

# PRENTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## 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 "Busy, Busy Bethlehem!" 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 "The Inn-Spectors!" which was a delightful portrayal of the Christmas story with a very harassed innkeeper and her husband who the Inn-Spectors visited at their busiest time! 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 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 gave readings or 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 Wirral Toy Library were grateful to receive a donation of £170.00 collected at our Junior Carol Concert at St. Saviour's Church.

The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity, will also receive £110.00 generated by the staff "No Christmas Card" initiative.

Wirral Food Bank was 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 £580.00 and talked to the pupils about their work. We supported our regular charities Claire House and Alder Hey. Our third charity this year was Ronald McDonald House.

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.

There is a large amount of lost property in the entrance hall. As it has been unclaimed for some time we will pass it on to the PPSPA for second hand uniform sales unless collected in the first week of term.



## THE CHRISTMAS FAIR by Scott Heffey

The Christmas Fair is a great event we hold every year. We use this event to raise money for the school so we can buy new utensils and equipment. Most of the Parents' Association members come to help. This year's Christmas Fair was on the 30<sup>th</sup> November.

In the KG classroom, there was a mini shop where they were selling sweets, toys, books for beginners and a make-your-own gingerbread man.

The hall was used for a bottle tombola (all drinks have been donated by the children for Mufti Day), people's homemade or bought cakes were sold and The Chinese Raffle.

Year One was full with raffles and games and Year Two hosted 'Santa's grotto', which is one of the biggest parts of our fair; it's when you get to see Santa!

Upstairs there was a chocolate tombola in Year Five and a beauty shop. In Year four there was a make-up stall and some raffles, like the Find Santa, The Teacher's Hamper and Name the Teddy. Year Six was a toy and school pictures shop. Year Three was blocked off by a bean bag Santa game.

Before we left all the raffle winners were announced by Mr. Jones.

I hope you'll come to the fair next year!



## STAFF NEWS

We were delighted to welcome Ms. Marie Mairs onto the Prenton Prep staff over the last term. Ms. Mairs joined us in November as a teaching assistant and after-school activities supervisor. She will, I'm sure, become a much valued member of the team.

At the end of this term we were very sorry to say goodbye to Dr. Pemberton who has decided to move on to further her career. She has worked tirelessly as Year 4's class teacher and the school SENCo, whilst also leading the Cross-Country and helping with Netball. Her contributions to the school have been much appreciated and she will be greatly missed. Ms. Payal Suchdev, an experienced teacher in both the independent and state sector will be replacing her in January and we are delighted to be welcoming her onto the staff team.

## 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.

Our topic this term has been celebrations and festivals. It is a good time of the year to cover this topic as there are so many for us to learn about. We began by celebrating the Hindu festival of Diwali, also known as the Festival of Light. We found out that in some ways it is very similar to Christmas, as it is a special time when families get together, dress up, enjoy special food and exchange gifts. Next we learnt about the traditions of Remembrance Day. We talked about the significance of wearing a poppy and we were very impressed when all the children sat quietly to observe 2 minutes silence at 11 o'clock on the 9<sup>th</sup> November.

More recently we have been celebrating the Christian Festival of Christmas. We have read many different versions of the Christmas story and of course, the children acted out the story for our nativity – "Busy Busy Bethlehem". They demonstrated how much they have grown in confidence during both performances of the nativity. It has been a busy term rehearsing for the nativity, but also an enjoyable term, because the children have been enthusiastic and excited about it right from the start. We have also found that performing the Christmas play enabled them to develop a greater knowledge and understanding of the Christmas story. We hope you enjoyed watching it, as much as the children enjoyed performing it.

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December, we visited Santa in his Grotto at Carr Farm. The children wrote letters to Santa, which they posted in the special post box. Santa's elf met us at the door and took us into the Grotto. It was very cosy inside. Santa spoke to all of the children and gave them each a gift. The children had their photograph taken with Santa and we sang "When Santa got Stuck up the Chimney". Santa said that his favourite drinks are milk and water, because he's not allowed to drink alcohol when driving the sleigh. He thanked all the children for being so well behaved and said that he had really enjoyed himself, especially listening to them sing.

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 send home the weekend diaries. Please encourage the children to write in their own diaries.

## 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 Ashton 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. The children then made some beautiful and striking pictures using the leaves which were collected by crumbling the leaves into 'leaf confetti' and sticking them onto the outline of a leaf on coloured paper.

