudi and Kaitlyn Ha won a team medal for the girls' team race. Samuel Booth has also achieved top 20 placings in the Year 6 boys' race.

## SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

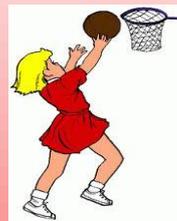
**By Eisha Chahal, Lewis Foran & Kaitlyn Ha, Year 6**

In school, every Tuesday, all the junior classes go to swimming lessons. The Year 1s and 2s also go swimming every Friday. At swimming we have an amazing coach called Rachel; Mrs.Taylor (The Year 3 teacher) also helps her out. We learn about all sorts of things and have relays every week (at least for the Year 6s). Some of us aren't as strong at swimming, but every week they teach us how much fun swimming can be. At the end of the Autumn term, the Spring term and the Summer term we get to have a play day!

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of November our swimming team went to Macclesfield to swim in the I.S.A (Independent Schools Association) North of England gala. Everybody swam really well and the Year 6 girls managed to win the U12 girl's shield (REGIONAL CHAMPIONS!) and the boys just missed out by 2 points on winning the U12 shield. Samuel Hall (Y5 Breaststroke) and Kaitlyn Ha (Y6 Breaststroke and Freestyle) both won their events to become North of England Champions and will be joined by Cody Ha (Y4 Freestyle), Eisha Chahal (Y6 Backstroke) and Lewis Foran (Y6 Backstroke) in representing the North of England in the I.S.A. National Finals at the Olympic Pool in London in January.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of November we went to The Beech House Swimming Gala and we all swam superbly. We were in the 'A' Division and were against Forest, Forest Park, Highfield Priory, Greenbank and Clevelands. The Year 4 team who raced was Nithin Karyampudi, Olivia Clark, Cody Ha and Emma Haugh-Parsons. The Year 5 team was Luke Jones, Gurpriya Dhillon (Year 4), Poppy Tuohey and Samuel Hall. Our Year 6 team was Kaitlyn Ha, Lewis Foran, Eisha Chahal and Oliver Arnold. With the help of all our team we managed to come 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 'A' division.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of September our Water Polo team (Kaitlyn Ha, Eisha Chahal, Scarlet Clarkson, Luke Jones, Samuel Hall, Samuel Booth, Harveen Dhillon, Oliver Arnold, Lewis Foran and Phillip Bradwell) went to the I.S.A North of England water polo championships. It was very tiring but we got better and better as we went along. We won our group, without losing and in the semi-finals we performed very well and got a draw, so we had a shoot-out; unfortunately one of our students didn't manage to score, but we still did very well to get to the semi-finals. If we had won the shoot-out we could have won, but we still came 4<sup>th</sup>, which was a great achievement.



## NETBALL CLUB

**by Eisha Chahal & Lucy Whisker, Year 6**

Netball Club is a fun and interactive club. Year 5 and 6 go to The Bidston Tennis Centre after school on Tuesday, whereas Year 3 and 4 play in our playground, also on Tuesdays. Year 5 and 6 do a very useful warm-up; it ranges from running to stretches. The year 3 and 4 netball club practise throwing, catching, pivoting, dodging, shooting and practising for future matches. We have had 2 matches so far, one against Kingsmead on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October and the other against The Firs on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. Fortunately we've been successful in both matches; Lucy Whisker was the player of the match on both of these matches. This year's netball team is: Eisha (captain), Scarlet, Lucy, Kaitlyn, Grace, Olivia, Harveen and Nina.

### SPEECH AND DRAMA REPORT BY MISS COTTIER

This year the speech and drama pupils have been working hard in their speech and drama lessons preparing for a 'Speech and Drama Assembly' which will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The speech and drama pupils are co writing their scripts with Miss Brooks, they were given 'Dreams' as the stimuli and are in the middle of the creative, devising process.

