

A young boy with dark hair is performing on stage. He is wearing a red long-sleeved tunic with a striped yoke and green trousers. He has a surprised or excited expression on his face. The background is a painted backdrop of a city with domes and minarets, likely Agrabah from Disney's Aladdin.

WELCOME TO AGRABAH!

Abingdon Prep's Senior Section transported audiences to Agrabah in two fun-filled, spectacular performances of Disney Junior's Aladdin.

FROM THE HEADMASTER

The Headmaster, Craig Williams, reflects on a busy term at Abingdon Prep.

It is sometimes not until you are able to sit down after term has ended and reflect on the past few months that you realise quite how much has been accomplished. Simply by reading our APS News, I hope that you too will be able to see how much our children have been involved with at school and how much they have achieved.

Two real highlights for me this term were our Junior and Senior section productions. These were the first full scale productions that we have been able to perform to live audiences for two years. Both 'Eddie The Penguin Saves The World' and 'Aladdin' were simply brilliant and hugely enjoyed by the children and parents alike. The sense of pride from the children at the end of the performances was palpable and I know that many of them are keen to take on larger roles next year.

I was hugely impressed with the number of successful entries we had in the Young Art Oxford competition this year. Thirty-seven of our children have been selected to have their work displayed at the Ashmolean in May which is a record number for APS.

On the sports field there has also been great success with our U10A and U11A football teams both having unbeaten

seasons and our U11 cross country team have been crowned National Prep Schools Cross Country champions again. However, it is equally important to us that all of the boys in Years 3-8 have represented the school in matches this term too.

At the end of term, our Pre-Prep got to go on their Easter Egg Hunt and despite the Easter Bunny not being able to stay for the hunt itself this year, there were still plenty of chocolate eggs hidden all around the playground for them to find.

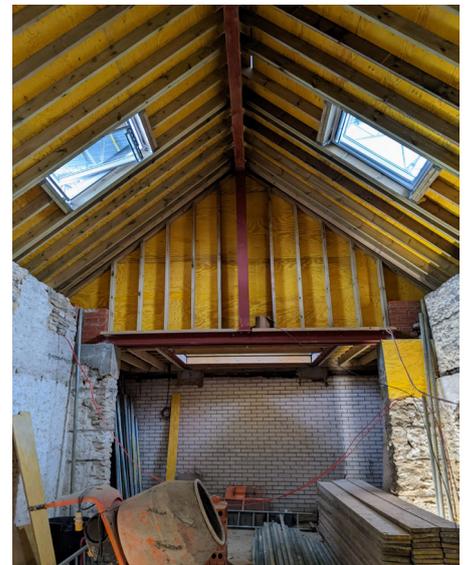
Our building project continues apace and the new facilities are really starting to take shape. By the time the children return for the Summer Term, the scaffolding may well be down and the new library space will be visible through the newly installed glass doors and windows. It is fascinating to see all the work coming together and I am incredibly excited about the further opportunities these facilities will bring to APS.

Best wishes

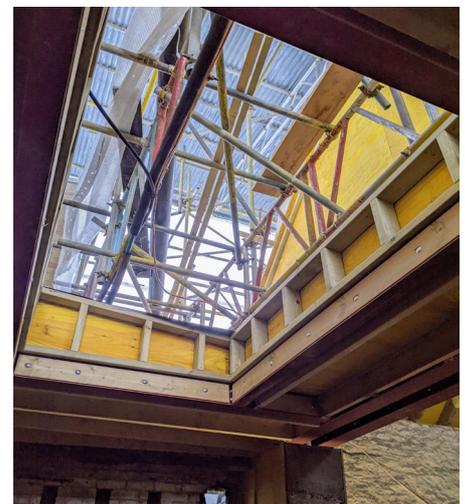
Craig



The pancake flipping competition put Shrove Tuesday into the Easter timeline in assembly.



