



It's been a Fantastic Year!

Another school year has flown by and when I reflect on everything WPS pupils have accomplished this year, both in and out of the classroom, I am filled with pride.

Our dedicated team of teaching staff work tirelessly throughout the year to prepare and deliver an outstanding, high quality education to our pupils. Each and every one of our pupils have their own unique talents and skills and it is a privilege to watch them flourish and achieve, from our youngest children to our Form 6 pupils.

At WPS we have a superb record of children achieving places at a wide range of senior schools and this year is no different. Our Form 6 children sat examinations for a wide range of Manchester Consortium Schools including AESG, Withington, Kings, Manchester High, Cheadle Hulme and Stockport Grammar and their hard work was rewarded by a total of 35 offers, including 5 academic scholarships and 4 music scholarships. Children also sat examinations and received offers of places from a number of schools outside the Manchester Consortium, including grammar schools. As always, they should be justly proud of their hard work and effort and we wish them all every happiness for the future.



These results followed our very successful EYFS Inspection in November 2014, which reaffirmed that WPS is a unique and exceptional school, offering pupils much more than just an excellent education. We set our standards extremely high and value

each child as an individual, allowing them to achieve their full potential. Our wonderful Early Years staff, along with the rest of the WPS Team are all delighted that this was recognised and endorsed by the Inspectors who reported that “the overall quality, standards and care are outstanding”.

Our academic achievements have, of course, been supported and enhanced by a wide range of extracurricular activities and school trips



throughout the year, including local day trips to the library and the fire station and residential trips to York and France for our older children. Every class has benefitted from these experiences, which support and extend their classroom learning.

As the School year comes to an end and we prepare for the summer break, I would like to thank all the parents for being such an important and supportive part of the WPS family. We are already looking forward to another exciting and successful year ahead as we continue to educate and inspire our pupils to be the best that they can be.

In the meantime, I do hope that you enjoy reading Prep Talk – we can never fit all the year's activities and success into these few pages, but we have managed to include some of the key highlights of the 2014/15 academic year.

Mrs Helen Rigby,
Headteacher



The gift of giving



Reindeer Ramble

The Reindeer Ramble is an absolute favourite amongst pupils and teachers who don reindeer antlers and flashing red noses and walk through the centre of Wilmslow, singing Christmas songs!

WPS turns the Reindeer Ramble into a

fundraising day with the School's pupils paying a £2 donation to be out of uniform for the day and many pupils also gained sponsorship for the walk. A fantastic £1834.57 was raised for East Cheshire Hospice.

Harvest Assembly

This year, all the children from KG to Form 5 contributed long-life items to be donated to the 'Food Friend' initiative at St. Bartholomew's Church. Our Form 6 children contributed harvest baskets to be distributed locally, and we know that these items were gratefully received.

Remembrance Day

Bethany in F2 brought in some beautiful hand knitted poppies to wear for Remembrance Day (made by Grandma) in November. Staff and children were thrilled to wear them and made donations totalling £163.00 to the Royal British Legion, to add to the money collected for sales of the poppies supplied by the British Legion. As with tradition, staff and children at WPS, observed a minute's silence at 11.00am.

Silk FM appeal

In March, we collected chocolate Easter Eggs for children who are less fortunate in conjunction with local radio station Silk FM. Plenty of chocolate treats were donated.

Rota Toy Appeal

The Rotary Club has collected approximately 80 boxes filled with "pre-loved" children's toys, for distribution to needy children within our own local area. WPS was pleased to be a part of this worthwhile cause and the kind donations of our families made a positive difference to local children.



Jeans for Genes Day



We raised a fantastic £165.00, by wearing denim, making denim puppets and doing the 'Just A Minute Game!'

Children in Need

The children and staff dressed up as Superheroes for Children in Need, raising a fantastic £220. Ilyana in F3 won the Superhero Shorts Competition. Charlotte in F5 and Hayat in Reception both won in their age group.