This term, all speech and drama pupils in Year 3 and above were given the opportunity to enter the Trinity College London speech and drama examinations, which they took on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March at St Saviours Parish Hall Oxtot. Trinity Guildhall examination board is internationally acclaimed, it forms one of the largest theatre schools in London, and its examinations are well recognised by schools, colleges and universities. I would like to congratulate all the children who entered, their hard work and preparation had clearly paid off and the results were outstanding:

Olivia Clark, Matilda Emmett and Luke Jones all achieved Grade 2 Distinctions and Lewis Foran, Lily Jones and Eleanor Sutton Grade 3 Merits

Next year we will be working towards performing our Dream scenes, there will be an opportunity for the children to perform for parents at the school's annual open Day in March. I would also like to invite your child to take part in the Wirral Speech and Drama Festival to be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017, letters inviting children to perform in the festival went out via email last week, if anyone still wants to enter please contact Miss Cottier ASAP.

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 and Pre-School are also very welcome.

Have a Merry Christmas and a good rest, I look forward to seeing you recharged next year!



### UKULELE CLUB BY MR P JOLLIFE & MR J HARDISTY

Once again we have had another extremely enjoyable term in Ukulele Club. Since September we have seen the numbers of children participating in the activity increase and we are now fortunate enough to have two groups. Throughout this term we have been learning a range of fun, familiar songs and developing our playing skills. On Monday, 4th December the group was privileged to perform some Christmas songs in the assembly.

If you would like your child to take up this instrument, please either collect a registration form from the school office or visit [www.myguk.co.uk](http://www.myguk.co.uk) for more information.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas!

### OCARINA BY MRS BEECROFT

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

Keep up the good work children!

### MUSIC REPORT BY MRS McDONALD

Two new pupils joined our team of pianists at the beginning of the Autumn Term, Imogen Clark and Oliver Stanhope and they have both taken to their instrumental lessons with great enthusiasm and have made very good progress especially as they are only in KG. This is a very good age to begin learning an instrument as recent reports indicate the most brain improvement is gained by starting before the age of seven years. Cognitive agility continues throughout the process of learning music.

Six children took formal external examinations during the Summer Term and everyone gained very good passes and merits. Well done to each student who has had to work very hard to achieve these results:

Catherine Jarvis, Grade 2 and Lily Jones, Nithin Karyampudi, Piyush Pradeep, Tabitha Ruston and Joseph Wilson - all Grade 1.

Lewis Foran began lessons in September this year and he has already been entered for his first Victoria College Examination. Sophie Guttridge and Tom Guttridge began taking lessons in May this year and Sophie will be taking her first external VCM exam on 11 December. This is a great achievement and testament to their hard work.

Tabitha Rushton prepared and entered her Grade One Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Theory Examination in early November and we are awaiting her results. I am very pleased to see students taking theory exams as this supports their practical exams and greatly improves their understanding.

Nina Karyampudi will be taking her Grade 2 VCM examination in December and I wish her the best of luck on the day. It is not easy to achieve the exacting levels required for these exams without much work and dedication. It is enlightening in this age of electronic, push button culture to see our children dedicating time and effort to subjects which will most certainly improve their future, give them hours of pleasure and offer them a great sense of achievement.

Most of my students are practising seasonal pieces of music so hopefully parents will be blessed with some good performances over the festive season. I am hoping that there will be a number of students ready to take their next set of exams either at Easter or early summer. Have a lovely Christmas and I look forward to seeing the children when lessons restart on January 9th.

### PRENTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION REPORT by MR. A. WILSON, CHAIRPERSON

Our AGM in October saw a new chair take on responsibility for the PPSPA, Alan Wilson will lead the PPSPA going forward. We have had an influx of new members joining the committee, along with existing members taking on new roles with Caroline Martin taking up the role of Vice Chair, Antony Fry taking up the role of secretary and Jacqui Barry staying on as the treasurer. I would like to thank Ravi Sibal (the outgoing Chair) for his hard work and dedication over his tenure. As ever we are always looking for new parents to get involved and become the future of the association, so please get in touch via the school or our Facebook page.

The pupils from KG to Year 6 all enjoyed the first PPSPA event of the year, our disco in November, and it was lovely to see them all socialising and having such fun.

The highlight of Autumn term is always our annual Christmas Fair. The carol singing by lamplight to start festivities and the variety of stalls helped raise an amazing £1857.00 profit which proved it to be a great success. A huge thank you to all who generously donated to our Christmas Fair. I would also like to express my appreciation to all the committee members, our helpers and the Staff whose hard work made the event a great success.

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



**All the Staff at PPS would like to wish you a wonderful and enjoyable Christmas and look forward to the new term which commences on Tuesday, 9th January 2018**