



It's been an EXCELLENT year!

Welcome to the 2018 edition of PrepTalk. In our day to day lives, we spend most of our time planning for the future and looking ahead, but at this time of year, I always enjoy taking the time to look back and reflect on how much we have achieved both inside the classroom and beyond the walls of the School.

We began the 2017/2018 academic year by celebrating our very successful inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate, which took place at the end of the previous term. The inspection was a combined 'Focused Compliance Inspection' and 'Educational Quality Inspection'.

Some key findings from the inspectors are that pupils:

- have highly positive attitudes to their work
- make excellent progress in relation to their starting points
- achieve high standards
- excel in games and creative activities
- have excellent levels of self-confidence and self-esteem
- have excellent behaviour and an outstanding moral sense.

The report reaffirmed that Wilmslow Prep is an exceptional school, offering pupils much more than just an outstanding education. We take a nurturing approach to learning and expect much of our pupils who respond well and thoroughly enjoy their time at school, all of which was quite clearly recognised by the inspectors. What a super end to another successful year and a wonderful way to start the new term!

Following the excellent ISI report, 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, securing a total of 16 offers, including 2 academic scholarships. As always, they can be proud of their hard work and effort and we wish them all every happiness for the future.

Our strong academic achievements in the classroom are enriched and complemented by a variety of exciting extracurricular activities throughout the year. Local day trips, sporting opportunities, guest speakers, community outreach, music and drama competitions, and residential trips to York and Winmarleigh, ensure that learning thrives and flourishes both in and out of the classroom.



This year was particularly outstanding for our pupils at the 102nd Alderley Edge Festival. Over 70 WPS children participated, representing the School in choirs and individual classes for music, as well as speech and drama. Both our choirs were successful, winning the Gleave Cup (National Curriculum Year 6 and under Choir) and The Minor Cup (National Curriculum Year 3 & under Choir). In addition, 16 pupils took home prizes for individual performances. The exceptional standards displayed by all who took part was marvellous, and it is certainly one of my annual highlights!

As another fantastic school year comes to an end, I am filled with immense pride and honoured to be part of such a wonderful school family. We are confident that every child benefits from all of their experiences throughout the year, both in and out of the classroom, and we will try and share as many activities and successes in this edition of PrepTalk.

I do hope you enjoy reading our 2018 edition and, as this year closes, we are looking forward to another busy and successful School year ahead. Have a wonderful and relaxing summer!

Mrs Helen Rigby
Headteacher



Charitable Endeavours



'Colour Run' for NSPCC

The WPS School Council, along with the support of Mrs Broome, organised a fun 'Colour Run' fundraising activity for the NSPCC where children dressed in brightly coloured t-shirts and donned an array of colourful hair and accessories.



Jeans for Genes Day

In September, the children and staff participated in the annual Jeans for Genes fundraising day. By wearing denim, the School raised the fantastic sum of £144.55 for the charity.



Elfy Stroll

The Elfy Stroll is always a highlight in the lead up to Christmas. Pupils and teachers enjoy dressing up and walking through the centre of Wilmslow, merrily singing our favourite Christmas songs. We raised a magnificent £1586.46 in support of the East Cheshire Hospice this year!



Harvest Festival

Once again, we celebrated Harvest by donating all the Harvest gifts received in School from KG to Form 5, to the local Food Friend initiative at St Bartholomew's Church. Our Form 6 children have traditionally donated Harvest boxes, which are shared in the local community. Thanks to all our families for their kind and thoughtful donations.



Parents' Committee Valentine's Disco

Raising Funds for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF)

The fabulous Parents' Committee hosted a Valentine's Disco in February and raised an amazing £120. In addition to £80 already raised in School, WPS donated £200 to help this very worthwhile cause.

Rota-Toy

Our Community Ambassadors were pleased to be able to present the Rotary Club of Wilmslow Dean with over 75 boxes for this year's Rota Toy Collection! It was great to see so many children taking part this year.

Children in Need

By wearing spotty clothes for the day, WPS raised a brilliant £400 for Children in Need this year, fantastic effort!

Big Toddle

The Big Toddle is an annual short sponsored walk to help Barnardo's transform the lives of the UK's most vulnerable children. This year's Big Toddle theme is Nature, and our Reception children (and staff) came to School dressed up in very creative costumes, ready for some outdoor fun! We had caterpillars, bees, butterflies, spiders, cats, explorers, and lots of happy children taking part in the charity fundraising event, which raised a super £512.



Seeking Adventure



Form 5 and 6 Residential Trip to Winmarleigh Hall

A super time was had by all pupils in Forms 5 and 6, participating in a wide range of activities at Winmarleigh Hall, offering a mixture of both personal challenge and team building opportunities. The children enjoyed the challenge of the low rope activities, the giant swing and the 'all aboard' climbing task. They played rounders, took part in a photography competition, built buggies, practiced archery, and completed orienteering challenges, amongst many other activities.

