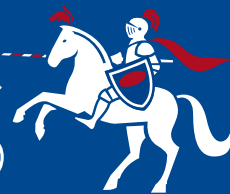


ISSUE 17
Jan 23

KNIGHT'S TALES



WELCOME FROM THE HEAD



What a difference a few months make! In the last copy of Knight's Tales, I wrote about the intense heat that marked the final weeks of the summer term. We are now experiencing a significant cold snap with the temperature around school plummeting to minus nine.

The school grounds and buildings are covered in a frosty layer that glitters in the sun. It showcases our beautiful surroundings and enhances a very festive atmosphere. We have enjoyed the Christmas spirit in abundance with five Nativity performances, concerts, Singing around the Christmas Tree, Gifts for Grownups and Christmas Celebration Day. After all the festive fun, the final event of the Prep Carol Service in Radley College Chapel was a beautiful and fitting reminder of the true meaning of the Christmas season.

These celebrations were the culmination of a busy and richly productive term and there is a great deal to share and celebrate in this edition. I hope you enjoy reading about them all.

I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful holiday with your families.

Christine Cook
Head

RADLEY COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE

We were delighted to be back at Radley College to hold the Festival of Nine lessons and Carols in their beautiful chapel. The service began in candlelight setting the scene for this joyous occasion. The lessons were read by staff and pupils and we listened to beautiful solos from Tom and Lucinda and enjoyed the Chamber choir singing Carol of the Bells and the Senior choir with their Noel Nouvelet. The service was a wonderful way to end the term.



CHRISTMAS NATIVITIES

NURSERY - THE ROBINS' CHRISTMAS

Five little robins live peacefully in their tree, just outside the town of Bethlehem. Their lives are rudely interrupted by lots of people travelling to Bethlehem, including Mary and Joseph, shepherds and sheep, angels, kings and camels! The Nursery children sang and acted with real confidence for such young children, and re-told the Christmas story beautifully.



RECEPTION - SHINE STAR, SHINE

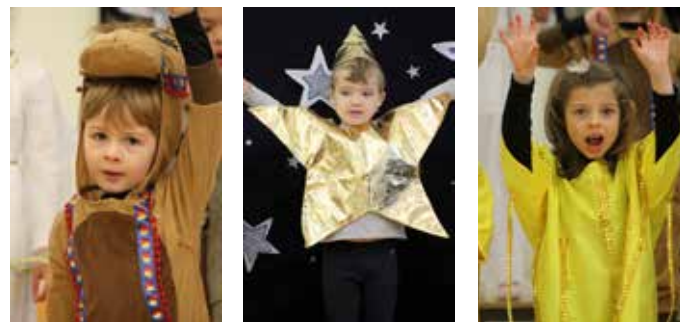
One star in the heavenly sky is finding it hard to find her sparkle. All of her starry friends try to find ways to get her shining again but it seems only a very special job of leading everyone to the stable in Bethlehem can restore her twinkle. Reception told this charming tale of the star who finds her shine with real joy and enthusiasm, and showed what a talented bunch of children they are!



CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

YEAR 1 & 2 - FOLLOW THE STAR

The three Kings are consulting their star maps and find a special star that they know will lead them to a newborn king. Having woken their rather grumpy camels, and travelled many miles through the dusty desert, the Kings and their helpers reach Bethlehem, where they are joined by astonished shepherds and their rather confused sheep! Year 1 & 2 performed with panache, flair and teamwork to create a truly memorable performance of the Christmas story.



PREP CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

The final week was an abundance of performing arts starting with our 'Singing around the Christmas Tree' Carols (which went indoors as it was so cold!) followed by two Prep Concerts and finishing with the Carol Service at Radley College. The Senior Prep concerts began with a bang when the Big Band opened with Let it Be and Santa Claus is Comin' to Town. Senior Strings gave a beautiful performance of some of the Harry Potter themes and the Senior Choir got us all out of our seats with Dolly Parton's '9 to 5'.

The Junior concert provided us with some stunning displays of singing, performing and even a little bit of dancing! The joy and enthusiasm of the children was wonderful to watch.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

The tradition of Christmas Celebrations is always a magical and exciting time at Chandlings Prep. The prep children have a crazy time in the main hall with their house Competitions which include; building and decorating a Christmas tree; wrapping as many boxes as you can; designing a Christmassy jumper and building (out of playdough) a Christmas scene. The pre-prep children then come and have a parade in the hall looking at all the final creations.

