



The WPS Year!

Welcome to the 2023 edition of PrepTalk.

As we come to the end of another successful academic year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible achievements and memorable experiences we have shared at Wilmslow Prep over the past 12 months. It has been a year filled with academic excellence, artistic and sporting accomplishments, fundraising, and exciting School trips and residential.

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all parents and guardians for your unwavering support and trust in our School. Your partnership has been instrumental in creating an environment where our pupils can thrive academically and personally. Together, we have nurtured a love for learning and inspired our young learners to be confident individuals. This is evident in your children's outstanding achievements throughout the year.

Each year, we always strive to be better than the last. This year, without exception, our Prep 6 children have achieved outstanding academic results, receiving a total of 36 offers from excellent independent and Trafford I1+ secondary schools. These offers are a testament to their dedication, hard work, and the quality of education they have received. We congratulate each and every pupil on their achievements and wish them continued success as they embark on the next chapter of their journey.

In addition to academic excellence, our pupils have also demonstrated exceptional talent and skill in Music, Art and Drama.

At the Alderley Edge Festival we showcased the children's remarkable abilities and achieved excellent results: Five pupil choirs (52 children) were entered as well as a newly formed 16 strong staff choir, all achieving either first or second place. In addition, 28 children entered with individual music performances whilst 44 children entered speech events, with many first to third places awarded.

The talents of our children were showcased yet again in the English Speaking Board (ESB) assessments, this year, with excellent results from Prep 3 to Prep 6, 70% achieving distinctions and 30% achieving Merit Plus. We are immensely proud not only of our pupils' achievements in these assessments but also of the dedication, resilience and commitment they demonstrate to undertake such experiences and to produce such results.

Furthermore, our pupils have shone brightly in the ISA story writing competition, athletics events, and dance performances, earning them well-deserved results and accolades and bringing pride to our School and families. These achievements highlight the holistic approach we take in nurturing the talents and passions of our pupils beyond the classroom.

In enriching our pupils' educational experience, we have organised a variety of school trips. Notably, our Prep 4 pupils enjoyed a memorable trip to York, immersing themselves in history and culture. Similarly, our Prep 5 and 6 children have been on a thrilling adventure to Patterdale Hall in the Lakes, where they embraced outdoor activities and developed team-building and personal skills. These trips have provided enjoyable moments and valuable learning



opportunities outside the traditional classroom setting.

Additionally, the children have also dedicated their efforts to support charities such as Cystic Fibrosis, Poppy Appeal, Barnardos, Marie Curie and Save the Children. Through our collective efforts and working together to make a difference we have raised £3000.

As we bid farewell to our Prep 6, we celebrate their personal achievements and the bright futures that await them. They have grown into exceptional individuals, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values instilled at WPS. We have no doubt that they will make a positive impact at senior school.

Finally, I would like to wish all our families a restful and enjoyable summer break. Take this time to relax, create lasting memories with your family, and recharge for the adventures that lie ahead. We eagerly look forward to welcoming you back in the new academic year, ready for another year of growth, discovery, and success at WPS.

Thank you for your unwavering support and partnership throughout the year.

Mr Bradley Lavagna-Slater
Headteacher



Thinking of Others



Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser

Towards the end of the Summer Term the children were invited to wear a yellow accessory with their uniform in return for a donation to the Cystic Fibrosis charity.

The whole School looked particularly sunny that day and the children impressed with their choice of accessory, raising a wonderful £360 for the charity. Mrs Broome even came in dressed as a duck!



Choir on Tour

Christmas is a time when our choirs are in full voice and the children are always delighted to put on a performance for an audience.

As well as performing at the School's Christmas service, the children had the opportunity to perform at the Tatton Christmas Extravaganza which was really exciting, performing in the Hall.



Harvest Festival – Wilmslow Food Friend

Harvest is always a time of giving at WPS and this year our families did not disappoint. The children arrived in School with bountiful supplies which were gratefully received by Wilmslow Food Friend which distributes food to anyone in need in the Wilmslow Parish.



Remembrance Assembly – Poppy Appeal

We are always very touched by our families' support for our fundraising activities.

This year we raised £327 pounds for the Poppy Appeal. We also took the opportunity to welcome some of the residents from Canterbury Grange who joined us for our special Remembrance assembly.

