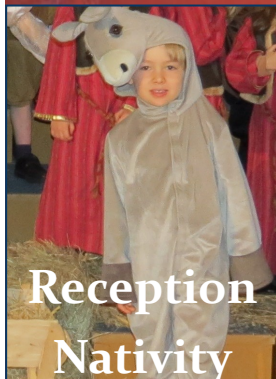


# Newsletter



PARSONS GREEN  
PREP SCHOOL

Autumn Edition - December 2020



Reception  
Nativity



Art



STEAM



In The  
Classroom



Events



# HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE



## FROM THE HEAD

The term has seen new rules and buzzwords coming across our bows every week. Bubbles, sanitiser and social distancing became second nature to us all and many new routines had to be learned. Fortunately, the September storms gave way to a succession of fine winds, allowing us to steer a steady course back to normality, the term finishing on a high - the 12 school days in December all marked with a different Christmas-themed activity. Everybody has been unerringly positive to work with; parents, children and staff all pulling together as ever. Happy Holidays!

**Mr Matthew Faulkner**



## FOPGP

We have introduced some new traditions this year! We have celebrated birthdays with goody bags and balloons. Our Twelve Days of Christmas raised money for The Shoebox Project, Hammersmith & Fulham Foodbank and Save The Children. We have also had letter writing, mindfulness, Christmas card exchanges, cookie decorating, and opportunities to wear festive accessories and jumpers.

**Mrs Heather Goertzen**



## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Playtime by bubble has highlighted the need for more outdoor games, while the need for more and better recycling chimed soundly with the work of the eco committee. On the arts front, suggestions for more drama and for an a cappella choir were excellent and are under investigation.



## HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

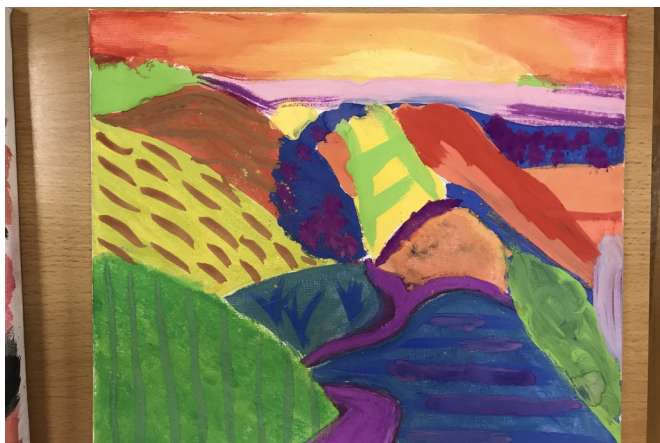
Our head boy and head girl have been outstanding in their roles this term. That was always on the cards, having heard their auditions/applications back in September. The poise shown in the interview process was carried over into the excellent speeches given on Open Day (on Zoom) and latterly in the all-important announcement of house points in the Friday assemblies. We thank them for taking on these desirable but challenging roles.

## HOUSE CUP RESULTS

With slightly fewer opportunities to shine this term, house points were arguably harder to earn. The term ended with a thrilling, almost neck and neck drive for the line. Congratulations to Nightingale on 369 for running out deserved winners and claiming the House Cup.



# THE ARTS



## ART

There has been some amazing art work created this term and lots of it has been brightening up the school. For Art Day the whole school looked at the painting by Paolo Uccello called The Battle of San Romano, from 1432. The painting shows a battle between two forces in Italy and is full of narrative, action and detail. Each class took a theme to focus on within the picture. We had a huge variety of work created including embroidered horses, botanical watercolours, landscape paintings and reflected buildings.



## BALLET

This term the class worked on some of the RAD (Royal Academy of Dance) Syllabus and managed to memorise difficult combinations by also using the power of imagination. This helped them to grow not only as individual dancers, perfecting the executions of the steps, but it also allowed them to learn how to work together as a group. The children also had time to work on their individual creativity and they are never afraid to throw themselves into a new dance. Miss Alice says well done ballerinas!

