

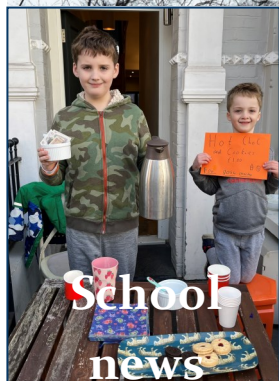
Newsletter



PARSONS GREEN PREP

Spring edition - March 2022

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School
news



STEAM



Out and
about



In the
classroom



Events

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

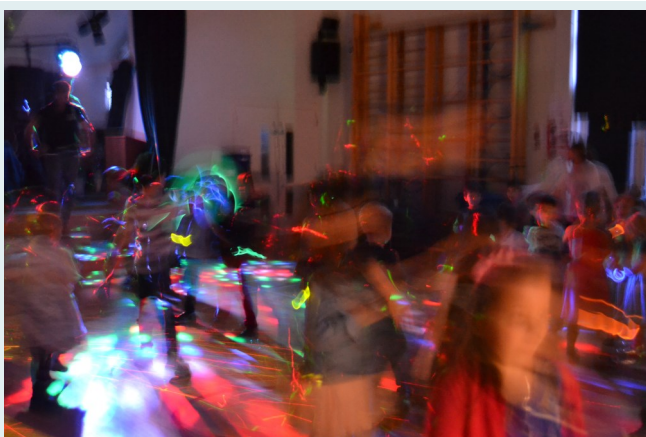
This has been a wonderful term in so many ways, not least as we have seen a much greater sense of normality in the school. Classes have been out on trips and Years 4 and 5 have experienced the joy of residential to Mill on the Brue and Hindleap Warren respectively. Academically I have been so impressed with the quality of work throughout the school. The enthusiasm, energy and eagerness to succeed creates such a wonderful atmosphere that is not often seen in schools. Well done to every single child and special thanks go to the staff for their hard work and the parents for the incredible support you give to the school.

Mr Tim Cannell



LIFE SKILLS

This term our children have all had weekly lessons incorporated into the curriculum based on core life skills. The lessons are delivered in a variety of ways and are always interactive and an environment where children can express their personal thoughts and feelings. We passionately believe that skills such as confidence, resilience and communication (verbal and non-verbal) are key to creating the all-rounded pupils that we develop throughout their time with us.



FOPGP

Friends of Parsons Green Prep is excited to start the summer term with the School Disco on Friday 22 April. After a two-year hiatus, our Quiz Night and Art Auction will be held in-person on Friday 13 May. This is the last year that Heather Goertzen and Janelle Burch will be at the helm of FOPGP. If you are interested in getting more involved and taking on a leadership role in the organisation, please contact your class rep for more information.

Mrs Heather Goertzen



HOUSE CUP RESULTS

Astor came first with 2,509 house points this term - a great reversal from fourth place last term. Congratulations to them. They were followed by Nightingale with 2,485. Just two points separated second and third place, with Drake coming in with 2,483. Last but not least was Livingstone with 2,449. Well done to all the children for picking up so many house points for everything from good behaviour to sportsmanship and art competitions.

THE ARTS

ART AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

There has been so much creativity in the art room this term. KS1 looked to the past and created some wonderful tapestry shields, Tudor houses and fiery pastel pictures. Year 3 made amazing canopic jars linked to their Egyptian topic. Year 4 learnt water-colour techniques and applied them to their own artwork. Year 5 used landscape photographs and studied shape, colour and texture in their drawings, collages and clay work. Year 6 researched Indian culture to inspire their designs for a batik cushion cover.



LAMDA

With spring and summer exams looming, it is a busy time. It has been wonderful to hear back from teachers and parents about how PGP children are using the skills learned in LAMDA across assemblies, performances and interviews. The invaluable power of voice and presentation is useful in so many aspects of a child's development and the results are tangible. Mr Max is enormously proud of the children - their talent and commitment is evident through the fantastic exam results they achieve but even more so in the communication skills and confidence they exemplify.



MUSIC

Reception have created a 'space' orchestra and crafted their first compositions using patterns. Year 1 are learning about percussion and have written their first rhythmic compositions. Year 6 have looked at semiquavers and tied notes and Year 5 have started on the tin whistle. Years 3 and 4 are making great headway with their music theory and Year 2 have listened to Saint-Saëns' The Carnival of the Animals and created their own animal compositions.

