



Here come the boys!

A significant milestone was reached by Wilmslow Prep this year as we welcomed our first three boys to the School's Kindergarten after 52 years as an all-girls school. Wilmslow Prep first opened its doors in 1909. At this time the School was mixed and it was only in 1961 that we became all-girls.

The new boys joined us 'early' following the announcement that, from September, we will begin to introduce boys, initially beginning with Kindergarten, Reception and Form I.

The School remains committed to the benefits of single sex education however, and boys and girls will be taught separately for the key core subjects from Form 3 onwards, allowing our teaching staff to prepare them for the next stage of their academic career – entrance to Senior School.

Headmaster Mr Paul Reynolds commented, "It goes without saying that we will remain a small, family centred School where the focus is on the needs of each individual child."



"This is a very exciting time for us as a School and it is wonderful that our parents have welcomed this change so readily. We are pleased to be able to offer parents with boys and girls the opportunity to have them at one school, receiving the same outstanding level of education."

"We strongly believe that the introduction of boys will enable WPS to exceed the needs of our parents, whilst also allowing us to continue to excel in delivering an outstanding education to our pupils in a unique and exceptional school environment."



Clean sweep for Form 6

Our talented Form 6 girls have celebrated another year of outstanding results, breaking all previous records by achieving an exceptional 100% success rate. The class of thirteen girls achieved a remarkable 35 offers from some of the North West's top independent schools, including five Music Scholarships, one Sports Scholarship and an Academic Scholarship.

Mr Reynolds praised the accomplishments of the girls, saying, "We are all immensely proud of our Form 6 girls who have continued the WPS tradition of exceptional exam results. The girls' success bears testament both to their own hard work and dedication and to that of all their teachers during their time at WPS. Particular thanks goes to the Forms 6 and 5 teachers, Mrs Judy Hughes and Miss Sarah Ramsay."

"Throughout their time at the School, the girls have developed into well rounded, proficient and independent young women. Not only are they exceptionally academically capable, but they are also talented in many other fields including art, drama and, of course, music and sport."



Form 6 with Mr Reynolds, Miss Ramsay and Mrs Hughes

House System

The new school year saw Mme Ward step in and give the House system a radical new lease of life. The girls now have far more opportunities to support their House than before.



Pupils are now given coloured counters as rewards for their achievements. For example, a counter is awarded if they achieve 'Star of the Week', if they are awarded a merit or courtesy badge, or if they fill one of the Lunchtime Supervisors' new behaviour reward cards with stickers.

The counters are then placed into special containers in the entrance hall, allowing the girls to clearly see how well their House is performing.

Out and about



Venturing beyond the School gate to explore some of the fantastic places of interest on our doorstep is a great way to enhance the core curriculum. Here's a whistle-stop tour of this year's trips.

Great Outdoors



The WPS girls have spent lots of time exploring the local countryside this year. In October Form 4 pulled on their wellies and raincoats for a slightly soggy day out at Macclesfield Forest. Despite the rain the girls had a fantastic time touring the reservoirs and river dipping for freshwater shrimps.

In May, Form 3's lessons on the environment and habitats were supported by a trip to Alderley Edge Woods. Wellies were once more a necessity as the girls were shown around by a National Trust Ranger who taught them how to look for animal homes.

Hands (and feet) on learning

In November, the Kindergarten pupils took their learning out of the play shoe shop in their classroom and into the real world on a trip to Clarks in Wilmslow. The children were given the chance to explore the shop and ask lots of questions about the sales assistants' jobs. What started out as imaginative role-play became an opportunity to learn about size, counting, matching pairs and measuring in a fun and stimulating way.



The Kindergarten class weren't the only ones to step into someone else's shoes this year. Form 3 brought their history lessons to life when they took a trip to the Manchester Museum. They became archaeologists for the day and were shown some amazing artefacts, including real-life mummies.

Form 5 fully immersed themselves in their history topic, taking on the roles of Tudor servants on a visit to Tatton Old Hall. Attired in long dresses and aprons, they tried their hand at some of the typical daily tasks expected of a servant, before being allowed to experiment with bows and arrows and other Tudor weaponry.

February saw Form 4 venture back to the Viking times for three days when they visited York. The girls enjoyed a variety of excursions including the Jorvik Viking Centre, the Railway Museum and DIG, where they took part in an archaeological excavation.

In May, Forms 1 & 2 visited Dunham Massey where they became housemaids to Lady Stamford. As part of their training they learnt to make beds, bake gingerbread men, empty chamber pots and polish silver.



