

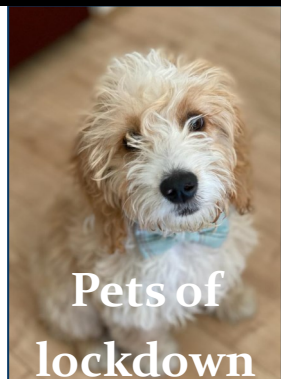
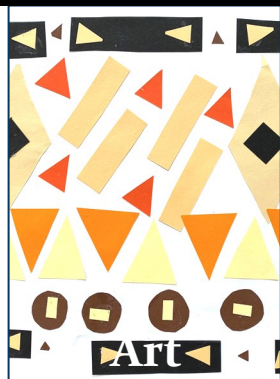
Newsletter



PARSONS GREEN
PREP SCHOOL

Summer edition - July 2020

www.parsonsgreenprep.co.uk



HEADMASTER, FOPGP AND THE ARTS



FROM THE HEAD

This has been an amazing year, in every sense of the word. The new staff brought even more expertise and pizzazz to the classroom, sporting fixtures were expanded and the Arts were put to the fore. The lockdown then brought out qualities we knew we possessed but had never had cause to test - teamwork beyond the call of duty, technological improvisation and the ability to create a makeshift classroom at home. Thank you everyone - staff and parents and children - for rising to the challenge. Roll on September!

Mr Matthew Faulkner



ART

We have had a very creative term with some amazing artwork produced. Year 2 learnt about aspects of colour theory and designed and made a stuffed animal. Year 3 produced Tudor portraits and learnt new sewing techniques to make money containers. Year 4 studied war artist Henry Moore and created atmospheric pictures. They also produced foods using wartime recipes. Year 5 created artwork inspired by rivers and created a new flavoured water drink. Year 6 produced a fantastic collaborative piece based on the tube map and learnt about different artists and designers.



FRIENDS OF PARSONS GREEN PREP

FOPGP hosted an online auction featuring artwork from each class and prizes donated by PGP families and local businesses. The proceeds will go toward future events and will benefit Fulham Good Neighbours. We thank our wonderful community for their support and generosity. We look forward to returning in the autumn with fun events that fit this new landscape and celebrate our lovely school.

Mrs Heather Goertzen



MUSIC

It was an exciting term for music, all taught via Zoom. Each class focused on different areas of music, from beats and rhythms in Reception to a journey through musical time in Year 5. We were all energised by new learning and discovering new musical sounds. We were able to sing together and we even had children play their instruments live. Although we are unable to have an end-of-year concert, we have maintained our passion for music and strengthened our knowledge to a greater depth.

STEM

MATHS

Learning maths via remote schooling has been quite a different experience for PGP pupils this term but they've worked really hard and had lots of fun. Reception enjoyed a week learning all about George and the Dragon, where they looked at 3D shapes and created their own castles and 3D creations. During 6R's lesson on Alexander Fleming's discovery of penicillin, they noted the time period and spread of penicillin in a 100mm diameter petri dish. They then created a scatter graph to show their results.



STEM OVERVIEW

Rather than hindering our STEM curriculum, remote learning offered a unique opportunity to work together across year groups. Each week PGP students were set an engaging STEM challenge that taught important scientific concepts, such as Newton's Laws of Motion through balloon rockets, diffusion through Skittles and centre of mass by building a 'Pringle Ringle'. Important STEM careers were also investigated, for example palaeontology, which enabled the children to understand how they contribute to our knowledge of the world.



COMPUTING

Lockdown has been a golden opportunity for developing IT skills. Year 6 have continued with coding, creating animations through colour and line movement. Across Key Stage 2 the children have used their study skills to create personal projects, researching online, sourcing the best information and creating posters on Word or slideshows on PowerPoint. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed presenting their projects via Zoom. Year 5 even learned how to cite their sources with comprehensive bibliographies. Key Stage 1 have enjoyed using a range of programmes, from Purple Mash to Class Notebook.



CHESS

Covid-19 has put chess in check this summer term. It's hard to maintain social distancing in a chess game, but that doesn't mean you can't keep practising at home. Try setting up a board in your room and playing family and friends remotely. When playing against the computer, use the 'suggested move' button to learn replies to opening gambits. Test your ideas and be ready for chess when it starts again at PGP. Don't forget to play black every now and again.

IN THE CLASSROOM



RECEPTION

What an exciting and busy term it has been for Reception. They have looked at different fairy tales, focusing each week on a new story including Jack and the Beanstalk, Goldilocks, The Little Red Hen and The Enormous Turnip. The children enjoyed lots of wonderful learning through the stories, such as ordering beanstalks by height, baking their own bread rolls, understanding the role of plants, writing a recipe for porridge and writing a letter of apology from an animal in The Little Red Hen story.