OUT AND ABOUT

MILL ON THE BRUE

What a superb week. The children (and adults) took on many challenges and pushed themselves into their growth zone. They went ziplining, canoeing, tunnelling and climbing, they jumped off towers, went orienteering and built campfires. For many of the children, it was their first time away from home and they were so excited to share bunk-beds with their friends. It may have rained all week but it can be wholeheartedly said that, although our socks may have been soggy, our spirits were never dampened.



HINDLEAP WARREN

The weather was great and all the staff welcoming. The activities included high ropes, team building exercises, pool boarding, map reading and night walks through the forest. However, the task which tested our communication skills, perseverance, and resilience the most was the forest adventure afternoon. We waded through the mud to create mud angels, army crawled through an assault course and even jumped into watery mud pools up to our belly buttons. What a great week spent making memories and hanging out with our friends in the countryside.





GO APE

Mr Ryan has always said to his friends that he teaches little monkeys and at the end of term that phrase was never more apt (or should that be ape?). The whole class swung, jumped, held on for dear life and squealed their way around the treetops of Battersea Park. They were so high up that they even saw several bird nests at eye level. What a lovely end to the term and a great way to celebrate the 11+ and their final trip (of many) this term. Well done to all the Year 6 simians.

KIDZANIA

Reception had an amazing day at KidZania. The children were able to earn a salary and spend their KidZos on different experiences. They became firefighters, police officers, vets, pilots, supermarket workers, surgeons, maternity nurses, fashion designers, hotel cleaners and much more. The children really immersed themselves and thrived in their role play. They still have their KidZo credit cards if they visit KidZania again.



TOWER OF LONDON

Year 1 became knights in a dubbing ceremony at the Tower of London, learning what it was like to live in medieval Britain. The class explored The White Tower, built by William the Conqueror in the early 1080s, and even found the dragon at the top of the tower. Many steps were climbed. Everyone was most impressed by the crown jewels and the lavish coat of arms design in the king's bedroom and loved saying hello to the six ravens, who all have unique names.



STEAM SUBJECTS



MATHS

This term all the children in PGP took part in Amazing Maths Day. Each class was set a sudoku challenge to solve. Not only is sudoku a lovely, calming activity but it is a great opportunity for children to practise their maths and reasoning skills. All the children that took part demonstrated resilience and a positive mental attitude. Everyone was awarded five house points for taking part but the winners in each class were awarded 50 house points. A huge congratulations to the winners and to everyone that took part. Miss Beth hopes we've sparked a love for sudoku.



FULL STEAM AHEAD CLUB

What a wonderful term. We have designed and created our own mosaics as we learned about ancient Roman and Greek art. We studied colour and light, creating our own stained-glass window decorations using tissue paper. The children were challenged to paint using just air, which resulted in beautiful bubble paintings. As the weather improved we headed outside to gather materials for a bird's nest and challenged ourselves to arranging the sticks using just two fingers, to simulate a bird's beak.



CHESS

This term we have continued our look at different openings in Chess Gambits. The Italian is always a favourite, but we have been exploring others too. They tend to be aggressive openings (like the Danish) and we have been looking at how best to defend them. Castling, forks and pins and chess notation have all been in focus. Mr Viv is delighted that Ahrin, our head boy, was asked in by Hampton School to play against Year 8 children. A great experience for him.



STEAM OVERVIEW

Reception designed clay insects with their parents and clay active volcanoes with Year 4. Year 1 explored the qualities of paper by building aeroplanes, boats and skyscrapers. Years 2 and 3 designed birdhouses and created their own biomes. Year 4 took part in the ISEB STEAM competition and designed travelling water vessels. Year 5 researched and presented information on endangered species and Year 6 recreated Stonehenge and designed 3D cityscapes.



YOUNG ENGINEERS LEGO CLUB

Our more experienced young engineers explored themes such as gravity, mass, and centrifugal force. We went from amusement parks to construction sites and built Ferris wheels, pulleys and steamrollers. We had fun seeing how gravity worked on the elevators we built for LEGO people. The younger class had their share of the fun building amusement park carousels and different types of ball-catching machines. They even built a cable car and tested it on a cable in the classroom – it worked very well.