Francis House

In aid of Francis House, we sold hand knitted Easter chickens containing a Cadbury's Crème Egg with all of the proceeds going to Francis House in Didsbury. We raised a wonderful £163.80.

Big Toddle



In June, the EYFS children celebrated the end of their Barnardo's Charity Big Toddle Pirate-themed project with a spectacular parade around the playground followed by a hearty sing-song and some well deserved jelly and ice cream. Thank you to the parents and families for so generously supporting the Barnardo's Charity. You raised a magnificent £660.77!

Red Nose Day

As always, we celebrated Red Nose Day in true WPS style! The children wore 'something funny for money' and as usual, they all looked brilliant.

Wilmslow Sainsbury's asked the children to join in a colouring competition. Two representatives from Sainsbury's joined the School in a special assembly and judged the colouring competition and the fun accessories. Alana in F2 won the Colouring Competition and Zara in F3 won the prize for the funniest outfit.

Sporting Success



ISA Cross-Country Championships



Well done to all the children who took part in the ISA Cross-Country Competition in February, in what were harsh conditions and especially to the girls in F3 who ran against children who were two years older than them. We were delighted with the commitment, enthusiasm and excellent behaviour shown by all our pupils.

ISA Wigan Athletics Competition

In June, more than 20 children in Forms 3 to 6 represented the School at the ISA North Athletics Championships in Wigan. Everyone who took part performed well in their events on a warm sunny day. Congratulations to India in Form 6 who achieved a personal best in the Shot Putt event and will be going on to compete in the National competition!

Well done to everyone who took part and many thanks to Miss McBride, Mrs Broome, Mrs Hughes, Mrs Cuddy and the parents for organising and supporting the event.



Wilmslow Fun Run

In October, 15 runners from Years 3, 4 and 5 took part in the Annual Fun Run at Wilmslow Rugby Club. The race saw the children running around the rugby pitches, up into the very muddy woods and back over a wobbly bridge. Well done to all the brave runners!

Inter House High Jump 2015

Every year, the pupils look forward to the Inter-House sporting events, and we love how the children rally together and cheer as each house earns house points during the friendly competition. The Inter-House competition this year this year was High Jump, and it certainly didn't disappoint!

The event was enjoyed by all with some amazing performances! Tatton won the competition, followed by Gawsworth, Capesthorpe, and Moreton.

NW Independent Schools Athletics Championships

In May, we took pupils to the NW Independent Schools Athletics Championships. This event is always very popular and many schools around the region take part! We are very proud of all of our competitors and we had some excellent results with every child placing in the top ten in their event. Well done to Alison, India, Issie, Freya W, Freya B and Ella in Form 6 and Rebecca, Charlotte, Neve and Jemima in Form 5 who all participated and showed great determination and spirit!



Bravo! Encore!



Shakespeare Rocks



This year, our Form 5 and 6 pupils delivered a stunning performance of Shakespeare Rocks. Telling the story of Shakespeare's life, this musical show brought to life the Elizabethan era. The production of the play requires hours of rehearsal and the quality of the performance demonstrated how hard the children, and teachers have worked in the run up to the production.

Thank you to all the parents who provided fabulous costumes and to Mrs Hughes, Miss Ramsay, Mrs Rendell and Mrs. Fenton who worked behind the scenes to make this play possible.

A big congratulations to everyone involved and what a great way to finish up the term!

The Magic of Christmas



The children in Kindergarten, Reception, Forms 1 and 2 gave brilliant performances of their Christmas plays 'The Sleepy Shepherd' and 'Christmas with the Aliens'. The performances were delightful and it was magical to see the children dazzling on stage!



A Whale of a Time!

Form 3 and Form 4 put on a fabulous performance of 'Jonah Man Jazz' in March. There were songs, dancing, storms and the amazing tale of 'Jonah and the Whale'. Fluorescent costumes and fish all added to a fun performance leaving everyone happy!



