



Sports Day

Despite the restrictions of the past year, and indeed, perhaps because of them, sport has been an essential element of the children's activities this last year at WPS. During the remote learning period, games lessons continued with online challenges for the children to complete and they were encouraged to get on their bikes, roller skates and scooters to enjoy the fresh air and use their muscles to improve their performance.

Once back at School, the children enjoyed their usual full programme of PE. We had great fun looking at the events in this Summer's Olympic games and trying our hand at the different sports on offer there. The children particularly enjoyed the Sumo wrestling lessons, the national sport of Japan the host city of this year's games, where they competed against each other and learnt that they had to respect each other by bowing and the shaking of hands.

We held our own mini Wimbledon with the children competing in mixed doubles events, the highlight being the strawberries and cream served for lunch during the Wimbledon fortnight!

Sports Day was again a highly competitive event with the infants competing in the morning and the seniors in the afternoon, all pupils took part and scored points for their House. This year saw Capesthorne run out winners with Tatton a close second.

As soon as we could, towards the end of the Summer Term, we took part in fixtures, playing Rounders against Withington. Played at our sports field on Styal Road, Prep 3 & 4 were victorious with a very good innings, whilst Prep 5 & 6 played well and were unlucky not to win.



Prep 6 Young Enterprise Event

Prep 6 had a very successful Young Enterprise event on Monday 5th July 2021. All the children enjoyed buying the products that they made including fruit kebabs, brownies, bracelets, fidget toys, fortune tellers, rice krispy cakes and lemonade. They were very proud to make £279 which will be donated to Cancer Research and the local foodbank.



The EYFS children support Barnardo's charity

On Friday, 2nd July, the EYFS children celebrated the end of their Barnardo's Big Toddler Jungle Animal-themed project with a number of action-songs followed by a spectacular parade around the playground. The children were then rewarded with a well deserved ice cream. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed a great experience. Well done children for taking part so enthusiastically. You were all fantastic! A huge "Thank You" to the parents and carers of the children for providing an array of wonderful animal costumes and for so generously supporting the Barnardo's Charity.



Children's Mental Health Week

The theme for this year's Children's Mental Health Week was 'Express Yourself'. One of the ways children can express themselves is by choice of clothes, ie 'dress to express', wearing what makes them happy. The children really enjoyed wearing something they love for their lessons (whether at home or at School!).



Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week shines a spotlight on bullying, asking children to consider the steps they can take together to prevent it. The children enjoyed wearing odd socks, showing their individuality in support of Anti-Bullying Week. Prep 1 focused on how to be a kind friend - they discussed the elements needed and used these as ingredients for their friendship cake. In Prep 3 and 4's Drama Lesson, they acted out a variety of role-play situations and solved them with wonderful, kind resolutions. We are so lucky to have such great friends!



World Book Day

It was brilliant to be able to celebrate World Book Day altogether back in School. We all dressed up as a character from our favourite book, and had lots of fun guessing who the masked readers were and looking at the extreme reading photographs. A fabulous day here at WPS!



WPS Reading Challenge

This year saw the launch of the WPS Reading Challenge and we have been thoroughly impressed by the amazing work created by pupils across the school, to celebrate their love of reading! From book spine poetry to miniature book creations, vlog-style book reviews to beautiful front cover designs, we have been delighted to see the enthusiasm with which the children have undertaken the challenges set. A massive congratulations goes to all those pupils who have managed to achieve a Challenge Award, from Bronze all the way through to the exclusive Platinum Awards! We can't wait to see what wonderful work will be produced over the holidays for our Summer Reading Challenge.



Welcome to the 2021 edition of PrepTalk

During my first year as Headteacher at WPS, I have been absolutely overwhelmed by the children's hard work and enthusiasm for learning despite the many challenges and changes that they have had to endure. Throughout the year, I have received a warm welcome from the children, staff, parents and governors and have thoroughly enjoyed being part of all the exciting activities that WPS has to offer. Although we are a small school we still manage to excel in all areas of the curriculum.



