

SMIKE



From the Headmaster

What a wonderful and busy term we have had at Abingdon Prep, with many highlights to share.

Drama has taken centre stage with our outstanding senior production of *Smike* and our Junior Section's splendid performance of *Daniel and the Lions' Den*. We are lucky to have so many boys who clearly love taking to the stage to act, sing and dance.

In Art, our Year 6s were invited to exhibit their Picasso themed artwork at the Aidan Meller Gallery in Oxford, alongside works by Henry Moore and Picasso himself. Inspiration is a

crucial part of any child's education, and this was in abundance at this lovely event. Opportunities for learning do not always take place in the classroom, as exciting trips to venues such as Warwick Castle and Sulgrave Manor have shown.

In sport we have achieved great success in swimming, cross country, biathlon, football and hockey, with all boys representing the school in matches on numerous occasions.

We are extremely proud of all our scholarship candidates. We gained an impressive number of

awards which are hard-won, requiring enormous commitment and effort from the boys and staff.

On the back page, you will see that our dedicated parents' association, the JPA, has been very busy too. All their events were very popular, enjoyed by boys and parents alike, showing the wonderful community spirit that is alive at Abingdon Prep.

We can now look forward to the summer term and the climax of our school year.

With best wishes.

Craig Williams



Charities

This term we have continued raising funds for Springfield School with the total now standing at over £5,000. We have had two main events, the annual quiz (see p16) and the return of the APS Bake Off competition.

The Bake Off involved boys bringing to school a variety of cakes and biscuits which were judged and then sold to hungry boys at breaktimes. Each section had six finalists who, in a very short amount of time, whisked, blended, mixed and stirred to produce a plate of cakes, scones or gingerbread. All the boys showed great enthusiasm, impressive culinary skills and imagination in their decorating.

Earlier in the term a group of boys went to the children's unit at the JR Hospital to present the interactive floor projector which we were able to purchase from our fundraising last year. The projector allows patients at the hospital to play interactive games on the floor, or on their bed if they are not mobile. The nurses explained that this will not only provide a welcome distraction for children but will also be used for physiotherapy.

Anne Parker



Young Entrepreneurs - Middle Section Business Challenge

The development of entrepreneurial and teamwork skills has been very much on the agenda recently in the Middle Section. In March, pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 were divided up into eleven teams and were given little longer than an hour to design a new chocolate Easter product that could potentially survive in a crowded Easter egg market.

Then, teams had to give a pitch of only two minutes, where they had to convince a panel of judges on the marketability of their product. The judges on this occasion were Mr Deasy and Mr Hepworth, both teachers at Abingdon School, and Cassandra Cardiff, a representative of the Oxfordshire branch of the Young Enterprise organisation. Well done to the winning team from Phoenix House, who are pictured with their prizes and the judges.

Prior to this event, Nathaniel, Adam, Xavier and Alex from Year 6, and Toby and Lochie from Year 5 formed a team to compete in an inter-school 'business challenge' held at Abingdon School in which they competed against other schools to design an ice lolly. Many thanks to our team for representing the School at this annual event. Rob Shaw



Scholarship Success



British summer time is finally with us. The winter has seemed especially long this year but with the Spring bulbs surging upwards, and the colours of joy reaching for the sky, there is a definite sense of both joy and relief among our 2018 scholarship cohort. This year twenty boys applied for scholarships to senior schools, across all disciplines, and we are very proud to report that APS pupils were awarded eight scholarships across the spectrum of assessed areas.

The first news to break of scholarship success was in Music. Josef was delighted to hear that the Music department at Abingdon were very impressed with his bassoon, saxophone and piano playing. He received the news via a telephone conversation with Craig, and I know that he was very pleased that his hard work over many years had been recognised.

The strength of Art at Abingdon Prep is extremely high. It is always such a joy to see the changing vistas in our hall as new art displays are added each term that showcase the work of our budding young artists. Xander is one of many pupils who has enjoyed the opportunities available here, and as a result of his exceptional portfolio and assessment pieces, has been awarded an Art Scholarship at Abingdon. In his usual, understated fashion, he received the news with humility and good humour.

Hugo, who played the role of Mr Squeers in *Smike*, auditioned for a Drama Scholarship in February. He attended a full day of auditions, delivering pre-rehearsed material and taking part in group activities as part of the day. He has always loved the stage and has developed a commanding presence in front of an audience. He was duly awarded a Drama Scholarship and we will look forward to seeing him in future productions at Abingdon School.