THE LIBRARY IN PROGRESS



UKRAINE APPEAL

As the crisis in Ukraine unfolded, our School community was looking for ways in which we could help. Several of our parents set up a local initiative to collect and transport humanitarian aid to the Ukrainians. The response to a request for donations was overwhelming with pupils, parents and staff giving bedding, toiletries and medical equipment in abundance. Two 20 tonne lorries, loaded with our donations, have already been delivered to Lviv and to hospitals in Kharkiv and Kherson. Thank you.

HOUSE CHARITIES

Pupils from Years 3 to 8 made presentations on nominated charities close to their hearts to the whole school, in our House Charity election via Zoom.

Each pupil in the house was allowed one vote and the results confirmed that Dragon will be supporting the IPF Charity, Griffin selected The Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Phoenix chose the H-ABC Foundation, and Unicorn the Asylum Welcome Charity.

The houses will meet again soon so they can decide on the charity fundraising event they each will run.

Well done to all the pupils who spoke with such confidence and conviction, a really impressive effort and some wonderful personal stories.

SCHOOL COUNCIL



The School Council met with Craig to discuss proposals they had put together including ideas for sport, free time, new clubs and suggestions for next term's calendar. Craig was particularly impressed the wide range of thoughtful and interesting ideas. The big 'wins' were the introduction of Dodgeball club, which will start in the summer, and an International Day, which is part of the planned events for next term.

CELEBRATING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE AT APS

We celebrated the similarities and differences of a number of different cultures and nationalities from around the world in our first ever non-English speaking assembly. Led by a group of pupils, the assembly was taken in no fewer than five languages including Bengali, Mandarin, Danish, French and Russian (with subtitles in English).

The children introduced and explained a little about themselves and went on to

describe some of the festivities which are celebrated around the world. We discovered that whilst these can be different from each other, they all share two common themes – the importance of being with family and having good food.

We also got to hear from a wide range of our pupils introducing themselves and their interests in an array of languages. Many thanks to the families of our presenters for their support in creating our assembly.



Thank you

Merci

Спасибо

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to our four excellent presenters and their families for their wonderful contributions to this assembly

Pupils have enjoyed helping our office staff add to the welcoming feel of the reception area by writing 'hello' in the languages they speak, many adding the colours of the flags to their speech bubbles. It certainly provides a cheerful welcome in many languages to our visitors.



TUDOR HISTORY COMES ALIVE FOR YEAR 4 AT UFTON COURT

Year 4 started their visit to Ufton Court near Reading by examining real Tudor artefacts, including a mouth harp and an arrow head. Then they dressed up to take part in an immersive Tudor court room experience. This was a real highlight for the class, learning about Tudor punishments and how they differed to our current justice system. After lunch it was time to explore the grounds, where we discovered a secret passageway and 'priest hole' in the attic! Finally, we had time to try out some Tudor games which were a real hit with the children, especially skipping and 'cub'. This was a trip to remember for 4K.



YEAR 5 AT OXFORD'S MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND THE PITT RIVERS MUSEUM

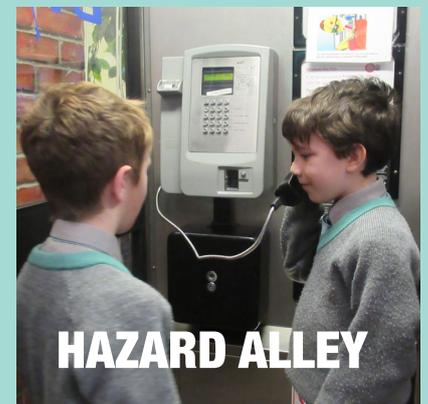


Year 5 spent a beautiful, sunny day in Oxford at the wonderful Natural History and Pitt Rivers museums, with workshop sessions in each.

Chris from the Museum of Natural History led a fabulous 'Evolve, Adapt, Survive' workshop. The children were given an excellent tour through vertebrate life on Earth, focusing on evolution and natural selection. They listened with fascination to

the different examples Chris explored with them and all contributed enthusiastically to the discussion on the survival of the fittest!

In the Pitt Rivers Museum, their second workshop was about the Maya. Through discussion and hands-on activities, including some detective work, the children built up a picture of what life was like in Classic Maya CE 300-900, touching on clothes and appearance, calendars and gods, food and farming, leisure and weaving.



