



## A Historical Year To Remember

Welcome to the 2020 edition of Prep Talk. In my 31st year of teaching, my 20th year at WPS and my 7th year as Headteacher, this is the last time that I will write to you in that role, as I look forward to my phased retirement and the new adventures ahead!

Recent events have, without doubt, presented new and varied challenges for all members of the WPS community and have somewhat dominated our lives. At a time when the children would ordinarily have been enjoying their final term in their current class at School, they had, instead, to quickly adapt to a new routine.

Never have words such as ‘uncertain’, ‘unprecedented’ and ‘challenging’ been used so frequently in our time, and we are regularly reminded that we have a ‘new normal’ to contend with. The WPS community rose to the challenge, and the children continued their learning remotely. Once safe to do so, we then began our phased return to School and were absolutely delighted to have been able to welcome back all classes before the end of term.

I feel extremely privileged to have been a member of the incredible team of dedicated professionals who have, each and every one, gone above and beyond to ensure that the children continued their learning in the most positive and productive way and that the WPS spirit remained intact. It is this team

spirit, your awe-inspiring children and the warmth, generosity and honesty of the whole WPS community that will be my lasting memories.

As always, I look back on all that we have achieved during the academic year with great pride: our Bulletins, newsletters and Prep Talk are all full of ‘wow’ moments!

Once again this year, our amazing Form 6 pupils secured a number of well-deserved offers at a wide range of senior schools, including 3 academic and 3 music 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.

The contribution that the parents make via our energetic, committed and enthusiastic Parents’ Committee is astounding. As a School, we would like to thank them for their unstinting and hugely generous support. In addition, I should like to thank the representatives of the Parent Partnership Group, who have coordinated queries and questions from their respective forms and raised them at meetings with Mrs Savage and Mrs Williams throughout the year.

I know, unequivocally, that Mr Lavagna-Slater is inheriting an excellent staff and school; a small and dynamic community where our primary aim is to develop in the children, enquiring minds, a love of learning and a confidence that will allow them to believe in themselves and reach for the stars.

I hope that you all have a wonderful and relaxing summer break and we look forward to seeing you back in School in September.

*Mrs Helen Rigby*  
Headteacher



### Welcome Bradley

We are delighted to welcome Mr Bradley Lavagna-Slater to the WPS family as he begins his reign as Head Teacher from September 2020. Mr Lavagna-Slater has an excellent track record for leading and delivering the very best in education. He believes in embracing a strong ethos of hard work, resilience and effort, whilst nurturing every individual child to fulfil their potential.

Mr Lavagna-Slater said, “I am delighted to be joining such a vibrant school that puts the whole child at the heart of everything they do. I am really looking forward to September, to lead one of the best schools in Cheshire.”



# Life In The Time of Coronavirus



When School closed due to the coronavirus pandemic at the end of March, our staff successfully took learning out of the classroom and into the children's front rooms, thanks to the use of modern technology. The new way of virtual learning also helped pupils connect with their peers and teachers during these most uncertain times.

Children of key workers continued to attend School and took part in the same virtual online classes their peers at home. We continued to teach tailored lessons in small groups across many different curriculum areas to provide support for the parents and real learning for the children. We are so proud of all our pupils, families and teachers for the way in which they adapted so well to this new way of life.

## WPS Commemorates The 75th Anniversary Of VE Day

Pupils and staff at Wilmslow Prep School had a fantastic time commemorating the 75th anniversary of VE Day. During online lessons, pupils learned about the Second World War and the importance of this very special day. Many children and their families celebrated with a tea party, dressing up in red, white and blue and joining in online with their classes and teachers wherever possible.



## Thank You Heroes

Mrs Milne and all of our key workers' children created a 'Thank You Heroes' banner which was displayed outside our School during lockdown.

Mrs Milne said, "We made this banner as we wanted to show our appreciation for all the heroes who are working hard during this pandemic. There are so many people in our local community doing what they can to help others and we want to recognise everyone who has stepped up to help."



## Rainbows To Spread Happiness

During lockdown, our doors were open to the children of key workers to help enable them to continue their invaluable work in the battle against Coronavirus. Key worker children wanted to get creative and paint some rainbows for our windows, to raise a smile for passers-by and give other children something to spot whilst out for their daily exercise.