The first to learn of academic success was Tom, who undertook scholarship exams at MCS in February. He performed admirably, learning of his successful outcome the following week. He reported to me that upon receiving the letter he was incredibly scared, but upon reading of the outcome, was slightly overcome with emotion! Tom's result came first, but was swiftly followed by a string of academic successes as results from Abingdon School were released, with four further scholarships being awarded. Johnny, Thomas, Alexander and Freddie were offered scholarships, with each attaining high grades across the examined curriculum.

Looking ahead, each of our boys who put themselves forward for a scholarship has every reason to be very pleased with the effort they put into the process, and the results they generated. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and will look forward to hearing about their progress as they move into their senior schools.
Roger Owen

Farewell to Jennifer

This Easter we bid farewell to Jennifer Brown, whose commitment to teaching English and Drama has been unfailing. In lessons the boys have benefitted from her creativity and drive, and as staff our delivery of the English curriculum has been enriched by her expertise and willingness to share ideas. Without a doubt, the memory that will endure will be the fabulous production of *Smike* that we enjoyed watching a few weeks ago. As director she had very high expectations of the boys and was not afraid to demand high standards! We would like to wish Jennifer the very best of luck in her new role at Sherborne Prep, where we have no doubt she will continue to flourish.
Roger Owen



Class Pairings



House Paper Aeroplane Challenge



AbingdonPrep Out and About

The Tudors of Year 4



Sulgrave Manor is a Tudor house set in the beautiful green countryside of Northamptonshire, the home of a distant ancestor of George Washington. During our visit, the boys dressed as Tudor schoolchildren: caps, breeches or kirtle (skirt), and tunics - they certainly looked the part! They all took part in an entertaining role play in which the boys became Henry VIII, his court and his rather unfortunate wives. Amid cheering and booing, they played out numerous marriages, divorces, beheadings and a visit to the Pope in Rome. After a typical Tudor lunch of chicken legs, pork pies, hunks of bread and cheese, they toured the house, visiting the kitchen, bedroom and dining hall learning about the Tudor artefacts in each room. The boys were eager to ask questions and thoroughly enjoyed their conversations with our guide. The lives of servants and how the Tudors cooked, ate and slept were fascinating. The trip was a rich and rewarding experience that was enjoyed by all.

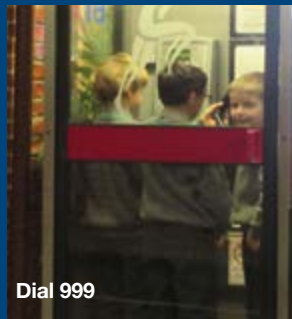


Hazard Alley



Belt up in the car!

In March, Years 3 and 4 went on a school trip to Hazard Alley where we learnt how to stay safe, inside and outside. We learnt about hazards like fire, train tracks and road crossings. We learnt how to prevent accidents as well as having a fun day. My favourite part was when we saw the dangers of fishing where you shouldn't. *Willem*



Dial 999



Get ready for the recovery position

Year 5: The Aztecs and Darwin



William tells us about Year 5's trip to the Pitt Rivers and Natural History Museums in Oxford:

"In the Pitt Rivers Museum we learned about the Aztecs, our topic in History. We had a brief slide show and then they showed us around Aztec objects like looms, pots and small statues of their gods. There were spears and bows, fish hooks and other things which they would have used for hunting, farming and fishing. I even learned that they believed that sweetcorn was a lucky charm! At the end we had to draw what an Aztec person would look like from the information we gathered. Later, we moved to the Natural

History Museum to find out about Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. We had a talk about how life started as microorganisms that evolved into fish-like creatures and then into amphibians and so on. Next, we were told that Steve Backshall comes here a lot and he had set us an iPad quest to find certain exhibits. When we typed in the code next to them, Steve would tell you about which kingdom of animals it came from. We all enjoyed this activity."