HAZARD ALLEY

Our pupils in Years 3 and 4 had a fantastic visit to purpose-designed indoor village 'Hazard Alley' in March, where they were able to learn about everyday dangers in a safe environment. Including home safety, fire safety and road safety, the children loved exploring each realistic scenario. They also each practised making a call to the emergency services which was one of their favourite activities of the day! It was certainly a fun and very informative trip.



WORLD BOOK DAY



World Book Day at Abingdon Prep began with a special assembly quiz on books and characters. Other activities included a competition for the best dressed, discussions on Roald Dahl, computer lessons based on fairy tales, book reviews, an A-Z of book titles, and fifty word stories.

The wide array of fantastic costumes across all year groups was really something to behold and it was clear a huge amount of effort and imagination had gone into their creation. School staff, not to be outdone, also joined in and special mention should go to those in our senior section who came as characters from Lewis Carroll's 'Alice in Wonderland'.



LET'S DEBATE



Joseph, Samuel and Arjun from Year 6 attended 'Let's Debate' Prep Schools' Debating Day at The Oratory School. After taking part in morning workshops focusing on public speaking and debating skills, they then were given a motion and prepared speeches in the Library at The Oratory. Joining up with pupils from Aldro School and Cothill School, they contributed to the presentation of a debate on the ethics of keeping animals in zoos. Well done to all who participated.



MACBETH PLAYLETS

It is wonderful to be able to stage live drama again and Year 6 relished the opportunity to perform Macbeth playlets, a slow motion fight scene to drumming representing the battle between Scotland and Norway and six scenes from the play. Well done to all of the pupils who learned some very tricky lines and performed them to a high standard.

SCIENCE WEEK



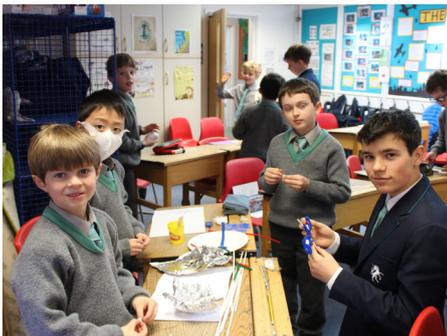
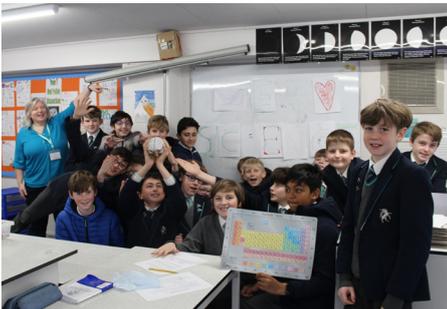
Each spring, schools all over the UK celebrate Science Week, an annual event of STEM activities promoted by the British Science Association (BSA). We were busy at Abingdon Prep with every year group taking part in fun activities and workshops.

Reception and Year 1 were assisted by 8R to make slime, a perennial messy favourite!

Years 2 and 3, again assisted by some Year 8s, looked at life on Mars, designing and constructing creatures that might survive the tough conditions there.

Year 4 made nests from twigs which were tested by wind and rain to see if the eggs within remained protected.

Year 5 explored aviation, making paper planes that would loop the loop, and then building other models from cardboard to see if they would 'fly'.



Andy from Science Oxford came to give their popular Forces Show for Year 6 - there was no shortage of volunteers to join in the fun demonstrations.

Year 7 were visited by neuroscientist Professor Claire Mackay who gave a workshop exploring the different roles scientists play and how they must all communicate to be successful.

Year 8 got all suited up for their workshop led by retired forensic scientist John Bates. Once the crime was solved, arrests were made and a court room scene, which stressed the importance of being an expert witness, was staged in costume complete with a variety of bad wigs for the legal teams and defendants!



SPRING PERFORMING AND CREATIVE ARTS COLOURS

DRAMA

Senior full: Oliver, Freddie, Oskar.
Junior full: Monty.

