

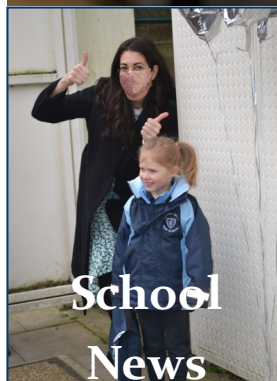
Newsletter



PARSONS GREEN
PREP

Spring edition - March 2021

www.parsonsgreenprep.co.uk



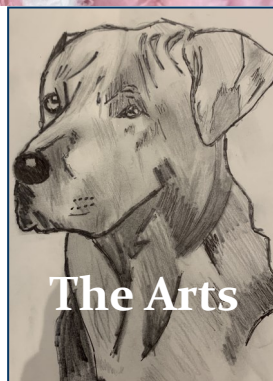
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STEAM



In the
classroom



The Arts



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HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE



FROM THE HEAD

The last three weeks have been fantastic and the turmoil and travails of lockdown 3 are already hurtling at speed down the black hole of memory. While we are hugely proud of everything we achieved from the comfort of our homes, there is no substitute for the real thing. We thought 8 March would never come but when it did it was like all our birthdays together; an explosion of relief, happiness and optimism which is still fueling us now. Lessons, sport, music and drama are all now back with a vengeance. Long may it last!

Mr Matthew Faulkner



FRIENDS OF PARSONS GREEN PREP

FOPGP hosted a virtual Quiz Night in February, with an excellent turnout. Though we wished we could host our usual live event, the home-based version was a great success. The Quizerton team (Year 5 parents) narrowly beat the Eleven Plus team (Year 6 parents) and the PGProfessors (the teachers). Now we are looking forward to the summer term for uniform sales, book sales, ice-cream van visits and hopefully an outdoor picnic.

Mrs Heather Goertzen



SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council is not just a talking shop. With representatives from all 10 classes, it is the chief vehicle for the children's voices to be heard. Through them we have adjusted break times, improved access to water and enhanced the facilities in the playground. This term we were only able to meet right at the end but the ideas were many. Outdoor learning, an a capella choir, a bespoke arts committee, cooking and gardens were top of the agenda and all are under consideration.



HOUSE CUP RESULTS

House points became dojos this term, awarded online but just as keenly sought. A slot emerged at assembly every week during which the changing totals were revealed with a metaphorical drum roll. Drake did the honourable thing of bringing up the rear all term while the top spot became a slugging match between Nightingale and Astor. With only one point between them as we entered the final fortnight, it went down to the wire in the final week. Congratulations to Nightingale!

THE ARTS

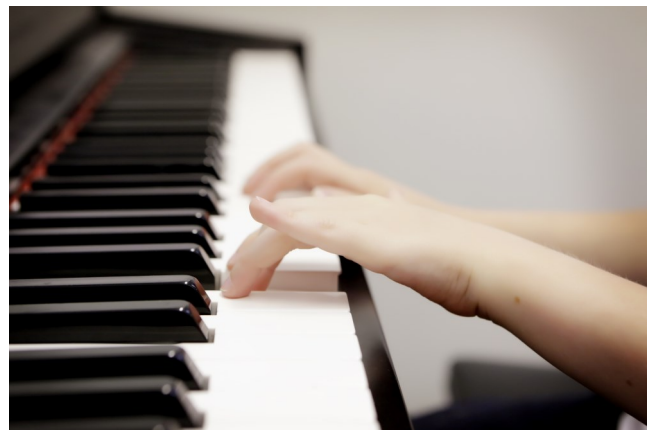
ART AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

It has been another testing term presenting art lessons remotely but classes have risen to the challenge once again. Although the lessons had to be adapted to take into consideration what resources pupils had at home, we have created artwork about London from the past to the future, experimented with some wonderful Egyptian arts and crafts, studied how artists depict water, learnt how to draw three dimensional spheres and space pictures and made some amazing papier-mâché pots depicting everyday life.



LAMDA

Throughout three lockdowns LAMDA has flourished. Either over Zoom or socially distanced, the children's commitment and enthusiasm to stay creative and conscientious hasn't wavered. Three sets of face-to-face exams were cancelled but finally at the end of this term the school became a remote assessment centre and a record 34 exams were taken over two days. It was a huge boon for all involved. Two Year 6 students were also recently submitted for the ISA KS2 Shakespeare Monologue Competition - further proof of how the theatrical arts are encouraged and supported at PGP.

