



A Masked Outing

Some school trips were still able to happen this term. Year 8 visited Oxford's Natural History Museum, where we had the entire ground floor to ourselves for the morning visit.

From the Headmaster

As I write this with the light fading outside and the term drawing to a close, I feel the lead up to Christmas is well and truly upon us. The boys have had their school Christmas lunch, Christmas jumpers aplenty, and they are excited to start their holidays.

In such a strange term, one of the many highlights was our recorded carol service. This was a chance for the school to come together remotely and listen to all of the boys singing their carols and Christmas music, alongside readings of the Christmas story. Every boy participated and we even had a staff choir singing a Covid-19 version of the 12 Days of Christmas!

The Abingdon Prep community has come together brilliantly during the term and the boys

have shown great resilience in school, getting on with all of their lessons and Other Half clubs in as normal a way as possible. They have continued to thrive and develop their knowledge and understanding in all subjects.

When not in lockdown, we have managed to undertake a number of day trips to places such as Cogges Farm, The Natural History Museum, and The Ridgeway and the boys have been fully immersed in their Other Half activities which have for the most part, continued as before.

We had a visit from the Abingdon Lord Mayor as well in the final week of term to present some boys with prizes for their entries in the non-plastic Christmas decorations competition. Our Remembrance service was very moving with

a series of assemblies leading up to that day about the First World War, done through the medium of numbers.

Our Parents Association have appointed a new chairperson and we have launched newsletters and held a number of hugely enjoyable online events, again helping to really bring the Abingdon Prep community together.

Despite the difficulties that covid has brought this term, the boys have responded incredibly well and school has continued to be a place of learning, friendship and engagement. The boys and the staff have certainly all earned a Christmas break.

With best wishes

Craig Williams



Day One



Catapults with Y6 in CDT



December, the Mayor visits

Remembrance

The whole school assembled, as we do every year at 11am on the 11 November, to observe the two minute silence as part of this year's Remembrance commemorations. Toby in Year 8 played 'The Last Post', poignantly signalling the start of the silence, which was observed immaculately. There was a fine array of homemade poppies held and worn, as well as those bought contributing to our fundraising efforts for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. This year we raised £291.85 which is one of the biggest sums that we have achieved.

The theme of our assemblies this year was the events of 1940, but I am sure that each would have his or her own thoughts about those who had given service or the ultimate sacrifice to help defend our freedom.



Christmas Thanks Tree



The boys have been thinking about all the things that they are grateful for rather than focusing on what they cannot do because of Covid-19. Their ideas, written on a Christmas bauble, were hung on a tree in the school foyer. Thanks ranged from being grateful for having a home and a bed, a lovely brother, for being on earth, for having a pet, coping with lockdown to appreciating beautiful sunrises, the kindness in the world and for art supplies!

The project was the idea of the school nurses who encourage the boys to practise mindfulness and to look after their mental health. It was also part of a school initiative to encourage plastic-free Christmas decorations.

Christmas Lunch in Bubbles

The School's Christmas lunch was just as tasty, even when some years had to eat it as a takeaway in bubbles. Year 8 took over the Art Room to eat theirs.



Children at Abingdon Prep and partnership schools enjoyed making plastic-free Christmas decorations for a competition judged by the Mayor of Abingdon, Charlie Birks. It was organised by Abingdon Cuts Plastic with Surfers Against Sewage to help children and their families reduce their Christmas plastic consumption. The task was to create a homemade Christmas decoration for a "Plastic-Free Christmas". The competition had been judged virtually, but the Mayor visited Abingdon Prep to present prizes to the boys, who were proud to show him their decorations. From woven diamonds to a wooden reindeer, a wool Father Christmas to a papier mâché snowman, the results were fantastic! There was even a recycled door frame used to make an Italian star!

Teachers at our partnership schools had a great deal of fun sharing the creativity from a large number of their pupils. Thank you to all those who took part. *Katie Smith*



Odd Socks Day

Abingdon Prep took part in the national Odd Socks Day to launch Anti-Bullying Week, with the message that we are all different and all unique.

This year's theme of 'United Against Bullying' will be covered in assemblies and PSHCE lessons.



Year 4 Ridgeway Walk



We were blessed with glorious weather for our Year 4 walk along The Ridgeway. The boys were in good spirits and everybody enjoyed the fresh air and the chance to chat with friends. It was pleasing to see boys supporting each other as legs started to tire towards the end. Some juicy oranges and chocolate biscuits were a lovely treat when we finally reached White Horse Hill.



