

## Sunshine and Smiles – Welcome back!

On 1 June we welcomed Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back to Abingdon Prep, everyone was delighted to be in their familiar surroundings. It was lovely to hear the School come alive again with chatter, laughter and lots of energy!

All year groups returned for some time over the last two weeks of term and it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces. Even the sweltering heat of the first week could not subdue the enthusiasm and enjoyment of everyone - staff and boys. It was a very happy atmosphere with lots of activity, and everyone enjoying catching up with friends.





# Message from the Headmaster



As I write this today, it is hard to think back to the start of January when coronavirus was simply something that had a few moments of news coverage and was not an issue that I, or any headteacher across the country, would be spending the coming months devoting their entire focus to. Yet here we are, at the end of another academic year, with a very different daily routine in school and having had to tear up the proverbial textbook for teaching, coming up with new strategies for remote learning.

It has, however, been fantastic to be able to welcome all the children back into school for at least a couple of sessions as we head into the summer break. The Abingdon Prep community, boys, teachers and parents, have all shown admirable drive and determination to maintain their positive approach and continue with all of our curriculum online. It is one of the highlights of my week seeing the creative videos and photos that the boys send in of their work or Other Half exploits.

I have been incredibly proud of the way our community has coped with this period of remote learning and I hope that this edition of APS News will help to showcase just how much great work our boys have been able to undertake this term. One thing is for sure, the levels of IT literacy, resilience and adaptability for both our boys and staff will have skyrocketed and it will be interesting, once schools return full time, to see just how many of these new found skills will be highly beneficial to us all.

All that remains is for me to say thank you to everyone for all of their efforts this term, and I hope that everyone has a good summer holiday.





## Mathematical marketing

This Year 6 maths project combined what the boys had been learning about 3D shapes and nets with their creative and entrepreneurial flair. They were tasked with designing and making their own breakfast cereal packaging complete with promotional advert. Online class presentations saw each boy explain the design and target market, and then face a barrage of questions from his peers keen to find out how environmentally friendly the product was, whether any of the proposed profits would be donated to charity and what the unique selling point was. These are certainly the designers and marketing moguls of the future!



## Fibonacci spirals

The Year 6 mathematicians moved on from designing cereal box packaging to learning about number sequences and particularly the work of Fibonacci. They combined their artistic flair with their newly acquired skill of drawing a Fibonacci spiral as they explored how the pattern is replicated across the natural world. Their maths teachers are delighted that they will be looking at waves, sunflowers and even pineapples in a new mathematical light from now on!



The Fibonacci Sequence is the series of numbers: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, and it appears in many things in nature such as the wind and waves and even the positioning of seeds on a sunflower and petals on a rose



## Shipwrecks

Reception has been learning all about shipwrecks and enjoyed drawing their imaginative pieces.



## Toilet roll Challenge

Year 7 took on the toilet roll challenge and showed great flair and creativity!

Watch the video



## Creative unicorns



Boys in Unicorn house have been tasked with making unicorns from different objects. Having previously experimented with Lego the boys moved on to 'Nature Unicorns'. The winner was Isaac in Year 1 with a magnificent unicorn made from stones and sticks.

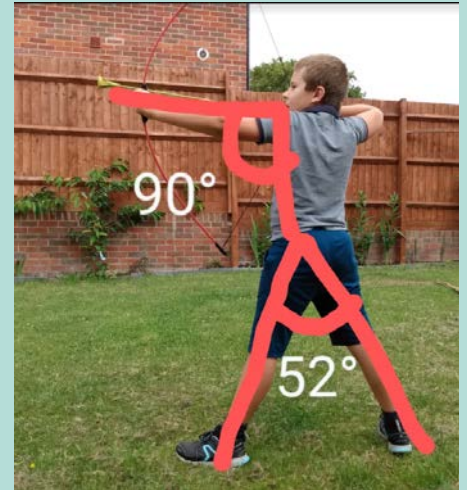


## Performance poetry

Year 4 has been studying performance poetry as part of their drama lessons. They have analysed other people's performances and worked hard to learn their poems off-by-heart. Take a look at their [videos](#).