## Wartime Cooking With F5 & 6

As part of their Food Technology unit, the children in Phase 4 (Forms 5 & 6) were busy in their kitchens, following wartime recipes to coincide with our VE Day celebration week. They used real wartime recipes to create the following: pancakes, eggless fruit sponge, cottage pie, eggless chocolate cake, almond biscuits and bread pudding! Yummy!

## Art From Home

Whilst at home, our Key Stage 2 children completed various drawing projects, set by Mrs Anderson. Form 3 focused on the theme, 'Through my window' and Form 4 made observational drawings of fruits and vegetables.



# Getting Creative



## ISA Art Success

The annual ISA National Visual Art Competition is a wonderful opportunity for schools to showcase their pupils' art and for teachers to share best practice and ideas. In this year's competition (for the North Region), we secured 1 First Prize, 4 Second Prizes and 3 Third Prizes in a total of 12 categories entered across EYFS, KS1 and KS2.

We are so proud of Emily who progressed through the regional competition to win 1st Place in the National ISA Art Competition. Well done, Emily! Indeed, we are proud of the wonderful artwork produced by all our budding artists at Wilmslow Prep School.

Well done to everyone!



## Spectacular Christmas Shows

The end of our Autumn Term saw our youngest pupils take to the stage in their annual performances. This year our Kindergarten and Reception children performed 'Our First Nativity'; a modern take on the traditional story which allowed all the children to take part. Forms 1 & 2 took part in a show called 'Everybody Loves A Baby'. All the children wowed the audience and received rapturous applause at the end. As always, WPS pupils demonstrated their amazing talents and had a great time doing so.



## LEGO-tastic!

Children were treated to a special LEGO morning in the Spring Term, funded by the Parents' Committee. Our Sports Hall was transformed from an exercise space into a mini town. After a short period of instruction, the children worked together all morning creating the various aspects of what would become their very own town. There were houses, roads, a park, school, hospital and church. There was even a working train line! At the end of the morning the children were justifiably proud of their creation, made possible only through teamwork and co-operation.

# Music To Our Ears

## House Music Competition

With 55 children taking part in 70 individual music lessons each week, our annual House Music Competition is a highly anticipated event. The children who took part performed their piece in front of an audience of their peers, teachers, parents and an independent adjudicator. Congratulations to this year's winners; Moreton!



## Hazel Grove Festival of Music

Several of our very talented pupils entered the Hazel Grove Festival of Music during the Autumn half term holiday with some fabulous results. Scarlett, F6, was awarded a 1st place in the 11-12 yrs non-musicals song and a 3rd place in the 11-12yrs musicals song. Ariana, F5, was awarded 2nd place in 9-10yrs non-musicals song and 2nd place in 9-10yrs musicals song. Louis, F5, was awarded 2nd place in the woodwind class for his piece played on the bassoon. Scarlett was invited back to sing as part of the closing celebration. Well done to everyone who took part!



# Giving Back & Trips and Visits



## Harvest Festival

In October, we held our annual Harvest Festival Assembly. We celebrated 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 created a wonderful Harvest box, to be donated within the local community. We also received a beautiful, traditional Harvest loaf, made by Florence and Beatrix. Our Assembly included readings from our School Ambassadors and performances from KS1 and KS2 children as well as our Chamber Choir. Our sincere thanks go to all our families for their kind and thoughtful donations.



## Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

During the Autumn Term, our School Council organised a Macmillan Coffee Afternoon. The event was very well attended and raised an amazing £205.50 for the charity. Thank you to everyone who supported this event and well done to our School Council for all their hard work.



## The Day Pudsey Came

Our School Council was very busy throughout the Autumn Term organising various events to raise money for worthy charities. Children in Need was the chosen charity for the second half of Autumn Term and with the help of Mrs Broome and Mrs Milne the School Council planned a full week of Children in Need Challenges for their peers. We are delighted to announce we raised a fantastic £171.90. Well done!