Year 6 perform at Christ Church Cathedral

In February, Year 6 travelled to Christ Church Cathedral to perform *St Frideswide*, a cantata with words and music by Debbie Rose, our Director of Music. St Frideswide was an abbess who founded a priory on the site of Christ Church, and she has become the patron saint of Oxford. A talk by Ruth Buckley, a St Frideswide expert, preceded the cantata, so the audience were well informed when the boys performed. Year 6 sang beautifully with pure tone and clear diction, as the saint's life story unfolded through the nine songs, linked by narration and dramatic action. It was a fabulous experience for the boys to perform in such a venue, and the lively acoustic carried their voices to every nook and cranny of the building. St Frideswide would have approved. *Stefan Gerrard*

Freddie in 6S, tells us more:

"We set off in high spirits on the coach. When we arrived we had a practice run before the actual performance that went really well. After that we ate doughnuts and had a drink. Then we were ready for the performance in front of our parents and other relatives. When the moment came we walked up onto the stage and took our places. Debbie gave an introduction, then I started the cantata with narration. We all sang perfectly and engaged our audience. The fire alarm went off half way through but that did not thwart our enthusiasm. The cantata finished off with Tom's narration and there was a big round of applause for us all. We all had fun and felt pleased with ourselves for doing such an excellent job."

Year 6 Exhibition at Aidan Meller Art Gallery

Year 6 worked tirelessly in art to create astounding work based upon the clay creations and paintings of Pablo Picasso. Each boy worked in Picasso's signature style to create a study in gouache of one of his plates. They then designed clay plates detailing particular insights into their own identity.

Working closely with the eminent Aidan Meller Gallery in Oxford, the boys had the opportunity to



exhibit the Picasso-inspired creations at their very own private view evening. Congratulations to Archie for his winner's trophy, and William and Henry who were presented with runner-up certificates from the Gallery director, Aidan (above).

Our thanks are given to all at the gallery. We very much hope to work together again in the future! *Sherrey Tysom*



Year 5 get new lab skills

The boys in Year 5 were very excited at the prospect of spending a day full of experiments at the Senior School's Yang Science Centre, (including their first experience with Bunsen burners!). The group split into the two Year 5 classes, and went to the labs.



One form explored plant biology with starch and sugar tests, and used the microscopes to see further into the structure of algae.

The other separated a mixture of sand and a mysterious blue salt using filtration and then evaporation. The two classes swapped over after lunch.



A huge thank you to all the teachers and technicians at the senior school who led and helped the boys in their day of experiments.



Architecture Workshop



The 3D problem solving 'Architecture Workshop' company visited the school to work with boys in Years 2, 4 and 6 to round up the spring term in designer style! Large scale structures were constructed in groups using wooden rods and elastic bands only.

At the start of the morning, Year 4 studied the structure of bridges and made triangular trusses to form models of a beam bridge. This will form the start of next term's CDT project. Year 2 learnt that the triangle was the strongest shape. They converted their tetrahedrons into a giant structure reaching to the roof of the Sports Hall. Finally Year 6 created a class Viking Longboat. With the boys on board, they rowed the ship to the beat of a drum, under the instruction of a ferocious master. Lazy oarsmen were thrown overboard into shark infested waters!

The boys had to think creatively and work as a team, and they needed to reach a joint decision (easier said than done at times!). Having to make the structures stable was the hardest job and some real problem solving skills were seen in action in all three year groups. *Katie Smith*



"Excusez-moi, monsieur?" Y7 au restaurant...



Easter Assembly: Senior Choir sang California Dreaming



String Group played Pachelbel's Canon



In History, Year 7 have been studying the Norman Conquest. Many designed Motte and Bailey Castles for their half term projects.

Norman New-Builds!

Leo designed a step by step build of a castle by learning how to use his father's architectural software, in the screenshots below.

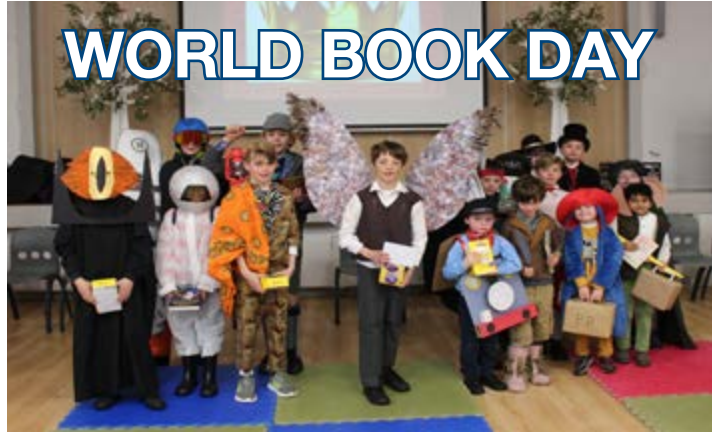


Water as Solid, Liquid, Gas

In Science, Year 6 explored the states of matter. After an experiment observing water as ice, liquid, water vapour and steam, they were asked to write a story about the life of a water particle for homework. Here is a particularly visual one that won a 'Gold' - by Freddie.