As Pre-School have been so good this term they went on a well deserved trip to Santa's Grotto at Carr Farm. 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.

Another highlight of the term was the Christmas Play, Busy Busy Bethlehem. All of the children worked so hard to learn the songs, their lines and where they needed to be during the different parts of the story. I was so pleased that all of the children enjoyed acting in front of such a big audience and had smiles on their faces throughout. I hope that everyone has a magical Christmas and New Year and I look forward to welcoming both our current children and the new starters back in January.

## YEAR 2 NEWS

At the start of the term, Year 2 visited one of Port Sunlight's treasures, the Lady Lever Art Gallery, to participate in a portrait and sketching workshop. The children learned about some of the history of the village and found out about its founder Lord Lever. They enjoyed a tour of the gallery and explored some of the techniques and concepts behind significant pieces. Following a re-enactment of the story of one of the paintings the children went to the classroom where they created their own self portrait using mixed materials. The class were a delight to take out and their enthusiasm and interest in the gallery was inspiring. Here are a few of their short recounts.

"I saw paintings and I liked ALL of them. I liked it best when I was the character in the painting and I re-enacted the story. I also liked it when we made our own portrait." **Aimee**

"I saw some statues made from marble. I held the soap and when I smelt it smelled a bit funny. I liked drawing patterns and making ourselves. There was a famous man called Lord Lever." **Ruben**

"I liked going to the Lady Lever Gallery because I learned about Lord Lever. I also liked it when Aimee dressed up in a costume. But I really enjoyed it when we made our self portrait." **Emily**

"When I was in the gallery I saw a picture of a famous businessman and his name was Lord Lever. We saw lots of patterns and I sketched the ones that I really liked." **Libby-Lee**

"I sketched lots of patterns I saw. I loved the smell of the soap. I thought Aimee looked funny all dressed up!"

**Robin**

"When we went to the gallery we looked at lots of paintings and pictures. When we made self portraits we used collage for clothes." **Jenny**

"I liked making myself wear a black belt. I smelt the soap and I thought that it smelt like lemons!" **Freddie**

In order to spread some festive cheer and prepare residents for Christmas, Year two visited Corona House. They delivered a magical, musical medley of favourite songs and presented gifts in the form of handmade calendars inspired by Russian artist Kandinsky. The children behaved beautifully and were a credit to the school. They captivated their elderly audience and chatted, told jokes and shared refreshments. Everybody enjoyed their visit and the children left with their own selection boxes – a real treat!

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

Year one visited Conwy castle as part of their history topic on houses and homes through the ages.

**Oliver** remembers that Conwy castle was made out of stone and it used to be painted white so that people could see it from far away. They hoped that enemies would think it would be too difficult to attack such a big, important castle and would stay away. **Michael** says: It was good! There were a lot of steps to get up to the top of the towers. **Evie** says: The steps were made out of stone as well and we went up the spiral stone steps to get up to the higher floors in the towers. **Thomas** tells us that the castle was huge! There were eight towers, four on one side and four on the other. **Oliver** recalls seeing the flag of Wales flying above one of the towers. **Sophia** knows the flag of Wales is a red dragon on a green and white background. The green is for the grass and the white is for the ice. **Illiam** remembers that the big room was called the great hall and it was the dining room. The important people sat at the high table with tablecloths and gold or silver plates but most people sat below on ordinary tables that could be moved to make room for jesters, jugglers and actors to entertain them. **Jenson** saw the bread ovens and remembers learning that the top of the bread was the best bit and was eaten by the important people like the King and Queen. The middle part of the bread was not as good so was eaten by the ordinary people and the bottom of the bread was very hard and not good to eat.

Falconry was one of the favourite pastimes at Medieval castles. Year One went to Chester Cathedral Falconry Centre to find out more. **Shrey**. There were birds of prey. That means that they eat meat and they have to hunt for it. **Imogen C**. We were able to hold some of them. It was great! **Veera**. Some of the birds were sitting on perches when we arrived. They had ropes tied to their legs so that they couldn't fly away. **Imogen S**. The vulture was called, Tinks. **Shrey**. Tinks had white legs because vultures wee down their legs to keep them clean. **Illiam**. Vultures eat the leftovers so their legs can get very dirty. That is why they wee down them. **Shrey**. The vulture didn't fly very high because they are lazy! **Illiam**. We saw a peregrine falcon. Peregrines are the fastest birds in the world! Rio flew down between us when we were standing close together and took the food from the falconer and then from us! **Evie**. We saw a bird called Pipsqueak. He was quite small and was a kestrel. Kestrels can hover on the spot like helicopters. **Imogen S**. As well as the birds of prey we were shown some other animals and I liked holding the giant African snails. **Illiam**. There was a snake, it was yellow and it was not slimy. If we wanted to we could hold it. It was very, very long. **Sophia**. I am the tallest person in our class so they held it up by me to measure it. If it could stand on its tail the snake would be taller than me!





