

LA Presse Scolaire

ALTRINCHAM PREPARATORY SCHOOL

April 2016

"You have a cracking school, punching above your weight in everything and I would be delighted if my son came to this school"

Not comments you would see in an Inspection report that has to be more prosaic and formulaic in style. Nonetheless, this was the sentiment expressed personally as we received verbal feedback from the Inspectors who visited us in the first half of this term. Their perspectives are evidenced based and you will find in this newsletter plenty of proof for yourselves.

To summarise, secondary school entrance outcomes that make our academic results the envy of others, sport competed at the highest level not only locally but nationally as well – we are the best preparatory school for U11 hockey in the UK; the best out of all school in the north (exceptional achievements) – music of a quality and challenge that is an absolute delight to listen to – please look at the website and watch our Easter Assembly amongst other clips if only to marvel at the wonderful behaviour particularly from the EYFS – art work, languages, activities both within and without the classroom and curriculum so giving the boys a positive learning experience that leads to highest levels of a achievement whilst at the same being engaging, inclusive and fun for all.

The Inspection statement, "the school achieves high standards in all that it undertakes, with pastoral care at the heart of its mission" not only affirms the above but, additionally, provides confirmation that our care for the boys remains central to all that we do. I could not be more proud of the school I lead acknowledging that all this flows from excellent Governor stewardship, outstanding academic, administrative and other non-teaching staff, wonderful boys who would be hard pressed to show themselves in a more favourable light and committed, supportive Parents who embrace the school's culture and ethos.



Early Years Nursery, Pre School and Reception



Farmer John visited APS this term with some special visitors... two little lambs! The Nursery and Pre -School boys were so excited to see the lambs and had the opportunity to touch and stroke them. All the boys enjoyed learning new facts and listened to Farmer John with great attention. A lovely way to introduce new life to the youngest of our EYFS boys.



Spring, New life and Lambs Bell Field



Following Nursery and Pre-School, the Reception boys had the chance to feed the 4 day old lambs. In turns each boy held a milk bottle and watched how the hungry lambs drank all the milk. They then were shown how baby lambs dive out whilst being born.

After a wonderful discussion the boys were quick to find out more and asked some great questions! Did you know that baby lambs teeth begin to show as soon as they are born!

After thinking about Spring and new life in our Science and R.E. lessons the boys have really learnt a lot with this hands on encounter.

Thank you Farmer John from Sugar Brook Farm for a fantastic experience!



In Pre-School:

Well done to all the Pre-School boys who have received 'Star of the Week' this term! We are so proud of the boys and their achievements this term in all areas of the EYFS.

Happy 4th Birthday to Harry Law.

In Reception:

MERIT BADGES: Well done to Haris, Joe, Billy, Peter, Alexander, Aidan B-M, Ted and Joseph (RMT)

Andrew, Oscar, Liam, Haroun, Aidan K, Ariyan, Thomas and Francisco (RH).

Also, Happy 5th Birthday to: Franklin, James S, Joseph, Joshua and Joel (RMT) and Ishan M, Jasper, Thomas, Angus, Isaac and James H (RH).

We hope you all have a lovely Easter holiday and we look forward to a fabulous Summer Term...



Early Years Nursery, Pre School and Reception



HAPPY EASTER!



This year the Nursery, Pre-School and Reception boys enjoyed reading a special letter sent to them from the Easter Bunny! With their important instructions and hand made Easter baskets the boys went on an Easter Egg Hunt to look for not 1, but 3 Easter eggs each! The boys had lots of fun searching amongst the Spring flowers and trees.



Year 1

Both 1E and 1A thoroughly enjoyed our History work based on Famous Victorian people. We found out lots of facts about Grace Darling. We drew pictures of lighthouses, retold the story of the rescue through drama and tried to imagine what it would be like to live in a lighthouse. Please have a look at our Grace Darling film clips on the school website.

Before half term all the boys in Year 1 took part in gymnastic lessons at Marlborough Road. We really had to focus hard so that we did not lose our balance. We practised lots of skills and used different equipment.



All the boys at APS took part in World Book day activities and the sponsored silence. We all enjoyed reading our books. Later in the day we joined in the shared reading of 'We're going on a Bear hunt', made bear masks, story maps and acted out the story which is now on the school website.

We are all looking forward to a busy final term in Year 1.