MUSIC

Senior half: Ollie, Oliver, Oliver, Ollie, Freddie, Oskar, Finn, Charlie, Paul, George, Paddy, Barnaby.
Junior full: Arjun, Rahul.
Junior half: Benjamin, Teddy, Daniel, Rupert.

CDT

Senior full: Oliver.
Junior full: Rupert, Jonty, Kian, Joe Arjun, Dewi, George, George.



HOUSE MERIT CUP

With 2675 points, earning them a home clothes day in summer term, the House Merit Cup was won by:

PHOENIX

2nd: Unicorn - 2640 points

3rd: Griffin - 2564 points

4th: Dragon - 2476 points

AU VOLEUR!

Year 5 pupils were solving international crime in their French lessons as they listened to statements in French of ten prime suspects in the mystery of the stolen pains au chocolat. Suspects narrowed down, they designed 'Wanted' posters to aid their capture and were rewarded for their forensic police work with one of the pastries. Bravo les agents de police!



CONCERT PLATFORM



Our regular after school concerts give an informal opportunity for all to play



CELEBRATING CULTURAL DIVERSITY

In January, Years 3 and 4 continued our theme of celebrating cultural diversity by focusing on Ukraine. We learned about the tradition of creating beautiful embroideries on clothes and ceremony towels which are used for special occasions, including weddings and births. The children learned about the symbolism of the stunning designs and how much love and care goes into making each unique piece. Then they were able to see some authentic examples. We are so grateful to our Year 4 parent speaker, Oksana, from whom we learned so much.



VICTORIAN WAXWORKS

Year 7 became exhibits in a Victorian Waxwork Museum. Each pupil was given a famous Victorian character and then tasked with writing a speech to persuade the curators that they should be allowed to stay in the Museum and not be melted down into a pool of wax.

The pupils researched their character, produced a poster and speech which they learned off by heart. Then, once the Museum was open, each waxwork came to life when their buzzer was pressed and recited their monologue.

There were superb speeches, wonderful costumes and props, as well as a fountain of knowledge. Well done, Year 7 – you really did bring English (and History) to life!



PERFORMING ARTS



Our Junior Section production had a strong environmental message, as Eddie the Penguin travelled the world to find out why his Antarctic ice

was melting and how he could stop it, meeting the polar bears along the way who had the same problem. With live music from Sean, Joff and Paul, Years



3 and 4 performed the fun songs with great energy to an appreciative audience. Well done Junior Section, and thank you to all who helped.



We were delighted to welcome parents of Year 5 pupils into school for our annual Soirée evening.

The theme this year, 'Diversity', celebrated the music of our four home nations.

The children performed with great passion and held the audience spellbound in their rendition of 'The Highwayman' poem by Alfred Noyles which the pupils have been studying during English lessons.

In addition, a selection of solo artists showcased their talents beautifully across a wide range of instruments.

Most of all, it was fabulous to hear the buzz of excitement in the hall as everyone enjoyed being together over a picnic supper.



ALADDIN

Abingdon Prep's Senior Section transported audiences to Agrabah in two fun-filled, spectacular performances of Disney Junior's Aladdin. There were high jinks, catchy songs and wonderful costumes which complemented the fabulous set. All of the pupils, whether on stage or part of the backstage crew, gave it their all and rose to the challenge, in spite of a rehearsal schedule dogged by Covid! A huge thank you also to all the staff who helped. A superb musical which will be remembered for years to come!