# Junior News



## YEAR 5 WW1 VISIT TO THE CHESTER MILITARY MUSEUM AND CATHEDRAL By Soraya Luces, Oliver Wilson and Sophie Guttridge

On 14<sup>th</sup> November, the class and I went to the Chester Military Museum and we enjoyed doing activities all about WW1. We discussed facts and opinions about art pieces, which were drawn by William Hutchings, who was a soldier in the trenches who sketched the things he saw.

In the museum we also saw a trench and we went in it. It looked atrocious as there were rats, sandbags, dugouts, signs and a firing step. It was cool but also disgusting and was deeper than I expected.

We also went to Chester Cathedral and we had to explore and answer questions in a booklet. Our team leaders were called Bob, Barry, Stella and Elizabeth. We looked at a stained glass window and there was a school logo from Arnold House School in Chester remembering people who had fought and died in WW1.

## YEAR 4 CHESTEER ZOO TRIP By Maya Jaffar

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, Year 4 had a fun and adventurous trip to Chester Zoo. When we arrived we went to a workshop about animals and extinction, conservation and deforestation. Then we saw a jaguar eat his lunch. A long piece of meat was joined onto an extremely heavy sack and tied in a tree. So, the jaguar scrambled up the tree and started tugging violently to get his food. After lunch we saw some beautiful penguins were ducking and diving underwater and I thought they were doing a show. Then, we saw some really cute pinky-red flamingos standing one-legged in a streaming river.

The best bit was learning in the workshop and watching the jaguar eating his lunch. Unfortunately, the worst bit was the smell!

## KINETIC THEATRE VISIT By Olivia Weir & Daniyal Mir

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, The Kinetic Theatre came in to perform 'Lady Cecily's Sound Box' for Years 1-6. The Kinetic Theatre comes in every year to educate and entertain us. There is always an element of Science education in the play; this year was about sound waves. Usually the Kinetic Theatre has actors and actresses (about 2 or 3) playing all the parts, changing outfits between each scene. This year's performance was set in Victorian times; it was about two twins: one was good, trying to save the queen from her identical evil sister, who is trying to kill the Queen with a bomb. In the end the good sister saves the Queen, of course! Every year we really enjoy The Kinetic Theatre, and this year's show was great!

## BIKEABILITY By Matthew Adams

At Prenton Preparatory School the Year Six class had a bike safety and basic skills course called 'Bikeability' in the autumn. A group of instructors came to teach us how to ride a bike safely, including how to use the gears.

First of all, the instructors came into our classroom and told us what different road signs meant. The next thing we did was to go out into the playground and cycled round cones one at a time. Then, we would go in the middle of the playground and practise our emergency brakes. After our lunch, we went on to the road and practised riding with one hand on the handles. After we split into groups, the bigger group practised how to handle a T-junction.

After a few hours, we rode back to school and it was home time. Overall, it was a good time and we learnt lots.

## ROAD SAFETY TALK By Olivia Weir

During this term, our class had a lovely lady called Colette come in and talk to us about road safety, and how to keep safe when we're out and about near roads.

Colette introduced herself and so did we; then we got straight into it. First, she showed us some pictures on the board from New Brighton, and asked us if we were able to find what some of the people were doing wrong in them; for instance: people on their phones while crossing the road, or not looking left or right, and all sorts of things like that.

Then Colette also showed us a road with two cars parked next to each other with a small space between them. Then she asked us how we would cross the road sensibly. Colette then told us the correct way to cross the road, so we know what to do if we were in a situation like this.

Overall, our class really enjoyed Colette's talk with us about road safety and we all learned a lot about how to keep safe!

## CHRISTMAS PANTO AT THE FLORAL PAVILLION by Luke Jones

This year our annual trip to the Floral Pavilion was on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December and we got to see Aladdin!

It was great fun and all pupils in Years 1 to 6 really enjoyed the performance.