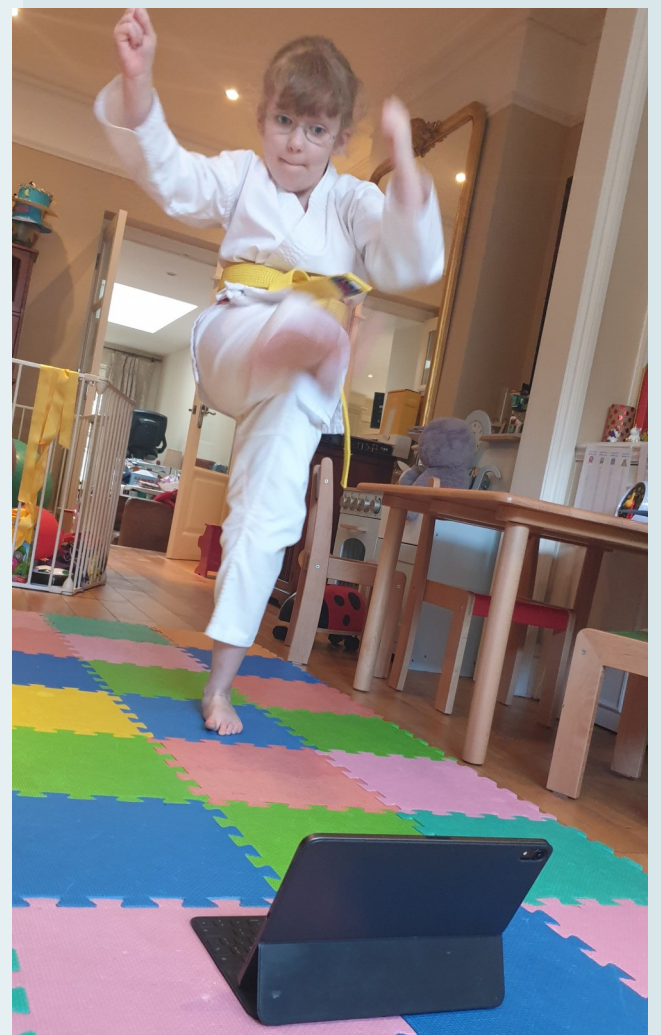


MUSIC

This term we have studied lots of theory remotely and have been looking forward to playing all of the notes and rhythms we've been learning about when we get back in the classroom. Being online has meant we could have some brilliant class concerts on pianos, guitars and all kinds of homemade instruments. Reception have created some wonderful sounds and pictures and a little bit of Zoom choir in KS2 has uncovered some superstars!

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The winners



Highly commended



STEAM SUBJECTS



FULL STEAM AHEAD

We have exciting plans for a new STEAM room at PGP, but that is not the only way that we are going to build upon our STEAM expertise. We are going to take the teaching elements from STEAM, such as problem-solving, developing curiosity and open-mindedness and weave these approaches throughout the rest of our subjects, resulting in an enriched and interactive curriculum throughout the children's learning journey. As Einstein wisely said, 'education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think'.



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

This year's BSW theme was 'Innovating for the Future'. Each year group interprets this theme in their own way, exploring all things science related. Some activities include visiting a Welsh sheep farm (virtually) and understanding breeding as well as seeing a lamb being born live, 'How can we make our food better?' role play and debate, exploring life cycles with our very own caterpillars and much more. Everybody learned a great deal from this memorable week.



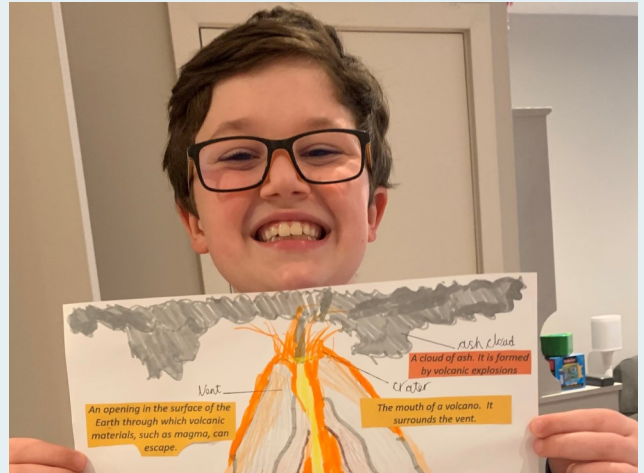
MATHS

This term we have seen some excellent maths work. Reception used tape measures and rulers to measure objects at home. Year 1 have also been measuring, using estimation skills to ensure their measuring is accurate. Year 2 have dived into multiplication, division, fractions, and statistics. Year 3 have been exploring perimeter and were challenged to design their own version of Jurassic World. Years 4 and 5 have focused on fractions, while Year 6 have entered the world of 'conceptual maths', designing their own theme park.