## Reception Visits Styal Country Park

In October, Reception children enjoyed a trip to Styal Country Park. The children became nature detectives and were delighted to collect acorns, sycamore seeds and autumn leaves. The children listened to the crunching sound of the leaves as they walked across them and then arranged the leaves to replicate the artist Andy Goldsworthy's style of encircling leaves from light to dark. It was exciting to find a fox's footprint, a mouse hole and some mole hills. A particular favourite was "squelching and squerching" through a muddy puddle, reminding us of the story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt".



## Santas Patrol For Charity

Wilmslow was alive with the sound of carols and the sight of Santas when we went on patrol to raise money for the East Cheshire Hospice in December. Well done everyone who took part and thank you to our volunteers who helped along the way.



# Sporting Success



This year, we have seen the children compete in fixtures for netball, tag rugby and football. They have also competed in the ISA Cross-Country Run-in Ormskirk where they ran against 120 other Prep School pupils from around the North West. We introduced Tag Rugby in the Autumn Term and Forms 3 & 4 had some friendly fixtures which were great fun for all.

During the Spring Term, WPS took part in the annual ISA High 5 Netball Tournament. With a selected team of children from Forms 5 & 6 we went into the first round where we won all our games with some exceptional shooting from Pietro and Hattie. We finished 3rd place in the North of England – a fantastic result!

## Run For Fun

In September, pupils in Forms 3, 4 and 5 took part in a Run for Fun at WRFC. Well done to all our runners who represented us superbly and showed great sportsmanship. All the children had a lovely afternoon running in muddy but sunny conditions.



## Football Festivals

During the Autumn Term, children in Forms 1, 2 and 3 had the opportunity to attend Football Festivals at the Etihad's state of the art training facilities. The children played in non-competitive festivals against other school children of similar ages, developing their skills whilst showcasing their talent. All the events were great fun and enjoyed by all. Well done to the children for being excellent ambassadors for WPS.

## Martial Arts

Our KS2 children had the chance to take part in a Judo club during the Autumn Term. Each Thursday morning our School Hall was transformed into a Dojo and the children donned their gis to learn the latest skills and techniques. By the end of the course all the children earned at least their Level 1 certificate. Well done everyone!



# “PrepTalk”

Summer 2020



## Tribute To Mrs Rigby



After over 6 years as Headteacher of Wilmslow Prep, Mrs Rigby is now embarking on a period of phased retirement to allow her to spend more time with her family. Since 2001, Mrs Rigby has been part of the WPS family when she joined as our Reception teacher. Mrs Rigby soon became the Director of Studies from January 2002 and then Deputy Head from September 2005, when she also took up the post of Form 2 teacher. In 2014, Helen took over the reins as Headteacher.



Working with a well-established and passionate team of staff, the School has seen many changes and has achieved so much over these years:

- Refurbishment and enhancement of the playground area
- New, contemporary entrance lobby
- New astro-turf facility installed at the School's purpose-built Sports Hall
- Excellent results in the Good Schools Guide
- Named as a Top Value Prep School in the Telegraph
- Awarded the highest status of 'Excellent' during the latest ISI Inspections.
- The first boy will be graduating from Wilmslow Prep in 2020, after the school became co-educational in 2013.



“My time at Wilmslow Prep has given me some of the most interesting, challenging, exciting and rewarding years of my entire career”, said Mrs Rigby.

“Working at the Prep has been a joy. I have loved it all, and I thank everyone – pupils, parents, staff, governors, community members and friends for making it such a wonderful time. I am looking forward to spending the next term teaching English!”



### An Outstanding Head

Nick Rudgard, Chair of Governors said: “I speak on behalf of the children, parents, staff and governors when I say that Helen has been an outstanding Headteacher of Wilmslow Prep School over the last six years, and will be greatly missed by all. Helen is a very warm, friendly and compassionate person who is admired and trusted by all who meet her. This is an ideal recipe for a Headteacher.

“Throughout her time at WPS, Helen led from the front with a constant stream of new ideas for teaching our children new skills and nurturing their enthusiasm to learn. Mrs Rigby is not only an inspirational teacher but has a true passion for the educational development of each and every child. Mrs Rigby loves WPS and her commitment to the continued improvement of education is evident to all who come into contact with her.”