Arts Trips

Form 5 started the year in fine voice and attended a special Music Workshop at Clonter Opera near Congleton. A variety of activities associated with the theatre were on offer and the girls were even able to design and build a set model. In the afternoon they were also treated to a stunning performance given by five professional opera singers.



After working hard for their Senior School entrance exams, Form 6, along with the girls from Form 5, were rewarded with a trip to the Lowry Theatre to watch Shakespeare 4 Kidz perform 'The Tempest.' Jessica B from Form 5 reported, "We got a real taste of Shakespeare's work. The story and plot were put in a way that was easy to follow."

Voyage en Normandie

Forms 5 & 6 packed their bags in May and headed to Ebbingham, Normandy, for a week-long residential trip. The girls were able to put their language skills into practice as they experienced life in France. During their stay they visited a goat farm, tasted samples and bought souvenirs from a chocolaterie, and even had a snail eating competition!

The twenty-eight girls, who were accompanied by Mrs Hughes, Miss Ramsay, Mrs Broome and Mr Reynolds, returned thoroughly exhausted but with lots of new phrases and endless exciting stories to tell their families.



Good fun doing good deeds!

Where's Wally wears jeans for Genes

The School Council, aided by Miss Ramsay, got fundraising off to a flying start this year by organising a day of fun-filled events which raised an incredible £215.95 for Jeans for Genes Day in October.

The girls came into School wearing their jeans and crazy hats, created especially for the competition held during



assembly, whilst the Council reps hid around the School wearing masks to make a real-life 'Where's Wally' hunt.

Pudsey Power

In November the School was hit by Pudsey fever and the girls adorned their uniforms with polka dot accessories in aid of Children in Need. The School Council sold fundraising Pudsey wristbands to the Junior girls and organised a whole-School Pudsey Portrait Competition and managed to raise over £130.

Festive Fundraising

The Christmas festivities at WPS were launched in late November by our annual Advent Toy Service which encourages the girls to think about children who may not be as fortunate as they are. Each of the pupils donated a toy at the assembly and their generous gifts were divided between children's charity Barnardo's and the Seashell Trust.

Our festive charity theme was continued when at the end of term the whole School dusted off their flashing noses, donned their antlers and took to the streets of Wilmslow town centre on a Reindeer Ramble in aid of



Reindeer Ramble

East Cheshire Hospice. As they walked, the girls sang Christmas songs, not only raising festive cheer but also over £2000 in sponsorship.

This year's Ramble was made extra-special by Georgina from Form 4 who contacted Radio 2's Chris Evans to tell him all about what the School was doing and who we were raising money for.



Verna Costello from ECH

The festivities did not end when the antlers were hung up, however, as Form 4 headed over to Canterbury Grange sheltered accommodation where they entertained residents with renditions of popular Christmas songs.

We were delighted to be able to present Verna Costello from East Cheshire Hospice with a cheque for over £2000 when she came into assembly at the beginning of January.



Comic Relief

The '80s provide Comic Relief

In March the WPS pupils were even more full of fun than usual as they embraced the Comic Relief cause. A World Book Day Bring and Buy Book Sale kicked off the merriment and was swiftly followed by a cake sale held by Vanessa and Helena (F5), not to mention Yasmin (F5), Caitlin, Deià and Lauren (F6), who sold an incredible number of red noses and jokes in the week running up to the main event.

When the big day finally arrived, the whole School was transported back to the '80s as pupils and staff dressed up in their best legwarmers, brightest tutus and wackiest hairdos. We were still chuckling at the hilarious jokes from the competition held during assembly as we totted up the money raised by the girls, which amounted to over £300.



Comic Relief

And there's more...

Our annual Harvest Festival assembly was extremely successful thanks to the girls' generous donations of food bags to be distributed amongst Manchester's homeless by Lifeshare. The Form 6 girls also made up harvest baskets to be donated to local elderly residents.

In October our non-uniform day raised £139 for Over the Wall, a children's charity who provide life-changing experiences to children and young people who are affected by serious and life limiting illnesses. More recently the girls have raised £329.06 by collecting spare change in their Barnardo's Change Boxes.

WPS performing arts – a class above the rest!



Associated Board Music Exam Success



'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

At the end of the Summer Term, our Form 5 and 6 pupils delighted audiences by transporting them to a dream-like world of fairies, lovers and kings.

Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' is full of twists and turns. Hermia loves Lysander and Helena loves Demetrius, but Hermia is supposed to be marrying Demetrius... The story quickly dissolves into a hilarious muddle of confusion and blunders when the couples take refuge in the woods to escape the enforced marriage and wander into the midst of a dispute between the king and queen of the fairies.