We felt sorry for Aladdin at first as he found life tough but when he found the lamp he had a fantastic friend in the Genie. As always eventually 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. We all enjoyed being able to sing, dance and shout and seeing our teachers do the same!



## YEAR 6 CLASS ASSEMBLY by Fatima Miller

Every couple of weeks each class takes turns to perform an assembly; this article is about when it was Year Six's turn.

Year Six told the story of Babushka, which is an Old Russian folk-tale/legend about an elderly woman called Babushka. She is visited by the three wise men: Casper, Melchior and Balthazar. They ask her if they can stay for the night, as they are on their journey to see a new-born baby. She kindly said that they could and she served them food and drink. Then she asked why had they come all that way, just to see a baby? They replied that they had come to see a very special baby, a bay born for all, who would bring peace and happiness to the world.

They asked if she would like to come to see the baby, but she declined, saying that she has too much cleaning to do, and anyway, she didn't have anything to give to the baby. She told them that she'd follow them the next night.

The next evening, after she had tidied, she walked for miles and miles to the stable in Bethlehem. The innkeeper told her that the baby had had to leave with its parents. Babushka was very sorry to have missed them, but it is said that she is still searching for Baby Jesus even today, and that wherever she goes she still gives toys out to children who live in houses that she passes. So she is like a Mother Christmas!

Year Six re-enacted this tale fabulously and explained that, just as Babushka shares love and kindness at Christmas time, so can we, through the gifts and love that we give to others at Christmas.

## JUNIOR CAROL SERVICE By Louis Coughlan

Our 2018 Christmas Carol Service was at St. Saviour's Church and they've been nice enough to let us use the church AGAIN, to do our amazing service on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of December, and we have been practising it for quite a while now. The first carol we sang was Once In Royal David's City and the first verse was sang by Miguel Cuevas-Anderson.

Every year, the Year Three's entire class act out the birth of Jesus and every year it is great and hopefully all of the parents loved it; they all looked great in their costumes.

All of the Y6's do readings about the birth of Jesus, and also, at the end of our service, the Year Six's paid tribute to The Christmas Truce in WW1; they acted out a scene where they all had some dialogue to re-enact The Christmas Truce; it was all amazing and one side sang Silent Night in German and the other side sang in English. This year's service was one of the best concerts we have ever done and we are certainly proud of it.



## YEAR 3 CHESTER ZOO TRIP by George Foran

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, we went to Chester Zoo. We took a double-decker bus and I sat next to Thomas Barry. It rained at first but then the sun came out and we saw a rainbow.

We saw lots of animals – monkeys, giraffes, pythons, elephants, lions and jaguars but we didn't see any bats. We also saw rhinos and they were my favourite.

In the workshop, we learnt all about animal's skeleton and how they move and about vertebrates and invertebrates. Vertebrates are animals with a backbone, like a dog. Invertebrates do not have a backbone, like a worm.

We all had great fun on the trip and learnt lots of new things about animals.



# Sports and Clubs



## FOOTBALL CLUB

By Luke Jones and Piyush Pradeep

This term we've been going to regular football training at Leasowe. We do lots of things with Mr. Huskisson like: skills drills; penalty shootouts; a match at the end of our session (with Mr. Huskisson coaching us with tactics and strategies during the match).

### The First Match

The first friendly match was against The Firs in Chester on the Monday 1st October. After we got there, we started getting warmed up by taking shots on Luke Jones. After we warmed up, we got introduced to the pitch by The Fir's coach.

We started playing the match and about half-way through the match, we got a penalty opportunity, but we missed. Luckily, Tom Guttridge scored a goal about 2 minutes before the end! Even though we lost, Mr. Huskisson was still proud of us about how we used our skills in the game.

### The Tournament At Ellesmere College

We went to Ellesmere College on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October. We played four games in our group, losing one but winning one and drawing two. This was enough to get us out of our group and into The Plate competition; We won our semi-final against the Firs and get to the final, but we lost on penalties against a school called Birchfield.

### The Tournament at 'Goals' In Chester

The second tournament (which was hosted by The Firs) was in Chester. We won one match, drew a few and lost a few. We played well and Mr. Huskisson and Mr. Jones were proud of us.

### The Mini Avalon Tournament

We went to Leasowe Leisure Centre on a Monday to play Avalon School. We split our team in two and so did they. We played two games each. The tournament was good fun and was played in a good spirit. At the end the results were announced and we got biscuits and drinks.