## A new look at angles

Year 4 has been taking an unusual look at angles, and were challenged to photograph themselves making an angle with some brilliant results!



## Ma famille

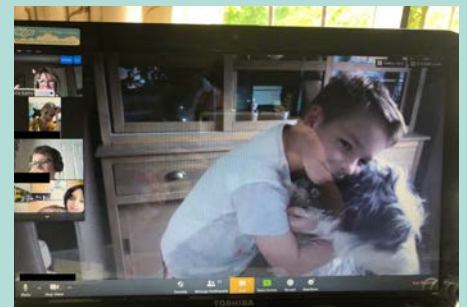
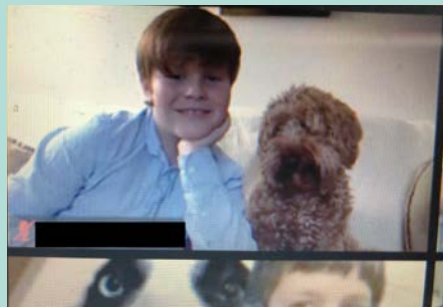
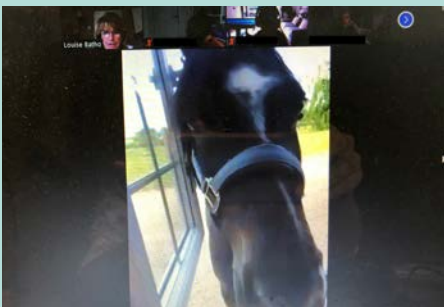
Year 1 has been learning to describe their families in French. The boys did gorgeous labelled drawings of their mums, dads, brothers, sisters, grandmothers and grandfathers.



## Creating sea life

Year 1 used clay to make fabulous octopuses, turtles, star fish, dolphins, sharks and eels for their 'Sea Life' topic.

## PSHCE with pets



Years 5 and 6 discovered a surprise benefit to online schooling when they were invited to bring their pets to their PSHCE lesson! The boys were discussing wellbeing and the benefits of having a pet. They discussed how soothing and calming it is to stroke a pet and how they are a companion to people in difficult times. They also

talked about some of the disadvantages; the fact that they cost a lot to look after, and arrangements need to be made if you go away. We all enjoyed meeting each other's pets, although some were too big to bring inside!



## Year 4 poetry

As part of their poetry topic in the Summer Term, Year 4 enjoyed writing a range of their own poems in English lessons, including these poems based around adverbs. Using an adverb of their choice, the boys followed a given structure to paint a picture in the reader's mind. We hope you enjoy these three:

**Luminously, in the evening light, fragile fireflies flutter,  
Luminously, in a child's window, hazy lamps gleam.  
Luminously, on the mantelpiece, resplendent candles shimmer,  
Luminously, in the sunset, powerful fires beam.**

**Luminously, in the deep sea, watery jellyfish gleam.  
Luminously, in pitch black space, ethereal stars flicker.  
Luminously, the lustrous moon lights up the night sky,  
Luminously, our radiant sun shines.**

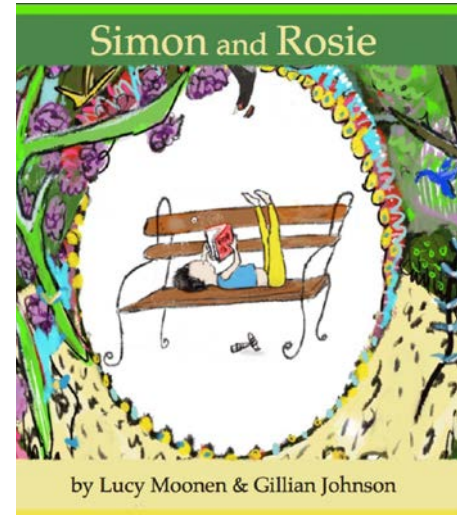
*By Joe*

***In the calm of the morning, the countryside comes alive.  
Noisily, the old smoky tractor hums across the field,  
Noisily, the birds squawk in the rustling tree,  
Noisily, an aeroplane roars in the sky,  
Noisily, the dog barks in the local farm  
Until the farmer's daughter strokes him  
And it works like a charm.***

