



Another exciting year!

Having started my WPS life as a parent with two daughters at the School, I have long since known what a very special place it is. Seeing it from another perspective now as Headteacher, only reaffirms those views.

I am constantly impressed by the staff here who work tirelessly to find new and exciting ways of delivering education to WPS pupils, and by the pupils themselves who are all individuals with individual talents and needs. I have no doubts that those needs are not only met, but exceeded.

In a school of this size, and with no specific senior department for which to train our children, we are able to know and treat every pupil as the true individual they are. We take delight in seeing them flourish and develop at their own rate with our guidance and support, which enables them to fulfil their own potential. At WPS we prepare our pupils for a wide range of Senior Schools and have an excellent record of children gaining entry to their first choice of school; a school which matches to meet their individual needs.

This year has been no exception, and once again our Form 6 pupils have excelled at their independent senior and grammar school entrance examinations, achieving another set of fantastic results.



Of course we love having the opportunity to look back on the year and are always amazed at how much has been achieved. Every activity we undertake is designed to support and enhance your child's learning, from the Kindergarten's visit to our own School kitchen to see electricity in action, to the Form 6 trip to Winmarleigh. The benefit of these residential trips cannot be underestimated – they allow children to gain independence, mature, experience learning away from the classroom and use different skills, away from the structures of home and the School. They are a real preparation for senior school life.

We are delighted at how smoothly the integration of boys into our Early Years and Infants has gone. From September we will have boys in our Kindergarten, Reception, Form 1 and Form 2 classes all of whom are benefiting from the many opportunities on offer at WPS.

As the School year draws to a close, our only problem is trying to fit everything the children have been doing into the pages of Prep Talk. I do hope you enjoy reading this, our 2014 edition; as this year closes we are already looking forward to another busy and successful School year ahead.



Helen Rigby with Deputy Head Girl, Halle Brown and Head Girl Millie Oakley

Mrs Helen Rigby,
Headteacher



Mr Reynolds retires

In December our former Headteacher, Mr Paul Reynolds, retired. Mr Reynolds joined WPS in 2009 as the School celebrated its Centenary year.

During January Mr Reynolds came back to School for a special assembly. The children, parents and staff presented him with cards and gifts such as a super compass and some Euros to be used for his exciting travel plans.



“PrepTalk”

Summer 2014



New Appointments

Following Mr Reynold's retirement the Wilmslow Prep family joined to congratulate our former Deputy Head, Helen Rigby, as she was announced as the School's new Headteacher.



In June, the creation of two new Assistant Headteacher positions were announced. Mrs Ward was appointed Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral) and Mrs Savage, Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum).

Parents' committee

What a fantastic Parents' Committee we have. During the year they have organised our Christmas and Summer Fairs, a Rise & Shine Breakfast, the popular Valentine's disco, and a family Hog Roast which alone raised £1,200 for the Parents' Committee fund.



All smiles at the Summer Fair

Goodbye Mrs Clark

After 11 years ensuring our pupils are articulate speakers and confident performers, Mrs Clark left Wilmslow Prep to go and work in Malaysia. As a former pupil of the School, WPS will always be a very special place for this enthusiastic teacher and she will undoubtedly pop in to visit us when she's back in the UK.

Musical thank you.

A big thank you to all the peripatetic music teachers who have ensured our wonderful music provision has continued in Mrs Rundell's absence.

ISA Art Competition

In October we submitted over 40 entries, representing every form in the School, to the ISA North Regional competition.

We were delighted when four of our entries were placed first, five achieved second places and four were awarded third place.

Well done to all current Form 2 pupils for their winning 'Archimboldo' vegetable figures and tree frog models and also to Natasha (current Form 6) and Olivia B (Form 3) for their individual winning models.

All winning entries go forwards to the national competition which is held in November.



104th Birthday

During September the School celebrated its 104th birthday and the children celebrated with a cake. Photographed with the cake are the School's oldest and youngest pupils (Elspeth and Jessica B) who were joined by some of our new boys Sulayman, William and Max.

Bonnets for Easter

In April our Reception and Kindergarten children enlisted the help of parents to create some fabulous Easter bonnets. These were then proudly displayed to parents and grandparents as the children took part in our annual Easter Bonnet Parade. This was followed by some hearty singing from the children and everyone enjoyed hot cross buns and a cup of tea.



We just love giving

International Day raises £1,080 for Macmillan Cancer Support



In May our enterprising pupils raised an amazing £1,080 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The backdrop for the event was the School's International Day, masterminded by Miss Ramsay and our School Council. Each class represented a different country and pupils came to School dressed in the appropriate national costume.

Fundraising got under way with a coffee morning, hosted by the Parents' Committee

and attended by parents, grandparents and former staff.

The highlight of the day was the Form 5 & 6 Young Enterprise competition. The children were split into teams, each tasked with developing a product to sell. They sold bunting, dog bowls & biscuits, finger puppets and painted eggs. Eggcellent Eggs sold a total of 135 eggs, contributing £248 to the day's fundraising efforts and winning the competition.