The 2 minute silence was observed on Grove Avenue with more residents from Canterbury Grange joining us along with members of the public.

Our poignant act of remembrance was beautifully marked by Mrs Wolski playing The Last Post and Reveille on her trumpet.



Christmas Sponsored Walk

We had a fabulously festive time taking part in our Reindeer Ramble in December. The whole School donned Christmas hats and antlers and joined together for a walk around Wilmslow. We inspired smiles and raised spirits for all who saw us as we sang Christmas Carols along our route. Our collection buckets received donations, which, in addition to the children's sponsorship, raised over £1500 for East Cheshire Hospice.



The day Pudsey popped in

Perhaps our most delightful visitor of the year – Pudsey Bear paid us a special visit as part of our Children in Need celebrations.

Everyone came to School with a spotty accessory and we raised £350 for the charity.

Pudsey is now a regular part of our annual celebrations and this year joined our whole School assembly before leading an impressive conga around the playground.

What a star he is!

Sports

Independent Schools Association Sports

Athletics

The ISA North of England athletics meet, organised yet again by our very own Mrs Broome is such an exciting event, attended by our KS2 children.

From sprint, middle distance and relay races to long jump, ball throw and shot put the children gave it their all with some fantastic results.

We are proud of our Prep 6 pupils who assisted with the technical running of the events and who were commended for their proactive assistance.



North Swimming Gala

WPS was represented in the ISA North Swimming Gala. Pupils Holly and Grace took part with Holly competing in breaststroke and Grace in the freestyle, backstroke and butterfly.



They both swam incredibly hard, doing well and were unlucky not to qualify for the Nationals. We are really proud of them and the huge amount of training and dedication that goes into getting them competition-fit.

Cross Country

A team of WPS runners took part in the Cross Country competition which saw a total of 160 runners in each race.

Our U11 boys finished 5th out of 23 teams which was a fantastic result – really well done!



S'now stopping us!

Last winter, inspired by the Olympics, we took a group of classes to the Chill Factor-e to allow the children to have a taste of winter sports.

This year the remaining classes took their turn, heading to the slopes where they sampled the luge at the centre's dedicated 60m long luge run and others took to the ski slope.

Suffice to say a great time was had by all in the snow.



113th Birthday

We came together as a whole School in September to celebrate WPS's 113th birthday. There was a cake, cards sent from each class and time to reflect on our School's amazing history.



Out and About

York visit far from a shambles!

Each year our Prep 4 pupils visit York for their first residential trip, always a time for great excitement on the children's part and some disquiet amongst our parents – but they needn't have worried as the trip was, as always, a huge success.

Three activity-packed days were enjoyed as pupils and teachers visited attractions including Jorvik, York Minster, a cruise down the River Ouse, exploring the famous Shambles and a visit to York's Chocolate Museum.



Out of Africa

The children from Reception to Prep 6 were transported to Africa when they visited Manchester's Palace Theatre to watch a spectacular production of The Lion King.

What a stunning performance – enjoyed by us all!

Prep 1 & 2 visit Quarry Bank Mill

As part of their humanities and science studies, the Prep 1 and 2 pupils had an educational and fun-filled day at the famous Mill which we are lucky to have on our doorstep. Through hands-on activities the children learned about the life of a mill worker and also took part in a mini-beasts workshop which included exploring the gardens on a bug-hunt and pond-dipping.



Safety First for Prep 6

We were delighted to attend this year's Macclesfield 'Crucial Crew' event held at the rugby club.

Prep 6 took part in sessions on personal safety, mental health and emotional wellbeing, road safety, drug and alcohol awareness in sessions run by Cheshire Police, the Council's substance misuse service and Macclesfield RUFC.



Tatton Park fun for Early Years

Our EYFS classes enjoyed a real adventure when they visited Tatton Park Farm. For many of the pupils this was their first school trip. They were rewarded with piglets, Shire horses, donkeys and goats and had the thrill of holding new-born chicks.



Beyond the Classroom

Special Visits

The children were enthralled to meet **para-athlete, Freya Levy** who visited to speak to the children about her sporting career and demonstrated some of her skills. She showed that you can be competitive whether able-bodied or in a wheelchair – you just have to believe in yourself. Well said Freya.



