



# The WPS Year!

Welcome to the 2022 edition of PrepTalk. At our delightful Jubilee afternoon tea before May half term, we were joined by many visitors, including parents, Governors and former staff. A retired WPS Headteacher spontaneously said, “The feeling you get at WPS is so special and after all these years it still has that same special feeling. I have inspected many Schools, and this School is special.”

As my second year at WPS nears its end and I look back on all of our activities, both in and out of the classrooms I can resoundingly echo this sentiment. WPS is a very special and unique place in which children thrive and are enabled to be the very best they can, and as I look back over the past year, I am amazed by what has been achieved.

Such achievements extend to academic, sporting and creative arts as well as numerous fun and fundraising activities. The academic achievements we attained this year have once again been outstanding and we are extremely proud of all our pupils, particularly the Prep 6 pupils who are now looking ahead to the next chapter in their lives. These children sat exams for a wide range of independent senior schools and their hard work was rewarded by a total of 33 offers, including a staggering 8 scholarships for academic, performing arts and music. All the children in Prep 6 have

secured places at senior schools of their choice and their success is richly deserved – we congratulate them all and wish them every happiness and success for their next step in their educational journey. We know they will have fond memories of WPS and strong foundations on which they will continue to build.

Further impressive successes came in English Speaking Board exams this year, with truly outstanding results (100% receiving Distinction or Merit/Merit Plus), as well as recognition at Regional and National level in the ISA Art Competition. Sports continues to thrive and the children delight in taking part in the plentiful opportunities we are able to provide. Music remains an integral part of WPS life, with corridors alive each day with sounds of singing and instruments. We were thrilled that each of our 3 choirs entered into the Alderley Edge Festival this year achieved first place. That is well-deserved accolade for all the hard work the children and staff put in.

I am in the lucky position to be a teaching Headteacher, meaning I have the privilege of getting to know all of our children personally as I teach their class. Along with our exceptional team of teachers and teaching assistants, I am delighted to see each child strive to meet their potential, aided by the individually tailored teaching. The talented team of staff here at WPS consistently go above and beyond to support and encourage the children, enabling them to thrive, and huge thanks must go to all staff, in and out of the classroom, for their hard work and commitment.

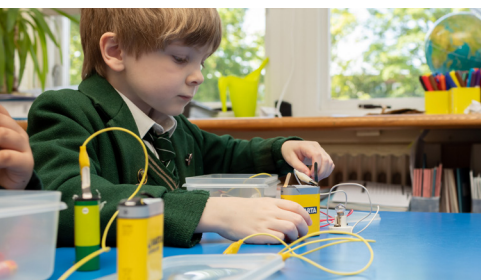


I do hope that you enjoy reading this year's PrepTalk which includes some of the highlights of the 2021/22 academic year. On behalf of the Governors, SMT and staff, I wish you a peaceful and relaxing summer break and we all look forward to welcoming you back to School in September.

*Mr Bradley Lavagna-Slater*  
Headteacher

## Our 112th Birthday

In September, we celebrated our 112th Birthday with a cake! Did you know that WPS first opened in 1909 above a butcher's shop on Grove Street, with just three pupils; two boys and one girl! Within three years, it had outgrown the modest room above the butcher's shop and moved to a house on Grove Avenue. The School continued to grow, so a field was acquired across the road from the house, where they had a new purpose-built school constructed in 1925. This is the core of the building we still occupy today.





# Thinking of others & Extra-curricular activities



## Remembrance

This year we did something extra special to pay our respects on Remembrance Day. The children worked together to produce a large art installation which was then displayed outside our main entrance. During our Remembrance Assembly, Mrs Pierce explained the significance of Remembrance Day, and Mr Lavanga-Slater reminded the children why we hold the silence and spoke about the importance of remembering. Thank you to all for supporting this year's Poppy Appeal. We raised a fabulous £248.42 for this very worthy cause.



## Children in Need 2021

We held Feel Good Friday in aid of Children in Need. Everyone came to School in clothes which made them feel good. The day was made even more special when we received a visit from Pudsey Bear who popped in to see us as he had heard about our fundraising. We were very pleased to be able to let him know that we had raised an astounding £422.21!



