

Welcome to the 2025 edition of Prep Talk.

As another academic year comes to a close and we reflect on the past three terms, all the staff here at School are feeling so proud of your children, and all we have accomplished together this year. Wilmslow Prep really is a wonderful school family and I am delighted to share with you the many wonderful achievements and memorable moments that the children have experienced this year. It has truly been a year full of excitement, learning, and growth for everyone in our School community.

In the Autumn Term, we were visited by ISI Inspectors who were very impressed by our School, having spent 2.5 days rigorously and extensively analysing all aspects of WPS. The new inspection report differs to that under the previous inspection framework, in that schools are no longer graded. Instead, the report judges whether the school meets the five regulatory standards. We are delighted that the inspection report identifies that we meet all of the exacting standards and is highly positive with regard to the quality of education, pastoral provision, safeguarding, pupils' contribution to society and leadership at WPS.

Our Prep 6 children have, once again, successfully achieved places at senior schools of their choice. We are incredibly proud of them all and are confident that they are well prepared for the next chapter of their educational journey.

This year we have continued our Artsmark journey and we were thrilled to be awarded Artsmark Silver, a fantastic recognition of our commitment to the arts and the way in

which we provide our children with diverse and enriching experiences. The children have thoroughly enjoyed participating in Artsmark activities, which have broadened their horizons and allowed them to showcase their creativity. Now we will work to maintain these demanding standards and to take them even further!

Yet again, our ESB results were impressive with some individual remarkable gradings, whilst the Alderley Edge Festival saw Wilmslow Prep achieve numerous winners through our choir, orchestra and individual performances.

In addition to our focus on the arts, our School community has also come together to raise money for several charities, including Macmillan, Barnardo's, Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Comic Relief, and Children in Need. We have also supported local initiatives such as Food Friend Wilmslow and St Bartholomew's Church, demonstrating our commitment to giving back and supporting those in need.

Our School has reached out to the local community in various ways this year, including visits to local residential homes, participation in Crucial Crew events, and interactive sessions with emergency services personnel. These experiences have not only enriched the children's learning but also fostered a sense of community spirit and citizenship.

Throughout the year, our pupils have taken part in a wide range of events and activities, from educational trips to local landmarks such as Quarry Bank Mill and Manchester Museum of Science and Industry, to fun-filled celebrations like World Book Day and our talented School performances. The children have also excelled in sports, with notable



achievements in hockey, football and netball fixtures, and the Prep 3 girls winning the ISA North U8 Athletics trophy.

Each and every child has accomplished something special this year, and all of them are to be congratulated for being so dedicated, hardworking and thoughtful. I would also like to thank all of our parents for being such a supportive and important part of the WPS family. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this journey of growth, learning, and discovery with your children. As we look ahead to September, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and are, as always, committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment for all our pupils.

We wish you a relaxing summer break and look forward to welcoming you all back in September for what promises to be another fantastic year at WPS. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading Prep Talk which includes some of the key highlights of the 2024/25 academic year.

Mr Bradley Lavagna-Slater
Headteacher



Thinking of Others



Barnardo's Big Toddle

Our roar-some Early Year's Department took part in the Barnardo's Big Toddle, which saw all our wonderful children and staff looking splendid in their colourful safari and animal outfits.

After they finished their sponsored walk around Wilmslow, the children took to the stage to perform some animal themed songs for their audience. Thanks to their efforts, they raised an amazing £635.



Wear Yellow Day for Cystic Fibrosis

Children and staff came into School wearing fabulous yellow accessories for Wear Yellow Day, raising awareness of Cystic Fibrosis.

NSPCC Number Day

Children and staff took part in the magnificent Number Day in support of NSPCC. Everyone 'dressed up for digits' showing their creativity and support for this wonderful charity, with all the forms taking part in fun number activities to challenge and extend their mathematical skills.



Anti-Bullying Week

WPS took part in Anti-Bullying Week, centred around the theme 'Choose Respect.' Children enjoyed a number of activities throughout the week, including Odd Socks Day, where children got to wear snazzy odd socks to School.

The week encouraged everyone to actively choose respect and stand together against bullying.



Red Nose Day 2025

At Wilmslow Prep, we proudly support Comic Relief each year. This year, children enjoyed wearing Red Noses and red accessories, helping to raise funds for this important charity.

World Mental Health Day & Awareness Week

WPS marked World Mental Health Day by wearing yellow accessories and taking part in activities focused on emotions and coping strategies.