*By Joseph*

***Silently, the autumnal leaves fall softly onto the damp soil underfoot,  
Silently, the ghostly figure of an owl soared noiselessly  
across the open grassland,  
Silently, the cat descended precariously down a steep tree,  
Silently, the young girl wept, longing for her lost parents.  
Silently, the virus killed many,  
Silently, the snow fell covering the earth in a white blanket,  
Silently, the panther slunk through the overgrown plain,  
slowly advancing on unknowing prey,  
Silently, the skeleton stood waiting, waiting for sunrise...***

*By Rupert*



Abingdon's Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning, Lucy Moonen, and award-winning illustrator Gillian Johnson, have put pen to paper to write a book to provide a gentle introduction to conversations about COVID-19 with very young children. *Simon and Rosie* is a tale of friendship, loneliness, imagination and self-acceptance.

The story is available as a free download at [www.SimonandRosie.com](http://www.SimonandRosie.com). A voluntary donation to the NHS is suggested via [www.NHScharitiestogether.co.uk](http://www.NHScharitiestogether.co.uk), in recognition of the heroic work it is doing to combat the pandemic.



## Raft building

**Year 1 boys thoroughly enjoyed building miniature rafts in Forest School. They collected same-sized sticks and used twine to join them together then chose big leaves as sails.**



## Miming

In their drama lessons this term Year 3 boys have been practising miming. They have been acting out every day activities using their body movements and facial expressions to 'pass' an object through the camera. We hope you enjoy watching the [video](#).



# Abingdon Prep Class of 2020

by Roger Owen, *Head of the Senior Section*

My fingers have paused, many times, while trying to write this article about our 2020 leavers. Where to start?



For so many years, life has been quite certain for these boys. Their time at Abingdon Prep has been punctuated by the calendar, fixtures, events, trips and a bell that many set their watches by, even though it was the wrong time: it was Abingdon time. Living now in a period of greater uncertainty, their days are dictated by frequent Zoom meetings, inescapable deadlines, and probably at this point in the term by the latest Fortnite update!

As I consider the form groups, I cannot escape the associations I have with each of them. Like neighbouring communities, they were similar but had their own distinct qualities. I offer them now, not by way of criticism but as fond memories of a fantastic group of boys.



8M were by far the messiest of the three form groups. You could not be in that room and teach without having a sneaking suspicion that there were traps laid especially for you. Bags strewn across the floor, desks misaligned like a warped jigsaw puzzle, pencil shavings scattered like confetti...and that was just Russell's area! 8M were so full of chat, so keen to offer ideas and yet so cohesive. While they were always on simmer, ready to bubble over at any given time, they kept you on your toes and were fun to teach.

8A were perhaps the calmest group of Year 8 boys I have ever taught. They played chess in the mornings, drank tea with Anne at break time, and read the FT for fun. Well, they did in my head anyway. In reality they were characterised by good cheer,

organisation and good conduct - although I do wonder if they have just been excellent at pulling the wool over my eyes all year! I always enjoyed walking into 8A; they were sparky and interesting to listen to: a genuinely good bunch.

As for my own form, 8R, there is much to tell. Yes - they worked hard towards their scholarship exams and they certainly displayed good conduct, but my oh my did they love a good argument. Of course, they called it debate, or more latterly 'a conversation to sharpen their discourse', but little was ever sharpened and rarely was anything settled. To bring peace, I offered doughnuts. When this did not work, I did not change my method, I simply offered more, and more and more. In all seriousness, 8R has been excellent company this year. But I too have eaten far too many doughnuts.



In closing, I asked the boys to let me know their favourite memories of their time with us and it is no surprise that their friendships and school trips feature strongly. So many of their treasured memories involve the people they have grown up with and their shared experiences. Rugby tournaments in Year 8, the Swanage trip, Bushcraft in Year 6, art and CDT projects, and athletics fixtures are cited time and again. It leaves me convinced that, education aside, what makes a school special is the people and the opportunities. My hope for all of our boys is that they will make the most of their new schools, and that they will forge friendships that really last.