Throughout the day each year group visits the entrance hall to sing carols around the fire and Christmas tree. This culminates in a snow flurry outside and a visit from a certain bearded person, arriving on his festive buggy, dressed in red and white! As you can imagine there was huge excitement and it was a fantastic way to finish off the term.



INFORMAL MUSIC CONCERTS

Every term we hold an Informal Tea Time Concert for each year group. This is a chance for pupils who are having instrument, voice and LAMDA lessons to perform to an audience of parents and staff in an informal and enjoyable setting. For many this is their first premiere performance on their instrument. We had some amazing performances and enjoyed renditions of We Will Rock You, Edelweiss and God Save the King among others.



CLASS PAIRS

Class Pairs is a special event, where the older and younger children play together in order to build relationships throughout the school and not just in their year group. It linked to our Wellbeing focus for the first half of the term which was My Relationships.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

As autumn began, our whole school came together to celebrate Harvest with a time of thankfulness for all we have been given. We had an incredible response to our appeal this year - the tables in the hall were piled high with gifts for the Abingdon Food Bank and for Asylum Welcome. The children had all spent time outside during their RE lessons reflecting on what they are thankful for and each class produced a 'Thankful Board.' 5W helped create a beautiful display of all the produce and then packed it all into boxes ready to be taken to the charities.



NURSERY GETS SPACEY!

This term some of our Nursery children have been learning all about space and the different planets. They particularly enjoyed singing their song 'There are 8 Planets in the Solar System.'



RECEPTION GO HUNTING FOR SHAPES

This term Reception has been learning about 2D shapes. They all had a lot of fun walking around the school grounds hunting for all different types of shapes. They spotted some on the roofs of the school buildings, on signs around the grounds and they also found some underfoot. There really are shapes everywhere!



YEAR 1 DISCOVER DINOSAURS

At the start of term the Year 1 children began their topic all about dinosaurs. In class they looked at different dinosaurs and fossils. They were lucky enough to go on a trip to the Museum of Natural History in Oxford where they got to handle fossils, dinosaur teeth and even dinosaur fossilised poo! They got out their tape measures to see how tall dinosaurs were and then explored the museum spotting different dinosaurs and artefacts.



YEAR 2 HAVE BEEN UP, UP & AWAY AND TELLING THE TIME

In English Year 2 were flying high as they had to write their own detailed instructions explaining how to make a kite after having made and flown one earlier.

They began their Maths topic on time by sharing knowledge with a partner, before making posters entitled 'What do I know about Time?' By the end of the week everyone made progress telling the time on an analogue clock to quarter past, or quarter to or to 5 minute intervals.



YEAR 3 ENJOY A CORNISH CREAM TEA

The afternoon tea was inspired by the book Year 3 have been reading this half term, The Mousehole Cat by Antonia Barber. It is set in Cornwall (hence the Cornish afternoon tea!) and is about the legend of a fisherman called Tom and his cat called Mowzer (which is why the children brought in their cuddly toy cats.)

They go out to sea in a storm, calm the storm and then bring back fish for the hungry villagers. Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed the scones, jam, and clotted cream and were amazed by the incredible nautical table decorations.




YEAR 4 GET CREATIVE WITH THE OXFORD STORY MUSEUM

Year 4 spent a magical day at the Oxford Story Museum where they climbed through the wardrobe into Narnia and dived into a world of Harry Potter. They even had a peak in Horrible Henry's bedroom. They also assumed the job of being a reporter and wrote articles to be published in our very own Knight's Tales.

The Daily News!

LITERATURE ADVENTURE IN OXFORD!



Pupils visit Oxford city centre

By reporter Zach B.

On Friday 2nd December 36 excited children got to go to the Story Museum! These lucky people were Chandlings Year 4 pupils. The Story Museum is located in Oxford city centre.

All of their outstanding teachers Mrs Hickin, Mr Umhoefer, Miss Love and Miss Nixon were alongside them all the way. "This is way better than marking books," said Mrs Hickin on the way there. "I love this!" exclaimed Zach.

When they got to the Story Museum everyone said thank you to the bus driver and got off. They were split into four groups, each with one teacher in charge. There were 9 people in each group. It was about a 5 minute walk but when they got there they gawped in surprise. They had a quick snack and then they met a wonderful tour guide called James.