Reindeer Ramble to £1,800 total

The School's pre-Christmas Reindeer Ramble is now a firm favourite on the children's festive calendar. The Ramble sees our pupils (and staff!) taking to Wilmslow town centre complete with antlers and flashing red noses.

Charming as this activity is, it has a totally serious fundraising objective and this year the children raised over £1,800 for East Cheshire Hospice.



And there's more...

Our annual November **Toy Service** was once again a huge success. This annual event sees the children donating toys to the Seashell Trust and Silk FM's toy appeal.

In December a group of Form 6 pupils became **Typhoon Fundraisers**, raising money for people in the Philippines hit by Typhoon Haiyam. Jessica B., Vanessa and Natasha made friendship bracelets and Halle, Ashlea and Maui made stickers. Jessica A. took orders and kept the team organised, raising a total of £183.

In January WPS took part in the **Rota-Toy Appeal** with our pupils filling boxes with toys to be distributed by the Rotary Club.

During February we celebrated **World Book Day** and raised £162 for **Book Aid**. The girls and boys dressed up as their favourite literary character with everyone from Harry Potter to Fantastic

Mr Fox arriving at the School gate!

In March the pupils took part in **Sports Relief** raising £160 by taking part in a new 'Challenge the Teacher' sporting event with the children competing against their teachers in a wide range of 'sports', including skipping, sack races, bouncy hopping and hula hooping.

During the year we also took part in an Out of Uniform day, fundraising for charity **Jeans for Genes** and, of course the fundraising year wouldn't be complete without our involvement in **Children in Need**.



WPS Typhoon Fundraisers



World Book Day at WPS



Rota-Toy Appeal gets a helping hand

What a performance!



Olivia - or is that Oliver?

Forms 5 and 6 delivered a rousing performance of the musical Olivia at the end of the Summer term. The show is loosely based on "Oliver" – and proved to be a humorous tear-jerker, with guest appearances from Eliza Doolittle, Scrooge, George Bernard Shaw and Sherlock Holmes to name but a few!



Olivia! Olivia!

The children looked and sounded amazing and everyone who came to watch thoroughly enjoyed every minute.

Thank you to all the parents who provided such wonderful costumes; Mrs Fenton who designed the colourful scenery; Mrs Savage, Miss Ramsay and Miss Shaw for their support behind the scenes; Mrs Wood for her musical direction, Mrs Smith for her musical support and Mrs Hughes for directing the play.

A super end to the term – well done girls!

Christmas delights

As always the children delighted staff, family and friends alike with their Christmas performances.

Kindergarten and Reception performed 'All about a baby', a lovely retelling of the Christmas story. The whole cast sparkled magically!



All about a baby



Forms 1 & 2 take to the stage

Forms 1 & 2 brought Penguin Pete to the stage. This is the story of a brave penguin who decides to go and tell Father Christmas that he's tired of being given fish each Christmas. On his travels he meets a host of characters including a cheeky monkey, friendly camel and Jill Frost. The play ended with Pete and a trio of snowmen hitching a ride to the North Pole with Santa's reindeer.

Is that the big, bad wolf?



Forms 3 & 4 perform Red Riding Hood

Forms 3 & 4 put on fabulous performances of Red Riding Hood during the Spring term to both School and to parents. The children sang and acted to a very high standard, delighting audiences with their version of this Grimm fairytale.

The village was alive ... with the sound of music

This year's Alderley Edge Music Festival was both exciting and successful in equal measure. WPS fielded a total of 20 individual music entries to this year's competition plus performances by our Senior and Chamber Choirs.

Congratulations to Millie in Form 3 who won the Bradshaw Cup for her performance on the recorder. Also, very well done to Millie in Form 6 who was placed third in the woodwind class, playing saxophone. Our Chamber Choir were also winners, coming first in their category.

WPS Annual House Music Festival

The School was also alive with the sound of music during our very own Music Festival, held in March. We were delighted that Mrs Neilson, our retired Director of Music, was able to join us as adjudicator. With 70% of pupils taking individual music lessons with our team of dedicated peripatetic staff it came as no surprise that the Festival was as melodic as it was rousing!



The infants treated us to 14 performances with pupils from Forms 3-6 delivering a further 62 across woodwind, piano, strings and voice. The Festival culminated in a delightful performance by Forms 5 & 6 of Rooster Rag by Michael Hurd.

Well done to Gawsworth who were the winning house this year.

Speaking clearly!

We all know how children love to chatter, but are they speaking clearly and making sense?

With this in mind, our Form 2 through to Form 6 children take part in English Speaking Board (ESB) exams each year. In April our Forms 5 & 6 pupils achieved an impressive set of results with the majority achieving a Distinction grade.