We are looking forward to more training and fixtures in The New Year.

## DANCE CLUB by Mrs. Jess Mann

I am extremely pleased with dance club this first term back. It's so lovely to see so many children returning each year, but also fantastic for those new pupils who have joined us. It has been an absolute pleasure to teach your children every week as they continue to astound me with what they are technically able to achieve, but also how they bring their own creativity to the lessons.

This term, each group has been working on a slightly different style to one another. Years 5 and 6 have been focusing on street dance and hip hop. However, they are now starting to work towards their "mash up" routine which will be a combination of a number of dance styles all in one dance. Years 3 and 4 have been working on a cheer leading dance which they have excelled in. Their precision and timing has improved so much with this routine and the use of props in a dance has definitely been a challenge for them along with such an energetic routine. Years 1 and 2 have worked on a number of different dances where each one has had a particular focus. For example, their "Take That" routine focused on the use of *canon* and working in different *formations*. I look forward to giving them a routine in January with lots of character and performance work. Pre-school and KG have been building upon their dance skills week by week. Their focus has improved and it's been such a pleasure to see what dancing they are able to create themselves when we have a "freestyle" section. The children have behaved brilliantly, particularly when my little baby boy came in to visit them.

Dance club will resume in January as normal on the week of the 14th; letters will go out in the first week back in school. For now, may I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.



## BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

By Daniyal Mir

Years 5 & 6 have been doing basketball for sport on Friday; first we do individual skills, then we break off into small groups of 2, 3 and 4 to do mini-attacker and defender drills. After all that, we do a match.

To use all these skills we have developed, Mr. Huskisson decided to take a basketball team to the ISA North of England Tournament.

It was a tough tournament considering there were so many strong and tall players, and schools there that had obviously played a lot of basketball matches. We did our best in every game, and as we got deeper into the tournament we got better and better, learning from our mistakes. We played really well together as a team.

We won one game, drew one and lost three. At the tournament, Olivia Weir & Samuel Hall were our top scorers.

Considering there were so many strong teams there, we think we did pretty well, and we really enjoyed the experience.



## SWIMMING by Sam Hall

At Prenton Preparatory School, we go swimming every Tuesday to train and practise for galas. We have taken part in quite a few galas this term. We have also taken part in a water polo tournament. Here are some of the events we have been in so far.

### Macclesfield and London ISA Galas

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of November we went to Macclesfield to try and qualify to go to the national finals in London. Taking part was a group of Y4's, Y5's and Y6's, including: me [Sam], Poppy, Luke, Rhys, Holly, Emma, Gurpriya, Oliver, Cody, Nithin, Alfie and Charlie. It was a tough gala; there was breaststroke, front crawl and backstroke. I came first in breaststroke, but no-one else managed a first place.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, I went to the National Finals in London and I came fourth; although I was not the best, I enjoyed it.

### Beech House Gala

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of December the swimming team (me, Luke, Poppy, Cody, Nithin, Holly, Olivia Clark, Alfie, Rhys, Maya and Charlie) went to take part in the Beech House gala. There was a high standard, but we all did our best and competed as best we could. Our best event was the breaststroke, where we had some first places in the Year 5 and 6 events. It was a good gala, and a great day out.

Overall, swimming is a great success in the school and everyone likes it. We train hard and do pretty well in galas. We are all looking forward to more competitions in the New Year.

### WATER POLO by Poppy Tuohy

This year we have been doing a fair amount of swimming, but we don't do a lot of water polo. This year, however, Year 5 and 6 went to a water polo tournament in Castleton on the 24<sup>th</sup> September. We went with Mr. Jones and Mrs. Taylor. We got there at about 10am and got changed. We went on the pool side and got ready because we were in the first game.

We got in the water and got our hats on ready to start. For the first 5 minutes we didn't do too badly but the other team were really good and had obviously practised a lot beforehand. We lost the first round but we were determined to win the next one. As much as we tried the other teams were so much better, but we thought we did well for just getting even one goal because we hadn't had much practice at all.

We still had two more matches, but sadly didn't win any.

When the day came to an end we were all worn out, but we had had so much fun and we really enjoyed it.

## NETBALL CLUB

by Olivia Weir and Fatima Miller

Every Tuesday in the autumn and spring terms there are netball sessions at the Wirral Sports and Tennis Centre, Bidston for Years 3-6. These sessions are coached by Mrs Taylor and Dr. Pemberton and our netball captain is Olivia Weir.