KS1 STEAM OVERVIEW

Year 1's learning has been centred around amazing paper creations. They have made paper airplanes, boats and skyscrapers, exploring floating, sinking, aerodynamics and strength. Year 2 designed their own healthy yoghurt. First, they completed a taste test to assess the competition, then they worked collaboratively to choose toppings and set up a photoshoot for their adverts. The children applied nutritional knowledge from science, learned about quality control and fair tests and grew their knowledge of applied visual art.



LOWER KS2 STEAM OVERVIEW

Year 3 employed the full Engineering Design Process by researching, imagining, designing, creating, testing and evaluating toys that moved. They also took on a cross-curricular STEAM challenge by creating their own representation of the pyramids of Ancient Egypt. Year 4 have been studying volcanoes and conducted their own eruptions during home learning. Each week, we have discussed an issue that affects people living on or around the 'Ring of Fire', encircling much of the Pacific Ocean.



UPPER KS2 STEAM OVERVIEW

Year 5 learned all about forensic science and how DNA is used to solve crimes and mysteries. They also looked at how easily germs can spread around. They really enjoyed this experiment as it involved lots of gooey substances and biodegradable glitter! Year 6 have been working away this term and entered the BP Ultimate STEM Challenge - A Home for Nature. We have designed pockets of biodiversity heaven for our gardens and school grounds to help promote biodiversity in our urban surroundings.

IN THE CLASSROOM



RECEPTION

What remarkable little children we have! Remote learning saw all of them singing, dancing and creating following their lessons on Zoom. Together we explored the books of Julia Donaldson and Eric Carle, which linked beautifully to animal life cycles. We gained five pet caterpillars in each Reception class and carefully observed their changes. Once fully developed into butterflies we excitedly released them into Bishop's Park and wished them a safe journey.



YEAR 1

What an exciting term for Year 1. Our new topic is 'Castles and Homes'. To celebrate this, we went on an observational walk around the local area to see all the different buildings. Another highlight of our term was World Book Day. We all enjoyed dressing up as our favourite book character and sharing our books. We read *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson and were challenged to create our own terrible creature in the deep, dark woods. Everybody demonstrated brilliant creativity and artist flair!



YEAR 2

Year 2 delved into life in London in 1666 and the devastating fire, which took hold of London, changing it forever. The children produced terrific Tudor houses and considered the implications of the materials in the spread of the fire. In maths they learnt a range of multiplication and division strategies, which they then applied to fractions. The book *The Thing* quickly gained popularity, sparking an energetic debate about whether *The Thing* should stay or leave and leading to imaginative story writing about a 'Whatsit' landing at PGP!



YEAR 3

Year 3 have gone back 3,000 years to fascinating Ancient Egypt. We have written reports on how to build a pyramid, we can write in hieroglyphics and we imagined we were news reporters on the day that Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamun's tomb. In maths we have looked at data, fractions and length – a highlight was designing our own Jurassic Par. In STEAM we are learning more about the importance of design and evaluation through creating toys that move. In science we have loved learning about forces and light.



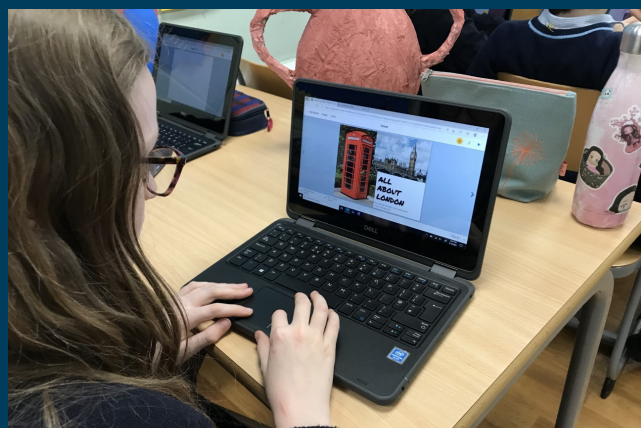
YEAR 4

Our topic was 'Extreme Earth', looking at natural disasters. This led onto our fun STEAM project, where we planned, made and evaluated our own exploding volcanoes! In science we studied sound and looked into how we hear, how sound travels and investigated the best materials to hear through. We joined Shackleton's Journey in English and found out about the life and achievements of the famous explorer.



