



A year to remember!

Welcome to the 2019 edition of PrepTalk. Another school year has flown by and when I reflect on everything WPS pupils have accomplished this year, both in and out of the classroom, I am filled with great pride.

This has been an exciting year for WPS, with the development of both our site and aspects of our organisation, as we continue to commit to meeting the individual needs of every member of our family.

We began the School year with the launch of our new, fully glazed entrance lobby and our new astro-turf facility at the sports hall, creating a superb new, multi-purpose sports area to help cater for our busy sports programme. We are very fortunate to be able to undertake such infrastructure enhancements which enable us to extend our superb facilities, to ensure the continuation of our excellent provision into the future.

This year has also marked the introduction of The Wilmslow Prep Pathway. Our strong track record of academic success over many years is based on our unique approach to learning, which we have formulated into four key phases. Each phase is designed to deliver tailored excellence in accordance with our set of clearly defined aims:

- To inspire academic excellence through a broad, balanced and varied curriculum.
- To develop pupils with lively, enquiring and creative minds.
- To value each child as an individual so as to maximise his or her potential and confidence.
- To offer a safe, caring and kind environment.
- To encourage self-respect and respect for others.

In addition, we have also successfully launched our Parent Partnership Group (PPG), designed to further enhance the flow of information between home and School.

As I take a moment to recall some special highlights from this past year, I am astounded at what has been achieved. Every activity we plan is designed and executed to support and enhance your child's learning.



From local day trips and visits, sporting, music and art competitions, community outreach, guest speakers, drama performances and residential trips, we ensure that learning thrives and flourishes every day.

Nearly 70 children took part in this year's Alderley Edge Festival, representing the School in choirs, orchestra, individual classes for music, as well as speech and drama. In addition to many individual accolades, our choir won in the National Curriculum Year 3 and Under Class, bringing home the Minor Cup for the second year running.

We also enjoyed great success with first place winners at both the Independent Schools Association (ISA) National Art Competition and the ISA North Athletics Competition.

Once again this year, our Form 6 pupils secured places at a wide range of senior schools, including four scholarships. They can be immensely proud of their hard work and effort; they leave us as confident, capable, well-rounded individuals and we wish them all every happiness for the future.

As we close the chapter on the 2018/19 school year, I do hope you enjoy reading our 2019 edition of PrepTalk, where we have tried to squeeze in as many highlights as possible. Have a wonderful and relaxing summer and we look forward to seeing you back at School in September!

Mrs Helen Rigby
Headteacher



Enrichment beyond the classroom



Early Years Trip to Tatton Park

In the Summer Term, the Early Years children enjoyed a delightful day at Tatton Park.



F3 Trip to The Science & Industry Museum

In conjunction with Form 3's science studies, the children visited the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry. They witnessed an exciting explosions session, where they used their curious minds and joined the Museum Mystery Solvers, and then became a part of the Science Showdown session!



F5 Trip to Haddon Hall

In the Autumn Term, Form 5 enjoyed a visit to the National Trust property Haddon Hall in Bakewell, as part of their Humanities study of the Tudors. During their visit, they were taken back in time to Medieval/Tudor Britain and explored the wonders and history of this fascinating building and its grounds. The children were excited to learn all about the story of the families who owned Haddon Hall, as well getting the chance to dress-up in authentic costumes of that period.



F1 & F2 Trip to Jodrell Bank

In the Summer Term, the F1 & F2 children went to Jodrell Bank, a fantastic site of current and world-leading science research. The sessions were excellent and the children had a fantastic day learning all about the Lovell Telescope and space exploration.



F4 trip to York

The children in F4 enjoyed a wonderful two night trip to York. They packed in lots of exciting activities, including visits to York Minster, the Jorvik Viking Centre, York Art Gallery and everybody's favourite - The Chocolate Experience!



F5 & F6 Residential

Located in the heart of the Shropshire countryside, the F5 & F6 children stayed at the PGL centre of Boreatton Park, where they engaged in team building activities. During their stay, they also visited Acton Scott Historic Working Farm, which demonstrates life on a Shropshire upland farm at the turn of the 19th century. There was plenty to do, including grinding the grain to feed the hens, feeding the lambs and most exciting of all, enjoying a cuddle with the baby chicks and ducklings. The children also enjoyed a day at Ironbridge Victorian town, where they stepped back in time to experience a morning in the schoolhouse, led by a rather strict school teacher!

Making the Grade in the Arts



ISA Art Competition



Pupils from WPS celebrated after achieving extremely successful results in the regional Independent Schools Association (ISA) Art Competition, a celebration of artistic achievements across 375 Independent Schools in England.

First place prizes were awarded to Nancy for 'Augustus and his Smile', Ruby for 'London Skyline', and Laura for 'Optical Art Pot' who went on to win in the National competition.

Second place prizes were awarded to the following pupils: Emily (KS1) for 'Owl Babies', Jacob/Coby (KS2) for 'St Bartholomew's Church', Holly (KS1) for 'Our School', Year 4 (whole class 2017/18) for 'City Scape', Sienna (KS1 - 2017/18) for 'My House', Year 2 group (KS1) for 'Garden Birds', and Paige (KS2) for 'Still Life'.