YEAR 2



OUR SPRING TERM

This term has been very busy in year two! We have spent a lot of the time working on our topics of The Maori people of New Zealand which linked in very nicely with our RE work on belonging and our PSHE work reflecting on families and teams. In English we have been writing lots of stories using traditional tales as a framework and are looking forward to writing our own adventure stories next term. We are becoming quite expert with our times tables and have discovered lots of ways to help us with our addition and subtraction sums. We have had a fun term and are looking forward to what the summer term has in store for us!

Chinese New Year

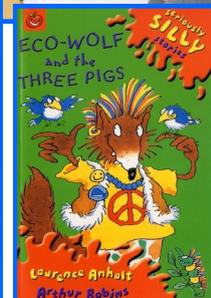
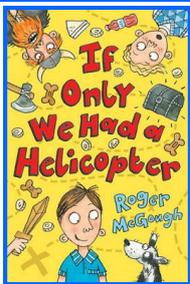
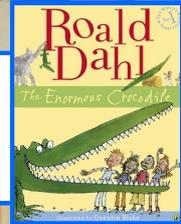


This is the year of the Monkey! We celebrated by our own year two dragon dancing! The dragon was lead around the playground by a boy carrying the pearl of Wisdom. Some boys played instruments creating a Chinese style of music for the dancers to move to!



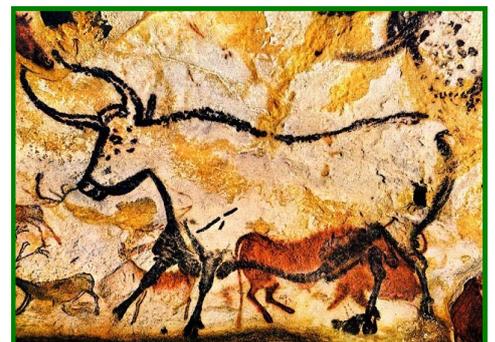
World Book Day!

This year the boys bought a book in from home and did a sponsored silent read. We had to manage it for half an hour and as you can see from the pictures, the boys really enjoyed their time reading and could have gone on to read more.



STONEAGE

This was a really fascinating topic that really captivated the boys. We learnt so much about the people, what they ate, how they lived and the amazing cave paintings that they drew and that still exist today.



OUR MAORI TOPIC

We have spent some time exploring different countries in Geography and different times during History. We visited the Stone Age for our History work and then set sail to New Zealand to look at the Maori people. During this topic we invited the parents in to help us make our own totem poles that we designed in class and then cleverly carved from a certain well known can of crisps! As you can see we had great fun and made some fantastic and scary totem poles! Thanks to all who came in to help.



SPORT

We have enjoyed another fantastic term for sport at APS.

The pinnacle of the term has to be our achievements by the hockey teams. Most of the boys in Year 4 had their first taste of "Quicksticks" hockey against Cheadle Hulme and The Ryleys. The Year 5 boys enjoyed fixtures home and away against Formarke Hall, where victories at Bowdon inflicted a first defeat of the season on our visitors from the midlands. We also travelled to Formarke for a weekend Year 5 tournament, where the boys finished a creditable third. Further matches against The Elms, Terra Nova and The Ryleys allowed all the boys who had attended our lunchtime clubs to represent the school this term. At the end of term, the Inter House Competition was won by Alexander (Yellows).

Our first team hockey squad enjoyed a successful competition at the Regional I.A.P.S. North and Midlands competition at Repton School. After a gruelling qualification period, we lost in a close final to Formarke Hall 1-0, but qualified for the national finals for the fourth time in five years! This year's finals took place at Cranleigh School, Surrey with the top 20 schools in England and Scotland in attendance. After three wins from four group games, with victories over The Perse School, Hoe Bridge and New College, we finished second in our group and moved onto the quarter finals of the main competition. After beating Kings College Cambridge 3-2 in an entertaining but nail biting match, we enjoyed a one sided 4-0 semi final victory against Parkside School. The final was against Chafyn Grove, who beat us 1-0 in the group stages and were the reigning National Champions. After a tense final finished 0-0, we moved onto extra time golden goal. Both defences continued to come out on top and it all came down to penalty shuffles. William made two fantastic saves and goals from Ted and Harvey ensured a 2-0 victory and APS being crowned **IAPS National Hockey Champions!**



Just 14 hours later, a refreshed squad travelled north to Leeds for the North In2 Hockey Finals. Despite tired legs from the previous day's achievements, we made it through the group stages, beating Kings School Chester in the semi finals and won another close final against Kirkham Grammar School, this time by penalty flicks. What a fabulous couple of days for all the boys involved.