- “ My favourite things about being at APS were making lots of new friends and doing the lessons and sports that I love. ”  
– Adam
- “ The things I will remember most are my friends and the chances I had to do extra clubs. ”  
– Xavier
- “ My favourite memories involve playing in lots of rugby matches and going to Whitemead for a school trip. ”  
– Alex
- “ One of my best memories is the brilliant Tycoon project from Year 7. It was an amazing experience that I enjoyed greatly! ”  
– George
- “ One of my favourite moments would be singing in front of the whole school. It was quite nerve wracking but I believe it was a good experience. ”  
– Scott



**Future Aspirations of the 2020 Leavers:**





## CDT is thriving

This half term we have seen many extra CDT projects with families all involved. They have taken place in homes and gardens. Vegetable patches have been covered with nets, sheds have been built, bird boxes have been produced and even guinea pig bridges and tunnels have been created.



## Balloon cars

Years 3 and 4 made and tested balloon/wind cars, and in some cases boats, with the aim to make them move independently. Some boys handed in great design plans first. Take a look at some of their amazing creations in this [video](#).



## Shoe box dioramas

The boys then went on to make shoe box dioramas. They created a plan and set about changing a box into a 3D scene. There were space scenes, rainforest settings, volcanos, golf courses, Wimbledon, villages, dragons and dinosaurs and even an appearance from Jaws himself. As ever, the boys' creativity and imaginations go above and beyond the design brief set. See [more](#).



## Years 5 and 6 - Tin can creatures and 3D Cities

The boys thoroughly enjoyed recycling tin cans to make a creature of any sort, real or imaginary. To see more follow this [link](#).



A second project for this half term was to create a 3D paper or card city. Learning how to fold and cut 'steps' to front face buildings has been harder than it looks. The results range from colourful models to paper black/white prototypes to some 3D drawings. Much praise goes to the Year 6 boys whose resources were very limited whilst they had to remain at their desks under strict social distancing rules. See [more](#).





## Norman Castles

Year 7 has been studying the Norman Conquest including the structure and purpose of castles. They thoroughly enjoyed having a go at building their own. See [more](#).



## Sharing a Langar meal

Year 1 has been finding out about the Sikh religion. They invited Debbie, our lovely school nurse, into the classroom, to share their model Langar meal. The 'meal' included; samosas, curry, chapatis, naan, and spiced vegetables. They took off their shoes, washed their hands, covered their hair and sat on the floor to 'eat' the vegetarian food together.

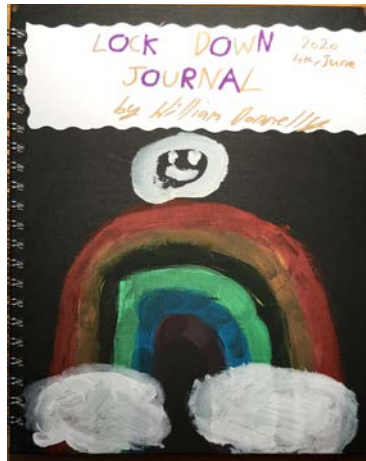
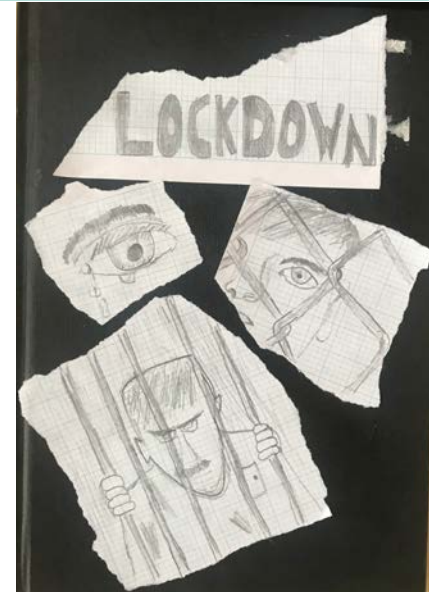




# ART

Abingdon Prep artists have been hard at work creating their 'Lockdown Journals' to visually record this time in their lives. After making their journals from scratch, they were encouraged to draw and paint 'en plein air' to record their surroundings at home. Some boys have included videos and photography as another tool to record what life is like currently, as well as creating some wonderful watercolour paintings of their gardens, allotments and walks that they have enjoyed. We hope that the journals will be tucked into memory boxes as a fond reminder of all the positive activities they experienced throughout this time.