The girls captivated everyone as they rose to the challenge of staging a Shakespeare play, and their performances left their adoring audiences in stitches.

Angelic Christmas Performances



Countdown to Christmas

Early Years welcomed Christmas by treating their parents to three fantastic performances of 'Whoops a Daisy Angel'. Everyone sang, danced and acted to an exceptional standard and the audiences all left with big smiles on their faces.

Forms 1 & 2 were also busy with rehearsals in the run up to Christmas as they prepared to stage their play 'Countdown to Christmas'. The girls put in a great deal of effort and it certainly paid off.

Our annual Carol Concert, held at St Bartholomew's, was a resounding success - as ever! A variety of songs, poems, sketches and readings were performed by each class from Reception through to Form 6, in front of a packed congregation of family and friends. The Christmas cheer must have filtered into the retiring collection and we managed to raise a fabulous total of £385.44 which was divided between the St Bart's Restoration Fund and the Manchester Children's Hospital.



Maggie Thompson

WPS Festival Success

The annual Alderley Edge Festival was bigger and more exciting than ever this year, with Wilmslow Prep entering five instrumental and choral groups, as well as countless individual entries in both Music and Drama categories.

Almost all the girls from Forms 2-6 participated in the Festival, and WPS pupils were presented with an incredible 15 individual awards. All of our instrumental and choral groups were placed in their categories, including our Recorder Group who managed to scoop first place.

Special congratulations go to Maggie Thompson, who sang so beautifully in the Year 2 & 3 Vocal Class that the judges selected her to sing at the Finale Concert on the Saturday night.

House Music Festival

In March we were treated to a staggering 22 performances from the Infants and 73 performances from girls in Forms 3-6 at our annual House Music Festival. Mrs Lucy Natrass, who joined us as special guest, was overwhelmed by the quality of the performances and the number of girls who took part.

Each girl was awarded house points for their fantastic efforts and competition was hot for first place right up to the final note. It was a close race, but in the end Moreton were pipped at the post by Tatton who squeezed ahead by two points to become the overall winners.

Results speak volumes

The girls in Form 5 and 6 achieved a fantastic set of English Speaking Board (ESB) results in April, with an extremely high percentage achieving distinction.

The second half of the Summer Term saw a flurry of activity in Speech and Drama. In June Mrs Clark was very busy preparing the girls for their Forms 2-4 ESB Exams. The results were, again, exceptional and a fitting reward for all the hard work the girls and their teachers put into preparing for the exams.

During June some of our Forms 3-6 girls travelled to Altrincham Prep School for the annual Triangular Reading Competition and Anna Jerkku won the Form 3 Cup. Mille, Jessica B and Maui also spoke on 'The science of happiness' in the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition, a competition that we hosted this year for eight Junior and Primary Schools. Maui won the best Vote of Thanks category, a wonderful achievement.



Forms 5 & 6

Sporting Achievements



The ball's in our (new) court!

At the beginning of the school year, Form 6 opened their netball season by taking on Pownall in the first outside match since the playground renovations took place. As it was

the first match of the season, each of the girls was given a chance to take a position. The girls all played exceptionally well, resulting in a well-earned 12-3 victory for WPS.

Ready Steady Go!

For the second year running, June's ISA Wigan NW Athletics Championships were hosted by WPS. The event was expertly organised by Mrs Broome and Miss McBride, with Mr Reynolds entertaining everybody in the stadium with his commentary!

It was a large turnout, with over 20 schools and 500 athletes taking part on a beautiful summer's day. It was well attended by our parents and the girls really enjoyed savoring the unique atmosphere of such a big occasion.

Of particular note were Halle B who came first in the U11 High Jump and qualified for the Nationals in Birmingham, Jessica B who came third in the U11 150m and India P who came third in the U10 Long Jump.

Inter-house Sports

Over two weeks in March the Form 5 & 6 girls competed in inter-house sports tournaments which tested their netball and hockey skills.

The girls demonstrated fantastic talent in the House Netball Tournament which ended up as a very close competition. In joint 3rd place were Gawsworth and Capesthorpe. In 2nd place, scoring 11 points, was Tatton, and the overall winning team was Moreton with 15 points.

The House Hockey Tournament saw a similarly impressive standard of competition. In 4th place with 5 points was Gawsworth, in 3rd place with 7 points was Tatton and in second place with 9 points was Capesthorpe. The winner, with 15 points, was Moreton.