## Animal Magic

Our EYFS pupils were treated to a visit from Animal Magic. They were all thrilled to meet a wide variety of animals including a snake, tarantula, chameleon, skunk, bearded dragon, hedgehog, chinchilla, gecko and many more. The gecko caused much hilarity as it liked to jump onto the children's cardigans or jumpers. The children loved this, and everyone wanted to have a go!



## Maths Challenge

Our Prep 5 and 6 children took part in the UK Mathematical Trust's Junior Maths Challenge. To compete in this national competition, the children took part in a pre-set test, the sources from which were collected by the Mathematical Trust who awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates accordingly. All the children did very well in a competition with exceptionally high standards. We were delighted to hear that eight of our children were awarded certificates!



## KS2 Judo Club

Our KS2 children have had the opportunity to take part in Judo Club this year. The children have learned lots of new skills in martial arts along with the respect and responsibility that having these skills requires. It has been lovely to watch their confidence and abilities improve each week.



## Odd Socks for Anti-Bullying

We had a super start to Anti-Bullying Week when we all came to School in odd socks. This highlighted how everyone is unique and opened up some fabulous discussions about inclusion. We raised a wonderful £98.55 for the charity to help with their excellent work.



# Sports

## A UK Sporting Hero

We are incredibly proud of our PE teacher, Mrs Broome, who, earlier this year, was recognised as a UK Sporting Hero.

She is one of only 25 coaches in the UK to receive this award which was presented by Princess Anne at a special Awards Gala.

Congratulations, Mrs Broome!



## ISA Athletics

Our KS2 children took part in the ISA North Athletics event at Manchester Regional Arena. They entered the long jump, high jump, cricket and rounders ball throw, various sprints and the relay race. The competition was strong, with independent schools from all over the North West in attendance. Our children did extremely well, with some getting podium positions.



## Winter Olympics

This year's Winter Olympics offered us a wonderful opportunity to teach the children about different sports as well as trying new things. Mrs Broome organised a Winter Sports experience for all classes.

Prep 4, 5 and 6 visited the Chill Factor for snowboarding and skiing. The KG and Reception children jumped into bobsleighs and raced in the Sports Hall.

Preps 1, 2 and 3 tried their hand at curling, mastering the skills of throwing the stone and using the brushes to help its progress whilst Prep 4 learned the skeleton and luge.



## ISA Cross Country

Our KS2 children had the chance to try out for our Cross Country team and those with the fastest times joined the team and competed at the ISA North Regional Competition.

We did not place in the races but the children ran brilliantly and our Prep 3 and 4 boys came an impressive 4th out of 17 groups.



## Football Festivals at The Ethiad Stadium

Reception, Preps 1, 2 and 3 had a fabulous opportunity to take part in Football Festivals at the world-famous Ethiad Stadium, competing against other schools in friendly matches where the focus was on taking part and having fun.





# Trips

## Dobroyd Castle

Our Prep 5 and 6 children enjoyed a weekend at Dobroyd Castle, full of exciting, adventurous outdoor activities. They all took on the piranha pool; flew as high as the trees on the giant swing; they aimed well at archery and dug deep to complete the caving course. They built awesome rafts, demonstrated excellent teamwork in the crate-building challenge and thoroughly enjoyed the zip wire!



## Prep 4 Explore York

Prep 4 had a fabulous few days in York. Using the YHA as their base, they explored all the sights of this lovely city.

They visited the Minster to soak up its historical significance whilst taking part in treasure hunts; they learnt lots of interesting facts at the National Railway Museum and delved into history at Jorvik.

They even found time to take a tour of the York Chocolate Story, which included making their own chocolate bars.



## Game, Set, Match

Perhaps the trip we all wanted to go on was the Wimbledon trip! Having entered the ballot for tickets we were fortunate to get 10. Prep 5 and 6 pupils were asked for expressions of interest and those names went in a hat for us to draw 7.

The children were accompanied by 3 members of staff and spent the day on Court No. 2 where they saw some great matches including rising young American player, Coco Gauff who won her match in 3 sets.