YEAR 1

Despite the strange situation, Year 1 have had a wonderful, jam-packed summer term, kicking off with our Pirates topic. They learnt all about famous pirates, made fantastic tea-dyed treasure maps and wrote naughty pirate stories. Once back at school, we all took advantage of the good weather and completed science lessons outside, closely observing plants and trees, and took a hands-on approach to learning about capacity in maths. The children now can't wait for Year 2.



YEAR 2

Year 2 have travelled around the world from the comfort of their own home. They learned about Kenya's landscapes, habitats and multitude of animals. They even had a virtual school trip and went on a live safari in South Africa. The class topic was infused across the curriculum, from English with Lila and the Secret of Rain, to art where the children designed African-inspired jewellery. The children then learned about the importance of the rainforest and the biodiversity of each layer.



YEAR 3

Year 3 have exceeded all home-learning expectations this term. The children have loved their Tudor topic – they've written Tudor playscripts (inspired by the brilliant Shakespeare), learnt about Tudor toilets (not so great) and even made posters to advertise a new wife for Henry VIII. In maths they tackled time and learnt more about shape, discovering 2D and 3D shapes in our own homes. STEM experiments have been a highlight and the children have loved sharing these experiences with their families at home and with their teacher and friends over Zoom.



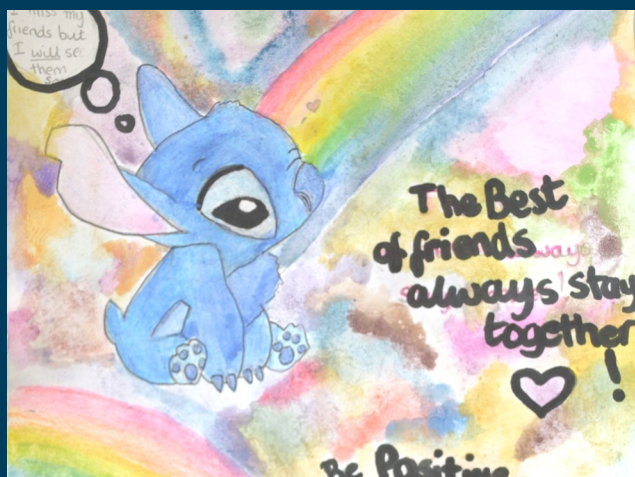
YEAR 4

This term Year 4 studied both Gulliver and The Selfish Giant and the children wrote letters, diary entries and log book entries. The class's focus text, Carrie's War, linked perfectly with our topic of World War 2, where the children have completed projects such as filling in their own ration book and they even made a model of an Anderson shelter. They carried out experiments in science and enjoyed working on various STEM projects too.



YEAR 5

This term has been slightly alien for us all with new routines and new desks. During English the children have studied balanced arguments, ensuring both recounts are equally discussed with supporting evidence. They focused on developing their sophisticated vocab and up-levering their work, especially when looking at scene writing after studying The Highwayman, as well as narrative writing. In maths past paper practise has become a regular feature, along with looking into life cycles and reproduction in plants and other animals for science.



YEAR 6

This term's highlights included tracing the US Civil Rights movement in the early 1950s and 1960s. Rosa Parks' story was used as inspiration for one of our English lessons, when the children used empathy to write gripping diary entries. In history they discovered the Shang Dynasty and realised how astonishing their inventions in bronze were 3,000 years ago. Our World Affairs lesson on the sinking of the Titanic led the children on an independent journey back to 1912.



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Twitter: @pgpschoollondon

Facebook: Parsons Green Prep School

And do check out the news section of the school website at:

www.parsonsgreenprep.co.uk/news

LOCKDOWN LEARNINGS



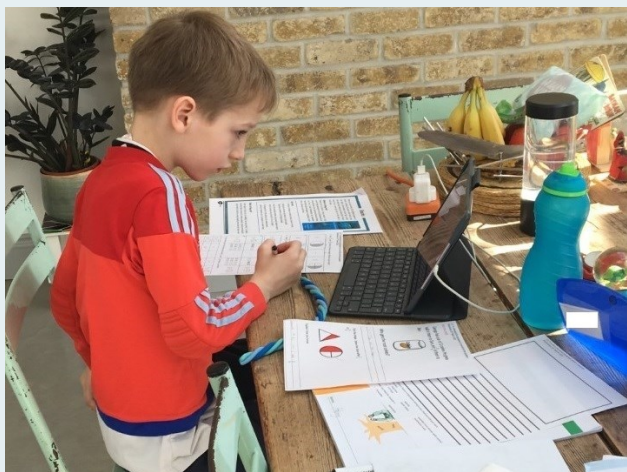
RECEPTION

The children and parents all pulled together to keep the learning alive as teachers delivered lessons via Zoom. The children were well behaved and hard-working throughout and continued to make progress in all subjects. We covered fairy tales, superheroes and jungle creatures. The children produced wonderful creative writing, including instructions on how to make yummy porridge for Goldilocks. They continued to sing, dance and produce beautiful art, which was shared in their folders on Teams.