Exploring Evolution

Year 8 was very happy to have a morning out on the annual trip to the Natural History Museum in Oxford. The boys thoroughly enjoyed learning all about the exhibitions and they were treated to a talk from Sarah on classification. As ever, the museum shop was quite a highlight!



Virtual Christmas Concert



The boys had a fantastic time working towards their first ever virtual Christmas Concert. All year groups including Pre-Prep sang in the concert, with music ranging from favourite Christmas carols to some of the more popular songs that we all know and love. Each year group performed in their own bubble with their own song. The concert also featured some lovely poems read aloud by pupils. It was so much fun that even the school staff had their own little number, and there was a guest performance from the virtual guitar ensemble. Everyone watching at home could not fail to enter into the festive spirit, and were hopefully singing along and savouring a tasty mince pie! *Sean Fitzpatrick*



On the ... day of Christmas, my true love sent to me



12 Walkie Talkies



5 Handwash Stations



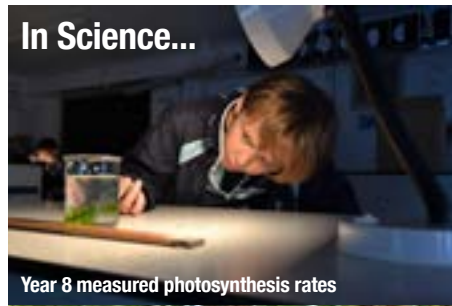
7 Careful Drivers



And a Roadway on the Field

Individual music lessons have restarted





In Science...

Year 8 measured photosynthesis rates and identified the trees in our woods



Year 7 measured heart rates and dissected owl pellets



The Other Half

Lego Robotics Club



Y7-8 Archery



Table Tennis, Y5-6, and Y7-8



In English and History...

Year 4 read 'Iron Man' and made their own models

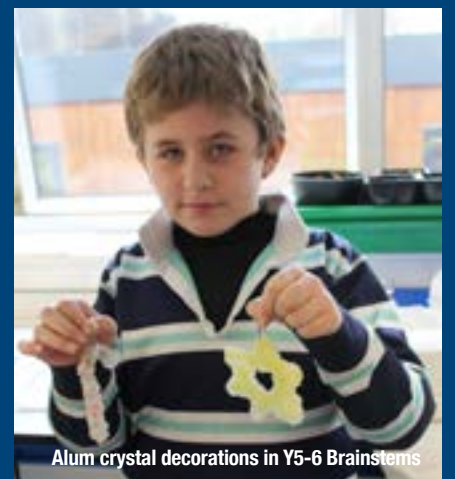


Year 3 wrote onomatopoeic poems



Extreme Reading Competition

Just before the first lockdown, the boys submitted their entries and what a collection of fantastic photographs we received. Pictures in the snow and sun, up a tree, just about anywhere you could imagine and, in the most EXTREME of places – extremely cold, extremely funny, extremely clever and even extremely dangerous! Our winner (left) was Oscar, now in Y8.



Alum crystal decorations in Y5-6 BrainsTems

Creative and Performing Arts Colours

DRAMA
Senior full: Iestyn, George, Jack, Paddy.
Senior half: Toby, Justin, Dylan, Zac, Sam.

MUSIC
Senior full: Arjun
Senior half: Charles
Junior half: Alex

ART
Senior half: Thomas
Junior half: Ethan

CDT
Senior full: Oscar, Alfie
Junior half: Lee, Matteo.



