

Newsletter



PARSONS GREEN
PREP SCHOOL

Spring edition - March 2020

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School
news



STEM



Out and
about



In the
classroom



Events

HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE



FROM THE HEAD

With only one thing on everyone's mind as we break up for Easter, it is worth remembering all the events and achievements which have made this term such a good one. We have had several visiting speakers, from authors to shopkeepers; we have celebrated World Book Day, World Religion Day, Egyptian Day and Opera Day; we have had residential and day trips galore and the football, rugby and netball teams have distinguished themselves week after week. Children have been happy, motivated and enthusiastic and Year 6 have harvested a record number of offers to senior schools. I am looking forward to more of the same in April.

Mr Matthew Faulkner



FOPGP

This term the children enjoyed an evening of dancing and activities with Sharky & George at FOPGP's School Disco. The entire PGP community came together to put on a successful Baked Goods and Used Book Sale to raise money for Australian wildlife effected by the bushfires. The Quiz Night and Art Auction were unfortunately cancelled. We are looking ahead to the School Fair in the summer term - fingers crossed we will be able to hold it.

Mrs Heather Goertzen



SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council continues to seek new ways to improve life for everyone. This term we looked at the playground facilities, the staggered times for lunch and the possibility of some practical skills being taught through PSHE, including gardening, sewing and even using a knife and fork. We will definitely see some improvements to the playground as soon as we can work on this and the lunch timings will indeed change a little for 2020. The Reception playground now has a gardening spot and the PSHE team are looking at the other suggestions. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this important role.



HOUSE CUP RESULTS

Congratulations to Drake on winning the house cup with 850 points. Due to unforeseen global events near the end of term we do not have exact scores for Astor, Livingstone and Nightingale but it was very close so well done to all the other houses as well.

THE ARTS

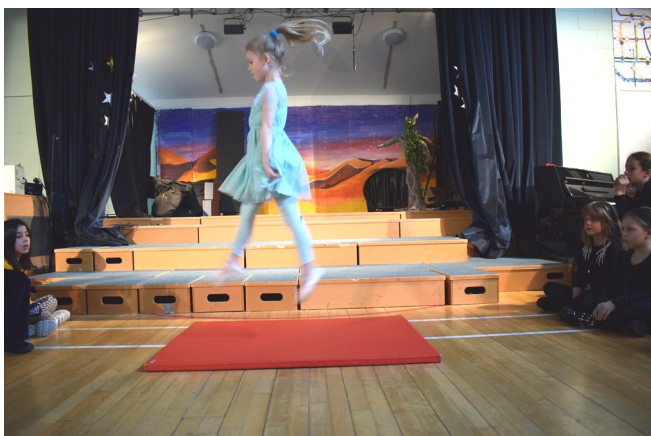
ART AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Once again we have had a busy term creating some fabulous artwork and models. Year 3 made Egyptian canopic jars and model shadufs. Year 4 learnt different watercolour techniques and put them together to make beautiful paintings. They made wind turbines in DT. Year 5 created some amazing artwork inspired by space using inks and marbling techniques. They also made moveable moon buggies. Year 6 produced colourful, Indian-inspired designs using traditional batik methods and in food technology they tried different foods from around the world.



ASTOR TALENT SHOW

Raising £65 for Astor's chosen charity this year, Sparks (www.sparks.org.uk), we were treated to high-quality drama, dance, jokes, tricks and singing, held together by our hilarious and talented compere Mr Neil. The winners were KS1 girls singing Firework by Katy Perry a cappella and a KS2 girl performing a mixture of ballet and gymnastics. Well done to everyone for taking part and to our judges, who had to separate the diamonds from the gold dust.



LAMDA

Mr Max has been at PGP for over seven years now and his classes are thriving, with over 40 students and record exam results. Through exploring drama, poetry and public speaking the children take the skills they develop into their everyday lives and learning. This academic year saw our first 100% in a graded examination and the natural talent and hard work from all the students is something the school should be very proud of. PGP's 'village school' feel, matched with its educational rigour and commitment to the arts, means that LAMDA goes from strength to strength.



MUSIC

Music is an integral part of life at PGP and has continued to blossom and grow throughout the school. The quality of music is outstanding, whether one-to-one lessons or choir, and the children are slowly becoming ambitious and competent musical technicians. This term saw a wonderful music assembly which showcased the versatility of the chamber choir. Not only was their performance a joy to hear but their confidence on stage has started to sparkle.

OUT AND ABOUT

MILL ON THE BRUE

Year 4 had a fantastic time at Mill on the Brue! Our days were packed full of fun activities such as canoeing, archery, rifle shooting and leap of faith. We also completed problem-solving activities which have helped us in the classroom. One big obstacle for a lot of children was the zip wire, but every child had a go and they were so brave. We learned a lot from the trip and appreciated the outdoors and what it has to offer.



