

Newsletter



PARSONS GREEN
PREP SCHOOL

Autumn Edition - December 2019



Carol
Concert



Art



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About



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Classroom



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HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE



FROM THE HEAD

When I was appointed to be head of PGP, a few friends advised me to tread carefully. Parental expectations would be much higher than in Oxford, they said, and I would be worked to the bone in attempting to meet them. But the reverse has been true: you have all been so kind, welcoming and supportive. And it rubs off on the children. From Reception to Year 6 they have impressed me day after day with their enthusiasm, good manners and positivity. May the energy flow into next term. Happy Christmas and New Year to everyone.

Mr Matthew Faulkner



FOPGP

This autumn Aimée Jones stepped down as the Head of FOPGP after three years of outstanding leadership. We are grateful for all her hard work. FOPGP hosted a Movie Night for the children in November, complete with beanbags, snack packs and funny films. Next term we have the children's disco in February, hosted by Sharky & George, and the parents' Quiz Night and Art Auction in March.

Mrs Heather Goertzen



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Top of the list was Reception's wish for more Lego and building blocks (now part of the refurb planned for the new year). The desire for cross country and a swim squad has been met in part – we have fixtures planned and are looking for more. The request for a school minibs could not be accommodated, unless anyone can point us to a usable parking space nearby.



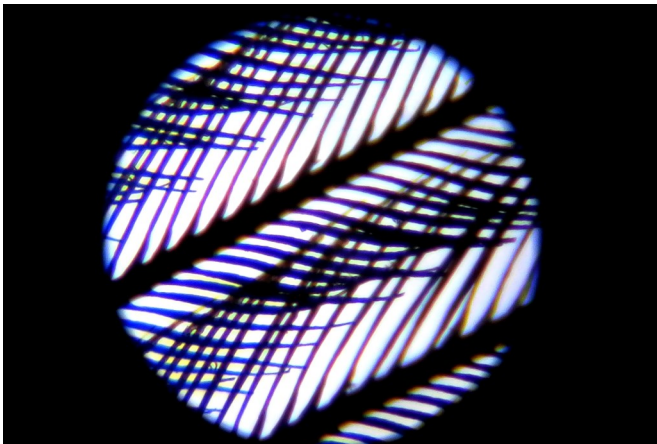
HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

Our head girl said: 'It has really been a great term. I am sure that Year 6 is looking forward to finishing the 11+ and going on all the trips next year. And Years 5 and 6 have really enjoyed bonding with their buddies in Reception.' Our head boy commented: 'I really liked the sport matches against other schools. The Reception children also did a wonderful nativity play, so well done to them. I also think everyone loves the new lunch (tacos).'

HOUSE CUP RESULTS

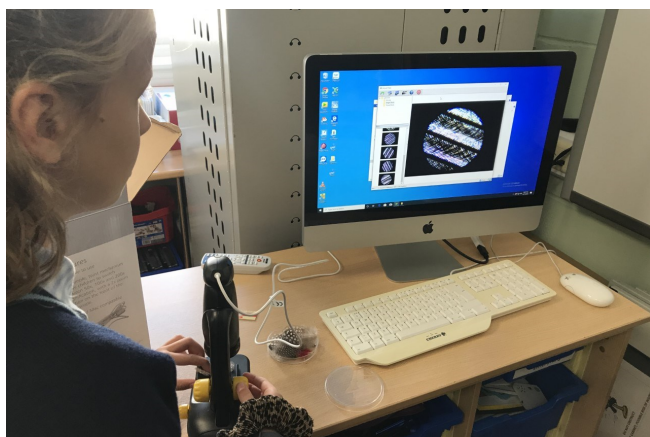
Congratulations to Drake, which won with 2,192 house points and led the field every Friday throughout the term. Nightingale came second with 1,941, Livingstone third on 1,856 and Astor fourth with 1,705.

THE ARTS



ART DAY

We had a wonderful art day with lots of fantastic artwork appearing throughout the school. We looked at Joseph Wright of Derby's painting, *An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump*, which gave us many ideas to explore. Classes focussed on different areas and created collage and model birds, birdcages, shattered portraits, mixed media moons and binoculars. Year 5 used our new digital microscopes to study feathers and created drawings from the photographs they took.



BALLET

Miss Alice was very impressed by the hard work of all the dancers this term. We have been working on our ballet technique, following the RAD syllabus, and exploring fun imaginative stories. The dancers have used their ballet knowledge to create their own group dances with their friends and had fun watching and learning from each other. We are excited to continue to develop our syllabus knowledge and learn about famous ballets next term. Well done to all the dancers.