See [more](#)





# MUSIC



## Baker Street

Boys have continued to enjoy learning new pieces in their remote music lessons. Have a **listen** to Arjun playing Baker Street.



## Flourishing music

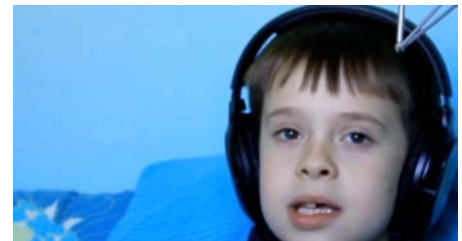
The Google Classroom for music is proving very popular with the boys. Pupils upload videos showing the musical progress they have been making. This **video** shows a selection of pieces that pupils have been learning at home. They include piano and guitar performances, as well as a family trio.

## The importance of song

Singing is a huge part of our music lessons at Abingdon Prep. Throughout our period of remote learning, our pupils have been learning to sing a variety of songs. Our Year 3s and 4s have been focusing on songs about rainbows; a dedication to the NHS and frontline workers through the Covid-19 pandemic. This video was sent in by Reuben in Year 3. Watch the **video**.

## Guitar group play on

Our Visiting Music Teachers have been busy with our pupils, not only teaching their lessons, but also creating great video collaborations. This video was put together by our guitar teacher, Paul Wisby, and features the guitarists and bass guitarists of the School's Guitar Group. This is one of their favourite pieces, and shows that not even a world pandemic can stop music at Abingdon Prep. Watch the **video**





# Time flies – looking back at Abingdon Prep

by Roger Owen, *Head of the Senior Section*

*Time flies* - an often over-used saying but apt as we ask two Abingdon School sixth formers who are leaving school this year to reflect on their time at Abingdon Prep. It really does seem like yesterday that they were sitting on the carpet in Reception listening to stories, racing up and down the Big Adventure, practising for the end of term concert and sitting Common Entrance. We wish them all the best as they move on.

## Joe Bradley

“ I can't quite remember the day I arrived at Abingdon Prep, or Josca's as it was known back then, but I do remember how I felt. I joined in Reception as the second smallest boy in the entire school (a fact I was very proud of) and I really felt it. The front of School loomed like a castle, the Big Adventure an imposing extension of its battlements. Terrifying giants in Year 8 played Five-Square in the playground, a complex game which required a level of skill beyond my comprehension. Even the stairs into Pre-Prep posed a physical challenge.



Looking at the Big Adventure I remember the games of cops and robbers played within its walls, which stood as the beginnings of friendships I still have to this day.

Although the Year 8s may still seem like a different breed sometimes, when I recall my time at that stage I remember the culmination of many years of inspiring and inclusive teaching, preparing me very well for entry into the senior school.

Abingdon Prep holds a special place in my heart because it encourages kids to discover and develop their interests in a huge variety of subjects, whether it be in academics, sports, or the arts. And on top of this, it's a home to many happy memories and formative experiences that I know I'll hold on to for the rest of my life. ”

## And now:

Joe left Abingdon Prep to join Abingdon as the Mercers' Scholar and threw himself into music and the Film Unit there. He directed several award-winning short films including a documentary about what it feels like to be deaf. Through the Music department he achieved Grade 8 with distinction in both Cello and Piano and performed the first movement of Elgar's *Cello Concerto* with the school orchestra. As a prefect in his final year he took 5 A-levels and is looking to study Medicine at Trinity Hall Cambridge.

Well, many bonfire nights, Christmas bazaars and sports days later, I look back on Abingdon Prep with very different eyes. Visiting Pre-Prep as a representative of the senior school the steps had shrunk a fair bit, and I couldn't look at them without fond memories of the gentle teaching and the hours of fun spent there.