All the children made the most of what was on offer and memories were made to last a lifetime!

Martin Mere



In the Spring Term, the EYFS children had a lovely and informative day visiting Martin Mere Nature Reserve. The children were given a talk on duck habitats and they then explored the wetland areas. They saw some beautiful birds and their chicks as well as some mini beasts. The children also enjoyed watching the otters splashing around, and learnt about their lifestyle and conservation.



Haddon Hall

Set in the heart of the beautiful Peak District, our Form 5 visit to Haddon Hall, a fortified medieval manor house, was fantastic. Pupils stepped back in time as they explored the hall, and had the opportunity to dress up in Tudor costumes. It was a fantastic day out and we can't wait to visit the Hall again next year.



Form 4 trip to York

In May, The children in F4 enjoyed a fabulous trip to York. They packed in lots of exciting activities, including a visit to York Minster, the Jorvik Viking Centre, the Railway Museum and everybody's favourite - The Chocolate Experience! A super time was had by all!

Thank you to Mrs Barton, Mrs Savage, Mrs Sparrow and Mrs Connolly for accompanying the children on this wonderful educational trip.



Trip to Stockley Farm

In March, the EYFS children enjoyed an exciting and informative day at Stockley Farm where they discovered the wonders of wildlife and seasonal changes. The children took a tractor and trailer ride around the farm as well as a tour of the milking parlour where the dairy cows are milked.

The children saw a variety of farm animals, groomed Shetland ponies and particularly enjoyed spending time with the small animals in Pets Corner. While the focus of the visit was on learning, the children had lots of fun and were motivated and engaged all day.

F1 & F2 Trip To Dunham Massey

In the Summer Term, Forms 1 and 2 visited Dunham Massey for a day of learning and adventure. Form 1 travelled back in time, transforming into servants from the Victorian era. Their tasks included learning how to master the challenge of washing clothes using a mangle and dolly blue, baking gingerbread and cleaning silver.

Against the stunning backdrop of Dunham Massey House, in the beautiful gardens, Form 2 studied the diverse plants. The children then became detectives using maps, colourful guides and clues to navigate round the grounds. During the afternoon, the children searched for clues as they embarked on a deer hunt. What an adventure!



WPS Performing Arts



The Magic of Musicals



A little bit of Hollywood came to WPS when we watched the brilliant F3 & F4 stage production of 'The Magic of Musicals'. The children all worked extremely hard to learn the songs and dance routines and treated us all to a wonderful show!

Mrs Barton wrote, produced and directed the performance, with the children choosing some of their favourite songs. The music was interspersed with interesting information about the history of the songs and the musicals. Thanks to Mrs Barton, Mrs Paton and Mrs Wolski for making the spectacular waistcoats, to Mrs Anderson for the scenery and to Mrs Wolski for the music.

A full WPS team effort and an original and exceptional school performance!



House Music Festival

Over 60 pupils performed at the House Music Competition this year. Mrs Carol Frost, a professional saxophone and clarinet player, came to judge the event and was overwhelmed by the talent and enthusiasm of the children.

The Form 5 and 6 pupils performed their own compositions at the end of the day to gain some bonus marks for their respective Houses.

Gawsworth were the eventual winners this year, but very well done to all who participated!

Form 5 & Form 6 Play



This year, the Form 5 & 6 pupils performed 'What a Knight', a hilarious musical adventure! The performances were wonderful and we were all transported back to the dark ages. We sang a lot, danced a lot and laughed a lot, all at Camelot! Well done to everyone who took part and of course, many thanks to Mrs Hughes and Mrs Wolski for producing such a fabulous show!

Annual Summer Concert

Our annual Summer Concert this year was an absolute treat. The KS2 children performed a selection of poems, prose, dramas, songs and musical pieces, and the audience was thoroughly entertained by a variety of pieces played by the School Orchestra.

Thank you to all the teachers who spent time helping the children to practise and stage such a wonderful concert, but as always, the stars of the night were the children themselves. Well done!

Alderley Edge Music Festival

Congratulations to all the children who participated in the Alderley Edge Festival for both music, and speech and drama. We are delighted with the amazing results and very proud of everyone who took part! The event gave all the children the opportunity to showcase their performing and public speaking skills in front of an audience. The Junior Choir was awarded the Gleave Cup for gaining first place in the 'Year 6 and under Senior Choir' class, and our Junior Choir secured first place and won the Minor Cup. We have also celebrated many individual successes with the children.

Well done on another very successful year and for being wonderful ambassadors for WPS.



ISA Dance Competition

This year, WPS entered the 2018 ISA Dance Competition. The children performed two routines that showcased their abilities, enthusiasm and energy for dance and they thoroughly enjoyed taking part! Thank you to Mrs Broome and Mrs Barton for supporting the children with this event.