WORLD BOOK DAY



Despite snowy conditions, boys and staff came to school to celebrate World Book Day dressed as heroes (and anti-heroes) from books and comics. In our colourful assembly, everyone paraded around the hall to show off their costumes. Each class had nominated a winner, and the judging panel led by Susan, our Librarian, picked some prize-winners, with an additional Judges' prize for originality. First prize was awarded to a Y6 boy who came as Skellig from the book by David Almond, complete with feathery wings. The runner-up was Thomas the Tank Engine from Reception. The Judges' Prize was given to another Y6 boy who scared us as the 'Eye of Sauron' from *Lord of the Rings*!



The range of costumes was fantastic - from comic book superheroes to a plethora of characters from Roald Dahl, plus Paddington, Skullduggery Pleasant, James Bond, Robin Hood, Auggie from *Wonder*, David Copperfield and real-life hero Tim Peake, to pick out just a few.



Staff excelled too. Louise won the Staff Prize for Dr Seuss's *Cat in the Hat*; the *Fairy Godmother*, *Richard the Lionheart*, *Florence Nightingale*, the *Mad Hatter* and *Cleopatra* also appeared. Thank you to all who took part, and our volunteer librarians who do so much to promote a love of reading in the school.



DANIEL

By Margaret Carpenter

Directed by Jo Caputo

Musical Director Debbie Rose

After a lot of hard work, learning lines and songs, boys from the Junior Section gave a roaring performance of the musical production, *Daniel and the Lions' Den*. They thoroughly enjoyed the build up to show night, embracing their characters along the way.

This moving tale encourages us to be strong whatever our circumstances, stay true to what we believe and hold on to our faith in the midst of opposition. *Jo Caputo*



SMIKE

By Roger Holman and Simon May

Director Jennifer Brown

Musical Director Debbie Rose

This musical adaptation of Nicholas Nickleby was pulled off in some style at the Amey Theatre - with terrific ensemble work, poignant duets and solos accompanied by the ragamuffin Y6 choir, all for one night only. This time-shifting production blended the original novel with a witty script and a brilliant mix of pathos and rumbustious 'attitude' in the twenty low-whispered to big high-tempo numbers, delighting the audience.

Debbie's band, a sextet that included APS old boys, had the astonished audience stamping and hollering alongside the cast led by Leo in the infectious Dotheboys Rock number. Mention must also be made of the behind the scenes team that took on the stage management and technical roles that helped everything to run smoothly.

The contrast of the dual roles in Dickens' Dotheboys Hall - in Yorkshire, complete with rich regional accents - and the modern school, gave the principal singer-actors plenty of opportunity to shine.

The larger-than-life Mr and Mrs Squeers were played with verve and confidence by Hugo and Rupert. Tom, as Smike/Smeeton moved the audience in his demanding solos with outstanding emotion. Josef as Nickleby/Nicholls was an effective straight man who carried the play's social message with quiet assertiveness. A bewigged Christopher convinced everyone with his articulacy as Florrie/Miss Grant, and the other pupils and characters, played by boys from Years 7 and 8 gave able support throughout. The Year 6 choir played cat's cradle in the background and swelled the sound impressively in the group musical numbers.

It was a remarkable performance. Bravo to all involved. But for one night only? Ah, that's show business boys!

Review by Alan Tull, edited by Jennifer Brown





The Year 8 art scholarship candidates were invited to spend the day exploring and extending their skills in sculpture as part of a specialist clay workshop with Martha Evans, our clay teacher supported by the Head of Art. They used a particular 'craft crank' clay specially designed to support freestanding sculptural forms. The boys chose animal models to work

from, observing both visual contours of the animal and the tactile shapes of each limb, to create some exceptional pieces created by the end of the day, from horses, hippos and pigs to baby elephants. A wonderful workshop with special thanks to Martha. *Sherrey Tysom*