Mr Bradley Lavagna-Slater



All our children were fortunate to benefit from our full interactive online learning during national lockdowns and we have seen the rewards gained from this through our assessments, where the majority of our pupils have achieved expected or higher than expected progress. WPS has grown from strength to strength and we have seen a significant growth in enquiries and new starters; this is undoubtedly due to our reputation of excellence.

At WPS, we prepare our pupils for a wide range of Senior Schools, and always had an excellent track record of children gaining entry to their first choice of school. This year has been no exception, and once again our Prep 6 pupils have excelled at their independent school entrance examinations, achieving another set of fantastic results; 16 offers in total and 4 music scholarships.

When I was offered the post of Headteacher at this fabulous school back in February 2020, no-one could have foreseen what the next 18 months would bring, but what has been clearly evident to me in particular over the course of this past academic year, is that WPS children are very adaptive, resilient and determined. These traits will obviously stand them in good stead as important life skills. As a School we have taken the approach that the well-being and safety of our families is of paramount importance, but we have continued to strive to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, where children excel, and experience a wide range of opportunities.

Sport, music, drama are all essential elements of WPS life which not only provide children with delightful experiences, but also teach them hugely important life-lessons about working together as a team, performing to an audience and a sense of accomplishment. Whilst some activities (eg performing to a live audience, team sport against other schools) have had to be curtailed in line with Government guidelines, we have made sure that this has not diminished the children's learning and experiences by making good use of technology, and encouraging team events within our bubbles. We have also not overlooked the impact that this year has had on the children's mental health and have put in place measures to support them, for example through mental health checks during the day, additional work in our PSHEE lessons and assemblies, and by providing opportunities for our children to discuss their feelings and concerns. Children learn best when they have a positive self-image, and we have continued to encourage and embrace a growth in our pupils' individual personalities and confidence.

As you read through Prep talk I am sure you will be as impressed as I am, with how much our pupils have achieved and experienced, in spite of the external circumstances. Our sincere thanks go to all parents for your continued support and endorsement of Wilmslow Prep; this truly is a very special school and I feel highly privileged to be its Headteacher. I am already looking forward with excitement to my second year!





WILMSLOW
PREPARATORY
SCHOOL

Celebrations

Our 111th Birthday

On September 23rd 2020, we celebrated our 111th Birthday! WPS pupils had a great day celebrating this wonderful milestone. What a great opportunity to explore our archive and share photographs taken over the last 111 years.



Partnership with King's School

This year, we were delighted to announce an exciting new strategic collaborative partnership with The King's School in Macclesfield. This mutually beneficial partnership will see teachers from both schools' Infant & Junior Divisions working together to align the schools academically whilst also sharing best practice across academic and extra-curricular activities. WPS will also benefit from access to the fabulous brand new facilities at King's School.



Wilmslow Preparatory School, Grove Avenue, Wilmslow, Cheshire. SK9 5EG
T: 01625 524246 • www.wilmslowprep.co.uk

Christmas Tree

Our Christmas Tree was looking particularly stunning last year, with handmade decorations made from recycled materials. The children made the fabulous decorations in their art lessons. The tree was adorned with everything from bottle angels and bells to snowflakes and poinsettias!



Another Successful Year for Prep 6!

We cannot be prouder of our wonderful Prep 6 class who threw a mighty punch when it came to their exam results. The sheer hard work and determination to succeed was evident throughout the year and their time at WPS. Whilst they were fortunate to benefit from our full interactive online programme during national lockdowns, they still had to deal with disruptions caused by COVID-19 including changes to the entrance days and exam procedures.

However, they came out stronger, and the results proved it! All children who applied received multiple offers from AESG, Withington, Kings, Stockport Grammar and Cheadle Hulme- a total of 16 offers, including 4 music scholarships.



Harvest Festival

Our annual Harvest Festival Assembly showed the School's generous giving side, and with WPS families' help, we were so proud to once again donate food to our local food bank, Wilmslow Food Friend, located at St Bartholomew's Church. We'd like to say a huge thank you to all our WPS families for generously donating food.



Flat Stan First Aid

It was a pleasure to welcome Simon from Flat Stan First Aid to WPS. Throughout the day, he delivered the Essential Life Skills course to all of our KS2 pupils within their separate bubbles, and it was fantastic to see the children getting involved and asking and answering lots of questions. During workshops, the 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. A huge thank you to the Parents' Committee for their support and for funding this brilliant opportunity, and for the lovely feedback from parents after the event!