COMPUTING

This term the whole school has celebrated Safer Internet Day. These lessons promote the safe and positive use of digital technology, as well as learning about relationships online and respecting one another. In class KS2 has learned to use spreadsheets. Year 5 used a spreadsheet to plan a cake sale and Year 6 have used it to plan a School Fair event. Year 1 have been working on developing their keyboard knowledge and typing skills. Year 2 have created fact files and a quiz about the Great Fire of London.

IN THE CLASSROOM



RECEPTION

We began the term by visiting space. We made our own International Space Stations, went on a story journey with Freshwater Theatre Company and became aliens. We explored Quirky Stories. We've eaten Gruffalo paw prints, shared family trees and designed snail shells. We've had learning days with our parents, Year 6, Year 4 and Year 1. We also enjoyed very memorable trips to KidZania and to the Polka Theatre to watch How to Hide a Lion. We are learning superstars.



YEAR 1

The children performed their first KS1 drama workshop of Chicken Licken, which they studied in English, and learned all the songs by heart. We had an amazing trip to the Tower of London as part of our Creative Learning on Medieval Britain and explored the material qualities of paper through challenges such as making the most aerodynamic paper airplane in STEAM. The children have learned new life skills such as tying their own laces and learning how to use tapping to control their emotions.



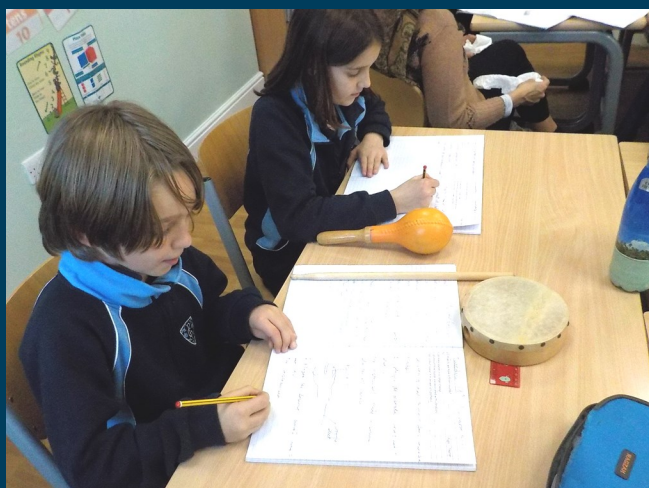
YEAR 2

The class has been busy exploring past and present London with trips to St Paul's Cathedral and walking around the local area. Their knowledge of the Great Fire of London impressed us all and was celebrated in an energetic performance at the end of the first half of term. Year 2 also dived into storytelling, poetry, persuasive and diary writing, inspired by a range of thought-provoking books. Maths has seen children familiarise themselves with multiplication, division, data handling and lastly, fractions. What a busy term.



YEAR 3

The children have had a phenomenal term, packed with exciting learning and enjoyment. Exploring Ancient Egypt is always a treat and we discovered some amazing treasures and stories. Our topic was the inspiration behind our assembly - this performance challenged our on-stage nerves and ability to act and we loved it. We covered forces and 'Can you see me?' in science, with lots of exciting experiments to test our knowledge. In STEAM we studied and created biomes - we were all particularly interested by the rainforest. Now time to re-energise - well done everyone.



YEAR 4

The class learned about mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis for our Extreme Earth topic, which was enriched with a trip to the Natural History Museum. In science the children have learned all about sound and electricity, investigating how sound travels and learning how to draw and build simple circuits. In RE we studied Hinduism and visited the Shree Ghanapathy Temple in Wimbledon during the week of Holi.



YEAR 5

In maths our knowledge about fractions, decimals and percentages has grown. In English we have had a lot of comprehension practice, focusing on both fiction and non-fiction texts. We have also been writing narrative stories and non-chronological reports. We used a range of literary devices and figurative language including personification, hyperbole, similes, alliteration, idiom, dialogue and onomatopoeia. A highlight for Year 5s this term was our awesome trip run by the Thames Explorer Trust.



YEAR 6

What a term it has been. We've had trips to wonderful museums each week, lots of laughs and, of course, our 11+ results. Year 6 have worked their socks off and did brilliantly in their exams. Westminster, Ibstock, Alcester and Francis Holland - the list goes on. Over 50 offers and to top it off we have enjoyed the journey. Our end of term culminated in a wonderful play. Did it have cheesy songs by Boney M? Yes. Was it a mish-mash of historical periods? Yes. Was there wonky choreography created by Mr Ryan? Obviously.