## David Bicarregui

“ I spent nine years at Abingdon Prep from 2006-2015. Now, at 18, that clocks in at half my life. Like me, the school changed hugely from my first day to my last, most obviously in its name, which, when I started, was “Josca’s”. Needless to say, rumours about who “Josca” could have been were endless, from a former pupil to the ghost that still haunted the classrooms!



David in Reception.

I will always look back fondly on my time at Abingdon Prep. I remember the forest at the bottom of the playground clearly and the exciting occasions that we were allowed to enter it. It was like Harry Potter’s “Forbidden Forest” with uncountable mysteries for me and my friends to discover between the trees! Other memories include long afternoons sitting in the hall during far-too-warm rehearsals for the summer concerts, lazy Friday afternoon English lessons, and the yearly play or musical; in Year 8, I was Mrs Hudson in *Sherlock Holmes*!

But it was this creative atmosphere that the school possessed which was so important, allowing me to grow and develop under the guidance of teachers who felt like they were a part of the very foundations of the building! I believe that without my time at Abingdon Prep I would not have developed such a love of music and art and that has made me want to study music.



Joe and David enjoying sports day in Year 3 at the Prep School

One piece of advice that I would give to current pupils is to just enjoy it! Have fun and make the most out of your years at Abingdon Prep! ”

### And now:

Since moving to Abingdon, David has achieved Grade 8 Distinctions in piano, voice and flute. He has performed concertos with several orchestras in Oxford, most recently, Chopin’s *Second Piano Concerto*, alongside writing and publishing his own music with his band Malorie. He has sung in productions of *La bohème* and *Carmen* and received the 2020 Michael Pendred Opera Award. As a writer, David has received prizes for his poetry.

Next year, he will take one of 12 offers awarded to the Royal Northern College of Music and Manchester University’s prestigious Joint Course to study music and singing.



David and Joe on the Abingdon School music tour to Japan & Hong Kong in 2019.



Singing now – David in his A level recital.





## Dressing up with Reception

Reception has been having great fun during their home learning sessions. Along with all of their working, the boys have been playing that old favourite, the dressing up game. So much laughter and so many inspirational choices.



## Promoting tourism in Spain!

Year 3 boys have been studying Spain in geography and to finish the project the boys created a tourist leaflet to show many of the attractions. They included the festivals, well known cities, the Pyrenees, beautiful coastlines, food, culture and more. We even had a tourist **video** created alongside the brochure.

## Adventures with Year 3

The boys in Year 3 put pen to paper to write their own adventure stories. Firstly they thought about the structure of their story and then they planned it very carefully. They considered how to make their story exciting by using descriptive words and phrases. The boys added some wonderful art work, some done by hand, some on the computer. The end results were superb!



Back in school, the Reception boys have also been creative making 3D models from 3D shapes.





## Crest awards

Since we locked down back in March, 8R have been spending their time working on Crest projects in Science. The boys have worked tirelessly to research some very interesting topics. Covering exercise, renewable energy, efficient pizza boxes, fizzy drinks and fraud detection in coins, there is something for everyone. We hope you enjoy the **video** which gives two of the projects as examples of their work.

### Results for leg strength



The average time for a twelve year old being able to hop on one leg for is 1 minute. The year sevens managed to double the time and make the average for their year 2 minutes and 2 seconds. All of these results aren't as accurate as we would have liked them to be due to lockdown restrictions. We have also had to leave a few results out from certain people as it seems near impossible for them to achieve so highly. We would have had more accuracy if we were there, able to test them all in the same way. We also had to leave out Jumping from a standstill since the results varied and we think some people were jumping horizontally whereas we asked for them to jump vertically and the results don't match up.



## Vive la nourriture française!

Year 5 has been focusing on food in French. Many boys relished the opportunity to practise their new vocabulary and grammar when describing or labelling their own meals and quite a few took on the cooking challenge to experiment with some new French recipes they were given.