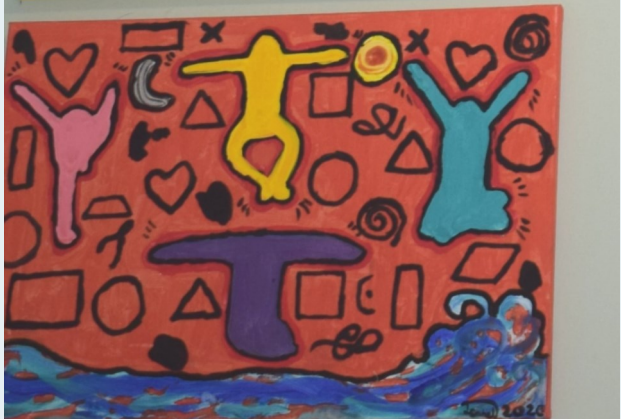


## MUSIC

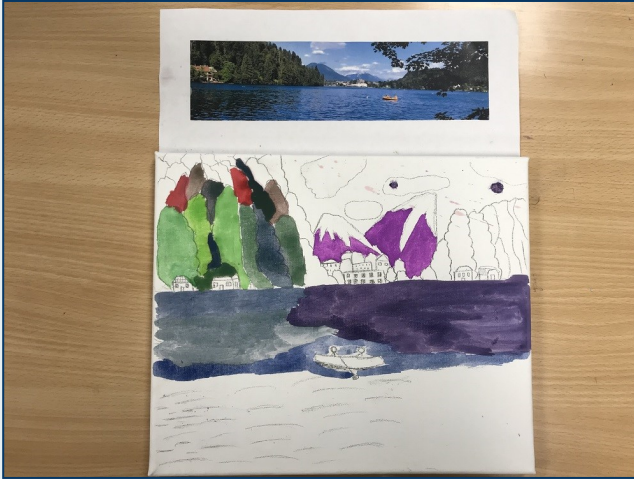
This term we have a brand-new music theory syllabus and our fabulous choirs have been preparing Christmas carols. Reception are learning all about pulse and percussion. Year 1 are counting and writing musical notes. Year 2 are roaring through Saint-Saëns' The Carnival of the Animals, Years 3 and 4 are spacing out to Holst's The Planets and Year 5 and 6 are being led through Britten's The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra. A concerted effort by all.



# ART AT PGP









# STEAM SUBJECTS



## MATHS

This term we have seen some super learning throughout the school. In Reception we have been learning number bonds to ten. A highlight in year 2 would be learning to add and subtract using the column method. Year 4 children were challenged to draw and measure shapes in class. In Year 6 we have been finalising 11+ preparation and consolidating all areas from Year 5. Our highlight most definitely was the introduction of algebra. It wasn't half as daunting as first thought.



## COMPUTING

PGP has been excited about our brand-new set of touchscreen Chromebooks. KS1 was busy this term learning how to use Paint and beginning to code with Purple Mash. In line with their topic, Extraordinary Animals, Year 1 have created their favourite animals using Paint. KS2 have been learning about online safety as well as advancing their skills in coding. For instance, Year 3 used Purple Mash to write emails in RE while Year 4 worked on a sequence of coding instructions to make a sprite move from A to B.



## CHESS

Firstly, congratulations to everyone who took part in the Chess Rising Stars clubs this term. The children have all adapted well to playing chess in Year Group bubbles, from Y2 up to Y6. This was especially true when they moved to online classes. Please do use your ChessKid accounts to improve over the Christmas holidays. Excellent sportsmanship was shown during the tournament games. There was a good mix of competitive chess and respect towards each other.