MUSIC

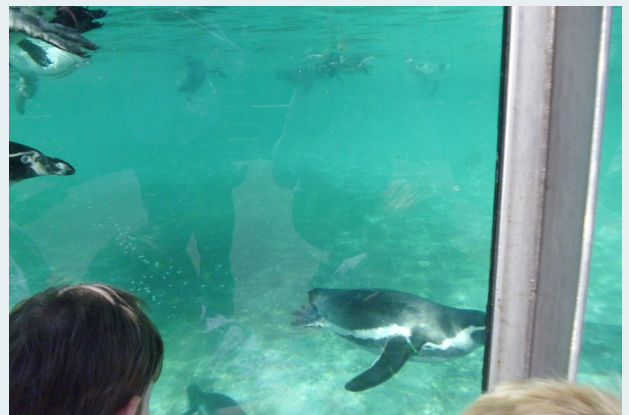
We have had numerous music assemblies and Mr Julian's band, Palavah, came in and played a mixture of folk, pop and jazz. The highlight was the children joining the band to play two basses, drums, electric guitar, flute and xylophones in a Kraftwerk song. The band were absolutely knocked out by the high standard and the way they played in time. The Christmas Carols concert was a fantastic chance for parents, children and teachers to get together and joyfully sing.

OUT AND ABOUT



FULHAM FIRE STATION

Our topic in Reception this term has been People Who Help Us. We brought the children's learning to life by visiting our local fire station to find out more about the role of a firefighter. The children sat in a fire engine, tried on uniforms and even assisted the firefighter spraying their hose up to 10 metres. The children were very inquisitive and had lots of good questions. They were incredibly excited throughout the day and their behaviour was wonderful.



LONDON ZOO

This term Year 1 were lucky enough to go on a fantastic and informative trip to London Zoo. With our Amazing Animals topic in mind, we were eager to see a variety of animals, including monkeys, tigers, lions and giraffes. Our favourite part of the day was definitely the Penguin Show. We discovered the pool where the baby penguins grow up, saw the penguins being given their lunch and found out that they can swim at speeds of up to 30mph while in the water.



VERULAMIUM MUSEUM

In September we visited Verulamium, the Roman name for St Albans. We completed a workshop with lots of interesting artefacts such as pottery, tweezers and even a baby's bottle. We saw huge mosaics which were excavated many years ago and went for a walk around the grounds and discovered part of the city's wall that surrounded Verulamium. Only a small section of the wall is still visible above ground so we were very lucky to see it.



UNICORN THEATRE

This term Year 6 visited the Unicorn Theatre to watch Sally Gardner's dazzlingly original and award-winning dystopian novel, *Maggot Moon*, brought to the stage. Using live drawing, cameras and projection, the play focused on the spirit of its main character, 15-year-old Standish Treadwell. It was a thought-provoking play. The children found the story to be very emotive and they were able to draw comparisons between the main protagonist and prior learning about the effects World War 2 had on children in the 1940s. Photo: Tristram Kenton.



ROALD DAHL MUSEUM

Year 3 loved their trip to consolidate our autumn term topic. We learnt about Roald Dahl's childhood and the many life experiences he had prior to being an author. It was fascinating to hear about the stories that inspired so many characters and settings in his novels. Learning about how Roald Dahl edited his work was incredibly interesting and we will try some of his techniques in our upcoming writing lessons.



STEM SUBJECTS



MATHS

There has been lots of exciting maths happening across the school this term. In Reception the children took on the role of pirates and counted their gold coins to find the total amount of treasure stolen. Year 1 went on a maths trail around the school and answered number sentences using leaves from outside as well as estimating the length of the playground in steps. Year 5 have been applying their mathematical knowledge to real-life problems.



CHESS

In Morning Chess we have been building on last year's successes. Mr Viv was delighted to award three more chess badges along with the bronze, silver and gold Carlsens. We have focussed on openings, developing pieces quickly and end-game tactics using pawns (including stalemate). In Chesslings a large number of beginners joined and we have been working on the general rules, the point-value of pieces and the value of good openings. Mr Viv is pleased that chess continues to grow in popularity at PGP.