Spring Displays

Above: Year 7 portraits inspired by Julian Opie, Year 4 charcoal and chalk elephants, Year 8 pen and ink Oxford architecture after Tim Steward, Year 5 sealife batik. Below: Some Young Art Oxford entries



Y5 Trophy Shields



Textile Club fun



Y6 Balsa Bees

CDT



Y3 Paper Springs



Y5 Dragonflies



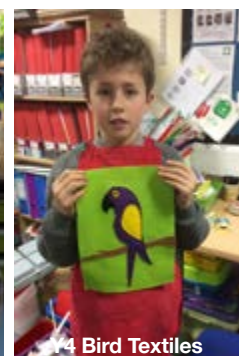
Y6 Acrylic Butterflies



Y4 Siege Towers



Y6 Hammer Hearts

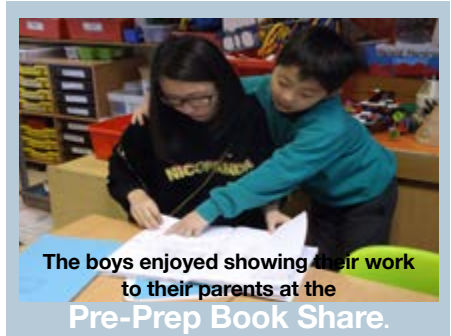


Y4 Bird Textiles

Grandparents' Afternoon



Cross-generational fun and games took place in the hall, filled with a hubbub of Pre-Prep boys and their grandparents spending time together, playing with toys and games from a previous era. Not a screen in sight! Many new skills were developed and it was warming to see how intently all the boys listened to their elders explaining how to play and giving advice on techniques and strategies. Light refreshments flowed as many of our visitors had a break and took time to chat with their grandsons and each other. Thank you to all those grandparents who visited and joined in the fun. Same time again next year?



The boys enjoyed showing their work to their parents at the Pre-Prep Book Share.



Pancake Racing

Pre-Prep Cross Country



Our House Cross Country event began with Pre-Prep running in the U7 race over 800m. This was dominated by Year 1 with Arthur and Max in a photo finish for 1st and 2nd places, closely followed by Jed in 3rd.



Year 2 Lego Competition Top Bricks!



Year 2 enjoyed an action packed trip to Warwick castle as part of their history topic. They began the day by exploring the castle towers and ramparts and admiring the views from the top. They then ventured inside to discover the Great Hall and the King Maker exhibition.

We were extremely lucky to have the opportunity to handle some medieval weapons and shields and were very excited to see the educational officer show how they were used. After lunch the boys watched a bird of prey show and saw some magnificent creatures. The Horrible Histories Maze was incredibly exciting, the boys all had a map and collected stamps all around the maze, thankfully everyone managed to find their way out!

To finish off the day, the boys visited the time tower and learnt all about the History of Warwick Castle and who has lived in the castle over the ages. *Anna Whitham*

Y2 at Warwick Castle

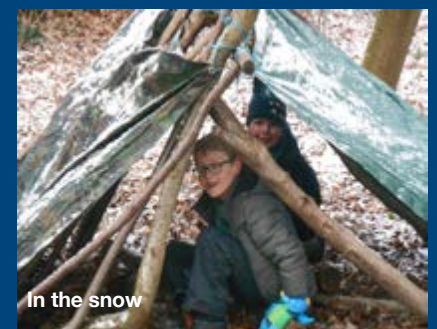


Y1 STEAM ahead



Year 1 enjoyed a busy and exciting day visiting the STEAM Museum in Swindon. The boys have been learning about how transport has changed over time in their history lessons. They participated in a hands on workshop in which they explored different historical artefacts and tried to uncover their uses. They learnt about the early train makers and were very keen to find out about George Stephenson and his famous Rocket. The boys were very lucky to be shown around the train engine room by a volunteer, and were able to visit carriages used by royalty. The boys deserve praise for the way they conducted themselves and their enthusiasm was superb! *Anna Whitham*

Forest School



In the snow

Playtime in the Willow Dome





Reception reach 100!

In March, there was a very special day for the boys in Reception who have now been at school for 100 days! They have celebrated in style with a special 100 day party complete with crowns they made using 100 stickers and have enjoyed combining chocolate fingers with party rings and chipsticks with hula hoops to make edible 100s before eating them. A very tasty way to celebrate such a special day.

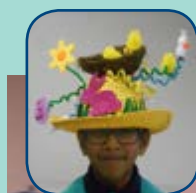


Grrr!