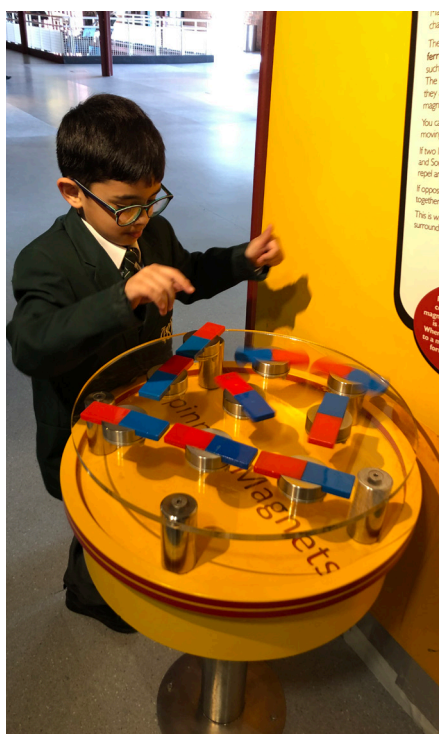
A truly inspirational and hugely exciting day for all pupils and staff!



## Museum Trip

Manchester's Museum of Science and Industry is a firm favourite of ours – so much so that we enjoyed two visits this year. Prep 3 visited in January and Prep 1 and 2 explored ALL the zones and enjoyed watching a Science Show during their visit in March.

A visit to this renowned museum really is a great way to enhance the children's classroom learning!





# Celebrations



## The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

We had a fabulous time celebrating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee with a wonderful afternoon tea in our courtyard. We were treated to a marvellous whole School Pageant as well as songs, orchestral performances, a pupil dance showcase and a mock Coronation from our EYFS Department. There was even an art gallery of Royal Portraits for our parents and guests to view during their visit.

## Marvellous new music suite

Last summer, extensive work was carried out to create our fabulous new Music Suite. We are very proud of this dedicated space which is home to music lessons for all our classes as well as individual lessons for those children who play instruments. It is also the perfect space for our superb Chamber Choir and wonderful orchestra to rehearse in each week.



## Alderley Edge Festival

We are extremely proud to have won a hat-trick of first-place trophies at the Alderley Edge Festival! WPS had three choirs enter the Festival. We were delighted when all three of our wonderful choirs walked away with first place! These are truly deserved awards for their superb performances.

## National ISA Art Winners

Back in September, we entered pieces of artwork into the ISA Art Competition. We were delighted to win first place in five categories at the North Regional Competition. These entries then made their way to the National Competition, bringing home two first places, one second place and a highly commended; a truly fantastic achievement.





# Beyond the classroom



## Wiz Wham Alakazam!

Just ahead of the Easter break our talented Prep 3 and 4 pupils wowed their audience with their amazing performance of 'Wiz Wham Alakazam'. They took to the stage to perform this play of wizardry and magic for which they loved rehearsing! The performance went without a hitch and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the show.

## Christmas Extravaganza!

Our School Hall was alive with the sound of Christmas as our younger pupils took to the stage to perform two fabulous Christmas plays for their parents. Our EYFS pupils took part in 'Our Christmas Nativity', and KS1 children performed 'Hooray in a Manger'.

The children looked fabulous in their costumes and were very confident on stage. Everyone spoke their lines well and sang beautifully – their performances caused a few tears in the audience!



## Extraordinary ESBs

Instilling self-confidence in our children is important at WPS. Whilst this is embraced throughout all year groups, in Key Stage 2 the children have the opportunity to take part in English Speaking Board Examinations. For this they must speak in front of an audience of their peers as well as an external examiner, on a topic of their choice, and also recite a passage from a book, or a favourite poem.

To undertake this exam is a massive achievement for all the children and we are always very proud of their efforts. This year the results are quite exceptional and we are particularly pleased to announce that 56 of our KS2 children took the exam appropriate for their age group, all of whom achieved better than a Pass grade! 40 received a Distinction, 11 were awarded a Merit Plus and 5 achieved a Merit. This is an astounding achievement for them all. Well done, everyone!



## Ant & Dec Favourites

The children were thrilled to take part in Ant & Dec's Pass the Positivity project, with our KG entry being a winner! The project saw children sharing what makes them feel happy in the form of a message or drawing. The KG entry was one of the submissions selected to be part of a spectacular installation, unveiled by the popular TV duo, using the most inspiring entries from across the UK.

## House Music Festival

Our annual House Music Festival is always a fantastic event. The children are all given the chance to perform, should they wish, and this year we had a spectacular showcase of 77 performances from 55 children. The performances were judged by an independent adjudicator who was very impressed with the standard she witnessed during the show.