First, James told them to line up and go up some stairs with some Alice in Wonderland pictures on them. Then they went into a magical room that was

decorated with Harry Potter portraits, this was the Gryffindor common room. James told them to sit on a green carpet and he told them about the room and about portals! After that, James told them to make up their own stories with portals in them. One group came up with a rainy day setup and a trombone for a prop. "I love this," said Theo, amazed.

Then, James told them to follow him and they went into a magical room called the Whispering Wood. He told them a story and then they had some fun listening to stories through tree leaves and they tried and tried to pull Arthur's sword out of the stone but they just could not!

After that, they went into the KABOOM room (or the treasure chamber) and it was all about comics. "Wow!" said Jonathan. They learnt how to draw zombies, boys, animals, everyone loved it and there was even a special corner for reading books.


James gathered everyone and told them to follow him into the Enchanted Library, which was all about the origins of stories! There was Narnia, Horrid Henry, Philip Pullman, Winnie the pooh and Alice in Wonderland, everyone had so much fun! "Okay year 4 it is time to go!" James took them to a room, he said, "The movie is called 'City of Stories' and everyone loved it."

After the movie they went on a walk and the discovered so many authors that lived in Oxford such as Philip Pullman, Katherine Rundell, C.S. Lewis and Lewis Carol (or Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) it was so much fun!

Then, everyone said thank you to James and got back on the bus and went back to Chandlings. "That was the best trip ever," said Daniel.

The Knight's Tales

CITY OF STORIES!



On Friday 2 December 2022 36 excited pupils went to the Story Museum in Oxford city centre. It was certainly a wonderful day...

By Reporter By Sumi R.

On the exciting day the pupils and four fantastic teachers (Mrs Hickin, Mr Umhoefer, Miss Nixon and Miss Love) were taken on a coach journey to the Story Museum, in Oxford. When they reached the Story Museum at 9 o'clock they were welcomed by a tour guide called James.

First, they went to the Gryffindor common room and heard some stories about portals and even made some of their own magical stories! After they put their bags in a room they went to the "Whispering Wood" where they listened to some old folk tales, tried to



YEAR 5 GO ON A 3 DAY 'LAND AND WAVE' ADVENTURE

Year 5 started their journey into Upper Prep with a 3-day glamping adventure in Corfe Castle, Dorset at the beginning of the Autumn Term. Their trip involved lots of team building exercises and was a fantastic way to help them bond, with friendships being formed and cemented. The campsite is in an idyllic spot overlooking Corfe Castle where they enjoyed some spectacular sunsets.

The three days were action packed with paddle boarding, kayaking, catapult building, archery, knot tying and more. The evenings involved team games and of course cooking marshmallows on the campfire!



Y6 SCIENCE

BUNSEN BURNERS

Year 6 children start the academic year using a variety of lab apparatus that they will encounter in their next school from making microscope slides to the eagerly anticipated Bunsen burners. This topic is always a firm favourite for the children, where they learn how to light and use a Bunsen burner safely before earning their Bunsen burner licence.



HOUSE SINGING

COMPETITION

It was the second year for our House Singing competition and children and staff alike were all very excited. Each house chose a song and then spent many weeks rehearsing adding moves, harmony and working on their diction and tuning.

The day arrived and the 3 judges, Mr Brodley, Mrs Brennan and Mrs Siriwardene took their seats in anticipation.

Astley began with their own amusing version of The Family Madrigal from Encanto which became The Family Astley. It included new lyrics mentioning various teachers and they had some great moves (particularly Mr Foster!) during the song.

Poltimore followed (after a technical hitch) with a wonderful rendition of When I Grow Up from Matilda. Their diction was really clear and there was great to-ing and fro-ing between the different choir sections. They even had their own bandana wearing drummer adding to the fun.

Richardson finished the competition with a rousing performance of Katrina and the Waves 'Walking on Sunshine'. There were costumes, gymnastics and some groovy dancing and guitar moves, in addition to the brilliant singing.

The judges deliberated and it was a very tough decision. However, the winners were Poltimore.

House singing is a great addition to all the other house competitions that we have at Chandlings Prep and it's here to stay!



BEN MILLER TELLS US HOW HE GOT STUCK IN A STORY

Wow! What a treat to have actor, comedian and author, Ben Miller talk to us about his new book 'The Night We Got Stuck in a Story.' We found out about his favourite books, who inspired him to write and of course who he played in Paddington 2! Long Furlong Primary School and Cothill House also joined in the fun (as well as Ms Cook!)