YEAR 1

The children seeing their teachers on screen and learning online was so different. With fantastic support from parents, they soon adapted and started to learn about pirates' lives in the past as they travelled around the world. Along with English, maths and their other subjects, they embarked on creative and hands-on experiments in STEM. The focus on growing was the starting point for several very exciting 'kitchen' experiments.



YEAR 2

What started as an optimistic 'we'll be back after Easter' soon turned into the realisation that remote learning would be a more permanent fixture. By changing the angle of her 'teacher view', Miss Samantha has learned much about her class, such as the endless adaptability and positivity they possess, as well as the strength in our community, even when divided. She had the privilege to learn more about the children as individuals and suffice to say she could not be prouder of their achievements.



YEAR 3

What an amazing term for Year 3 - it has been emotional, character-building fun, but most of all it has been a huge learning curve. Before lockdown we hadn't really tapped into the vast resources online and the new systems we could work and learn through. As a teacher, Miss Helen's mind was awakened to a new way of teaching and interacting - although overwhelming at times, it was a great challenge. The teachers delivered excellent, high-standard lessons to their class each day, maintaining social interaction and awareness. Miss Helen is really proud of what everyone achieved.



YEAR 4

Year 4's tenacity in adapting to remote learning was phenomenal and made Miss Louise's life so much easier. Our motto became 'you're on mute!' and various issues with technology made for slightly trickier lessons, but overall the journey to becoming remote learners (and teachers) has been relatively smooth. Miss Louise would never have imagined teaching in these circumstances but she is proud to say the class overcame this huge challenge really well.



YEAR 5

Even though lockdown has brought about some negative aspects to education, it has also reminded us all of the simple things in life. Year 5 have been nothing short of spectacular when it comes to navigating new technology, completing homework, doing science experiments in the kitchen, not to mention turning up with big smiles every day. They have continued to progress through the curriculum in a way as close to being in the classroom as possible, exploring poetry, 3D shapes, creating their own water cycles in jam jars and much more.



YEAR 6

While the beginning of the remote learning experience was difficult in many ways, with wifi problems in Sweden, London and the Mourne Mountains, it was surprisingly positive towards the end. The children coped with the new technology thrown at them and they all kept a positive mindset even though they were missing all the normal Y6 trips and residential. While nothing can replace their social interactions in class, it was lovely to see each other online every day.



LAMDA

Mr Max has managed to keep up a full LAMDA offering this term, working on skills, performance and communication. All while toddlers and dogs Zoom-bombed at every opportunity. Many thanks to the parents for facilitating all the technical requirements and to the children for their endless energy, commitment and humour. The small selection of results Mr Max received from the last pre-Covid-19 exam session were fantastic and he is looking forward to booking many more in when things return to something resembling normality.

SPORT

ONLINE PE

This term saw a complete change to PE lessons, with the new online programme being rolled out. For the first half of term, every day each year group participated in online sessions. The classes covered a lot of different areas, including fitness, gymnastics, yoga and dance. The children have also had a go at Mr Tom's football and tennis skills challenges. The level of response from the children has been outstanding, with them showing great self-motivation and determination. Well done everybody.



CRICKET, TENNIS AND ATHLETICS

After half-term cricket and tennis resumed at PGP. The children have shown a good improvement to their technique and Years 4, 5 and 6 have enjoyed competitive games on our on-site AstroTurf, showing good technical awareness. We are looking forward to the resumption of school fixtures in September. The children enjoyed a mini inter-year sports day in the last week of term, where they competed in the disciplines of shot-put, javelin, and relay events.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION AND CHARITY

YEAR 6 GRADUATION

Year 6 have been an exceptional group. As well as acting as excellent role models to all the younger children, they also excelled themselves academically, garnering over 40 offers to the many senior schools they applied to. Their contributions to all things sporting, artistic and musical were huge and they leave with our very best wishes. We also said goodbye to the staff who are leaving us; Miss Lin, Miss Lucy and Miss Isabel and Mr Julian and Mr Stephen. We wish them all every success in the future.



CHARITY

This term has seen some incredible efforts from children and staff. One keen rugby player and his father made 2,500 rugby passes to help raise a total of £50,000 for the Friends of Charing Cross Hospital. Two siblings ran 1,000 laps of their garden to collect £1,000 for the NHS and raised over £2,000. The staff have been busy too. Miss Alison has been making and selling sewing kits for Critical NHS and Wandsworth Foodbank, while Miss Lauren has been delivering food to vulnerable and elderly people. Well done everyone.

PETS OF LOCKDOWN (AND MISS PHOEBE'S COWS)







PARSONS GREEN PREP

Website - www.parsonsgreenprep.co.uk

Email - office@parsonsgreenprep.co.uk

Telephone - 0207 371 9009

Autumn 2020 term dates:

Term begins on Tuesday 8 September

Half-term is from Monday 19 October to Friday 30 October

Term ends on Wednesday 16 December (half-day)