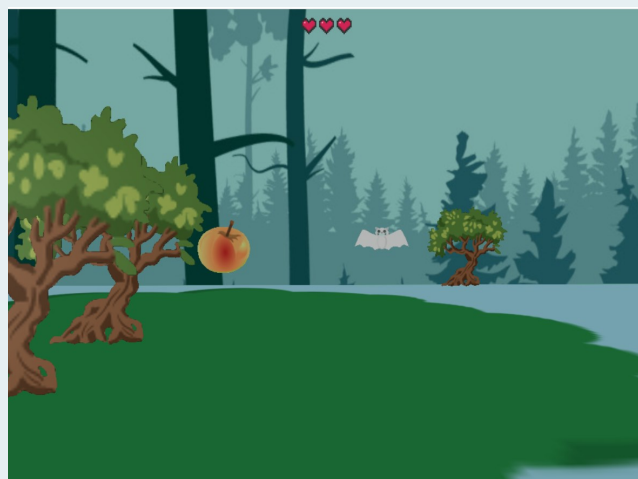






### STEAM OVERVIEW

The Engineering Design Process is in full flow at PGP. By adopting a cross-curricular approach to the STEAM curriculum, the children have learned about important moments in history as well as impressive feats of engineering. Topics included space exploration and the Mars Rover, World War II Anderson shelters, eco-friendly car designs and epidemiology. The children accumulate a wealth of science capital through our STEAM projects as well as a love for problem solving. What an exciting year so far!



### COMPUTER GAMES DESIGNER CLUB

This club is an absolute hit. Every week we generate and explore a new narrative and work out how we can best represent this in our game. From underwater worlds to dungeons studded with lava pits, the children unleash their creativity, add a dash of logic and then combine it all with their ever-expanding computer skills to create a finished product. At the end of each session, they play each other's games and feed back to their peers.



### YOUNG ENGINEERS

Everything was different this term but Learning Through Play still worked well. In our Young Engineers LEGO after-school club, we built LEGO models to explore (among other things) how to make a medieval fort more durable, what prosthetics are and how they work and general STEAM principles like the conservation of angular momentum – exemplified through a spinning top, which was launched by a LEGO motor. Children who like playing with LEGO had a lot of fun while learning about STEAM.



# IN THE CLASSROOM



## RECEPTION

The children are excited to embrace their learning and discover new topics each week in PE, music and French. In addition to this, they experience structured lessons in phonics. They are able to write letters and words with the correct formation. Maths has been a fun mix of counting and learning about 2D and 3D shapes. Reception have also loved learning maths songs and completing practical activities such as magic number spells, shape hunts in the garden and creating 3D junk models.



## YEAR 1

This term has been such a busy and exciting term in Year 1. In English we have enjoyed reading a range of fiction and non-fiction books, for example Cinderella, Traction Man, Five Minutes' Peace and Big Machines. A highlight would be Poetry Week - some children learnt a piece of poetry off by heart which was particularly impressive. In maths we have been using cubes, number lines and Numicon to help us with our counting, number bonds and simple addition and subtraction facts. Well done Year 1.



## YEAR 2

We kicked off the year learning how great explorers have contributed to the world we live in today. The children had fun following a range of explorers through treacherous conditions and have learnt important geographical and historical skills along the way. Our class stories, such as The Way Home for Wolf, have inspired our writing and we have learnt many new methods to support addition and subtraction of two-digit numbers.



## YEAR 3

The children have been superstars this term. For our Aztec and Chocolate topic we have written letters to local supermarkets about the importance of fair trade and created brilliant reports about the Aztecs (on our new KS2 laptops). In maths we've covered a broad range of subjects and have worked hard on our mental arithmetic and reasoning. STEAM projects have included designing a bike jacket and an actual bicycle and we have been Rock Detectives, too.





## YEAR 4

Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed this term's focus on the Romans and learning about the many fascinating and sometimes gruesome contributions they made to Britain. We studied two texts, *FARTHER* and *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. They have stimulated our creativity in writing and led us to produce fantastic work such as poems, newspaper articles, character descriptions and alternative story endings. It's been a productive and fun-filled term.



## YEAR 5

This term we have learnt many interesting facts about The Victorians. This learning culminated in our wonderful Victorian Day, whereby a very strict schoolmaster named Mr Wilberforce was transported into our class from the year 1858. In maths we have learnt a variety of topics including finding missing angles in quadrilaterals, polygons and triangles. In science we investigated the solar system and looked at humans and animals as a species.



