

# Newsletter



PARSONS GREEN  
PREP

Autumn Edition - December 2021



Carol  
Concert



Art



Out and  
About



In The  
Classroom



Events



# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This has been a tremendous term. We are almost back to normal with trips and visits going ahead and class assemblies and the Reception Nativity and Carol Concert all being enjoyed by the children and parents. There has been a positive buzz and energy around the school and the children have produced super work across the board. The new Reception room has been a hit and the children have told me how much they love STEAM and working in our new purpose-built room. We have much to celebrate and the children should be proud of all that they have achieved.

**Mr Tim Cannell**



## FRIENDS OF PARSONS GREEN PREP

FOPGP was happy to host a successful Book and Bake Sale this term, in addition to our usual uniform sale. We are getting into the holiday spirit with our Twelve Days of Christmas including cookie decorating, a Food Bank fundraiser and a holiday party for the parents. It has been wonderful to be back to in-person events and we look forward to the children's dance and the parents' quiz night and art auction next term.



## SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council had a good meeting this term. Every class has a representative and they all came with thoughts and ideas from their peers. Topics included organising for Years 5 and 6 to read to the younger children, more STEAM lessons on the curriculum, adopting a school mascot, discussing charity days and equipment in the playground. We are aiming to move some of these forward next term.



## HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

Our Head Boy and Head Girl gave two of the best speeches Mr Cannell has heard at our Open Day in September. They spoke with such assurance and warmth about their time at PGP. Just as pleasing is seeing the manner in which they conduct themselves around the school, always polite, cheerful and above all fabulous role models for the rest of the school. We are very proud of both of them.

## HOUSE CUP RESULTS

Congratulations to Drake (2,431), who created and maintained an unbeatable lead. Nightingale (2,179) and Livingstone (2,177) battled closely. Astor (2,107) did well but then lost ground. Let's see them win next term.



# THE ARTS



## ART DAY

We have had a busy term studying the work of many artists and creating some amazing work. The term began with Art Day, which centred around George Seurat's painting, *Bathers at Asnières*. The whole school produced wonderful pieces including papier mâché boats, cyanotype silhouettes, iPad art and pointillist canvasses. There has been lots of creativity happening in lessons too, with Pop Art prints inspired by chocolate wrappers, lino cuts influenced by William Morris and portraits based on the work of Frida Kahlo.



## BALLET

The Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 girls worked on establishing the fundamental positions of the ballet technique and the steps covered in the Royal Academy of Dance syllabus. They have all worked very hard and the difference from the start of term is impressive. The class also had time to develop their creativity and individual characters while dancing and Miss Alice was happy to see their progress. She looks forward to seeing them back after Christmas and seeing where next term can take them.



## MUSIC

This term we have been looking at pulse in Reception and have taken musical journeys to China and Africa. Years 5 and 6 have looked at the bass clef and how it differs from the treble clef. Year 4 are beaming quavers while Year 3 have been learning how to tune and play the ukulele. We have focussed on musical maths in Year 1 and 2 and have heard some wonderful singing from our choir groups.



# OUT AND ABOUT



## FULHAM FIRE STATION

Reception showed excellent road safety awareness as they walked to visit our local superheroes. They took a tour of the fire truck and equipment and saw the fireman's pole and the thermal cameras that help firefighters when they are entering very smoky buildings. They were very lucky to each have a go at using the fire hose and were able to do some fire fighter training themselves. They showed that they were brave, strong, healthy and were able to be a part of a team, just like a real firefighter.



## LONDON ZOO

One of the highlights of this term for Year 1 was the London Zoo trip. Did you know that Winnie-the-Pooh was named after a real bear at the zoo, which came all the way from Canada? We had glorious sunshine and visited the reptiles, the gorillas, the camels, flamingos, Komodo dragons and more. The children took part in a Pattern and Camouflage workshop which taught us all about how and why animals camouflage and blend in, which they found fascinating. We also managed to fit in a packed lunch – very important on a school trip.





### **MITHRAEUM AND AMPHITHEATRE**

To support Year 4's STEAM project, we visited the ancient ruins of a Roman temple and amphitheatre. Our first stop was the London Mithraeum. We sketched and learned about different artefacts before going down to see the temple itself. At the amphitheatre, we walked the path of gladiators and studied the ruins. The children gained a real understanding of Roman architecture and their new knowledge was applied to enhance their designs.



### **THE LOOKOUT AT HYDE PARK**

As part of their science topic Year 2 eagerly explored the Lookout. They learnt about the functions of different animals in the environment through a fast-paced treasure hunt. They learned how worms are recyclers. The children had fun finding invertebrates in their micro-habitats, searching under logs, pond dipping and meadow sweeping, all while putting their careful observational skills into action.



### **THE WALLACE COLLECTION**

Year 6 loved visiting the Wallace Collection. The children were amazed to see the opulence and splendour of such an impressive building. We marvelled at all of the priceless works of art and objects and had a wonderful private guided tour of some fascinating pieces. The focus was identifying Greek myths and learning the history and motivation behind the masterpieces. There was even time for cake. A great day out.