MINI GREY SHOWS US THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

What a fantastic afternoon Year 1 and Year 2 had with a visit from the award-winning author and illustrator Mini Grey introducing her first non-fiction book 'The Greatest Show on Earth'. Mini gave us an interactive show all about how the earth began continuing up to the present day. She followed this with a cartoon drawing workshop and finished with her rabbit Cadabra mesmerising the children!



HISTORY COMPETITION

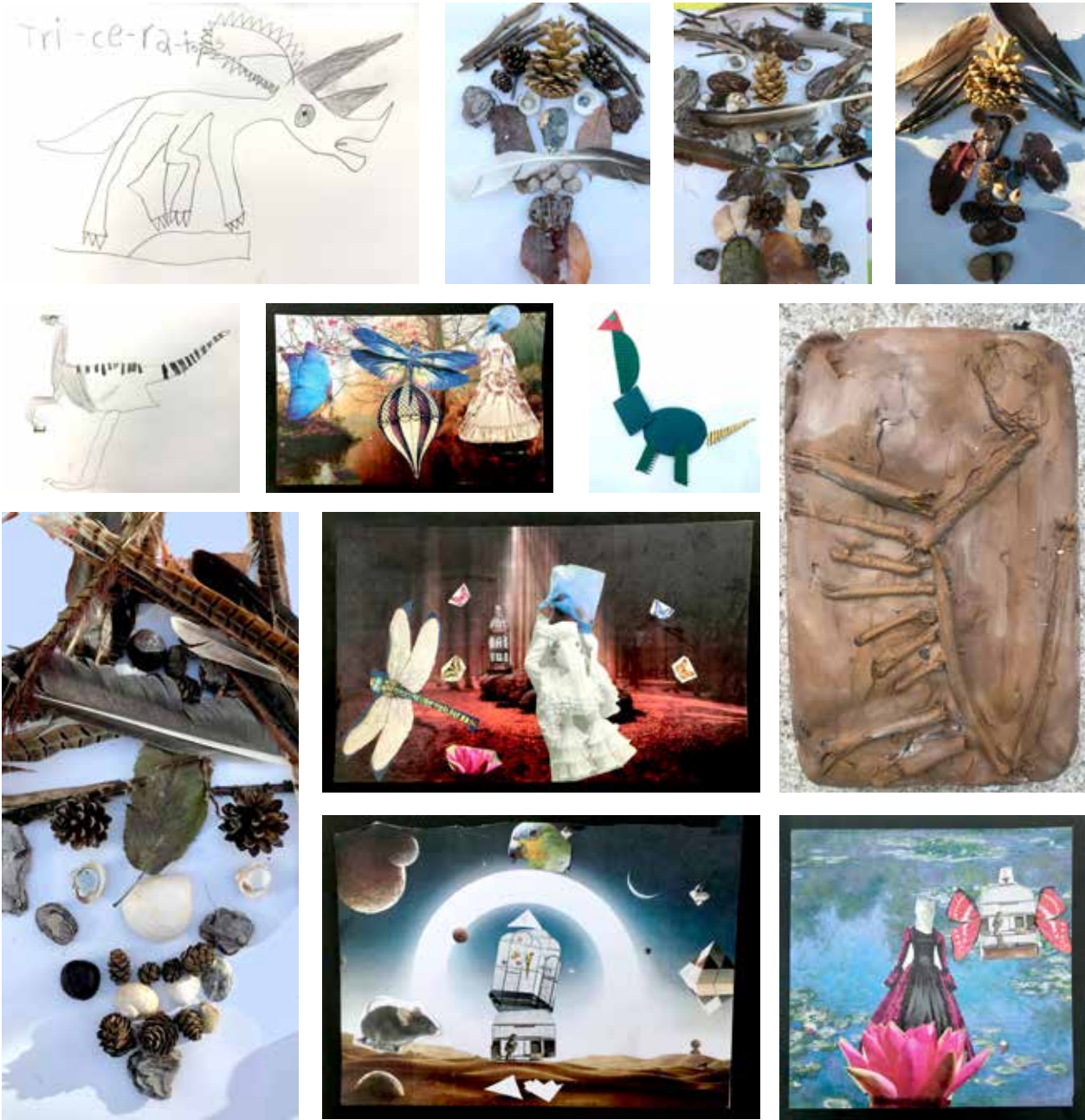
Year 5 and 6 were invited to take part in a History Competition over half-term. They had to pick a significant historical event and say why it was so important. The five winning topics were: Operation Mincemeat, Creation of the World Wide Web, The Romans, The Platinum Jubilee, The Battle of Stamford Bridge.