YEAR 4 MANDALA ART

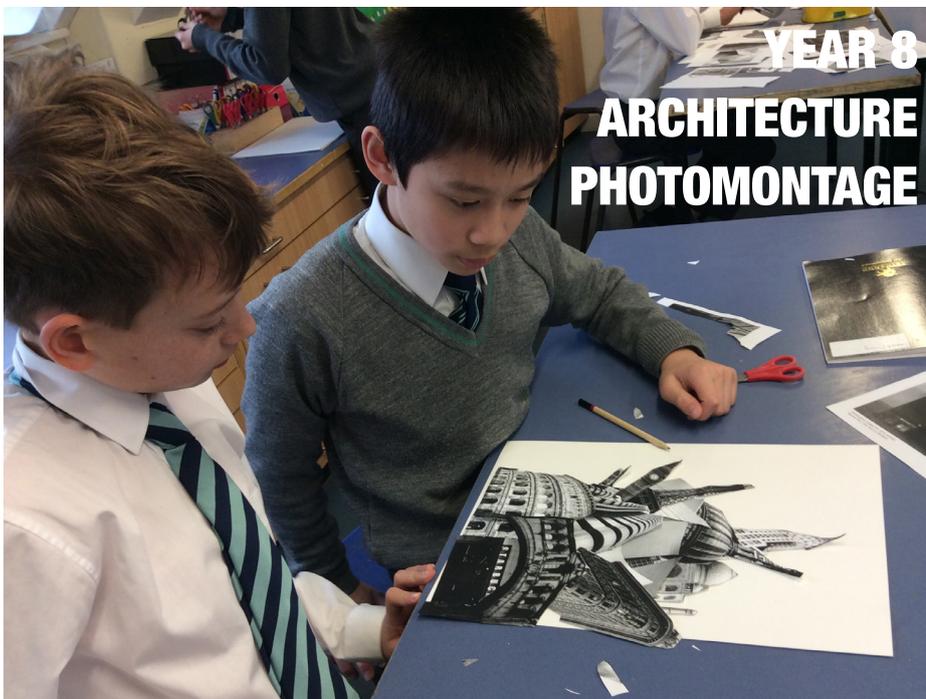
Year 4 have explored Art in India this term. Linking to maths, we experimented with creating mandalas using a radial symmetry method. And, as the weather was fine, we moved our art lesson outside.

Working in three teams using chalks the children worked collaboratively to create unique, creative mandalas with symmetrical patterns. Fantastic teamwork and creativity.



YEAR 3 EGYPTIAN MASKS

Year 3 had an Art In Egypt project this term, creating masks for mummies. Linking with history they learned how to adorn a Pharaoh's death mask with collage patterns, gems and decoration.



YEAR 8 ARCHITECTURE PHOTOMONTAGE

Year 8 have studied architecture and the way structures are designed based on shape and form. Korean visual artist Beomsik Won's 'Archisculpture' technique was our influence to create layered photomontage compositions.

Working in pairs, they explored how to use perspective to create an interesting arrangement. Some amazing experiments Year 8 and strong collaborative skills.



YEAR 6 TYPOGRAPHY TEES

Year 6 studied typography this term, in particular the work of street artist and clothing designer Ben Eine. After learning how to 'grid up' their observational drawing, using a bright, circus inspired colour palette in acrylic paints they created transfers, and ironed their paintings onto t-shirts. Such a stylish bunch!



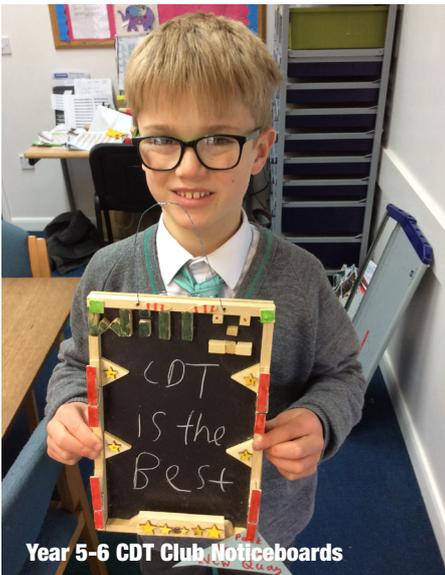
Year 6 Emoji Cushions



Year 7 on the fretsaws ...
... and the results!



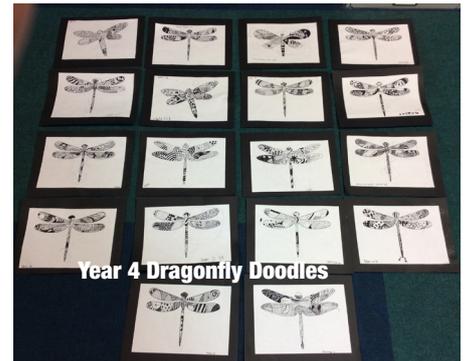
Year 6 Hedgehog Memo Holders



Year 5-6 CDT Club Noticeboards

CDT is always a hive of busy bees. Designing, sewing, cutting, sawing, moulding, glueing, crafting, upcycling, folding, decorating, wiring, doodling, measuring and much more.