## YEAR 6

It's that time of year when the build-up of year 5 has ended and the 11+ is in sight. We have spent the term polishing our already brilliant skills and putting them into ISEB and exam practice. The children have worked tirelessly and their confidence in interviewing has grown immensely. It has been a term of hard work, focus and resilience, all skills the children are mastering and which will come in handy for the Year 7 move. Along with sorting 1,076 Christmas cards.



## LE FRENCH PROGRAMME

We focussed on conversation and vocabulary in Reception and Y1 and worked on letters and numbers in our exercise books. The children in Y2 have had an exceptional term. They can all read now in their own time. Their handwriting is just beautiful. Children in years 3, 4 and 6 are all following our difficult grammar. Congratulations on their enduring patience! Next term we will be looking at storytelling and poetry while continuing our progress on writing and reading.



# SPORT



## NETBALL

Key Stage 2 have continued to make excellent progress with their netball skills. The children have enjoyed the competitive edge of mixed netball. This has been a popular part of their morning routine through the multisports clubs. Years 3 and 4 have made good progress with developing the core skills of netball. Years 5 and 6 match play has continued to develop in competitive matches on our on-site AstroTurf pitch. Well done to everybody for all of their efforts this term.



## SPORTS CAPTAINS

This year's sports captains have done an excellent job at being ambassadors for sport at PGP. Both have shown excellent sportsmanship and leadership skills and have been an inspiration to others. They have taken a lead role in lessons and have helped others in the class. Well done to both of you and we are looking forward to returning to external fixtures against other schools soon.



## GYMNASTICS AND MOVEMENT LITERACY

During indoor PE lessons we have been looking at gymnastics and movement literacy. In Key Stage 1 we have developed a good range of core gymnastics movements and have looked at different types of balancing. Reception and Key Stage 1 have also had the benefit of using the indoor climbing wall, which has been excellent for their physical development. In Key Stage 2 we have been developing our gymnastics skills further to perform routines incorporating rolling.





## FOOTBALL

This term has seen a change to the programme of sport at Parsons Green Prep with Key Stage 2 taking part in mixed football. Key Stage 2 have been taking advantage of the excellent facilities at Hurlingham Park, using the 11-a-side all weather pitch on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Reception and Key Stage 1 have been using our on-site AstroTurf and it has been excellent to see the development of their ball skills.



## MISS BETH RUNS FOR THE HOMELESS

Miss Beth is doing a running challenge throughout December to raise money for the charity Glass Door (<https://www.glassdoor.org.uk/>), which partners with churches to help the homeless. She is aiming to run 5km every day for the whole month. She even got the children involved and they ran 2k with her during PE (1km with Y3, 1km with Y4). They did a brilliant job - very few complaints apparently. Miss Beth's JustGiving link is: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/beth-upton2>. Any donations will be very gratefully received.



## BE SOCIAL

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

Twitter: @pgpschoollondon

Facebook: @ParsonsGreenPrep

Instagram: @parsonsgreenprep

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

<https://www.parsonsgreenprep.co.uk/news-and-events/>



# EVENTS



## CHARITY ROUND-UP

Charity work has been more important than ever this term. Donations to the Hammersmith & Fulham foodbank have been amazing. We have an enormous number of people living in poverty within a stone's throw of PGP and Mr Neil has made several trips to drop off our donations. Just as generous have been the donations to the Shoebox appeal, the Save the Children lunch and the St Dionis Toy Drive. Many thanks to the FOPGP and to several individual children for keeping these causes in the foreground.



## ECO COMMITTEE

The new members have been sharing ideas for how to make PGP more environmentally friendly. Much of the discussion surrounded how to tackle the additional waste created by our new lunchtime routine. The committee campaigned for new food waste and recycling bins to ensure we are reusing, reducing, and recycling. Now, any leftover lunch is not going to waste and we can recycle from the comfort of our classrooms. That's a win for everybody.



## RECEPTION NATIVITY

The Reception children took part in their nativity play, A Bundle of Joy, at the end of term, after finding their motivation during rehearsals and amid much excitement. You may know some of the nativity characters already but you have not met or heard of Grumble, the grumpy, grumbly donkey who travels with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. The children enjoyed sharing this particularly special performance this Christmas time with their families and friends at PGP. It was lots of fun and one to remember.