Forms 2 & 3 were outstanding in their Summer term ESB exams, with all children achieving Merit Plus or Distinction grades. As we go to print Form 4 are awaiting their results.

During the Summer term, WPS hosted Rotary Youth Speaks, a school speaking competition involving seven other schools. We also acted as host for the Inter School Reading Competition competing against Alderley Edge School for Girls and Altrincham Prep School. All the children performed to a very high standard and Millie H (Form 3) won her year category, and overall performance cup.

Sporting Glory

It has been a busy sporting year, as ever, with the children taking part in a wide range of sport including netball, hockey, athletics, football, cross country, fencing, judo, gymnastics, tennis and rounders to name but a few. This year the children have competed against many schools from the local area including Stockport Grammar School, Beech Hall, Terra Nova, Pownall Hall and Bridgewater School.

We were delighted when our Form 6 netball team came 3rd in their group in the ISA Netball tournament narrowly missing out on gaining a place in the semi-finals.

And we have a new record – the Form 5 and 6 rounders teams have won all their matches this term!



Inter-House Sports 2014

The pupils are all fiercely proud of their Houses and our Inter-House hockey, netball, long and high jump tournaments see the children giving sport their all for House Points!

This year Moreton won the House Netball (as they did in 2013) with Capesthorpe in second place followed by Tatton and Gawsworth.

Moreton were also winners in the House Hockey (again – they did the same last year) with Capesthorpe taking second place, Tatton came third and Gawsworth were in fourth place.

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

As we go to press we are eagerly awaiting the results of our Inter-House long jump and Inter-House high jump events.

All will be revealed at Speech Day when all results for House competitions will be in and the winning House of the Year announced.

Run, Run, Run

The children in Forms 3-5 always enjoy the ISA Fun Run held at Wilmslow Rugby Club and this year was no exception, with 32 entrants from WPS.

Well done to everyone who took part and competed to such a high standard.



Wigan Wonders

In June we took 25 pupils to ISA's NW Athletics Championships. This is a hugely popular event with twenty six schools taking part and around 1,000 athletes.

This is often the first time pupils have competed in a 'proper' stadium and, with family and friends cheering from the stands, the event has the

atmosphere of a major competition.

All WPS pupils attending did well and Halle and Vanessa (Form 6) won their heats to go through to the finals where Halle won the U12 High Jump competition and Vanessa came second in the U12 80m sprint. Both girls qualified for the ISA National finals – a great achievement!

Out and about



Fun at Winmarleigh

Whilst there is always a lot going on behind the doors at number 7 Grove Avenue, what better way to enhance the core curriculum, and broaden the children's horizons, than by heading out into the local area...and beyond.

If you go into the woods today.....

Well, perhaps not today but if you'd ventured into the Cheshire woodlands last October, you may well have seen some familiar faces with three Forms enjoying days out.



Form 4 at Macclesfield Forest

Early Years went exploring in Wacky Woods in Adlington where they learnt about woodland creatures. The weather wasn't kind, with heavy rain, but this gave the children a good reason to build dens and take shelter. They were rewarded with toasted marshmallows – delicious.

Form 4 ventured to Macclesfield Forest where they had a wonderful day learning about the journey of the River Bollin and measuring water flow.

Ancient Greek Day

A favourite on the School calendar, Ancient Greek Day 2014 saw Form 3 welcoming author, Tony North, to the School to take part in this special day.

Much dressing up ensued followed by a short performance by the children to their parents, directed by the author himself.



Up, up and away

Not quite up, up and away but in February Forms 1 & 2 enjoyed an exciting trip to Manchester Airport Visitors' Centre.



Pupils take to the cockpit.

The children were able to sit in a cockpit and served in-flight snacks to each other as they took on the role of cabin crew and they learned about the history of flight. The highlight was a visit to Concorde.



York

In March, Form 4 headed to York, becoming enthusiastic historians for their three day trip. As well as taking part in an archaeological dig, they visited the Jorvik Centre, York Minster and York Museum where they dressed up as Vikings and learnt how to make belts and silver brooches.



The pupils were taught about the history of chocolate making in the UK during a visit to the York Chocolate Exhibition - let's face it, no trip to York is complete without it!

Cute & Cuddly in Derbyshire

Forms 1 and 2 delighted at their visit to the Chestnut Centre Otter and Owl Sanctuary in the Peak District.



The pupils were able to get up close to many animals including owls, otters, deer and foxes. They learnt about different habitats, how the animals are suited to their environment, what they eat and the need for conservation.

Up, up and away - at Winmarleigh

The Forms 5 & 6 pupils attending this year's Winmarleigh Hall residential trip will confirm that they had the most fabulous time.

They built rafts, took part in blindfolded walks, thrilled themselves on the Giant Swing and Jacob's Ladder and zipped down the zip wire.



Mrs Rigby was also spotted up, up and away on the Centre's infamous zip wire, although the photographs have yet to be seen!