Well done to all the girls who played so enthusiastically for their Houses and to everyone who supported them.

A sporting chance at WPS

The sun surprised us all by showing up to our annual Sports Day events this June. The excitement began at the WPS Sports Hall with the Infant Sports Day. The children from Kindergarten through to Form 2 were under starters orders as they raced to earn points for their Houses in sprints, sack races and egg & spoon races. The standard of performance was extremely high, with Gawsworth winning the morning on points.

Following on from the success of the morning, the Juniors competed fiercely at



their Sports Day which was held at Wilmslow Hockey Club. The girls battled it out in a number of events including skipping, sprints and sack races.

At the end of the day the total scores were: Capesthorpe (181), Moreton (212), Gawsworth (221) and Tatton (226).

The fun didn't stop with the pupils though – at both the Infant and the Junior events an impressive number of parents were able to attend and support the children. Some of our most energetic mums and dads even took part in the ever competitive parents' races!

Cross Country Fun Run

In October 30 intrepid WPS girls from Forms 3, 4 and 5 took part in the annual IAPS Fun Run at Wilmslow RFC. All the girls who participated put in a fantastic amount of effort and competed to a very high standard. We had lots of parents come down to offer their support to the girls and even the weather behaved itself!



“PrepTalk”

Summer 2013



WPS goes green

This year the School Council have been making steps towards earning a Bronze Eco Schools Award by teaching their peers about energy conservation, recycling and water wastage. Head of the Council, Ella, explained, “We have recycling boxes in every classroom and are in the process of buying silver bins. We have done lots of recycling work in School and you can help save the environment too by recycling at home.”

Paralympic Torch lights up show and tell



(L-R): Alyssa, Millie, Rebecca, Lucy, and Heidi

‘Show and tell’ caused more than a spark of excitement in the girls when Mike Blackburn, father of Rebecca in Form 5, brought in one of the iconic Paralympic torches. Mike ran a leg of the Paralympic Torch Relay and Rebecca commented, “I’m so proud of my dad for being part of the Paralympics and I couldn’t wait to bring the torch to School to show my friends.”

Calendar Creativity

This year all the girls from Reception to Form 6 were given the chance to take part in an art competition by our fresh produce



The successful girls show off the calendars

supplier, Sinnett Lawson Ltd. The girls drew and painted a delicious looking selection of fruit and vegetables and Mrs Taylor selected her favourites to appear in a colourful calendar, which the company has been distributing amongst its customers.

WPS take over the airwaves!

In May, Silk FM popped into School as part of their 15th birthday celebrations. They talked to some of our staff and pupils about life at WPS and some of the interview was even broadcast live.

The girls clearly made a fantastic impression upon the Silk FM presenters because they came back a week later, having made WPS their School of the Week. Some of the girls had the opportunity to spend some time with Breakfast Show DJ, Andy Bailey, and the interviews were broadcast during his show the following week.



Meeting Silk FM's mascot

G'day from Early Years

Early Years pupils have spent the Summer Term learning about other countries, thinking about how other people live and what it would feel like to grow up in another place and culture.

In May they packed their bags and jetted off to Australia after having their passports checked by a customs official who looked suspiciously like Mrs Milne. Their flight to Sydney was piloted by Mrs Milne, who was also moonlighting as cabin crew. Once they disembarked in Sydney they were greeted by Mrs Milne's Australian cousin who taught them how to bake Anzac biscuits. Despite travelling such a long distance, Mrs Milne still had her pupils back ready for home time!

Our jet-setting youngest pupils have also had fun learning about France and China on their travels.



Early Years go to Australia

Grandparents' Assembly

Our Grandparents' assembly was a fantastic success this year and the children all had a lovely time showing their loved ones around the School and introducing them to their friends and teachers. We had over 50 grandparents attend and it was a pleasure to be able to spend the first part of our morning with them.

Farewell to Mrs Hopley

Mrs Hopley, one of our fantastic kitchen assistants, has recently left WPS after 16 years of service. She has been an invaluable asset to the School with her unflappable nature and big smile and will be greatly missed.

Parents' Committee

Linda Hendry, Felicity Brassington and the rest of the Parents' Committee have put in another year of hard work, with successful results. The Spring Ball held at the Mere was an intimate gathering, and was lots of fun, and the Christmas and Summer Fairs were extremely well attended as usual. From a fun evening of dance at the Family Ceilidh Evening in November to the girls' Valentine's Disco, the Committee have pulled out all the stops to enhance the WPS community for both pupils and their families.

Thanks to everyone for their support and we look forward to continuing the good work next year.