Wilmslow Preparatory School

Summer 2026

PrepTalk

Welcome to the 2026 edition of Prep Talk



As we reach the end of another successful academic year, I would like to reflect on the achievements, experiences and memorable moments that have made this such a special year for our School.

Our pupils have excelled across all areas of School life, embracing opportunities with enthusiasm, resilience and kindness. From academic success and sporting achievements to musical performances, charitable fundraising and community engagement, there is much to celebrate.

The performing arts have been a particular highlight, providing pupils with valuable opportunities to develop creativity, confidence and teamwork. Across the School, pupils wowed audiences with a range of on-stage performances, including Aladdin Trouble and Matilda, showcasing exceptional talent.

Music continues to flourish throughout our School, offering pupils many opportunities to perform and develop their musical skills. We celebrated success at the Alderley Edge Festival, while many pupils completed Trinity Music and ESB examinations.

Our annual House Music Festival provided the opportunity for pupils to perform for their peers, and we were delighted to see our choirs excel, particularly through participation in two new events: Singposium and the Buxton Music Festival.

Academically, we are particularly proud of our Prep 6 pupils, whose senior school entrance examination results were outstanding, with every child receiving an offer from their chosen senior school. Pupils across the School have embraced a range of enrichment opportunities, including the Primary Maths Challenge, ISA Coding Competition, STEM Day, UK Parliament Week and educational visits from professionals, including Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and the National Justice Museum.

Learning beyond the classroom has played an important role in enriching pupils' experiences and bringing the curriculum to life. Highlights included residential trips to Dobroyd Castle and York, as well as outings to Chester Zoo and a range of local educational visits. Pupils also broadened their understanding of different cultures and communities through visits to a mosque and participation in Diwali-themed Artsmark activities.

Sport has been another major success. Key Stage 2 pupils proudly represented WPS in numerous fixtures against local schools, demonstrating excellent teamwork and sportsmanship. Pupils also competed in a range of ISA events, including Cross Country, Swimming, Football and Athletics. We were especially proud of the two pupils who progressed from the ISA Regional Athletics competition to the National Finals. Reception enjoyed Fun Athletics, Prep 3 took part in Run for Fun, and our Prep 6 pupils successfully completed Bikeability training.

Creativity has continued to thrive through our Artsmark journey, with pupils enjoying activities inspired by Fairytales, Myths and Legends, a visit from a professional artist and World Book Day celebrations. We were also delighted that two of our entries in the ISA Art Competition achieved first place and progressed to the National stage.

Supporting others remains an important part of School life. Throughout the year, pupils raised funds for Francis House, Macmillan Cancer Support, Children in Need, Comic Relief and East Cheshire Hospice, while Harvest Festival donations supported Hope Foodbank. Pupils also supported Anti-Bullying Week and many other community initiatives.

Our School community has come together for many special occasions, including the Carol Service at St Bartholomew's Church, Remembrance Day commemorations, the EYFS Easter Bonnet Parade and Mother's Day and Father's Day assemblies.

We are also grateful to our Parents' Committee for organising wonderful events throughout the year, including the Big Breakfast and Spooky Disco.

One of the most moving moments of the term was our EYFS Special Assembly, where we celebrated the remarkable progress made by our youngest pupils. There was certainly not a dry eye in the house as we reflected on how much they have grown throughout the year.

As we look ahead, we are excited to celebrate together at Speech Day, our annual end-of-year celebration and prize-giving event. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Finally, I would like to thank our pupils, staff, parents, governors and Parents' Committee for their continued support throughout the year. To our Prep 6 leavers, we wish you every success and happiness as you move on to your senior schools. We are incredibly proud of all you have achieved and know you will continue to flourish.

To all our families, I wish you a happy, restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting academic year.

With best wishes,

Mr Bradley Lavagna-Slater
Headteacher

Thinking of Others





Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

Supporting others remains an important part of life at Wilmslow Prep.

Leading by example, our School Council started the academic year on a positive note with our annual Macmillan Coffee Afternoon, welcoming families into School to enjoy homemade treats while supporting a cause close to many hearts.



Jingle Bell Jog

Ending the Autumn term on a high, the whole School took part in the Jingle Bell Jog in Wilmslow town centre at Christmas, a festive tradition which provides great fun in support of a meaningful cause.

It was a wonderful event, and we were proud to raise £1,062.05 for East Cheshire Hospice.



World Mental Health Day

In October, all staff and children wore yellow accessories to mark World Mental Health Day. Throughout the week, pupils took part in dedicated lessons and assemblies, raising awareness of mental wellbeing and supporting one another.