STEM HOUSE DAY

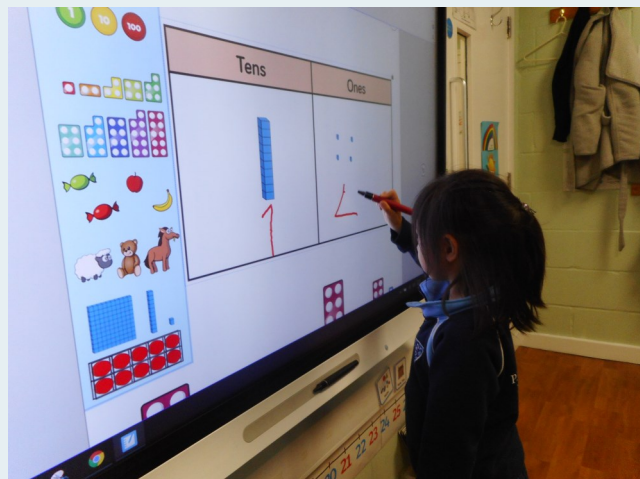
In October we held our annual STEM house competition. The children were given four challenges that required a range of investigative and observational methods to complete. These included going back in time to create Halloween-themed optical illusions from the 1900s, designing reflective t-shirts that were both effective and stylish, and re-locating four balls to four completely new locations in the playground using nothing but paper and gravity. The children relished putting their creativity and problem-solving abilities to the test.





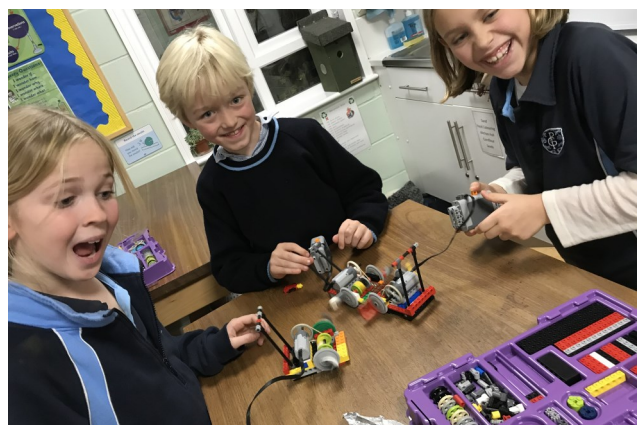
SCIENCE OVERVIEW

'The important thing is to not stop questioning' was a key point made by Einstein and a value upheld at PGP. A snapshot of this term includes a Year 1 trip to London Zoo to learn about animal habitats around the world, Year 2 studying materials, Year 3 learning about light, Year 4 studying 'Living Things' and growing their knowledge of food chains, Year 5 exploring how to separate materials using sieves and filter paper, and Year 6 learning about the cardiopulmonary system and exercise.



COMPUTING

The computing curriculum has started the academic year with a big bang! VR headsets were trialled by staff and a small group of pupils. We aim to roll this out across the school to extend thinking and learning in history, geography and STEM. This term pupils have enjoyed coding and creating simple algorithms, using apps to plan in STEM, practising typing and presentation skills and using publishing apps to create images.



YOUNG ENGINEERS

The Young Engineers LEGO club was a lot of fun again this term and next term it will be available for the younger ones as well. The children explored different STEM concepts by building motorised models that showed them at work. A different model each time, but all built from the same kit, thus encouraging creativity while reinforcing the fundamentals. It is so easy to learn while one enjoys playing. We look forward to more new models next term – nobody builds the same model twice.

IN THE CLASSROOM



RECEPTION

The children have successfully completed their magical nativity play. Everyone worked hard to remember their lines on stage. The children have mastered their understanding of numbers to 10 as they continue to work on adding and subtracting small amounts using Numicon. They have now moved on to learning two letter sounds such as 'sh' as they are blending letters well and reading with growing independence. Daily phonics has also helped develop their letter sounds and formation.



YEAR 1

This term in Year 1 we have had two great topics to cover; Amazing Animals and Famous for more than Five Minutes. In our Amazing Animals topic we studied different animals, finding out about the continents they live in and writing descriptively about their habitats using geographical language. In our second history-based topic we learnt all about the fantastic artists van Gogh and L. S. Lowry. We plotted significant events on timelines and created our very own masterpieces inspired by their art.



YEAR 2

The autumn term has been an adventure for Year 2. Our two topics, Great Explorers and Magical Mapping, took the children on a journey through time, across the world and up into space, all while learning important historical facts and geography skills. Our class books, such as Rapunzel and The Thing, have brought our writing lessons to life and we have tackled deeper problem-solving challenges in maths. In science and STEM the children thoroughly enjoyed a variety of investigations.



YEAR 3

Year 3 have had a wonderful term learning about the Aztecs and the invention of chocolate. As part of our Aztec topic, we have learnt about Fairtrade and its importance in creating a sustainable life for farmers in parts of Mexico. Our class novel has been Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, which has ignited our imaginations when writing. We fell in love with Charlie, particularly when seeing his character come to life at the Roald Dahl museum.



YEAR 4

Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed the Romans and learning about the many contributions they made in Britain. Our assembly was on Boudicca and the children acted out the tale using props they had made. We have studied three texts this term; Farther, Kensuke's Kingdom and The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. They stimulated our creativity and we have produced fantastic pieces of writing including poetry, newspaper articles and alternative story endings.