In January, we played our annual rugby match against The City of London Freemans School, where 40 boys from Year 5 enjoyed representing the school on a crisp Saturday morning, playing some great running and passing rugby despite the cold weather. During the term, all of our Year 4 boys had their first taste of contact rugby and our Year 3 boys all played tag rugby for the school. That amounts to over 160 boys playing rugby for the school this season!!!! The House rugby competition was won by Cunningham (Blues).

All of our Year 3 boys had another chance to represent the school at football against Stockport Grammar on the Astroturf at Bowdon and the Year 6 5 aside squad reached the final of the Altrincham Schools 5 a side competition at Altrincham Leisure Centre. The first team have also reached the semi-finals of the Altrincham Schools F.A. cup, to be played after the holidays. Good luck boys! During a busy day on Mourn day

Thursday, our Year 2 boys had their first taste of representing the school against St. Ambrose. All the boys demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship as well as great teamwork, playing great football and winning most of their matches.



Fresh on the back of winning the Altrincham Schools Cross Country League last term, a squad of boys travelled north to Sedbergh School for the annual "Rawthey Run". Ethan finished a creditable 9th, despite losing a trainer during the race. Edward finished 16th with all of the squad finishing in the top 45. Ethan and Edward also represented Trafford at the Greater Manchester Cross Country Championships at Heaton Park. Well done boys! The Year 3, 5 and 6 squads won the team events in the Ladybarn Invitation Cross Country



Music



The musical activities began this term with the Bowdon Music Festival which involved the Senior Choir and many soloists from the Juniors. The Choir competed against seven other choirs and was awarded Second Place by adjudicator Steven Roberts. The soloists also did very well with Ben Wood, year 6 being placed third, Anoop Jois, year 4 placing second and Rory Hobbs, year 6, placing first in their individual classes.



All three choirs performed in the Altrincham Music festival and whilst this is not a competitive event, the boys received some hugely positive feedback from the adjudicator. We held an exam visit from the ABRSM and all the boys achieved high grades in their instrumental exams. Thanks must go to Mr King, Mr Price, Miss Sheldon, Mrs Goss and Mr Harper for their hard work in preparing the boys.



Towards the end of term, we held the Junior Music evening where we were treated to performances from the Junior and Senior Choir, Guitar Group, String Ensemble, Wind Group and the School Orchestra. All of the boys played wonderfully and gave interesting and committed performances. Our Easter Service was a particularly enjoyable morning. The Junior boys gave a touching performance of the Lord's Prayer in an original setting which made use of their French lessons with Mrs Hammond. The infants gave a very lively rendition of Brand New Frame of Mind and the EYFS performed Out of the Cave with staggering confidence. Mr Potts had selected text from Emily Bronte which I put to music for the whole school to sing; a perfect end to a busy term.

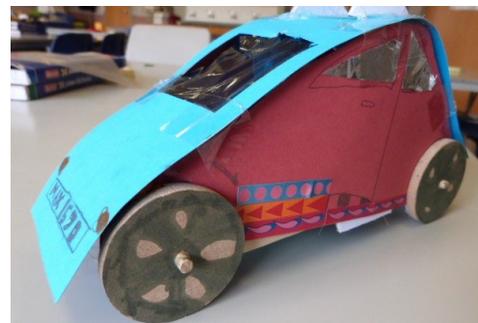
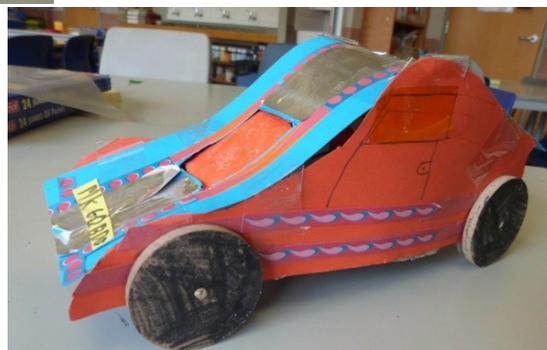


ART, DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Year 5

Design and Technology

Year 5 pupils have made a car following the Tri tech system. They have constructed the frame using hand tools and then designed and made the shell using collage materials.