Later in the academic year, Mental Health Awareness Week saw children wearing green and engaging in discussions and assemblies, supported by our Prep 6 Mental Health Ambassador, Inaya.



Children in Need 2024

Children across the School had lots of fun celebrating Children in Need, coming into School in colourful accessories and Pudsey Bear ears!

Sports



Sports Day Fun

Our Kindergarten children had a brilliant time at their very first Sports Day! They took part in a range of fun races, including an obstacle race, a giant egg and spoon race, and even a parent and child relay race. Everyone gave it their all and had lots of fun with their friends.

Reception to Prep 6 also had a brilliant time at their Sports Day held at Wilmslow Hockey Club. On a beautiful sunny day, they took part in a wide range of races, collecting tokens for their Houses along the way. The children showed incredible energy, teamwork, and determination from start to finish.

A huge thank you to the families who came to support, helped with gazebos, and to the Parents' Committee for organising a refreshing ice cream treat!



ISA North Cross Country Qualifier

At the ISA North Cross Country Qualifier, competing against 27 schools, our runners finished an impressive 10th overall.

Bertie came 3rd, earning him an invitation to represent WPS at the National event. Quincy and Emme came 13th and 45th out of over 200 participants.

Team results were 5th for P3 & 4 boys, 11th for P3 & 4 girls, 10th for Prep 5 & 6 boys, and 16th for Prep 5 & 6 girls; well done to all!



IAPS Hockey Festival

We are incredibly proud of our U11 hockey team, who were crowned winners at the Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS) Hockey Festival!

The children played with fantastic skill, determination, and brilliant teamwork throughout the day. Their efforts on the pitch were matched by their sportsmanship and support for one another. A huge well done to the whole team on such a well-deserved achievement!



ISA 5-a-Side Football Tournament

Our U11 boys team took part in the Independent Schools Association (ISA) U11 5-a-side Football Tournament. They played superbly, showing great teamwork and skill, and reached the quarter-finals.

Congratulations to all the boys on their fantastic effort!



ISA Junior Athletics

Thirty eight of our Key Stage 2 pupils represented Wilmslow Prep at the ISA Junior Athletics event at Sports City.

Alongside those competing, some of our children assisted with the organisation of this ISA North Region event, which is run by our very own Mrs Broome. All the children tried hard, showing superb skills and excellent sportsmanship throughout.

Several of our children achieved 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in their events, a fantastic achievement all round!

Out and About



Prep 6 Visit to RHS Bridgewater

Prep 6 had a memorable trip to RHS Bridgewater Gardens to research edible plants which they could grow at School. Thanks to kind donations from Prep 6 parents, planters were provided for the children to nurture and harvest, allowing them to enjoy the fruits of their labour before the end of the School year.



Every Form Visits Wilmslow Library

At Wilmslow Prep reading is celebrated and encouraged at every opportunity. All our children enjoyed inspiring visits to Wilmslow Library, where the library staff read the children stories, explained how the library is organised as well as giving them a tour of the space.



2025 Residentials

Prep 4 enjoyed their first residential trip to York, exploring Jorvik, creating chocolate bars at the Chocolate Experience, and marvelling at York Minster's architecture. Prep 5 & 6 travelled to Plas Menai in Wales, where they took part in sailing, kayaking, caving, and team-building challenges.

Both trips were memorable experiences, offering new opportunities and confidence building.



Prep 3's Visit to the Science and Industry Museum

At Wilmslow Prep, we broaden pupils' horizons through enriching experiences and trips.

Prep 3 had an amazing visit to the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester, where they explored the experiment gallery, tried hands-on experiments, completed challenges and deepened their understanding of various aspects of science.

They also witnessed exciting taught sessions including taste testing, learning about senses and the Revolution Manchester Show.



Prep 1 & 2's Trip to Quarry Bank Mill

Prep 1 and 2 enjoyed an exciting trip to Quarry Bank Mill, where they explored the grounds searching for minibeasts and learning about the diverse creatures that live there. They also discovered what life used to be like for children their age working in the mill.

This hands-on experience offered a wonderful opportunity to step outside the classroom, bringing history and nature to life while inspiring curiosity and learning in an engaging setting.

Beyond the Classroom



A Special Visit From PCSO James

Early Years were beyond excited to welcome PCSO James to School for a special visit. The children talked about people who help us in School and the wider community, and learned how the Police keep us safe.