Alderley Edge Music Festival

WPS were once again proud to support the Alderley Edge Festival in a very wide range of music, speech and drama classes. Many congratulations to all the children who participated; we are all justly proud of their performances!

We were delighted with the brilliant results and all the children benefitted from the opportunity to experience performing in front of an audience and developing their public speaking skills. A special highlight for WPS was the Chamber Choir's performance winning the Thelwall Cup for the Small Choral Group (4-16 voices).



WPS Annual House Music Competition

Our annual House Music Competition is always a delight, and this year was no different! The winners of the competition for 2015 were Gawsworth House. Many thanks to Mrs Rundell and the Music Team for putting together this super event!



WPS Annual House Music Competition

Well Spoken!

Every year, WPS pupils take part in the English Speaking Board (ESB) exams, where the students are assessed in different components of speaking including a structured speaking exercise, a recital of a memorised choice of poetry or prose, reading to others, and listening and responding within a group.



It is always a great exercise in practising public speaking skills, and we were thrilled to learn that Charlotte and Georgina in Y6 have both won awards for their outstanding achievement in the ESB exams.

Summer Concert

In early June, we enjoyed a super Summer Concert where we celebrated the achievements of the Forms 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils. The children performed a selection of poems, prose, dramas, songs and musical pieces and we were thoroughly entertained by a variety of pieces played by the School Orchestra. Thank you to all the teachers who have spent time practising and helping the children stage such an amazing concert, but the stars of the night were the children themselves. Bravo!



Out and About



Fire Station visit

In October our Kindergarten and Reception Classes visited Wilmslow Fire Station as part of their 'People Who Help Us' topic. The children climbed aboard a Fire Engine and sat in the cab which was great fun. The Fire Officers taught the students all about fire prevention, the role of the Fire Service and what kind of things they do there. The children particularly loved learning about how fires are put out and stories about rescuing people and animals.

Clonter Opera

In September, Form 5 visited Clonter Opera near Congleton, where children were treated to a variety of musical activities, such as a vocal workshop led by 5 young singers and an opportunity to design their own miniature sets, complete with lighting. After lunch, the children watched a performance of several operatic solos, duets and ensembles and even got to sing their own chorus from the musical "Guys and Dolls".



Macclesfield Forest

Form 4 had a brilliant day when they visited Macclesfield Forest as part of their 'River' topic. The weather stayed dry and the children had a marvellous time pond dipping and filtering.



Tatton Park Tudors Trip

Form 5 visited Tatton Park Old Hall in November to learn all about how the Tudors lived and worked. During the day they spent some time in a Tudor house and barn, learned how to thresh wheat by hand and made bracelets using weaving sticks. The children were also shown how to use a loom to weave cloth, tried on some armour and made a wattle and daub panel!



Manchester Museum

Form 3 had an exciting experience visiting the Egyptian exhibition at the Manchester Museum in March. The pupils were fascinated as they handled artefacts and learned about building pyramids.



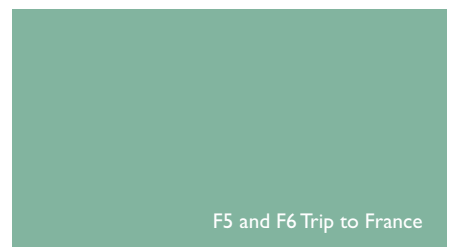
York

Form 4 enjoyed a fabulous three day trip to York and experienced its wonderful history. Activities included a trip to the Jorvik Viking Centre for an 'archaeological' dig, a guided tour of York Minster and a visit to the Rowntree's Chocolate Story. York, after all, is the UK's home of chocolate!