Here are some of our projects this term.



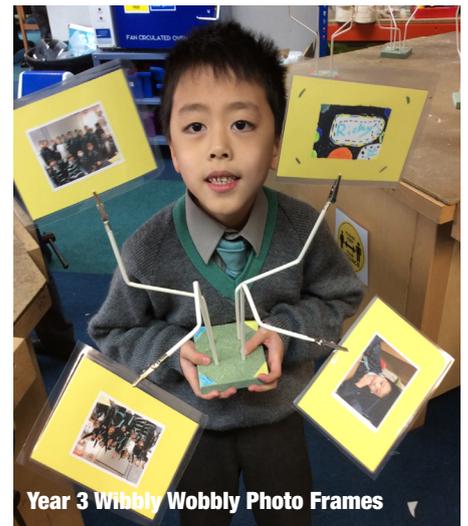
Year 4 Dragonfly Doodles



Year 4 Fishes



Year 5 Quizboards



Year 3 Wobbly Wobbly Photo Frames



Year 5 Dragonfly Clipboards



Jake from Year 'Gap' joins in too!



In our first trip of 2022, the children in Years 1 and 2 went on a trip to The Story Museum in Oxford. They had a chance to explore the Museum's Whispering Woods and Enchanted Library which they found

absolutely magical! Then they learned about the 'rule of three' used in traditional tales and, using the same pattern, then created their own fantastic stories. Well done everyone!



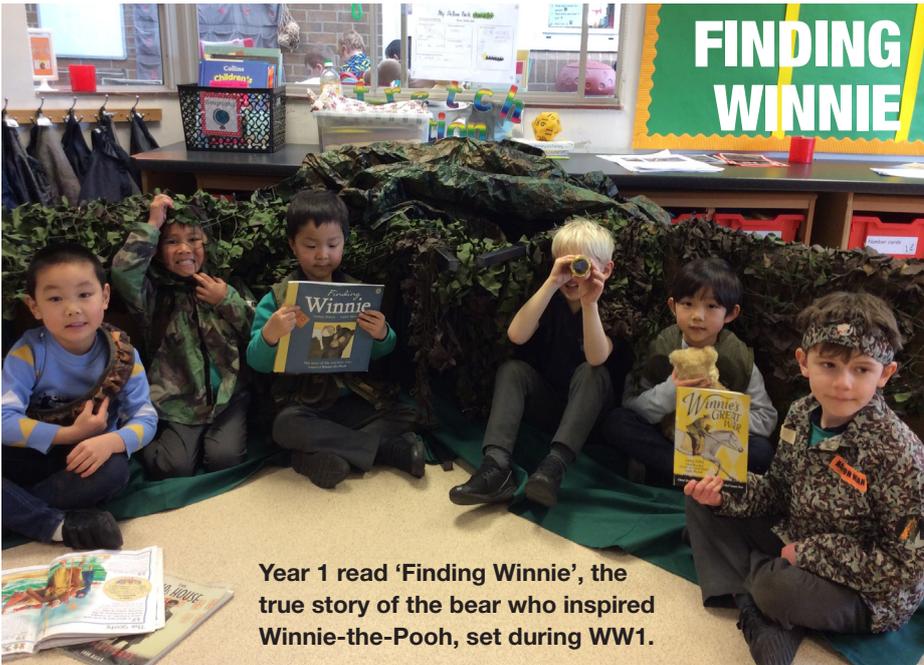
QUIDDITCH!

Pre-Prep have been finding out the many rules to the game of Quidditch in the latest addition to our Other Half. Each week, the children don their decorated capes and sit astride broomsticks as we introduce a new aspect of the game - from the Quaffle and the Keeper, to the Bludgers and the Snitch. It is fast paced, creative and full of fun!