Dragon Days Prep 3 & Prep 4 Play

We are all incredibly proud of the Prep 3 and 4 children who worked so hard to perform brilliantly in their show, Dragon Days, especially as the majority of the practices took place on Zoom! It was truly wonderful to see a production on stage again and to hear the applause of a live audience, (as other Bubbles watched from a suitable distance); a really uplifting milestone moment after the last year!



Extracurricular Activities

School House Music Festival

Our School House Music Festival was a fantastic day. We had 62 entries across all years; from Prep 1 to Prep 6, including singers, pianists, violinists, guitarists, brass and woodwind players. Our adjudicator was Karen Gedde, church organist and choir mistress of St Michael's Church in Macclesfield. Karen was extremely impressed with the range and quality of WPS performers. Everyone rose to the occasion and played beautifully. The House Music Festival is always such a delightful performance opportunity for our children, and such opportunities help to develop our pupils' confidence and characters. The overall winners were Moreton House. Well done to everyone who took part!



Captain Sir Tom Moore's 100 Challenge

Earlier in the Spring Term, teachers took time in their lessons to speak to pupils about Captain Sir Tom Moore's amazing achievements. Pupils were asked to describe him in their own words. They chose a range of adjectives including amazing, loyal, brave and determined, with the word 'inspiring' being the most popular. This inspired us all to do our own '100 challenge'. Here are a few examples of what we got up to...



5,000 Purple Crocus Bulbs

Rotary Club Wilmslow Dean purchased 5,000 purple crocus bulbs to be planted in and around Wilmslow to help raise awareness about Polio eradication across the world. Kindergarten & Reception children were delighted to receive bulbs to plant at the entrance of the School.

They gave each bulb a name, and during assembly, they heard about the important work The Rotary Club of Wilmslow Dean is doing to support the campaign to end Polio.



Prep 6 Adventure Month

In the Summer Term, Prep 6 would usually be attending a residential trip. However, this year in line with Government guidelines we have had to revise our plans. We certainly didn't want our Prep 6 children to miss out on exciting experiences so instead we opted for a series of exciting activity days. The first day was to Tenpin Bowling, Manchester Parris Wood, where the hand and eye coordination skills of the children definitely shone the staff's skills! The second day was to Broome Farm where the children enjoyed the beautiful countryside

with uninterrupted views and fresh air. During the day they experienced farm life, roasted marshmallow and built their own survival tent. Activity day 3 was a day of Judo, Archery and Fencing, extending and fine tuning the children's ability in these sports. The Big Breakfast, hosted by the Parents' Committee, was definitely a highlight of the end of term, where Prep 6 children and their parents were invited to a breakfast in the School Hall, with everyone seated safely in their family bubbles. Parents clearly enjoyed the treat of being served by their children!



Nest in the Woods

Prep 1 and 2 had a great day out at 'Nest in the Woods' in Adlington on Friday 2nd July 2021.

The children explored the local flora and fauna, relishing in finding such

things as grasshoppers, frogs and ladybirds. Every child displayed grit, determination and resilience through a variety of Forest School activities such as climbing trees and building dens.

Daffodils

In January, we showed our appreciation of the NHS and key workers by placing daffodils in our windows at home and at school. We did this to signify strength and resilience, and as a sign of hope and new beginnings. The daffodils were a mixture of real flowers and wonderful hand-drawn pictures and paintings.



Trips

Prep 5 and 6 went to the zoo!

At long last day trips were permitted, and despite some unseasonably wet weather, Prep 5 and 6 children enjoyed their fantastic visits to Chester Zoo. During the visits, the children went on a virtual expedition into the depths of the mysterious Amazon and other rainforests, investigating the incredible biodiversity and importance of this habitat through hands-on activities. They also looked at the Zoo's conservation work and importantly what can be done to save the rainforests.



We ended the fun trip toasting marshmallows over an open fire. A fantastic day was had by all.



www.wilmslowprep.co.uk

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