## Charity News: The Nasio Trust

The Nasio Trust would like to pass on sincere thanks to Abingdon Prep for their support this year, especially to those who took part in the sponsored Buttercup 5K. Highlights of their recent relief efforts in Kenya have included a successful door-to-door education campaign, the mass distribution of PPE and the creation of hundreds of "tippy-taps" to bring basic handwashing facilities to remote and impoverished areas. COVID-19 aside, the improvements in sanitation brought about as part of their work have seen a 90% reduction in water-borne disease.

Abingdon Prep's sponsorship of four children continues; one child, Abraham, sponsored by the Middle Section, has been able to attend a daily feeding program provided by the Nasio Trust during the coronavirus outbreak. For more opportunities to support the charity's valuable work, or to sponsor an additional child of your own visit



### Abingdon Prep Online Open Morning

Saturday 10 October 2020 – 10.00am-11.00am

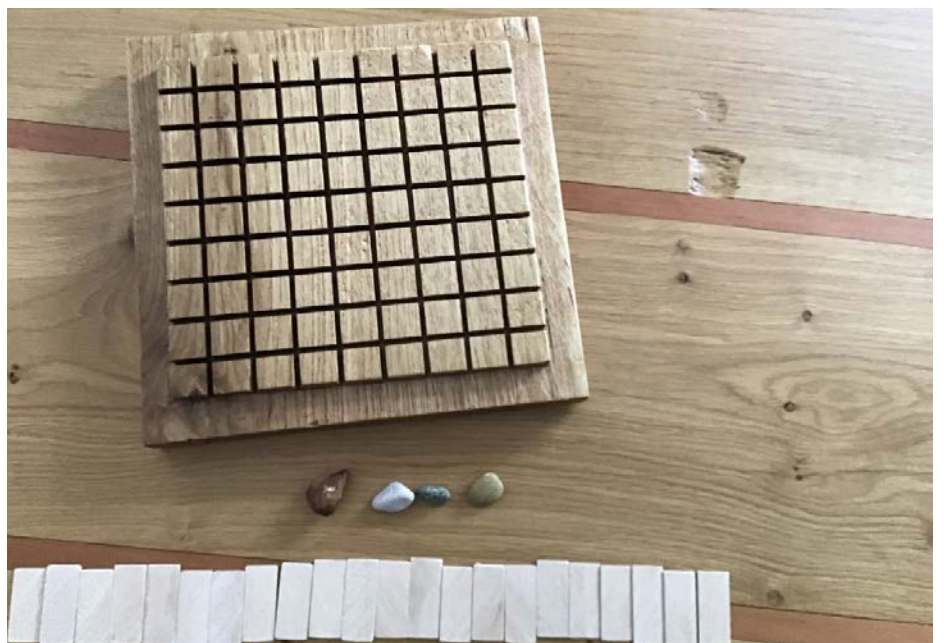


# Creativity



The boys have been using a website called 'Pixlr' to create posters based on some inspirational quotes. They have carefully chosen their images and fonts and used layers to create different effects with the text.

Conor in Year 7 was given a Gold for creating this brilliant board game.





# Goodbye and Thank you

The end of term sees us sending our best wishes to the lovely members of staff who are leaving us. We thank them, and wish them all the very best. Keep in touch!

## Clare Dicks - School Office and Accounts Assistant

Clare Dicks has been a member of staff at Josca's and then Abingdon Prep for 18 years. Since she started here in 2002, Clare has worked in a variety of roles in the school office, but is perhaps best known for sorting the accounts for everything from school trips, book and stationery orders to bills! So many people have written or spoken about her good humour, warm presence and kindness, as well as her efficiency and expertise in her role. She has always been welcoming, ready to listen, and never less than thorough in helping staff or boys to sort out any problems.



Clare leaves us to devote more time to her family and travel and we wish her all the best in her future, at home and on her trips abroad.

## Jo Allen - IT Coordinator

The idiom 'Jack of all trades, master of none' needs to be re-written for Jo Allen who has proved herself to be master of very many trades during her six years at APS. As IT Coordinator she has supported staff and pupils in all areas of technology both in school and more recently during online learning.