An exciting parcel arrived in Reception with a letter from the character in our current book focus, Tom McLaughlin's *The Story Machine*. When we opened it and read the letter we decided to write back with our own thoughts and questions. Natasha, Head of English, was so impressed with our writing that she came along to present some special award certificates and magic writing pencils. We had a fabulous time writing and illustrating our own books, going out on location with the famous typewriter to be creative with our writing in all sorts of exciting places.





Year 1 read 'Finding Winnie', the true story of the bear who inspired Winnie-the-Pooh, set during WW1.



CHINESE NEW YEAR



YEAR 2 MARTIANS



AND YEAR 1 SLIME IN SCIENCE WEEK

Reception celebrated the Chinese New Year of the Tiger. We decorated cakes with tigers and took some to Craig, who taught us that it was not just any tiger, but a Water Tiger!

We returned to the classroom where our friends had been chopping vegetables for our feast. There were rice and egg noodles, crackers, peppers, corn, mangetouts, oranges, prawn crackers and traditional sweets. A huge thank you to the parents who sent things in to share.

PRE-PREP'S EASTER TRADITIONS!



EGG-ROLLING WHATEVER THE WEATHER!



EGG HUNT



EASTER BONNETS

INTER-HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY



RESULTS

Under 7

1. William (Year 1)
 2. Zeyi (Reception)
 3. Jonah (Year 2)
- Team Winners **Unicorn**

Under 9

1. Trystan (Year 4)
 2. Jack (Year 3)
 3. Max (Year 3)
- Team Winners **Unicorn**

Under 11

1. Noah (Year 6)
 2. James (Year 6)
 3. Joshua (Year 7)
- Team Winners **Unicorn**

Under 13

1. Nathan (Year 8)
 2. Xavier (Year 7)
 3. Josh (Year 7)
- Team Winners **Unicorn**

Having already been postponed, once again the weather was extremely wet, windy and soft underfoot for our annual Inter-House Cross Country. The event began with all of Pre-Prep running in the Under 7 race over 500m, won by William.

In the Under 9 race (1525m) Trystan led from the start and stretched his lead throughout the race.

The Under 11 race (2025m) was a classic. All the runners from Years 5 and 6 that recently won the National Preparatory Schools Cross Country Championships ran. Noah went out hard from the start and we all wondered whether he could maintain this phenomenal pace and hold off a chasing James.

Our grand finale, the Under 13 race (3050m) contained a large group of pupils



with a fantastic running pedigree. Nathan went out at an exceptionally fast pace and maintained his lead throughout, winning by a good 30m.

Congratulations to all of the runners for their effort and perseverance in very testing conditions! Well done too to the houses for their unwavering support of each other.

U11 CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS!



Our Under 11s retained their National Title for the third year running at the 27th annual National Preparatory Schools' Cross Country Championships hosted by Malvern College. Over 1,000 pupils from more than 80 schools competed, in perfect conditions for running.

In a field of 187, James came 6th in a time of 10:18, closely followed by Noah in 10th place. The top three scoring runners all finished in the top 35 runners to secure the IAPS National Under 11 team competition!

In a field of 144, our Under 13s all finished in the top half, achieving 15th place in the team competition out of 34 schools.

Well done to all of the runners!



MODERN BIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Four pupils competed in The British Schools' Modern Biathlon Championships at Bath University Training Village. Organised by Pentathlon GB, 1200 students competed over 50m in the pool and 800m on the track in the Under 11 and 12 categories. Our athletes achieved great placings between 15th and 22nd! Well done, and what a great experience!



In January fourteen boys from Years 5, 6, 7 and 8 attended the Pinewood 39th Annual Invitational Cross Country meeting where nine other schools competed. The course was over a 2.4km trail leading through woods and fields, while the conditions were soft to firm underfoot. With two young teams representing the school, the overall results were very encouraging, with both U11s and U13s winning the team competition. Individually, James and Noah came 1st and 2nd in the U11s, and Nathan and George came 2nd and 3rd in the U13s. Well done everyone!