HINDLEAP WARREN

What a wonderful week we had at Hindleap Warren in Sussex. Miss Phoebe could not have been prouder of 5P with trying out new activities, going beyond their comfort zones, manners and overall ability to work as a team and encouraging one another. The week was full of superbly organised activities ranging from fire making, shelter building, abseiling, team problem solving, getting ridiculously muddy and plenty of hot chocolate. It was a fun-fuelled time, filled with only smiles and laughter. I think we all would have happily stayed for another week of adventures.





LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE

This term we explored the wonderful children's author Julia Donaldson and her imaginative books. One of these is the famous story of Stick Man. Having developed a love and understanding of the book, we were thrilled to visit the Leicester Square Theatre to watch the story acted out on stage. The children were on the edge of their seats and loved laughing and singing along with the actors throughout. It was a fun and interactive performance within a cosy theatre and all children were beautifully behaved.



TOWER OF LONDON

This term Year 1 were lucky enough to go on an amazing trip to the Tower of London; from the sparkling Crown Jewels to the old shining armour and impressive buildings, we were amazed by what we saw. We were able to experience living like a king in our brilliant workshop as well as walking the towering battlements and looking out over the River Thames. We enjoyed every minute and had a wonderfully exciting yet informative trip.

SKI TRIP

Year 6 had an amazing ski trip at Alpe d'Huez in France. We flew into Geneva and enjoyed the scenic bus journey through the alps to our idyllic ski resort for eight days. We enjoyed the location of our 'ski-in, ski-out' accommodation. The ski lessons were led by Seb and Bob from the ESF ski school and they were excellent in their tuition and expertise. Highlights off the slopes included karaoke and a disco. The snowy conditions were perfect for skiing and we loved the unusually warm and sunny weather.



STEM SUBJECTS



MATHS

It's been another exciting term for maths across the school. In Reception the children created 10 frames to make number bonds to 10 for The Very Hungry Caterpillar's different foods and Year 1 went on a shape walk around school to search for 3D shapes. As part of their topic studying Egyptians, Year 3 looked at the ancient Egyptian numeral system. Year 4 looked at the maths behind waste treatment and the volume of waste which is treated during their trip to Hogsmill Sewage Treatment Works.



CHESS

Mr Viv has been impressed by the play in Morning Chess – the best he can remember. He is especially pleased by the way tactics are being developed in advance of the moves. We've focused on opening gambits and, once again, Carlsens and badges were awarded. After a slow start in Chesslings, we have begun to make progress. Sometimes learning the rules takes a little longer, depending on the group, but Mr Viv is pleased that understanding and focus improved in the second half of term.

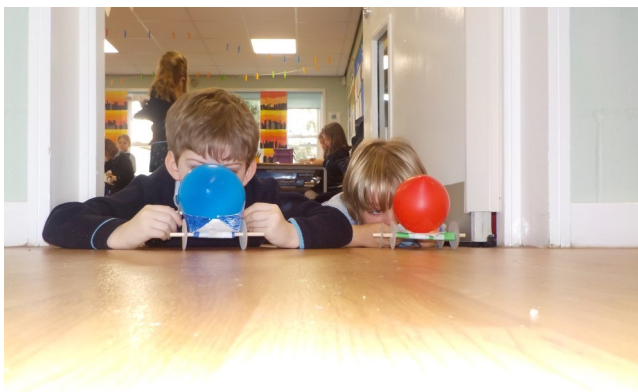
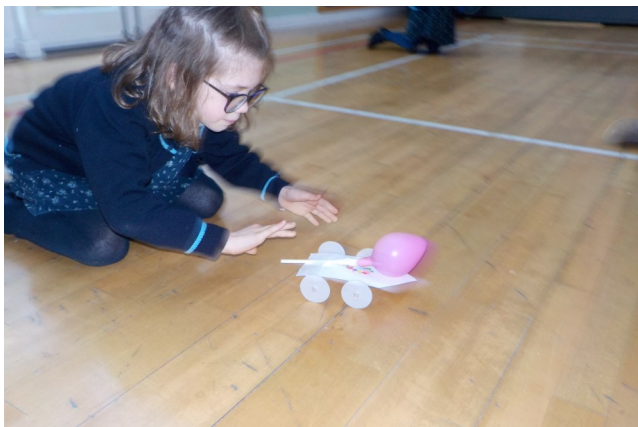


CYPHER CODING CLUB

Cypher runs creatively themed coding clubs at PGP to inspire students to learn the language of the future. In the spring term the 'Cyphernauts' have been improving their touch-typing skills to make sure they are very quick when they need to write their own code, coding games on Tynker using a block-based language and several students have even been building apps using Bitsbox. Cypher Coding Clubs run on Mondays and Tuesdays and are making PGP children future ready.