From sorting out Other Half sign ups, setting up reports and parents' evenings, supporting boys in lessons, leading her coding clubs and helping to run the School's database, Jo has been at the heart of our IT. However, prep schools are all about being involved in areas beyond your own role and Jo has embraced this to the full, going on Bushcraft trips, undertaking the all-important tasting in our annual Bake-Off, serving milkshakes and looking after boys who feel unwell.

Jo has done all of this with good humour, a keen sense of calm, and kindness. These are the skills that will serve her so well as she embarks on her training to be a midwife. Whilst I cannot think of a better response than that given by one of my colleagues when they found out Jo was leaving: 'Noooooooooooooooooooo', we know that she will be outstanding in her new career and that so many young lives will be enhanced by seeing her welcome them into the world. Thank you, Jo, for your gargantuan contributions over the past six years. You will be greatly missed.

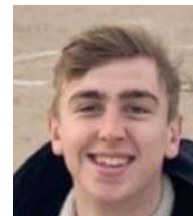
## Penelope Codner - School Nurse

Penelope joined Abingdon Prep in April 2016 as our school nurse and after four wonderful years, she has decided to retire (for the second time in her career!). If any of you were lucky enough to get to see her in action, you could not have failed to notice her boundless enthusiasm and amazing ability to understand children and offer them the right care. Some of the boys liked visiting Penelope so much for a chat that we did sometimes wonder just how bad their ailment was, but they always returned from her care much happier and able to get back into their work. Penelope has played a vital role in caring for all the children at APS and she will be sorely missed by all of us. We wish her all the very best with her retirement and hope that she will stay in touch.



## Henry Muller - Gap Student

Henry has only been with us a year, but I am sure pupils and staff would all agree that he has certainly made an impact. By the end of his first day, I knew Henry was going to be an excellent gap student. How? Henry had offered to make every one he came into contact with a cup of tea, by the end of the first week he knew the orders by heart. He was going to do well!



Since then, Henry has thrown himself into every situation with confidence and enthusiasm and he has been willing to complete any task sent his way with a smile. His positive attitude is infectious and his boundless energy was certainly well received in reception PE lessons this year. He has played a pivotal role in the sports department, supervising on the sports field, encouraging the boys, providing first aid and being the best cheerleader APS could ask for!

This year Henry could often be found in the CDT department supporting pupils of all ages and patiently teaching them new skills. He was also an excellent help with the Junior Section production of Hoodwinked and the Senior Drama Club.

Although it had not exactly been the year Henry had planned, he has taken everything in his stride. He has inspired the boys and staff with his positive outlook on life and we will certainly miss his cheerful disposition.

On behalf of everyone at APS, I wish Henry the best of luck at Royal Holloway in September. We will all be watching out for you on the stage or screen in the future!

## Anna Whitham - Year 3 Form Teacher and Head of Phonics

Anna joined the APS community in September 2015 as Anna Fitzmaurice, soon to become Mrs Whitham when she married Pete later that year. She was a breath of fresh air with her cheerful disposition, kindness and contagious enthusiasm. Anna began her time as a Year 1 class teacher.



With her understanding of up-to-date teaching methodology, excellent knowledge of subject matter and her natural ability to engage and interact with young children, she proved to be an outstanding addition to the Pre-Prep Section, soon taking on the additional roles of Head of Phonics and After School Club and Gap Student Coordinator.

In 2019, when a position became available in the Junior School, Anna made the transition to Year 3 and took on the additional challenge of working towards an MA in Education at Oxford University. In just a short amount of time, Anna made a true difference to the boys in her charge and the colleagues that she worked with. She is a genuine team player.

Anna is resourceful and adventurous. She had a whole breadth of additional skills that she brought to our school, coming up with good ideas and often creating something from nothing. She would always have the most flamboyant of costumes on our school theme days, a favourite being Mary Poppins! She is a very confident swimming teacher and coach for all ages on the games field. Anna embraced the ability to offer numerous extra-curricular activities and organised a variety of new trips including to Hill End and the Railway Museum. Anna and Pete are moving to their lovely cottage in Yorkshire and Anna has accepted a position at Queen Mary's School, Thirsk. This is most definitely their gain and our loss.