Anti-Bullying Week

Odd Socks Day marked the start of Anti-Bullying Week in November, with staff and children wearing colourful, mismatched socks to celebrate individuality.

This was a meaningful and fun way to take a stance against the harm and hurt that bullying causes, encouraging children to use their 'Power for Good'.



Barnardo's Big Toddle

Our Kindergarten and Reception children had a roar-some time taking part in the safari themed Barnardo's Big Toddle, joined by parents and staff.

The children embarked on a walk around Wilmslow, before returning to School for a wonderful parade and a lively performance of jungle songs on stage, raising an impressive £501 for Barnardo's.



Crazy Hair Day for Comic Relief

Children and staff celebrated Comic Relief in style with a wonderfully creative Crazy Hair Day. Everyone embraced the occasion, showcasing imaginative hairstyles, including eccentric colours, spiky hair and even cupcake buns.

BBC Children in Need

We embraced the polka-dots for Pudsey at Wilmslow Prep as we supported BBC Children in Need. Pupils and staff donned spotty accessories, whilst taking part in a range of themed activities as part of the 'Challenge25' initiative.

Pudsey spent time with each class, appreciating their efforts and posing for photographs, as well as giving high fives and cuddles.







Beyond the Classroom





Visits from Wilmslow Fire Fighters and PCSO James

Our Early Years children enjoyed a visit from PCSO James, learning about keeping safe in our community, 'safe strangers' and embracing the opportunity to sit inside the police car and see the blue lights flash.

They also welcomed local firefighters, exploring the impressive fire engine, learning about all the equipment, and developing their understanding through imaginative outdoor role play.



Prep 5 & 6 Adventure Day

Prep 5 & 6 took part in an exciting Schools Adventure Day with Outward Bound UK. This unique opportunity saw the children complete challenges designed to build confidence, teamwork, curiosity and connection through on-site activities and the latest in virtual reality technology.

Author Sean Perkins Visits School

In November, we were delighted to welcome author Sean Perkins to School to read from his latest book, Oscar and Ben – The Sleepover. The whole School enjoyed Sean's storytelling, illustrations and soft toy cat characters, making for a memorable and engaging visit.



World Book Day

The children came alive for World Book Day as characters from Fairytales, Myths and Legends. They enjoyed sharing stories across the School, walking to Waterstones to purchase exciting new books, and taking part in a whole School assembly led by Prep 5.







British Science Week

Things got explosive during British Science Week, including a visit from a Mad Scientist, who wowed everyone with a series of incredible experiments and demonstrations.

From fizzy explosions to colour-changing reactions, the children discovered how science can be both educational and exciting.



Den Building

Embracing the great outdoors, our Kindergarten and Reception children got to work building dens in our very own Forest School, carefully constructing shelters and covering them with tarpaulin. To put them to the test, our visiting 'Den Man' poured water over the top to check how waterproof they were, resulting in plenty of giggles.

Prep 6 Exam Results

Our Prep 6 pupils yet again achieved an outstanding set of examination results. The children secured 36 offers and 11 scholarships across academic, music, drama and sport, reflecting their hard work, determination and all-round contribution to School life.



Sports

ISA 7-a-side Tournament

Kicking off the new year in January, our U11 Football team took part in the ISA 7-a-side tournament, showcasing their skills, determination and teamwork. After a fantastic day of matches, they were excited to find out they had made it through to the quarter finals of the Cup.







ISA High Five Bee Netball Tournament

In March, our Prep 6 pupils competed in the ISA High Five Bee Netball Tournament at Hulme Hall School. Not only did they finish 3rd in a highly competitive field of 12 teams, they also won the Fair Play Award - a real testament to the ethos of our School.



ISA Cross Country Qualifier

Children from across the School took part in the annual ISA Cross Country Qualifier. They performed brilliantly despite very cold and muddy conditions, showing great perseverance and stamina throughout the course. We are extremely proud of their efforts.

Terra Nova Sporting Festival

Reception had lots of fun at the Terra Nova Sporting Festival in May. It was a lively day, with the children meeting pupils from other schools and competing in a range of action-packed activities, enjoying the opportunity to try new challenges.



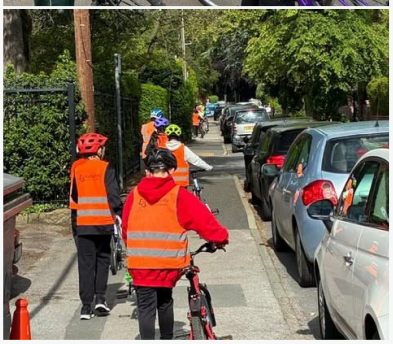
ISA Qualifiers at Fives

Our 5-a-side football team delivered an excellent performance when they took part in the ISA qualifiers at Fives, winning five out of seven games.