YEAR 5

In Topic we investigated the water cycle, features of a river and we had a wonderful debating lesson about the effects of damming rivers. In science we finished our lessons about the solar system and moved onto our new topic of 'All Change'. We carried out investigations involving bicarbonate of soda and vinegar, which ended up producing quite a strong smell! In RE we covered the topics of Sikhism and the Anglican church. We are very much looking forward to the summer term and some special trips.



YEAR 6

What a term it has been for Year 6. We can finally close the door on the 11+ journey and settle in to being back with our friends and a return to face-to-face learning! We are all so proud of one another; everyone has remained focused, patient and committed to this long process. We are just so excited for all the fun we have ahead of us in the summer term. Fingers crossed for great weather.



LET'S SOCIALISE

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 www.parsonsgreenprep.co.uk.

SPORT

HOCKEY

Since returning, all Key Stage Two pupils have been taking part in PE hockey lessons on our onsite AstroTurf. This term all children have had a chance to play internal matches at Hurlingham Park's all-weather pitch. It has been great to see Year 3 take to hockey with such enthusiasm, whilst Years 4, 5 and 6 have continued to make good progress with their skill development. We look forward to a return to normal fixtures next spring.



TAG RUGBY

Key Stage 2 children have been taking part in mixed tag rugby for the first time this term. They have been playing during their Monday and Wednesday Hurlingham Park lessons. This has brought about competitive matches during internal fixtures at the park. It has been great to see the progression of the boys who did tag rugby last year and for the girls to learn a new skill. We look forward to arranging fixtures next spring and honing our skills in the meantime.



KS2 ONLINE PE LESSONS

The start of term saw the return of online PE lessons at lunchtime for Key Stage 2. We covered a lot of different areas, including fitness, gymnastics and yoga. This has been important for the children's continued development while remote learning online. There was a good response from the pupils, who have shown clear determination to improve. Well done to everyone who was involved, especially those who consistently participated.



PRE-SEASON CRICKET

Since returning to school, children in Years 3 and 4 have been taking part in cricket lessons on a Friday afternoon. They have been learning how to bat, bowl and field as well as gaining an understanding of the rules of cricket. There has been great enthusiasm from the children, who are looking forward to playing their cricket fixtures next term. Everybody in Key Stage 2 will get a chance to represent the school. Now we just need to do our best sundance and make sure the weather plays ball next term.



MR TOM'S SKILL CHALLENGES

Over the spring lockdown children of all ages have been taking part in different skill challenges set by Mr Tom. These involved different keepy-uppy challenges using football and tennis skills. It has been great to hear and see the progression that the children have made, which was benchmarked by pictures sent in. Pupils have also been actively involved in coming up with their own challenges and taking part in recreational sport.



EVENTS



READATHON

This term the school took part in our third Readathon. This is a movement, led by the charity Read for Good, which has a vision for all children in the UK to be given the opportunity, space and motivation to develop their own love of reading. At the time of going to press, we were at the two-week mark of the three-week challenge, we had read for 8,085 minutes and had raised an amazing £480. Well done everybody – this is a fantastic achievement. You can find out more information at readforgood.org.



WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 4 March was a special day, even over Zoom. The staff and children of PGP appeared on screen as hundreds of different book characters. The day's theme was 'Bringing Books to Life', and we watched a live workshop featuring Tom Fletcher to inspire us further. Work produced from different classes included playscripts, bookmarks, book covers and descriptive stories. Staff members pre-recorded themselves reading a short story and the children enthusiastically watched these throughout the day. It was a great occasion.



ECO COMMITTEE

Since returning to school the Eco Committee has carried out an eco review, all while keeping to their bubbles. Next term they will use the results to decide how PGP pupils can do their part to care for the environment. This term the whole school celebrated Earth Hour by switching off. Children learnt about their impact on the world around them and were keen to put this knowledge into action by reducing the use of electricity at school.

EASTER BONNET PARADE

The PGP Easter Bonnet Parade was a huge success as always. All the children looked amazing in their spring bonnets and clearly a massive effort had been made and much creativity used. And what a turn out! This year, the children walked down the red carpet before striking a pose for the judges. There was an atmosphere of excitement and sense of pride. Congratulations to the winners - your bonnets were wonderful. Well done also to Miss Ellie for organising it. Look out for the photos on social media next week.