PRE-PREP ART

Pre-Prep Art club have been responding to the surrealist collage artist Catrin Welz-Stein. Reception has been creating portraits inspired by the artist Giuseppe Archimboldo for the Harvest Festival.

Year 1 have been out and about in the school grounds searching for items they can use to create their fossils in art. They recreated dinosaur skeletons or footprints using the natural objects and then pushed them into a pot with clay. Once the natural objects were removed the pot was filled with plaster of paris and then varnished with french polish.

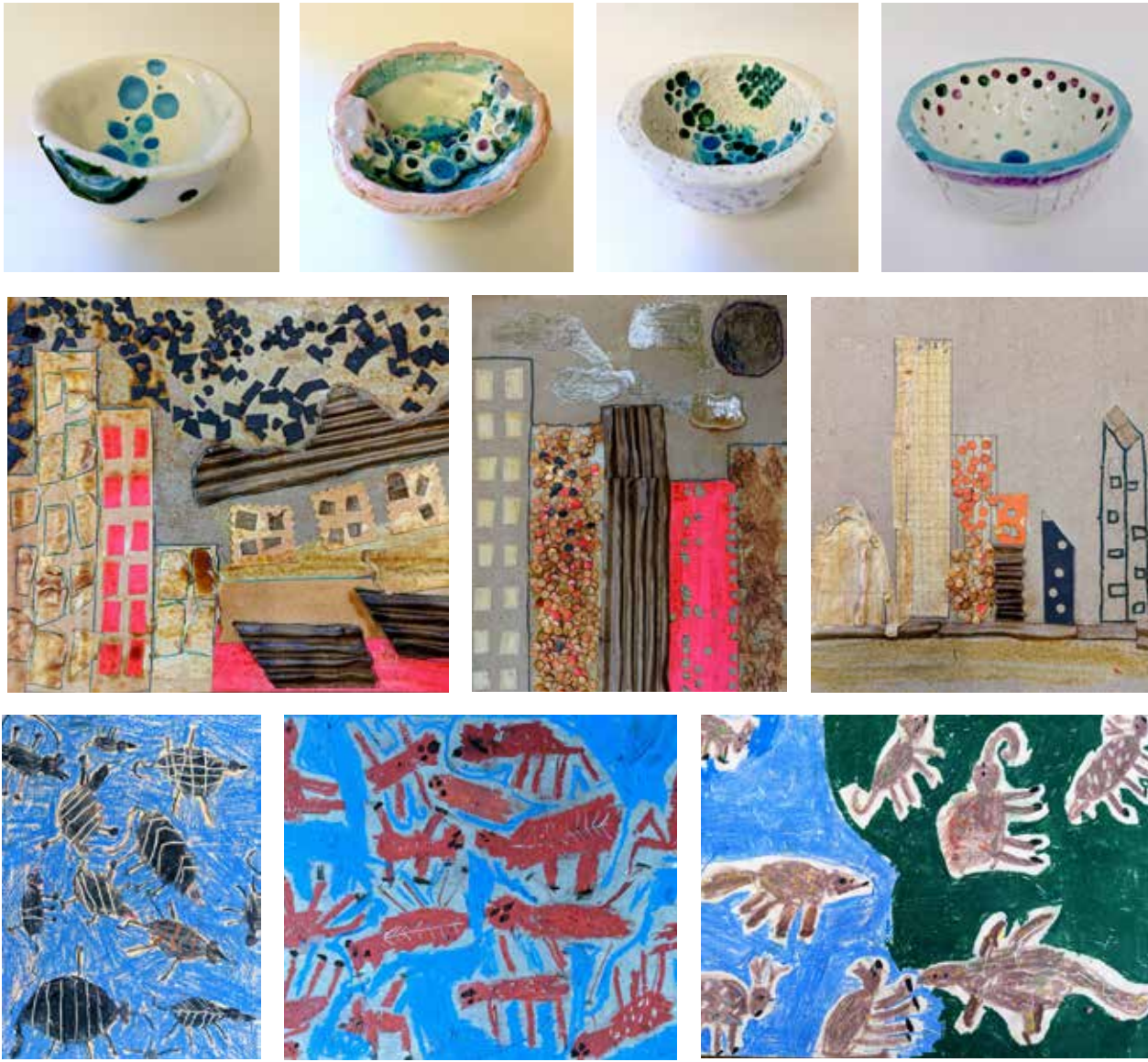


PREP ART

Year 3 has been studying Cave Art and learning about the first marks and paintings made by humans 40,000 years ago. They have learned how to make paints using earth pigments such as sienna and umber mixed with egg yolks. They created these stunning paintings of prehistoric mammals by first covering the boards in clay to create a textured background.

Year 5 has been learning about different types of architectural illustrations. They have created collagraph prints by using layers of textured materials, inspired by the artist Jane Skitching.

Year 6 has been studying the beautiful artwork of ceramic artist Mairi Stone. They have experimented with different tools and techniques to apply surface patterns into white stoneware tiles and bowls. The bowls were finished with coloured glazes and a transparent glaze.



GIRLS' SPORT

This term the weather was exceptionally kind and allowed for an almost uninterrupted hockey season. All girls in Year 3 - 6 participated in multiple matches and were able to showcase the hockey skills developed in lessons. The Year 5 & 6 girls joined forces to create Colts teams. In the early part of term the A team travelled twice to St Edwards to attend hockey festivals with mixed results. Chandlings also hosted its third annual U11 Girls Hockey Festival which was a great success.

In Years 3 & 4, girls played in a combination of mixed ability and streamed teams against local schools. Through 4 and 5 side matches, the children developed their positional understanding and grasp of the rules.

For the final 4 weeks of the term, our attention turned to Netball as all girls in Prep enjoyed developing their basic skills in readiness for matches to start in earnest after christmas.



SPORTS AMBASSADORS

As part of our program of leadership opportunities for Year 6 pupils, a group of boys and girls were appointed in September as Sports Ambassadors. This term they have acted as excellent role models, promoting sport across the school and enthusiastically announcing the Teams of the week in our whole school assemblies. The ambassadors also invited pupils to share their voice in voting for the The Team of the Year and Sports Personality of the year, the results of which were announced in the final week of term.