At these sessions we practise skills like: passing, shooting, defending, and attacking etc. After the warm-ups we usually finish with a match with two teams, the blues and reds, where we practise the skills we have learnt.

This year we have played two matches so far, against The Firs and Avalon. Sadly, we didn't beat them but they have given us great experience for our next matches.

Overall, everyone really enjoys netball club and we hope it will expand!

### SPEECH AND DRAMA REPORT BY MISS COTTIER

This year all the speech and drama pupils performed in a very entertaining speech and drama assembly on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018. The children who attend speech and drama were given a theme which was 'Shows', it was then up to the pupils at Prenton Prep to devise their own work, this means the children created and co-wrote their own original, comic scenes and poems about their feelings and thoughts on performing on stage! This is great fun and there was a lot of inspiration from the box office hit 'The Greatest Showman'. Performing in front of an audience builds self confidence and skills in public speaking. All the acting scenes, narration and poetry were performed with great success. Well done everyone.

Matilda Emmett, Lucy Hawes and Emily McDonald have been working extra hard in preparation for their Trinity College London Speech and Drama examinations which took place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at St Saviours Parish Hall Oxton. The results were outstanding with Lucy and Emily receiving a 'Distinction' at entry level and Matilda receiving a high 'Merit' at Grade 3, Matilda was the youngest pupil to enter a Grade 3 Trinity College London exam. Well done every one. There is clearly lots of talent at Prenton Prep!

Next year we will be working towards a performance in the school's annual open day in March and the Wirral Speech and Drama Festival to be held on Friday evening 15<sup>th</sup> or Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019, letters inviting all children from year 1 and above to perform in the festival will go out shortly, if anyone 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 Nursery are also very welcome.



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

Once again we have had a very busy term in Ukulele Club. In September we were able to create 2 separate groups; a beginner group and a more able players group. It has been great to see some Year 2 children participating this term. Our new beginner group have enjoyed learning some chords and then putting them into practice using a variety of songs. Mr Hardisty's group have been working hard developing their finger-picking technique this term. Over the past few weeks we have been learning how to play some Christmas songs, including Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Jingle Bells and Jingle Bell Rock. Well done to all the children for their hard work and effort!



### 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

Last term several children passed their music exams, Louis Coughlan, Lewis Foran, Sam Hall, Luke Jones, Lily Jones and Tabitha Rushton and I am pleased to say that most students have entered a further examination this term. Tabitha, Lily and Lewis have moved to their secondary schools but Lily decided that she wanted to return to lessons at Prenton and I was delighted that she was keen to continue which is something I hope all students will do after they leave school. I know Tabitha and Lewis also wanted to continue lessons at their new schools and I hope they will all go on to become very good musicians. Learning to play an instrument at an early age is the best method of improving mental agility together with many other skills.

This term we have been busy learning to play Christmas pieces and improving examination pieces ready for the exams held on 10 December. It is not only perfecting the pieces which is important to gain a good mark in examinations but also ensuring proficiency in scales, sight-reading and aural work. Many students find it difficult to improve sight-reading especially as they are engaged in playing on electronic games which prevents them from the pleasure of trying new scores. There are, however, many new applications on-line which can help to improve sight-reading abilities and children really enjoy these as they can play their favourite popular tunes too. During the Christmas holidays perhaps parents can take a look at a site to improve their child's sight-reading ability – maybe that phone, iPad or kindle can be put to better use!

Several children took examinations this term: Olivia Clark – Grade 1; Louis Coughlan – Preliminary; Sam Hall – Preliminary; Piyush Pradeep – Grade 2 and Oliver Stanhope – First Steps. They all worked very hard to achieve good results and I expect to receive their marks after Christmas.

Lessons will resume on Tuesday, 8 January 2019. May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

Our AGM in October saw a jostle in the executive team with Mrs Diane Hall taking the role of Vice Chair, many thanks Diane and good luck.

We have had an influx of new members joining the committee, along with existing members taking on new responsibilities. Antony Fry (and family) has his second year as secretary and Jacqui Barry staying on as the treasurer. 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 <https://www.facebook.com/Prentonpreppa>. All our pupils (and some parents / guardians) enjoyed the first PPSPA event of the year, our Christmas Fair in November, and it was lovely to see them all socialising and having such fun. The carol singing by lamplight to start festivities and the variety of stalls helped raise an amazing amount which proved to be, once again, 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, 8th January 2019**