Year 6

Cross curricular
Art linked with Geography
Rainforest animals



Years 1 and 2, decorated
a tree for Easter which was displayed
in St. Marys Church and the Parish Centre.



YEAR 3

Year 3 have had a busy spring term with some exciting lessons in all subjects. Highlights include the Pyramid-building day where we were treated to a whole day of learning about the Egyptians ahead of our History topic next term.



Pulling heavy weights. One block weighed as much as 100 children!



Carving hieroglyphics.



Preparing a body for its burial.



Making papyrus from linen.

Only about another 6 years to go until the pyramid is complete!



Another highlight has been the trip to Poole's Cavern in Buxton. We were amazed by the limestone formations and gripped by tales of giants and dragons! We also climbed Grinlow Hill with some boys making it to Solomon's Temple.



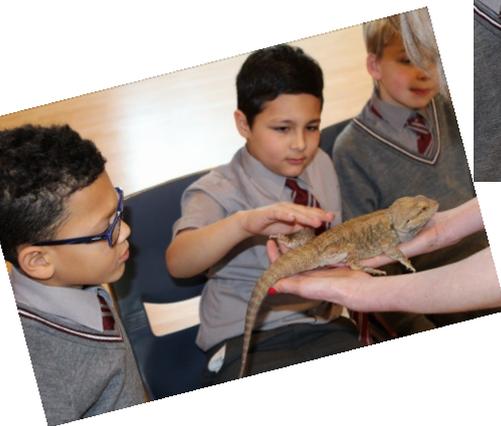
Year 4

Beastly Buddies

Warrington Pets and Exotics visited to help the boys to understand how different animals adapt to living in different habitats as part of our recent science topic. They all had the chance to get up close and personal with a range of creatures from a giant centipede to a cuddle loving skunk called Pepe.



As you can see from our pictures all the boys had a fantastic time and learnt a lot about creatures they hadn't met before. There are more photos on the school website Scrapbook.



RE - Mosque visit

With the help of Zubair's mum we visited Altrincham Mosque to enhance our understanding of religious buildings as part of our RE curriculum. When we arrived we needed to remove our shoes as a sign of respect and sat on the floor in the prayer hall. In there we learnt more about Islam and how Muslim people pray. We also had a go at writing our names in Arabic which proved harder than we thought, as our alphabets are not the same and Arabic goes in the opposite direction to what we are used to!



Stockport Air-Raid Shelters

Our visit to the Air-Raid Shelters was very exciting. We were dressed as evacuees and found out what it would be like to have been sent to new billets, far away, for the duration of the war.



Dressed the part we left home for the unknown.

Gas masks on boys!



We discovered that there were lots of jobs that we would be expected to do in our new homes.



We had to sort the recycling so we can make do and mend.

Saer has to mind the baby.



Ali and Will get busy in the kitchen.

Oliver thought the ironing was easy!



But when the siren sounds....



It's time to get in the **shelters!**



Year 5

Creative Writing

The Year 5 teachers are delighted with the progress that is being made in creative writing sessions. Recent topics have included; Smugglers and Pirates, Warriors' Tales, Frankenstein, Star Wars and Harry Potter.



Race to Freedom (Star Wars)

The roar of the engine was the only thing he heard. Thoughts were racing through Anakin's mind. In the blink of an eye the pods were off with the pilots in the cockpits. Littered around the track were jagged rocks blocking certain routes. The young boy could smell oily fumes in the dense air. Coming into view were Tuskan Raiders with their guns poised at the ready.

Paired writing by Lucien and Jay

Frankenstein

Slowly, terribly the monster came alive. Its arms and legs began to move and gingerly it sat up. The gory creation I had made ripped off the thick black wires, stood up and glared at me. I stumbled back a step in fear at first but then in my emotions, I felt ecstatic for I had created a monster of my own and I could feel his feelings. The monster had black oil-like hair which gave him a long fringe on the left side of his face. His skin was like a rotten lemon and his red, hot steaming eyes looked like a burning bonfire. He had massive, bulky green fists that looked like they could destroy a hotel. He lifted them up and brought them down with such terrific force that they smashed the transparent glass on the box containing the scientific plans. A huge electric shock went through it WHIZZ! BANG! POP!. Sparks went sizzling through the air as the electric mast collapsed through the roof. Unaware of what was behind me, I turned around and saw a giant hole in the wattle and daub wall. All I could see was the coal black night sky and people in the street running away from this horrible monster as quickly as possible.