# STEAM SUBJECTS



## MATHS

For Artful Maths Day, we thought about how maths and art are connected and how parts of maths can be beautiful. For example, Reception and Year 1 looked at different types of creepy crawlies and created bug symmetry. Years 3 and 4 created amazing labyrinths and mazes using precise maths. Years 5 and Year 6 challenged themselves to draw curves of pursuits. All the children enthusiastically took part and demonstrated perseverance and problem-solving skills.



## CHESS

It's been a busy term in both chess clubs. In Gambits, we have focussed on piece-development, different openings and counter-attacking using forks and pins. We've been using chess notation to record moves and have looked at ways of improving previous games. It's good to see that Chesslings Club (Years 1-2) is full again. From basic moves and piece-point values, we have moved on to more complex tactics: especially castling and developing an attack using knights. Enthusiasm has been running high.



## STEAM OVERVIEW

Our STEAM curriculum develops a true appreciation of applied learning. In Reception the children explored their construction skills and were encouraged to look at how their creations could be improved. In KS1 the children have designed and built their own balloon-powered cars and explored early animation by creating their own thaumatropes. In KS2 the children have studied DNA, designed forensic tools, designed and built scale models of Roman buildings and eco-houses and attempted to uncover the mystery of Stonehenge.







### FULL STEAM AHEAD

The club has been enormous fun this term. The children have learned the importance of robots and even simulated a robot rescue where it was too dangerous for us humans to go. Snowy the polar bear was stranded and we had to rescue him from increasingly difficult situations using our BeeBots. We created our own mechanical fireworks to celebrate Bonfire night which zoomed up their own string paths when pulled. The children also learned how to use microscopes and observed different materials.



### COMPUTING

The whole school has revisited e-safety rules and how we can be SMART online. Year 5 have used Scratch to code and create a game linked to their creative learning unit, The Victorians. In the game, a chimney sweeper has to move inside a chimney and dodge balls of soot. Year 4 have used 2Graph to present data they have gathered from their science experiments, looking at different rates of melting and freezing. Year 2 have learned how to use keywords when searching the internet.



### YOUNG ENGINEERS

Our young engineers built many models including industrial mixers, lifting platforms and conveyor belts this term. They had fun watching how the gears work in a gear transmission and testing the mixers they built. They learned how a belt transmission worked in a conveyor belt to move things and the children experimented using it to move people (admittedly LEGO-sized people). We worked in pairs and used our cooperation skills to build a bullseye target practice machine and shoot paper balls at the target.



# IN THE CLASSROOM



## RECEPTION

The children have all had a wonderful first term in the new Reception classroom. They have been playing, exploring and investigating through a variety of experiences linked to our topics, All About Me and Superheroes. They have been developing their ideas and putting into practice their phonic sounds and maths knowledge within the provision. Panda Class have been developing their own strategies as well as adopting their friends' ideas too. They have shown resilience and have enjoyed all their achievements.



## YEAR 1

The children have settled into Year 1 with determination and positivity. They loved making flip-books in STEAM, as well as the crate for the Enormous Crocodile. The trip to London Zoo was a highlight, along with spotting all the deciduous and evergreen trees in autumn. The children have become fantastic readers and they came alive making their own non-fiction book all about Small Machine. You may find it in Waterstones or other good bookshops.



## YEAR 2

Year 2 became explorers for the term, all while studying great explorers of the past and learning how they contributed to the world we live in today. We have studied different text types and have been writing for a range of fiction and non-fiction purposes, inspired by our class texts, one of the most popular being *The Day the Crayons Quit*. Pupils have developed their understanding of two-digit numbers and have applied this knowledge to add and subtract using new methods.



## YEAR 3

It's been a fantastic Autumn term – lots of learning, creativity and fun. As always, we linked our creative learning with our English lessons. Discovering the origins of the cocoa bean, how it is processed into something very tasty and then linking it to *Charlie and the Chocolate factory* – this made our lessons a lot of fun. In maths we challenged ourselves in many aspects of the subject – each met with rigour and pride. Miss Helen says this is a joy of a class to teach.





#### YEAR 4

It's been an incredible term. We have learned about British history from prehistoric times through to the Roman invasions. We studied artefacts found at New Stone Age settlement Skara Brae and then tried to uncover the mystery of the Bronze Age Amesbury archer. We have written emotive recounts based on Mount Vesuvius' deadly eruption, designed our own flying machines and written accompanying instructions for them.



#### YEAR 5

A highlight was our Victorian topic. We performed a Victorian assembly to the whole school and parents and hope everyone that attended learnt some interesting facts and enjoyed watching our acting skills. We loved every second of it, especially singing our songs. We were also transported back to Victorian England this term as a very strict teacher replaced Miss Beth one afternoon and we took part in Victorian lessons.



#### YEAR 6

This term has been incredibly busy for Year 6. We have practised and practised for our 11+ examinations with great determination. The children have worked steadily through many exam-style questions for verbal reasoning, non-verbal reasoning, maths, creative writing and comprehension. We have also rehearsed for our interviews by holding mini-interview days at school. The children have now all begun to sit some of their exams and attend schools for interview and Mr Ryan knows that good news is in store in 2022.