F5 and F6 Trip to France

Forms 5 and 6 enjoyed a fabulous trip to France in May. During the week they visited a goat farm, a chocolaterie, a marine centre, the local market and a boulangerie, where they made their own pain au chocolat, which was definitely a highlight! The pupils also spent some time at the beach where they took part in a sandcastle competition. The weather was super and there were many opportunities for the children to practice their French speaking skills! A heartfelt thanks for to Madame Ward, Mrs Hughes and Mrs Wragg for accompanying the children on this wonderful trip.



“PrepTalk”

Summer 2015



ISA Art Competition

The regional Art Competition was a great success! We took home several first prizes in the group work categories and also had many individual winners. Congratulations to EYFS 2D Group Art for attaining 1st place for 'Builders & Diggers.'

EYFS 3D Group Art for 'Crane' came in 2nd place and the KS1 Textiles Group work on 'Butterflies' came in 1st place!

Congratulations to Helena (previous F6) for her individual model 'Canoe' and Sophie (F3) achieving first prizes. Grace (F5), Bethany

(F2) and Matthew (F2) with second prize Neve (F5), Illyana (F3) and Megan (F2) with third prize.



RE during her long reign and has coordinated numerous and successful entries to both local and national competitions and events. We will miss Mrs. Fenton very much, and again, wish her well in her retirement from teaching.

Additionally, Miss McBride is moving on to the next stage in her career development. Over the past 5 years, Miss McBride has delivered a specialist PE curriculum including involvement in extra-curricular clubs, fixtures, and sporting events. We wish Miss McBride much success in her future!

105th Birthday Celebration

Wilmslow Prep School celebrated its 105th birthday on September 23rd, with a fun-filled morning assembly involving the entire school.



The girls and boys carried out the tradition of giving the School cards and the special birthday assembly was rounded off with everyone singing 'Happy Birthday.' The candles were blown out by a few of the older and younger pupils.

EYFS Annual Easter Bonnet Parade

In April, our Kindergarten and Reception children participated in our Annual Easter Bonnet Parade. The pupils wore colourful and inventive Easter bonnets and hats, paraded around the hall and then performed a variety of Spring and Easter songs.



Parent Committee

The Parents' Committee have had another successful year of fundraising and arranging many fun events! Favourite events are always the Valentine's Disco, The Big Family Breakfast, and the Christmas and Summer Fairs. The Spring Ball was held at The Alderley Edge Hotel this year, and it was a fabulous evening. We have a wonderful committee and are grateful for the time and energy put into raising vital funds for the school! The committee has raised an amazing £11,000 for the School this year!

Sad Farewells

This year, we are saying good-bye to some very devoted and inspiring teachers. At the same time, we are delighted to be welcoming new staff to the Prep.

After 20 dedicated years, Mme Ward is retiring from teaching. She has been the Form Teacher for both Forms 4 and 5 during her time at WPS, and has also provided French lessons to all of our pupils from Kindergarten to Year 6. All her pupils have benefited from her experience, enthusiasm, and commitment. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

Another farewell goes to Mrs. Fenton, a superb teacher who has been a valuable part of WPS for 18 years. Mrs. Fenton has been an inspirational teacher of Art, English, and



Madame Ward



Mrs Fenton

Miss McBride

Last but not least, we are saying good-bye to Miss Ramsay, who has also been a valuable member of WPS since 2010. Miss Ramsay has taught Mathematics to Years 5 & 6 as well coordinated the ICT curriculum. Miss Ramsay has been very committed to developing, organising, and coordinating our biannual Young Enterprise initiative. We wish her happiness in all her future endeavours.

New Appointments

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Victoria Anderson to WPS who has been appointed to teach Form 5 as well as Art and Design Technology in Forms 3 to 6. She will also take on the role of Pastoral Manager for Forms 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Mrs. Katy Ricketts will teach Spanish and French to all children at WPS in her role as Modern Foreign Language Teacher. She will also provide PE support to Mrs. Broome who will be taking on the role of PE Coach and Coordinator from September. Mrs. Broome is an experienced coach, is passionate about sport and has some exciting ideas for WPS going forward.