Year 1 painted tiger pictures inspired by Henri Rousseau in Art.



Easter Bonnets, Gardens and Egg Rolling



Pre-Prep families constructed some wonderfully imaginative Easter Gardens, and Easter Bonnets which they paraded around the school and into Assembly. Then they went outside, Years 1 and 2 did egg and spoon racing, and Unicorn won the traditional Egg rolling championship on the mound. Spot the eggs!



Spring Sports Review



Abingdon XC

Inter-school **hockey** fixtures were introduced this term for the first time for Years 5-8 with some very encouraging results. Home fixtures were played on our Multi Use Sports Area.

In **football** our A teams in U9s (coached by Sam), U10s and U11s all finished the season undefeated. What a fantastic term's performance.

Our senior section dominated the **cross country** and **swimming** circuit this term. The U12s and U13s won the Abingdon School, St. Andrew's and The Oratory School Greyhound Run in cross country. In the latter the Year 7s retained the team trophy for the third year running.

In the **British Schools' Modern Biathlon Championships** at Crystal Palace the U12s finished 4th in the team competition. Quinn finished 4th in the Individual competition, having recorded the fastest 800m in the field.

Ashley David-Ward



U11 In2Hockey County Cup



U11 v The Dragon



St Andrew's Cross Country



U13 v St Hugh's



U9 House Football



Oratory Greyhound Run



U13 v Abingdon



Pinewood Cross Country



Abingdon Swimming Gala



IAPS Swimming Regionals



U9 v Oratory

Spring Term Football Awards

This term, football is our major team sport and the Games Department recognises the sporting endeavour of many of its pupils. The 'Most Outstanding Player' naturally comes from the 1st XI. The 'Most Improved Player' can come from any team in each age group.

Team	Most Improved	Most Outstanding
U8	Thomas	Paul
U9	Isaac	Alex
U10	Hugh	Luke
U11	Felipe	Finn
U12	Finian	Samson
U13	Henry	Harry

British Schools' Biathlon



Table Tennis champ!

Todd in Year 7 is now ranked 7th in England, an impressive achievement.

Inter-House Cross Country



After postponement due to snow and the bitter chill, the weather for the rescheduled Inter-House Cross-country was unseasonably good which made conditions very comfortable. After the Pre-Prep race, in the U9s (1525m) Zachary led from the start. Nathan and Isaac finished 2nd and 3rd, with Ted in Year 3 finishing a creditable 5th. The U11 race (2025m) was competitive with the top ten finishers all crossing the line within thirty seconds of each other. Max (Year 6) led from the gun and finished in 1st place. Finn (Year 6) was 2nd and Sam (Year 5) 3rd.

The eagerly awaited senior race (3050m) involving three Oxfordshire county runners was a classic encounter. The triumvirate of Quinn (Year 7), Jonny and William (Year 8s) went out hard from the start. We wondered if they could maintain this phenomenal pace and who would break first. Quinn made a kick with 600m to go and stretched his lead. The final result was, Quinn in 1st place in a new senior school record of 10:35.20. Jonny and William finished 2nd and 3rd respectively, both breaking the previous record as well in this quality race!

All the competitors showed great mental fortitude and effort. What struck the staff the most however, was how all the boys showed such support for their peers regardless of house. They should all be very proud.



Final House Results

1. Dragon
2. Phoenix
3. Unicorn
4. Griffin



The JPA Quiznight

in late January was held in aid of our school charity for 2018, Springfield School in Witney. This year, the quiz alternated with horse races which added to the fun. As ever, quizmaster Rob Shaw compiled a wonderful cornucopia of questions ranging from parliamentary constituencies to naming the three teams which have never been demoted from the top football league or championship. A team of Y3 parents called 'Just ask Siri' won by just one point from the Staff team who came second - again! Many thanks to Rob, Rachel and Anne who ran the 'betting shop', and all the JPA helpers who made it a really fun evening.



The winning team

Scalextrics Evening



Mid-March is the time for the annual JPA Scalextrics Evening, an event that the boys and their fathers always look forward to with great enthusiasm.

There were eight heats on several different track layouts, followed by semi-finals and the grand final. Well done to Ollie in Year 5 for being the runner-up and to Harry in Year 6, who went home with the much coveted winner's trophy.



Easter Eggstravaganza



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