Outdoor Explorers Y3-4



Facing the bowling machine in Y7-8 Cricket



Y5 CDT Club



Y5 Upcycled Poppies



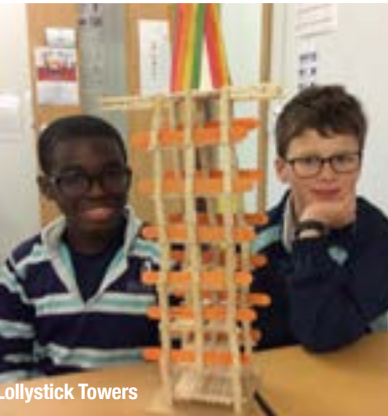
Y4 Peg Planes



Y4 Ladybirds



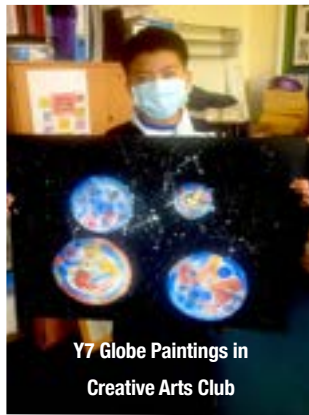
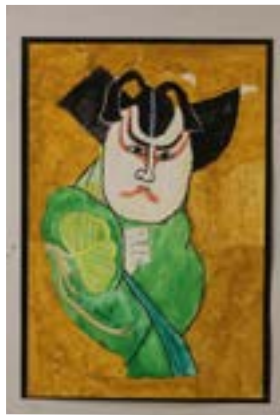
Y6 Peg and Lollystick Towers



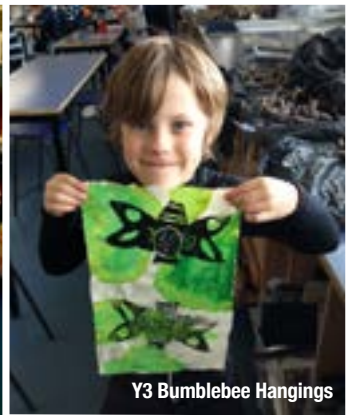
Y5 Spider Winders



Y6 Wooden Chairs



Y7 Globe Paintings in Creative Arts Club



Y3 Bumblebee Hangings



Y5 Puppy Life Drawing with Toby



Y5 Owls



September

First days at School for our new Reception boys



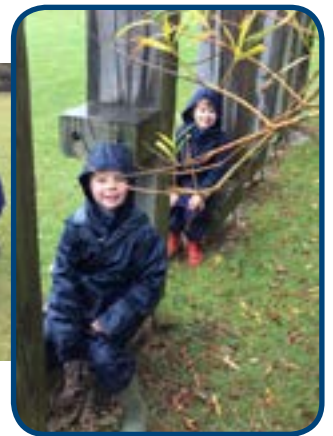
Reception had a visit from the dentist



Pre-Prep Young Ambassadors

October

Year 1 - Hill End Trip



What a wet day!

Pre-Prep Scarecrow Festival

Pre-Prep celebrated Harvest with a Scarecrow Festival this year. Generous food donations were given to the Gatehouse charity for the homeless in Oxford, and families could tour the display all around the mound in socially distanced timed slots.



Reception's first trip - Cogges Farm



Reception enjoyed their first school trip to Cogges Farm and got to experience a journey in the school minibus with our driver Steve. It was a very wet day, but that didn't dampen our spirits as the boys explored the old farm buildings and house as they learnt the story of The Little Red Hen. We made our own pot, planted some corn, learned how to grind the corn into flour with stones, baked our own bread rolls and went on a hunt for special eggs too. The boys also enjoyed a puppet show of the story, a long walk by the river and an exploration of a new playground. What a fabulous day!



November

Reception enjoy cooking



Reception celebrate Divali



Y1-2 Big Build Club



Y2 grew crystals on leaves in Science



Y1 enjoy PE



Y1 Codecrackers Club

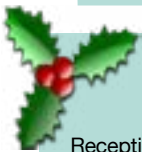


Year 1 got their hands messy in pumpkins



Forest School

Month by Month
Sept - Dec



December

Cogges Manor Farm at Christmas

Reception and Year 2 visited Cogges Farm this December on separate days to travel back in time to find out about Christmas long ago. With kissing boughs, gingerbread pigs, crackers and paper chains, the

boys certainly experienced a variety of traditions. They also thoroughly enjoyed an elf hunt, a puppet show, a winter walk around the fields and time on the adventure playground in a fun packed day!



Celebrate! Christmas in Pre-Prep



A Letter from Father Christmas who left presents under the tree!



Happy New Year from Pre-Prep

Sport Highlights

Y4 Cricket on the MUSA



2020 has been a very strange year for sport. At the beginning of the academic year we were able to catch up much of the lost Summer term with a six week half term block of cricket coaching.

During the second half of term we moved on to rugby and were lucky enough to have had two weeks of contact rugby as the RFU moved to stage E of the phased return to the game. We also managed to complete our inter-house rugby matches for Years 3 to 8.