PCSO James answered lots of thoughtful questions from the children, who listened with great interest. The highlight of the visit was, however, seeing the flashing lights on his Police car!



Reception & Kindergarten Den Building

On World Happiness Day, Kindergarten and Reception embraced the outdoors with a fun morning of den building in our Forest School Area.

The children worked brilliantly together, using various materials, and developing their communication and problem-solving skills to create a spacious den. Once finished, they enjoyed hot chocolate and a snack inside their creation!



Parents' Committee Big Breakfast

Families from across the School came together for the Parents' Committee Big Breakfast. The hall was filled with happy conversations as everyone enjoyed a delicious breakfast together.

We are so grateful to the Parents' Committee for organising such a warm and welcoming event!



World Book Day

World Book Day was a wonderful celebration of reading across the School. In the lead-up to the day, children from Reception to Prep 6 visited WHSmith to choose a new book with their World Book Day token.

Children enjoyed sharing favourite stories with friends from different year groups, building connections through books, and Prep 6 even took on a book-themed Maths challenge, solving calculations to reveal World Book Day jokes.



British Science Week Wonder Dome

As part of British Science Week, children from Kindergarten to Prep 6 enjoyed an out of this world experience in the Wonder Dome.

Through this immersive experience, the children explored the Moon alongside Neil Armstrong and other astronauts, took part in a Mission to Mars to learn about the Mars Rover and its experiments, and discovered the Solar System, including video footage of the last person to step on the Moon and leave the iconic footprint.

They also got to experience presentations projected onto the dome around them, making it a truly spectacular scientific day.



Kindergarten & Receptions Class Pets

Kindergarten and Reception were captivated by their caterpillar class pets and their magical transformation into butterflies. The children carefully monitored their growth, excitedly watching them form chrysalises before May half term.

Upon their return to School, they were thrilled to welcome ten butterflies, studying their features up close and learning all about their lifecycle.

After a few days, the children watched a joyful release in the School grounds; an unforgettable experience that truly brought learning to life.

The Arts



Alderley Edge Festival Success

We are incredibly proud of all our choirs for their brilliant achievements - yet again! - at the Alderley Edge Festival.

Both our Chamber Choir and Small Choir were awarded first place in their categories, performing songs in English as well as Korean and Maori. Our Prep 3 Choir also impressed, placing second with performances that showcased harmonies, percussion, and expression. The adjudicator praised their variety, dynamics, and rhythmic integrity, a wonderful celebration of musical talent at WPS!



Annual House Music Festival

Our House Music Festival was a fantastic celebration of talent, with 57 pupils from Prep 1 to Prep 6 delivering over 70 performances.

The guest adjudicator, Mrs Dutton, praised all the children for their musical skills and wonderful pieces. This year's festival was the closest yet, with Tatton and Capesthorpe just two points behind joint winners Moreton and Gawsworth. We are incredibly proud of every performer!



Silver Artsmark Award Celebration

We are proud to have been awarded the prestigious Silver Artsmark Award by Arts Council England! This recognition celebrates our commitment to embedding creativity, arts and culture across the curriculum, supporting both learning and well-being.

Our Artsmark Journey has helped to build confidence, inspire creativity and encourage a deeper appreciation for the Arts across the whole School.

Storytelling with North West Drama

As part of our Artsmark journey, children enjoyed an inspiring workshop with Peter Kennedy from North West Drama.

Guided by a theme chosen by our Pupil Voice – 'dreams and imagination' – they gave new purposes to everyday objects, travelled through a vortex to another world, and took part in exciting adventures.

The experience was brought to life further through creative writing and video work, as pupils crafted and completed their own imaginative stories.

Prep 5 & 6 The Lion King Jr.

The P5 & 6 play is always a highlight of the year. This year the children wowed with their spirited performances of The Lion King Jr., showcasing collaboration and talent. It was a memorable production; their hard work has paid off!



African Dance Workshop

As part of Black History Month, and linked to our Artsmark journey, children from across the School took part in an energetic African Dance Workshop with Primary Workshops for Schools.

Each class learned traditional moves and wore authentic costumes, celebrating the rhythm and spirit of African culture. The day ended with a whole School performance, and even the teachers joined in!

Prep 3 & 4 Pirates versus Mermaids

Prep 3 & 4 impressed with three energetic performances of Pirates versus Mermaids. Their confident acting and singing, after weeks of rehearsals, truly shone, delighting friends, families, and staff.