STEM OVERVIEW

Reception learned about camouflage in the animal kingdom. Year 1 explored forces by creating catapults. Year 2 learned about existing pollution solutions in cities before designing their own. Year 3 learned about ecosystems – how habitats are being destroyed and how we rebuild them. Year 4 built their own boats, inspired by their class book, Shackleton's Journey. Year 5 studied forensics and DNA and Year 6 explored sound by designing their own musical instruments.



YOUNG ENGINEERS LEGO CLUB

The Young Engineers' LEGO engineering after-school club was again all about learning through play. Science and engineering, exemplified with Lego – the children love this, and have a lot of fun while learning about STEM. This term we explored different forms of energy and momentum. We built models like a gondola (going across the art room), a MacGyver rifle, a manual spinning top launcher, an electric one, and much more. And next term, we are going from STEM to STEAM – monochromatic LEGO kits!



COMPUTING

We have focussed on internet safety this term and we enjoyed taking part in Internet Safety Day in February, exploring the theme 'Together for a Better Internet.' We feel that digital learning is a vital part of the curriculum and we want to empower our pupils to have the freedom to use the internet safely. The whole school took part in activities exploring online image and creating an avatar. We made a pledge board where we made promises about how to keep safe digitally, both physically and mentally.

IN THE CLASSROOM



RECEPTION

Room on the Broom, The Hungry Caterpillar and Tiddler are just a few of the fun books we have explored in Reception this term. These fantastic books inspired the children to write imaginative stories and lists, whilst applying their growing knowledge of letter sounds. They created a real-life stick man or woman, edible witch wands and healthy fruit kebabs. The children also learned about the life cycle of butterflies and frogs through songs and art.



YEAR 1

We have had a fantastic term in Year 1 and have completed some exciting, challenging learning. We have thoroughly enjoyed our Medieval Tales topic and this has been the focus throughout the curriculum. In English, alongside lots of other fantastic writing, we wrote some brilliant dragon poems using descriptive language. In history we have learnt about different jobs in a castle, parts of a castle and the Black Death and in art we have made colourful shields and completed detailed drawings of castles.



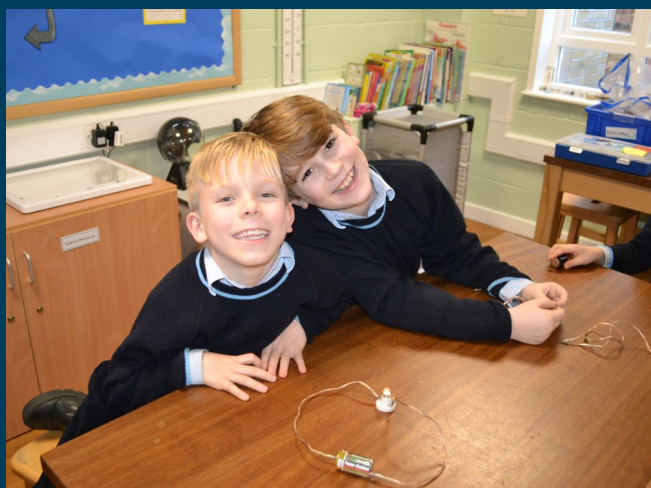
YEAR 2

It's been a full and fun term. From designing and testing balloon-powered cars in STEM to their own computer games in computing, the children have learned essential skills through the engineering design process. We learned about The Great Fire of London and visited St. Paul's Cathedral to understand the lasting impact the fire had on our city. In science we studied the different animal groups and enjoyed discovering animals that proved to be the exceptions in their classifications.



YEAR 3

Year 3 have continued our learning journey through the Ancient Egyptian era with an excellent Egyptian Day, presented by the Freshwater Theatre Company, and we have even been lucky enough to visit the Saatchi Gallery to see the world-famous Tutankhamun exhibition. We've built on our knowledge of multiplication, division and measure in maths, with a particular focus on how to use words to explain how we can find the answer to a problem. In STEM we have loved making our own biodomes and in science we have learnt about the human body by acting as mini personal trainers.



YEAR 4

Our focus has been on the Earth and extreme events. We studied the work of Greta Thunberg and how she has made a positive impact on the world today. We wrote letters to our local MPs, Sadiq Khan and TFL to try and implement the use of 'bee stops' in our local environment. Our texts, Shackleton's Journey and Gulliver's Travels, have sparked lots of interesting and insightful questions about travel and its effects.



YEAR 5

In STEM we have become forensic specialists at studying crime scenes and designing a brand new extraction instrument to limit contamination to crime scenes. Our assembly kick-started the year in support of our investigation of the water cycle, river courses and features of rivers in our topic, Go With The Flow. Writing has continued to develop throughout the term using stimulus for writing mythical reports, setting and character descriptions and completing a visual literacy unit.