LE FRENCH PROGRAMME

The children have had a very busy term. Not only do they work on the French curriculum as they would in a French school but they have also learned numerous poems and songs. In addition to this, every week we introduce a new subject like maths, history, geography or science. This helps to broaden the children's vocabulary. Congratulations to them for their endurance. Next term we will be focusing on our world and ecology while continuing our progress with writing and reading.

SPORT

HOCKEY

Hockey has been a popular part of the sports programme, with children taking part in hockey lessons on our on-site Astroturf pitch. The children have made a lot of progress with their hockey skills, with Years 3 and 4 learning the fundamentals of passing, shooting and tackling, whilst the older children in Years 5 and 6 have progressed to match play. We have had some entertaining internal fixtures, with lots of fun being had by everyone.



TAG RUGBY

This term all pupils in Key Stage 2 have taken part in tag rugby lessons at Hurlingham Park. It has been great to see the progress made by the children, with some pleasing results. The Years 5 and 6 boys' team have had the pick of the results, with the highlight being a hard-fought 5-4 victory against Kew College. For the first time we have had a mixed tag rugby match against Redcliffe School, where all children in Years 5 and 6 took part, with both teams winning.



FOOTBALL

All children in Key Stage 2 have taken part in lessons at Hurlingham Park on a Monday and Wednesday. It has been pleasing to see the progress of girls' football at PGP, with some excellent results. Years 3 and 4's 5-0 win over Kew College was the pick of the matches they won. The highlight of the term was the U11 boys' football team reaching the quarter finals of the ISA London West U11 boys 5-a-side football tournament. A great achievement.



HOUSE MATCHES

This term saw Key Stage 2 compete in football house matches. Congratulations to Livingstone for winning both the Year 3/4 and the Year 5/6 competition, winning all of their matches. Both days were a huge success (despite the contrasting weather) with great spirit and determination shown by the children. It was excellent to see good sportsmanship, with children offering encouragement and help to their teammates. Well done to everyone. We are looking forward to the cricket house matches in the summer term.



SWIMMING

This term all children in Key Stage Two have taken part in swimming lessons this term. Thank you to the staff at Fulham Virgin Active for delivering excellent lessons. The children have made good progress with their technique and have enjoyed their lessons, particularly the relay races before half-term. We are looking forward to the annual swimming gala return in the summer. Well done to everyone.



EVENTS



CHARITY ROUND-UP

Inspired by a novel, two PGP brothers set up a hot chocolate and biscuits stand on their street and raised £110 for Great Ormond Street Hospital, the chosen charity of Astor house this term, using their own pocket money to beat their £100 goal. The Livingstone house charity fundraiser focused on the joy of play and the value of spending quality time with loved ones and the children raised an enormous £754 for Birmingham Children's Hospital. The school community also came together to donate vital supplies to Ukraine – many thanks to everyone who contributed to such an important and urgent cause.



WORLD BOOK DAY

PGP celebrated World Book Day in style. The day started with an energetic costume catwalk to celebrate the characters from everyone's most loved books. Children visited the library, retold stories using puppets, wrote book reviews, listened to poems and shared and even wrote their own stories. They eagerly participated in a 'drop everything and read' event, which was a rare opportunity to enjoy some peace and quiet and get stuck into their favourite books. What a wonderful event to share and celebrate Parson Green Prep's love of reading.



ECO COMMITTEE

The Eco Committee's environmental review of the school highlighted two areas of focus for this term: biodiversity and energy. To promote biodiversity PGP took part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch. The children eagerly took time out of their weekend to count the species of birds visiting their gardens. To conserve energy, the eco warriors have been hard at work promoting Earth Hour. PGP pupils are encouraged to participate in this international event, which involves turning off lights and electricity from 8.30pm on Sunday 27 March.

EASTER BONNET PARADE

Our annual Easter Bonnet Parade was a great success, with the children showcasing their fabulous Spring/Summer 2022 Easter Bonnet Collections. They paraded on their very own catwalk (on the football pitch) and designs ranged from the simple to the outlandish. They also thoroughly enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt and we hope that everyone had just the right amount of chocolate and no walls were bounced off. Look out for the photographs on social media next week.