WPS Junior Choir

The WPS Junior Choir packed in a busy few weeks over the festive period. Their first stellar performance was at the Handforth Lights event. On the same evening, the choir then performed at Canterbury Grange, where the residents treasured the beautiful singing. They then sang a couple of jolly songs to open our Christmas Fair and their final performance was singing at Wilmslow Library on Friday December 7th.



Rock Bottom

Forms 5 & 6 took us on a journey to the dawn of time in "Rock Bottom," a prehistorical hysterical Stone Age rock musical. The toe tapping songs got the audience rocking like a rolling stone! Well done to everyone involved for providing such a wonderfully entertaining production.

Alderley Edge Festival 2019

Congratulations to all the children who participated in the Alderley Edge Festival for both Music, and Speech and Drama. We were delighted with the super results and very proud of everyone who took part! The event gave all the children the opportunity to showcase their performing and public speaking skills in front of an audience.

The Junior Choir (F2 & F3) gained first place and won the Minor Cup. Megan (F6) won the Canon Brian Young Cup for her vocal solo. Ameerah (F6) won the Festival Cup for woodwind/brass solo Grades 2 and 3. Ameerah was also invited to play her oboe on Saturday night at the Festival Finale. Well done to all the children for another very successful year and for being wonderful ambassadors for WPS.



Surfin' the 60s

The audience was transported back in time to a celebration of the musical era when Forms 3 & 4 presented their Spring production, 'Surfin' the 60's'. The pupils were magnificent and they truly showed that Wilmslow Prep really has 'The Rhythm of Life!'



Charitable Endeavours



Harvest Festival

Once again this year, we celebrated Harvest by donating all the Harvest gifts from KG to Form 5 to the local Food Friend initiative at St Bartholomew's Church. Our Form 6 children kindly donated Harvest boxes, which were shared within the local community. Thanks to all our families for their kind and thoughtful donations.



Snowman Saunter

We had a fantastic time at this year's 'Snowman Saunter!' It was lovely to see all the children walking and singing carols on their way around Wilmslow. Well done to everyone who took part and raised money for the East Cheshire Hospice. We have given our support to East Cheshire Hospice for a number of years now and Sunny the Dog came to set us on our way for this year's saunter, to add his support to this lovely event!



Children in Need 2018

In support of Children in Need 2018, we raised a fantastic £193.20 by wearing 'spotty' accessories.



ROTA-TOY

'A boxful of smiles from a child to a child'. Our Ambassadors were very pleased to be able to present the Rotary Club of Wilmslow Dean with boxes filled with new and pre-loved toys for redistribution to local charities.



Remembrance Day

For Remembrance Day, we transformed our Welly Wednesday area into a garden of Remembrance for the Remembrance Day Assembly. The EYFS children looked at the poppies and sat on the logs in a quiet moment of reflection and thoughtful thanks to the service men and women. WPS collected a magnificent £177.96 for The Poppy Appeal which raises money to help with vital welfare for ex service men and women and benevolent work.

Sporting Success for All



Throughout the year, WPS pupils took part in many competitive sporting events. From ISA events to competing against other local schools, our sporting achievements are always very impressive!

In the Autumn Term, children played netball, hockey and football fixtures, both at home and away and joined in a 'Fun Run', which they thoroughly enjoyed, despite the mud!

A highlight from the Winter Term is when WPS travelled to Rochdale to take part in the ISA Cross-Country Championships where all the athletes braved the cold with some impressive performances.



In the Summer Term, we played many different sports. In athletics, Megan won the ISA North high jump. The Form 3 & 4 girls took a silver medal in the ISA Netball Festival. At School, we took part in a WPS World Cup Cricket competition with the children representing all of the different countries taking part. Bowling and batting across the School was top notch and the Australian team were the overall winners taking the prized trophy.



Overall another successful year of sporting success.



“PrepTalk”

Summer 2019



Teddy Bears' Picnic

The children in Kindergarten had heaps of fun with their teddies at the Annual Teddy Bears' Picnic. There were lots of exciting games and everyone enjoyed a lovely picnic. Thank you to the Parents' Committee for organising and supporting the event.



Launch of New Entrance Hall

A new contemporary entrance hall at Wilmslow Prep School was celebrated with a festive launch by previous School Heads at the beginning of the school year. Former Headteachers Hilary Shaw, Joyce Nichols and Marie Grant performed an official ribbon cutting ceremony outside the new school entrance hall, along with current Headteacher Helen Rigby, Bursar Sharon Davies, Chairman of Governors, Nick Rudgard, and fellow governors and staff.



World Book Day

World Book Day is a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and, most importantly, it is a celebration of reading. It is the biggest celebration of its kind, designated by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, and it is marked in over 100 countries around the world. This year we celebrated World Book Day with the WPS Big Read and we all went away with new favourites!



Chinese New Year

The Chinese New Year, or Spring Festival is celebrated by 1/6th of the world's population. This year is the Year of the Pig, and we enjoyed getting into the festive spirit to celebrate the occasion!



Den Building

Our Early Years pupils had a fantastic time building dens in the Spring Term. Learning in an outdoor environment has a profound impact on intellectual, physical, spiritual, social and moral development and also helps to build self-confidence and self-esteem. It was a super experience for all!



Simply Book Club

Once a month, Sue, from Simply Books in Bramhall, has visited us at School, and hosted a book club, where our keen readers discussed books over a delicious lunch.