YEAR 6

The children have worked conscientiously over the past term. Not only have they all gained places to London day schools but they have received the most offers ever in the history of PGP. After the 11+ process had ended they enjoyed not having to revise for exams. They spent this term learning about slavery in our topic lessons, weekly trips to the V&A and the Science Museum to name but two and in science the children investigated genes and characteristics passed on from parents.



LE FRENCH PROGRAMME

Our children at Le French Programme have worked really hard this term. The children in Reception have learned some new vocabulary so well that we are able to have beautiful conversations now. They can also do maths in French. Years 1 and 2 have also progressed in their reading and writing - it is amazing to see how quickly this happens. The Key Stage 2 children are so enthusiastic that we now have some wonderful self-written stories that we are so proud of.

SPORT

HOCKEY

Hockey has been a new introduction to the curriculum. All Key Stage Two pupils have been taking part in hockey lessons on our Astroturf pitch at school. Hockey is a brilliant sport and it has been great to see pupils take to it with enthusiasm whilst making good progress. Highlight of the season was the under 11A hockey team posting an impressive 5-1 victory against Kew College. This was an excellent performance, considering they have only been doing the sport for a term.



TAG RUGBY

Key Stage Two boys have been playing tag rugby on a Monday and Wednesday afternoon at Hurlingham Park. The boys have made great progress and it has been excellent to see every boy represent the school this term. The highlight of the season was the Year 4 boys' victory against Kew College. Their skills were really on display as they ran in 9 tries to record a 9-4 victory. Well done!



FOOTBALL

This term Key Stage Two girls have been playing football at Hurlingham Park on a Monday and Wednesday afternoon. It has been great to see all pupils get involved and we have had some excellent victories. The standout match of the season was the Year 3 girls' victory against Knightsbridge School. We also played our first mixed football match of the season, where Year 5 achieved an intelligent victory against Cameron House School. The Chelsea Foundation has continued to deliver high-quality coaching to all year groups.



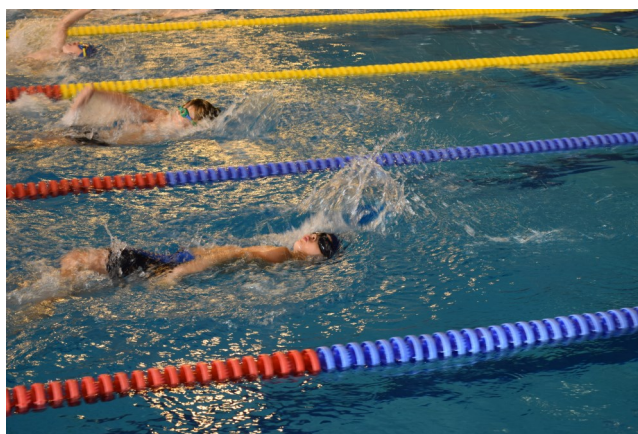
CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

We have continued our cross-country running at Hurlingham Park on a Wednesday morning. Despite the cold conditions at 8am, it has been great to see pupils look to improve their health and fitness. This term we entered the ISA regional cross-country qualifier at Sherfield School. All pupils from Year 3 to 6 pushed themselves against tough opposition. Special mention to Beatrice and Mille who came in the top 25 despite competing against Year 6 pupils.



SWIMMING

This term Years 4, 5 and 6 have taken part in Friday morning swimming lessons at Fulham Virgin Active Fitness Club. The Children have made excellent progress with their strokes including, breaststroke, backstroke, freestyle and butterfly. The highlight of the swimming was the children learning how to tumble turn and dive. We are looking forward to the summer swimming gala, when Key Stage Two will be competing .



EVENTS



CHARITY ROUND-UP

This term Astor house organised a talent show in aid of the children's charity Sparks to raise money for research into childhood illnesses. The event was a huge success with the whole school coming to watch. We also held a collection on World Book Day and children gave money to come dressed as their favourite book character. The collection was for Book Aid, a fantastic charity that supplies books to libraries and hospitals around the world. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.



WORLD BOOK DAY

The school was a blizzard of crazy costumes, ranging from the Cat in the Hat to Harry Potter to the Queen of Hearts. We loved reading to children in different age groups and listening to some stories that others had written. Children's author Lexi Rees visited the whole school to take an assembly and inspired us to create some very imaginative stories which many classes continued to write back in their classrooms. Money was raised for Book Aid International (bookaid.org), a charity which gives children across the globe access to reading books.



ECO COMMITTEE

The Eco Committee have worked hard this term to produce an Eco Code for the school. The poster is now on display in every class to remind children about the six key steps to being an Eco Warrior, including recycling and turning off power when it is not in use. The committee is looking forward to presenting Waste Week to the school in the summer term and the children have been putting together lots of ideas for how best to celebrate it.

Don't forget to follow us on social media for the latest news and activities around the school.

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