YEAR 5

This term's work has been centred around our topic of the Victorians. Studying a variety of aspects in the Victorian era, we got to experience the demeanour of Mr Wilberforce in a 'real' 1893 lesson. The class also reported on the lifelong achievements of Lord Shaftesbury and his role in changing child working conditions and education for good. Our book Street Child's lead character Jim stole our hearts and taught us about perseverance and friendship.



YEAR 6

Year 6 have worked unbelievably hard this term in preparation for their 11+ exams in January. The children have coped with the stresses that come with exam practice but they are very close to the end and are all looking forward to having this process behind them. In science they investigated the lungs and heart, which culminated in an experiment which tested the frequency of heart rates coupled with physical exertion. In creative learning the class investigated the rivers, seas, mountains, towns and cities found in the United Kingdom.



LE FRENCH PROGRAMME

What a wonderful first term. The Reception children have been working hard on their French writing, slowly mastering cursive letters. They have progressed so much in just three months. We have a strong group in Year 1 and the children are starting to read and write in French and are progressing very well. Year 2 and Year 3 have continued with their reading and writing and we have wonderful conversations. Year 5 are working hard on the grammar and conjugation. Well done everyone.

SPORT



NETBALL

This term our KS2 girls have been training at Hurlingham Park twice a week. The Year 3/4 girls have made excellent progress with their netball skills. In previous years they haven't played fixtures until the spring term, so it was excellent to see them represent the school this term. The Year 5/6 girls have had some impressive results this season. Special mention to the Year 6 girls who are currently unbeaten, posting excellent victories against Cameron House, Oliver House, Eaton Square and Kew College.



SPORTS CAPTAINS

This year's sports captains have done an excellent job at being ambassadors for PGP sport. Both have led their teams to several excellent victories in this term's sports of boys' football and girls' netball. More importantly, they have shown superb sportsmanship and leadership skills and have been an inspiration to others. The staff have been really impressed with how they represent our school by welcoming opposing schools and offering their assistance. Well done to both of you.



GYMNASTICS AND MOVEMENT LITERACY

During indoor PE lessons we have been looking at gymnastics and movement literacy. In KS1 we have developed a good range of core gymnastics movements and have looked at different types of balancing. The children have also had the benefit of using the indoor climbing wall, which has been excellent for their physical development. In KS2 we have been developing their gymnastics skills further to perform routines incorporating rolling.



FOOTBALL

This term KS2 have continued playing at Hurlingham Park twice a week. All pupils have had a chance to play in tournaments this term and we have had a lot of competitive and enjoyable matches. The boys have had some excellent victories this term and the highlight of the season so far was the Year 5/6 victory against Cameron House. Year 2 played their first fixture for PGP, beating Merlin School. The Chelsea Foundation has also continued to inspire the children.



SWIMMING

We continue to have our Friday morning swimming lessons at Fulham Virgin Active Fitness Club for those in Years 2 and 3. The children have made good progress with their swimming and their confidence is continuing to grow. The highlight of the term was the relay events at the end of term in breaststroke, backstroke and freestyle. Years 4, 5 and 6 will have the opportunity to swim next term and we are looking forward to our annual house swimming competition.



HOUSE MATCHES

For the first time PGP organised house matches for KS2 netball. Livingstone took the honours in the Year 3/4 matches, winning all three of them. The competition was played in excellent spirit with all pupils getting stuck in. It was great to see the quality of netball improve throughout the competition and everyone had a good time. We look forward to future inter-house competitions, with football on the agenda for the spring term.

EVENTS



CHARITY ROUND-UP

In September Miss Lucy organised a whole school Dance-a-thon to raise money for the NSPCC. It was a great success and everyone joined in to raise a fantastic total of £1,622. For the Harvest Festival we collected and donated to the Hammersmith and Fulham Foodbank. Later in the term Nightingale House held a fundraising day for their chosen charity Wildlife Aid. This charity helps wildlife in the UK and a total of £301 was collected. A huge thank you to everyone who donated.



ECO COMMITTEE

It has been a fantastic start for our new Eco Committee. They have been involved in some very useful meetings discussing the importance of looking after the planet and sharing lots of innovative ideas about how to make the school more environmentally friendly. They have also put forward a new Eco Code for the school and are currently working on turning this into posters to display in every classroom.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS CONCERT

St Dionis' church was the perfect backdrop for our Carol Service. Ending our Autumn term with familiar carols is always a joy and ensures everyone is in full festive spirits. This year did not fail and each class delivered a spectacular performance, showcasing their hard work and vocal talents. The children's angelic voices filled the church as they sang a great variation of Christmas carols. It was not only music that had us enchanted but also beautiful poetry and readings.