BOYS' SPORT

This term was very much dominated by the weather. Following a drought throughout the summer many of the boys' rugby games avoided any contact as they played a mixture of tag and touch. For many this was more enjoyable but for those who relish a more physical game it was a little disappointing. Year 6 playing their final matches for Chandlings ran out clear winners in touch games against The Manor, Christchurch Cathedral School and Magdalen College school. They found a contact game against The Oratory a little tougher.



HOUSE SPORT

This was the first term that it felt as though House matches were getting back to their competitive best. The finishes in all the House Cross Country races were very tight and congratulations go not only to the winners but the rest of the field who fought valiantly to gain that extra place. House Hockey and Rugby was well attended by parents who were treated to a feast of high level competitive Prep School sport. After it all honours were even - Richardson won the Cross Country, Poltimore the Hockey and Astley the rugby. Everyone is looking forward to the next round of Netball, Boys and Girls Football and Boys Hockey.

WELLBEING AWARD AND FEEL GOOD FRIDAY

We are delighted that we have been reverified for the National Wellbeing Award for Schools by Optimus Education in partnership with the National Bureau of Children (NBC). The award recognises the continued work and commitment the school is doing in developing positive mental health and emotional wellbeing within the fabric of the school community.

The inspector said “Very strong relationships within the school community and a commitment to the wellbeing of pupils ensures that safeguarding and the emotional wellbeing of pupils is paramount. There is an outstanding attention to detail in evidence, which enables staff and parents to work in close partnership.” She added that, “The emotional wellbeing and the protection of positive mental health is in the fabric of the school and is constantly present.”

As you know, Wellbeing is integral to school life for children, staff and the wider community at Chandlings and we will continue to promote positive mental and physical health so that our children move on as confident and happy individuals with a wellbeing toolkit, ready to take on their next challenges. This term we have our new ‘Happy Hut’ which our Wellbeing Ambassadors initiated.



INTERVIEW WITH MEGAN SHARP HEAD OF MUSIC

Each term the School Council organises an interview with a different member of staff. They decide on the questions and then follow this up with a face to face interview.