Across a competitive set of matches, they showed strong resilience, focus and skill, proudly representing the School throughout the day.







Prep 6 Bikeability

Our Prep 6 children successfully completed their Bikeability training in June, developing their cycling skills and learning valuable road safety awareness in preparation for starting senior school in September.

From signalling and junctions to riding safely on the road, they showed great enthusiasm throughout. Well done to all our cyclists on this fantastic achievement.

The Arts



Artsmark Week - Going for Gold

Following our prestigious Silver Artsmark Award last academic year, we are now working towards Gold. The award recognises a school's commitment to creativity, with assessors considering arts and cultural provision, the impact of Artsmark on School life, and the goals we are working to achieve. It is a rigorous assessment process, spanning two years, and we are excited for the challenge ahead!



National Art Competitions

We were delighted to hear that Elspeth achieved 1st Place in the ISA National Digital Art Competition, and Orla received Highly Commended in the ISA National Minibeast Art Competition.



Success at the Alderley Edge Festival

The children enjoyed taking part in the 108th Alderley Edge Festival. Pupils shone across Music and Speech & Drama classes, achieving placings in 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions. These opportunities develop truly valuable life skills and we are incredibly proud of the children's confidence and enthusiasm on stage.



European Day of Languages

October saw the children take part in the European Day of Languages, celebrating the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of Europe through arts-based activities and culture-focused lessons. Pupils wore accessories in the colours of their chosen flags, bringing added vibrance and energy to the day.

ISA Regional Art Competition

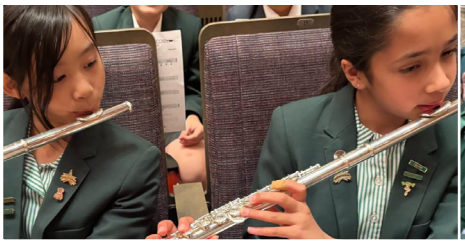
Art is something we are extremely proud of at Wilmslow Prep, so we were delighted to celebrate success at the Independent Schools Association Regional Art Competition. Our two first-place entries went forward to the ISA National Competition, and we are extremely proud.



Bridgewater Hall Visits

In March, our Prep 4, 5 & 6 boys had the fabulous opportunity of visiting the Hallé at Bridgewater Hall, taking part in warm-up and singing workshops at the rehearsal centre, an experience they thoroughly enjoyed.

Our orchestra were also treated to a day at the Hallé, taking part in an inspiring football-themed workshop that brought music, movement and creativity together. They also watched Hallé musicians perform up close, an experience that sparked confidence, curiosity and enjoyment.





Prep 6 Performing at Long Stone Manor Care Home

As part of our commitment to children playing a positive role in the wider community, we encourage them to contribute to School life and beyond.

Our Prep 6 class took great pride in the opportunity to perform a range of songs and instrumental pieces for residents at Long Stone Manor Care Home. The visit provided a meaningful shared experience for pupils and residents alike, strengthening intergenerational connections.





Out and About



Fred Bear Exploring Wilmslow

After making a special appearance at our September Open Day, Fred Bear enjoyed a stroll around Wilmslow. He loved saying hello to friendly faces in the community, including PCSO James from Wilmslow Police.





Prep 3 Trip to the Science and Industry Museum

Prep 3 enjoyed an exciting trip to the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester, spending the day exploring its many exhibits, including the Revolution Manchester show and textiles machinery demonstrations.

A highlight was the Experiments Gallery, where the children took part in a range of hands-on challenges.

Trip to Tatton Park Farm

It was a day of farmyard fun for our Kindergarten and Reception children when they visited Tatton Park Farm. They got to meet a variety of animals, including baby chicks, which they were thrilled to be able to hold. They also loved showing off their agility on the woodland playground.







Prep 4 Trip to York

Prep 4 enjoyed an action-packed trip to York, supporting the humanities curriculum. They visited York's Chocolate Story, taking part in tastings, chocolate making and a Mayan workshop, as well as exploring archaeology at DIG and stepping back in time at the Jorvik Viking Centre.

A highlight was the Wizard Walk of York, where pupils and staff laughed for the entire hour-long tour!

Prep 3 Visit Chester Zoo

Our Prep 3 class had an amazing day out at Chester Zoo, seeing the incredible range of animals in their care, as well as learning and problem-solving during their Conservation Animation session.







Prep 6 Visit to RHS Bridgewater

Our Prep 6 children enjoyed a wonderful trip to RHS Bridgewater in the spring sunshine. In the weeks after their visit, they were busy planting vegetables and fruit back at School, inspired by their time in the gardens.