#### PUPIL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PPD)

As many of you are aware, we are putting a real focus on building the children's life skills into our everyday curriculum. This term has involved a lot of research and quizzing of parents and staff to identify the areas we want to develop in order to prepare our children not only for their next stage but for life. Look out for a shift in the timetable next term and do keep asking your children what they are up to.



# SPORT



## NETBALL

This term Key Stage 2 have continued playing at Hurlingham Park on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and netball has been a popular part of the children's routine with the morning netball clubs. Years 3 and 4 have made excellent advances with their netball skills and it has been fantastic to see the progress they are making. The Years 5 and 6 girls have faced some tough opposition. They have shown great resilience and the performances have improved during the term.



## SPORTS CAPTAINS

This year our two Sports Captains were awarded the role for excellent leadership qualities and for their commitment to sport at Parsons Green Prep throughout their time at school. Both have led from the front and have used their sporting knowledge to help others around them and have driven the team on to some great performances. On match days, whether we have won or lost, they have displayed great levels of sportsmanship. Well done to both of you.



## GYMNASTICS

This term all year groups have been taking part in gymnastics as part of the indoor PE curriculum. Key Stage 1 have been exploring different ways of moving and different points of balance. The children have particularly enjoyed using the indoor climbing wall. This has the added benefit of being great for their physical development. Key Stage 2 have advanced their gymnastics skills further by performing group gymnastics routines, with rolling and partner balances.





## FOOTBALL

All Key Stage 2 pupils have had a chance to play in fixtures this term and we have had plenty of competitive matches. Congratulations to the Year 5/6 football team for going unbeaten all term, the highlight being winning Kew College's U11 football tournament. Year 3/4 have shown good development, with the win over Knightsbridge being the highlight of the season. Reception and Key Stage 1 have been taking part in football lessons during outdoor PE. It has been great to see their teamwork and communication skills improve whilst developing their ball control.



## SWIMMING

The staff at Fulham Virgin Active have been great, delivering high-quality lessons to all children in Years 3 and 4. They have really enjoyed the lessons and their confidence in the pool has continued to grow. The children have made excellent progress with stroke technique and are looking forward to performing in their first swimming house gala. Years 5 and 6 will have the opportunity to swim in the summer term.

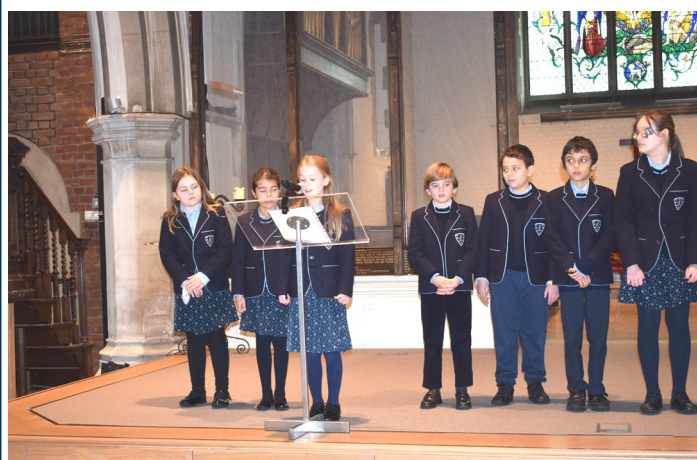


## HOUSE MATCHES

Year 5 took part in inter-house matches in the penultimate week of term at Hurlingham Park. We played football and netball to gain as many house points as possible. We focused on teamwork and communication to ensure everyone was performing to the best of their ability. We also worked on footwork and strategies in attack. Everyone tried their best and lots of goals were scored. It was lovely to see everyone participating.



# EVENTS



## CHRISTMAS CAROLS CONCERT

It was a joy to be in St Dionis performing as a whole school again. Each year group has been working on their vocal technique since September and for the second half of term they worked on their class and collaborative songs. Each year group challenged their vocal abilities and ensured that they memorised their words. The music and voices were unified and pure. Their joyous exclamation echoed the resounding happiness of being able to perform for family and each other again. An incredible moment after so much hard work.



## ECO COMMITTEE

If you have been into the school hall recently, you may have spotted our green Eco Schools flag. This flag is to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work of all members of PGP in becoming more environmentally friendly. This term the Eco Committee has been busy carrying out a comprehensive Eco-review. Pupils worked collaboratively to consider each environmental area and what we, as a school, are doing well, and what we can improve on in the future.



## CHARITY ROUND-UP

Year 6 and the School Council delivered lots of wonderful donations to our local food bank for Harvest Festival. Mr Lee organised a 'Spotty' Dress-Up Day for Children in Need. It was amazing seeing all the costumes, including all sorts of bright and vibrant spotty outfits. We raised a total of £416. Thank you to all our parents for their generous donations. Miss Ellie organised a staff fundraiser for Crisis, the homeless charity. At the time of going to press the PGP staff had raised £110 so many thanks to them, too. Happy Christmas everybody!