Virtual swimming galas were also possible with swimmers in their own pools. *Ashley David-Ward*



Y6 use our new Feed Buddy machines

Rugby Colours

Colours were awarded for a combination of excellence on the field of play in terms of performance and attitude during training:

Junior Rugby Half- Colours

Year 5: Noah, Leo, Herbie, Rupert and Joseph

Year 6: Joel and Paddy

Junior Rugby Full- Colours

Year 6: Paul, Josh, Laurie, Ted and Jamie

Senior Rugby Half-Colours

Year 7: Conor, Justin, Henry, Zachary, Dylan and Sebastian

Year 8: Daniel, George and Sam

Senior Rugby Full-Colours

Ollie, Fintan, Philip, Archie, Iestyn, Ned, James and Orson



Rugby Colours and Cup Winners



House Rugby	
Year 3 (U8)	Unicorn & Phoenix
Year 4 (U9)	Unicorn
Year 5 (U10)	Unicorn
Year 6 (U11)	Phoenix
Year 7 (U12)	Unicorn
Year 8 (U13)	Dragon



Y3-4 House Rugby

Talented swimmer Leone tops National rankings



In the national swimming ranking, Leone (Y4) of Abingdon Vale Swimming Club was ranked top in his age category in 100m freestyle and 100m individual medley. In breaststroke, he ranked 2nd at 100m and 3rd at 50m, and 4th in 50m backstroke.



Some of our virtual gala swimmers



AbingdonPrep Charities, Partnerships and JPA

Charities



Opportunities to raise money for charity have been restricted to our 'Christmas Jumper Day' so far this year. We are continuing to support **Be Free YC** – a local Oxfordshire charity which offers support and advice dedicated to improving the lives and well-being of young carers across our region.

Partnerships



Christmas resource boxes with virtual lessons and worksheets, particularly for STEM activities in DT and Science, have been shared with our partner schools, Cumnor CPS and Standlake, for pupils to enjoy in the run up to Christmas.

Virtual Beer Tasting



JPA News

The new term brought new challenges for the JPA. With the boys back in school full time, we wanted to bring the school community together again but in a virtual world. With the AGM and appointment of a new Chair and Treasurer, we set about thinking outside of the box. It all kicked off with a fantastic 'online' School Quiz, thanks to Yuvani and Rob. It was all going swimmingly until Rob suddenly disappeared due to a technical glitch, but he quickly picked up where he left off and an amazing night was had by 50+ families.

We also held other virtual events like wine tasting, beer tasting and Christmas wreath making. So many local businesses have diversified their products allowing us to offer Covid-19 safe events that also fundraise for the general coffers of the JPA. Instead of the Christmas Bazaar we finished the year with an online brochure that local businesses stepped up and paid to advertise in. We had a phenomenal response to all the activities we ran.



To communicate more effectively with parents we really want to push using Classlist. If you haven't used it before, reach out to your Class Rep for details. We will post events, notices, announcements there and there is even a marketplace where we can have a virtual swap shop! Also we launched the JPA Journal newsletter, which will be published at the start of each term with key dates, events and notices from the JPA.



To finish it all off, we now have a JPA led School Shop with merchandise, clothing and lifestyle products for your boys and family, with every item raising money for the JPA, find it on www.jpaschoolshop.uk. Many items can be personalised too, so hopefully we will lose less!

At our AGM we decided we would continue to support Be Free Young Carers due to the amazing nature of their work. The last academic year wasn't great for fundraising nationally, and we appreciate so many charities are struggling.

We ended the term with a fantastic show of giving and kindness, with our Festive Box collection. Over 100 boxes were delivered to the Didcot Foodbank full of extra treats for families struggling this Christmas. Handing them over was a humbling experience with so many kind notes on the boxes and gifts - a HUGE thank you from the Foodbank Team and me to everyone who took part!

We have lots planned for next term, another quiz, online bingo, a gin event and more!

Thank you for all your support, and remember every parent is a part of the Josca's Parents Association.

Sally Povolotsky - Chair JPA



AbingdonPrep News is the newsletter of Abingdon Preparatory School, Josca's House, Kingston Road, Oxford OX13 5NX Tel: 01865 391570 www.abingdon.org.uk/prep Editor: Annabel Gaskell

Abingdon School is a company limited by guarantee Registered in England and Wales Company No. 3625063. Registered Office: Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DE Registered Charity No. 1071298