By Cameron



Smugglers' Cove

As I shivered in excitement and nervousness, I caught a glimpse of the French ships creasing the rippling waters with their oars. They soared like elegant doves across the swaying sea current. There was a crisp icy wind that enveloped me like a blanket. Sternly, my father looked me in the eye though he didn't need to tell me the time had come to prove myself, his stone cold stare told me everything.

An exciting story beginning by William



The Warrior's Tale

A long time ago in China, there was a village called Chong-Ling where our story takes place. In this village lived a 17 year old boy called Hong Chang who shared a house with his mother and father. But..... this village was haunted by a dragon. This dragon lived in the craggy mountains that surrounded the village. Once a week, he came down from his lair and gobbled up all the food in Hong-Chang. Soon it was all gone and food was scarce. There was only one option and that was to send brave warriors up to the mountains.

Read the rest of Theo's story on the Year 5 display.



PSHE/Music

In PSHE during the Spring term we teamed up with Mr Vowles to explore reasons for bullying through music. The result was an amazing performance of the song 'Wounded' written by Mr Vowles to support this area of study. The boys and teachers thoroughly enjoyed the sessions. Look at the school website to see a full recording of the song.



Geography

Year 5 have been studying rivers. We began by looking at the physical geography of a river and then designed our own river. We studied the human uses of rivers and found out about the perils of flooding. The River Nile gave us the opportunity to study a famous river and we wrote reports about our findings.



RE

Our topic this term in RE is Worship and Prayer. Year 5 enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Manchester Buddhist Centre. In particular, the meditation session provided an opportunity for relaxation and reflection.



Many congratulations to Edward, Ted and William for being part of the school's hockey first team that won the IAPS National Championships at Cranleigh earlier this month. They were all well deserving recipients of their full colours ties.



Year 6

The Year 6 boys enjoyed learning the skills of debating when doing this topic. Each group took on a role of a group of people who are effected, either positively or negatively, by deforestation. The boys were passionate and articulate and worked well together on this.



RAINFOREST TOPIC



To understand which household products come from the Rainforest, the boys had a tasting session in school, before raiding their cupboards at home to see just how much we use in our daily lives comes from the Rainforest. The boys tasted guava juice, pineapple, coconut and mango.

To complete our Rainforest Topic the boys worked in groups of three or four to make giant rainforest animals from wicker. This was a great team building activity and we are looking forward to displaying the finished products around the school grounds.



Primary Mathematics Challenge

As detailed on the December Newsletter, 9 boys were put through to the National Finals of the Primary Mathematics Challenge. 72,000 children were entered and only 33 received a gold medal. Well done to all the boys for participating in this challenge and for doing your best and to the following 3 boys for their great success!

GOLD—Sheen Bendon **BRONZE**— Ted Graves and Rory Hobbs



Bikeability Week



During the last week of the Easter term, the boys took part in Bikeability, all boys passed level 1 on the first day and are now out on the roads!



WORLD BOOK DAY
3rd March 2016

WORLD
BOOK DAY

As well as the year 6 boys all reading silently for one hour and helping raise a staggering amount of money for the Oxdel and Dabolim Schools in Goa, the year 6 boys also went to spend the afternoon sharing their favourite books from when they were younger with the boys at Bank Place. It was a truly lovely afternoon, enjoyed by all the boys.



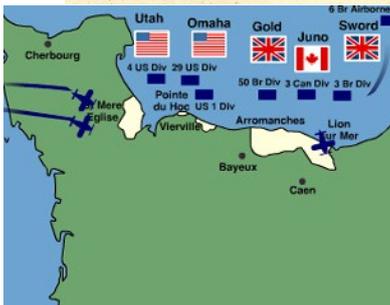
SWIMMING GALA.

On Thursday 24th March, year 5 and 6 all took part in a swimming gala at Altrincham Leisure centre. Tedder House were victorious, but all of the boys showed great team spirit.

We thoroughly enjoyed Shakespeare week and worked in pairs to make superb storyboards of the gruesome tale of Macbeth.

SHAKESPEARE WEEK

14 - 20 March 2016



In preparation for our France trip, Year 6 have been studying the Geography and History of France, particularly looking at the area of Normandy and the D Day Landings. We look forward to sharing our news from the trip with you!

ENJOY THE EASTER BREAK FROM ALL OF YEAR 6!