There was a real buzz around School when **Shropshire Falconry** visited us with some feathered friends to tie into Prep 3's Power of Reading lessons where they have been studying 'Fly Eagle Fly!'.



Children's Mental Health Week

Mental Health awareness and protecting our children's emotional wellbeing is so important. During Children's Mental Health Week teachers and pupils 'Dressed to Express' with everyone wearing fabulous accessories. Our Reception class shared cheerful smiley face paintings and the children in Key Stage 2 played a specially adapted bingo game to learn more about each other.



Prep 6 hosted a visit from our **local MP, Esther McVey**, during UK Parliament Week. The children put a series of questions to the MP, including asking about her salary - think PMQs with a friendlier audience.

Ms McVey spoke to the children about the workings of Parliament and her role as our local MP. Her feedback on the quality of questions was that they were outstanding!



Famous on Friday

Our 'Famous on Friday' sessions see people coming to speak to the children about their lives or work. Reception class had a special visit from pupil Henry's grandad, Andrew, who is an arable farmer. He came in to tell the children about harvest on his farm and the variety of crops he grows. Of course, they were interested in the machinery he uses at harvest time and after the visit the children sent him a lovely painting of his tractor along with a thank you letter.



And who can forget **The Den Man** who came to visit Early Years to explore den building.



ESB Excellence

The English Speaking Board exams, taken by Prep 5 & 6, are highly valued at WPS as they build confidence and give the children experience in public speaking from an early age.

It's not easy to speak in front of an audience of your peers plus an external examiner but all of the children took the exam in their stride. 70% of the children were awarded Distinctions and the remainder Merit+.'s.

Not to be outdone, Prep 3 & 4 undertook their ESBs in the summer term and all children were awarded at least a Merit, with all Prep 4 entrants achieving Distinction: amazing! The process of these exams really do engender important life skills and to achieve such results at this young age is a real testament to pupils and staff alike.



The Arts

The Prestigious Artsmark Award

We made the decision to this year to apply for the Artsmark Award; the only creative quality standard for schools and education settings, accredited by Arts Council England. The accreditation process is a very thorough one and it will take a few years to achieve.

Huge thanks to all staff and in particular to Miss Thomson and Mrs Wolski for championing this initiative in the School.



We're working
towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts
Council England

In fine tune for Alderley Edge Festival

The prestigious Festival is a highlight of our year.

We were delighted to see 83 WPS pupils singing as part of 4 choirs, 28 individual pupil entries performing a musical piece and 44 pupils taking part in the speech and drama classes.

We were so proud to see our Junior Choir and Chamber Choir being awarded first place. Our Show Choir and Small Choir were each awarded second place.



Results from the individual entries were equally impressive with first, second and third places being awarded. Special mention must go to William, P3 who was invited to sing at the grand finale having achieved first place in his category.

Not to be left out 16 members of staff competed in the Festival's first ever adult choir category – being placed second!



Independent Schools Association Competitions

Dance

Prep 1 performed a specially choreographed piece to 'Sunshine after the rain' with all children in the class giving it their all and being awarded third place.

Story Writing

Our Reception pupils let their imaginations run wild (literally), submitting 'Jungle Jack Saves the Animals', a story written entirely on their own. The delightful tale earned them first place. Well done Reception, a superb achievement!

Christmas Performances

Barely a dry eye in the house as parents and family members watched our Christmas plays. Our EYFS children performed '**Nativity for Little Ones**' and KS1 went wild with '**Boogie Woogie Nativity**'.

Bright costumes, singing, dancing and children enjoying themselves – what's not to like?



A Most Hysterical Adventure

Prep 3 & 4 children performed 'Jill & Fred's Most Hysterical Historical Adventure' to a packed house over three performances. There was fabulous singing and plenty of acting and the children looked brilliant in their costumes – many thanks to our parents for their support with a needle and thread!



House Music Festival

This year 60 children gave 72 performances on the piano, voice, woodwind and string instruments at our House Music Festival and we were joined by many parents and grandparents.

An external adjudicator oversaw all performances, commenting on the children's ability and performance standards. The results were so close that we had a draw for first place and the overall winners were Tatton and Capesthorpe.