Sporting Success

Wilmslow's Mini World Cup Tournament



The week before the World Cup kicked off in Russia, WFA hosted a Mini World Cup tournament for all the local schools. Each school was drawn to represent a country, and we were delighted to be representing Argentina!

We had our own mini Messi's and Agüero's on the pitch and the 3 WPS teams that competed in the tournament wore special Argentina shirts, which added to the fun spirit of the tournament. All the pupils that represented WPS showed excellent teamwork, fantastic spirit, and displayed superb sportsmanship.

Well done to everyone who took part and to Mrs Broome for coaching all 3 teams!



ISA Cross-Country Championships

In February, WPS travelled to Rochdale to take part in the ISA Cross-Country Championships. Many of the WPS children were running in their first ever Cross Country race. The U9 Girls' team finished in a magnificent 3rd place with the first WPS girl home in 12th position. The U9 Boys' Team finished in 7th place and the U10 Girls' Team finished 8th.

Well done Team WPS!



Reception & F1
Trip to Etihad Stadium

In September, the Reception and Form 1 boys were offered the opportunity to train at The Etihad Stadium Campus in Manchester. They were put through their paces by the Manchester City football coaches and finished their trip with a small round robin tournament, which was a great way to show off the skills they had learnt during the session. Many thanks to the Parents' Committee for sponsoring the transport to facilitate this wonderful trip.

Run for Fun

In October, 16 children in the Juniors competed in the annual Run for Fun held at WRFC. There were some great individual performances, with Emily in Form 5 finishing in an impressive 4th position against a strong field of fellow cross country runners.



Visit to Lancashire Cricket Club

Forms 1, 2 and 3 were delighted to have the opportunity to go along and watch a first class cricket match at Old Trafford. Unfortunately, rain stopped play on the day but it didn't dampen the WPS spirits! The children met several of the players who told them about life as a cricketer. They also were able to practise their own cricket skills at the grounds and join in with a wide variety of fun activities.



ISA North Rounders Competition

In June, Forms 5 and 6 travelled to the Grange School to compete in the ISA North Rounders competition. The girls were excellent in their batting, fielding and bowling throughout the competition. The team took home the silver medal for small schools, missing out on gold by 1 out! Well done to everyone who took part, it was a fantastic day!

“PrepTalk”

Summer 2018



Golden Table

This year, we introduced 'The Golden Table' for fine dining on Friday lunchtimes! Each day throughout the week, staff on duty nominate children who have displayed excellent manners and behaved in a polite and courteous way. The children then earn the privilege of sitting at 'The Golden Table', where their table is set with a table cloth, golden platters and golden napkins; what a treat!



EYFS Easter Bonnet Parade

Once again, our Easter Bonnet Parade was a triumph of design and imagination, taking inspiration from the Easter theme. The children paraded their creations and the parade was followed by hot-cross buns and tea for all the visitors. Well done to all the aspiring milliners!



School Council

Our active WPS School Council, led by our Community Ambassadors, meets every Friday lunchtime. The School counsellors have helped to organise many successful events throughout the year, including Jeans for Genes Day and Harvest Festival, to name just a few.



World Book Day

World Book Day is a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and, most importantly, it is a celebration of reading. It is the biggest celebration of its kind, designated by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, and it is marked in over 100 countries around the world. At WPS, we marked the occasion with the 'WPS Big Read', with children sharing their favourite stories and recommending books.



Children's First Aid Day

It was a pleasure to welcome Simon, from Flat Stan First Aid, to WPS this winter. Throughout the day, he delivered the Essential Life Skills course to all of our Reception – Form 6 pupils, and it was fantastic to see the children getting involved and asking lots of questions.

During the interactive workshops, children were taught valuable skills about how to recognise a variety of first aid situations, how to deal with them and how to summon help. Every child received the Flat Stan First Aid book, certificate and a Flat Stan sticker which they were able to take home and share with their parents.

A huge thank you to the Parents' Committee for funding this brilliant opportunity.

Mad Hatter's Tea Party

On 23rd September 2017, WPS celebrated its 108th birthday! In keeping with WPS tradition, each form made a card, sang 'Happy Birthday!' in a special assembly and enjoyed a delicious slice of cake. The actual birthday fell on the School's Open Morning so parents and visitors were able to join in the birthday celebrations, with Go-Karts, a Book Trail and a Mad-Hatters Tea Party! Many thanks to our fabulous Parents' Committee for supporting this event!



Modern Foreign Language Day

The WPS Modern Foreign Languages Day was held early in the year, where children were given the opportunity to come to School dressed in the colours from a flag of their chosen country. During assembly, the children sang songs in French and Spanish and the girls in F5 and F6 performed their Spanish dance from the Dance Festival.

Children enjoyed a flamenco workshop where they learned the basic steps, followed by a delicious lunch with a Spanish flavour. A super day was had by all! Thank you to Mrs Ricketts for organising this thoroughly enjoyable event.