In January, the U13 A and B teams played the Dragon School, with both games tightly contested. The U13As narrowly lost 2-3 in a match where they dominated the midfield but got caught out on the rebound a few times. Two fantastic goals came from Isaac and Charlie. The U13B team came from behind to secure a 1-1 draw in the closing minutes of a nail biting contest. The boys worked hard to create chances, and were rewarded with a goal blasted home by Rodion.



In February, four Year 5 teams, U10A-D, travelled away to play their first school hockey match against the Dragon School, resulting in two wins and two draws. Tristan was awarded Man of the Match for being the driving force behind the U10 A victory with dazzling stick skills and fluid play. They all showed a lot of potential and have an exciting future in this sport!



Our U13, U12 and U11 A, B and C teams had mixed fortunes in their February football matches versus The Oratory Prep. However, there was a hard-won 3-0 victory for the U13Bs. The U12As put seven goals in the net in their impressive match, and the U11Bs won 8-0! There was also a win for the U13As and a draw for the U12Bs. It was a tough afternoon of play against strong opponents.

FOOTBALL CUPS AND PRIZES

In the spring term we celebrate football endeavour. The 'Most Outstanding Player' comes from the 1st XI of each year. The 'Most Improved Player' can come from any team in each age group.

Team	Most Improved	Most Outstanding	House Trophies
Under 8s	Jack	Paddy	U8-9 Unicorn
Under 9s	Hugo	Trystan	U10 Unicorn
Under 10s	Tristan	Jed	U11 Unicorn
Under 11s	Monty	Josh	U12 Unicorn
Under 12s	Toby	Freddie	U13 Phoenix
Under 13s	Laurie	Alex	



Our Year 3 and 4 U8 and U9 teams won all their matches vs The Manor Prep in March. An excellent performance.

FOND FAREWELLS



JULIE MOLONEY

During her two years at Abingdon Prep, Julie has combined the morning busyness of the main office with her equally busy work in the admissions office. She has masterminded the complexities of weekly planning meetings and her keen eye for detail has helped events run smoothly. Unfailingly polite and professional, Julie has been a very valued colleague and personally, I will miss her superb sense of humour. We are lucky that we are not saying goodbye completely but may need to shout a little louder for her to hear us as she moves over to Abingdon School to take up a role in the HR department. Thank you for all your hard work and kindness, Julie. *Rachel Pairman*



JULIE HURLEY

Julie has been with us for 22 years. As the average school year contains 180 days, that is not far short of 4000 school dinners she has supervised cooking during that time! She has also provided staff with tasty lunches on INSET days, as well as filling packed lunches for all of our trips, and always managing to feed the school even during power cuts. She has helped to extend and improve the range and quality of school dinners enormously. We are incredibly lucky to have the wide and nutritious choices we do, with no little thanks due to Julie. We are extremely fortunate to have had her on our staff for so long and we should be enormously grateful for all she has done to sustain us. We wish Julie the very best of luck as she finds time to spend more time cooking for herself and her own family and with all that she goes on to pursue in the future. *Stefan Gerrard*



LIAM O'HICKEY

Liam came straight to us after A-Levels at Abingdon as a temporary gap student filling the 'gap' we had, before heading off on his own gap year travels. Liam slotted straight into the job, proving himself to be very popular with boys and staff, and ready to put his hand to anything. Hard working and so helpful, Liam always has a smile on his face. He set off for Central America after half-term on the trip of a lifetime. We send all our best wishes and good luck for the rest of his trip, uni and the years ahead. Thank you Liam.

JPA EVENTS DIARY

- Friday May 6 - Quiznight
- Friday May 13 - Scalextrics
- Friday Nov 11 - Fireworks!



One weekend in February, a group of creative parents gathered in the Art Room to try their hand at dry point etching. After filing the edges of their printing plates, they selected images of wrens, a newt, owls, hares and kingfishers. Learning a little of the history of printmaking and etching, they embarked on using a burr to incise their imagery and later, inked up to create a range of fabulous prints using the press. The standard was very high, and everyone enjoyed the time and space to be creative while learning a new skill. Another workshop is already being discussed, we hope you can join us next time!



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