- Where did you grow up?**
Ringwood New Forest in Hampshire.
- How long have you been doing music for?**
Since I was 1 and a half and my mum used to run music workshops and try them out on me.
- What inspired you to start music?**
My mum and aunt created a music workshop called Musical Express.
- How old were you when you went to your first concert?**
I have been to lots of concerts. I was 14 when I went to my first one.
- What was the first instrument you learnt?**
The first instrument I played was the piano.
- How long have you been playing the piano for?**
I started learning when I was 4 and I'm 34 now so that is 30 years.
- Have you had any jobs apart from teaching? If so, which ones?**
Lots of Saturday jobs as a teenager e.g in a pub, shops. Teaching piano. Teaching Autistic adults how to play the piano.
- Why did you leave the Sisters of Funk?**
I wanted to travel the world so I left the band.
- How long have you been working here?**
2 and a half years.
- Did you work at another school?**
I started my career at the New College school for 5 years followed by Durham School after that I went to The Dragon school and finally Chandlings.
- Why did you want to be a music teacher?**
Because I love music and I love teaching and you get to do fun things. Music has a lot of things to teach.
- How many instruments can you play?**
I can play the piano, cello, organ, bass guitar and I sing.
- If you were an instrument what would you be and why?**
Organ because they can be really big and loud or it can be quiet and it's really magical and there are so many ways of playing it. And that's just like me, I like variety.



- What is your favourite instrument to play?**
Bass guitar.
- What is your favourite musical instrument to listen to?**
The cello.
- What is your favourite genre of music?**
Folk music.
- What is your favourite song?**
All stuff from Matilda the musical.
- Who is your favourite musician?**
Jacob Collier is my favourite singer.
- What is your favourite subject apart from music?**
History.
- What is your favourite animal?**
A cat.
- How many pets have you had?**
I have 2 kittens at the moment, I've had 3 rabbits, 3 hamsters and 3 dogs.
- What is your favourite Chandlings lunch?**
Jacket potatoes, salad, cheese and salad cream.
- What is your favourite food to eat?**
Pasta pasta pasta!
- What is your favourite pudding?**
Anything with chocolate in it.
- If you could change your name, which one would you choose?**
Miss Flat (ha-ha-ha)
- If you could live anywhere else in the world where would it be?**
Copenhagen in Denmark or the north coast of the U.S.A.
- What would you save if your house was on fire?**
My cats and a teddy bear called Sally

CHARITIES

We were delighted to welcome Andrea Baganz-Pritchard from Helen and Douglas House to Chandlings Prep to present her with a cheque for £13,512.78. The school had been raising funds for the last two years for the local hospice which supports terminally ill children and their parents. The charity had been voted for by the school as part of their annual charity programme.

We raised an incredible £620 on our Jeans for Genes day! Thank you for your support and donations. What a great start to our charity fundraising! The children and staff all enjoyed coming into school in their Jeans to support the charity!



We are delighted to announce that we made over £370 for MacMillan Cancer Research Thank you to all who contributed. The cakes were all delicious as always!



PATCH

We are very excited to announce that we have a brand new PATCH team. (Here are some of the team!)

Chairperson	Charlotte Gibson
Vice Chair	Jane Davis and Rebecca Cousins
Treasurer	Richa Sachdev
Secretary	Tasha Shepherd
Charities and Communications	Katharina Roelofsz
International & New Parents Rep	Catherine Pyke
Diversity & Inclusion Rep	Jayde Patterson
Committee Member	Catherine Wilde



They have already been busy organising various events to fundraise for our charity and the school. These include the Santa Fun Run, the car raffle and Gifts for Grownups. All these events have raised just over £4,500 which is fantastic.

SANTA FUN RUN

It was a cold misty morning but that did not stop the Santa Fun Run! Thank you to all those who came to run/walk/jingle their way round and for all their donations.



GIFTS FOR GROWNUPS

Thank you to all parents and staff who helped organise one of the most loved events at Chandlings! There were lots of preparations prior to the day, by filling mugs, wrapping gifts and tying ribbon. The day was as merry as one can get! Music, lights, beautiful gifts to choose from, all contributing to a wonderful and memorable day for the children.





Follow us on   

Chandlings Prep School
Bagley Wood, Nr Boars Hill, Oxford OX1 5ND
office@chandlingspst.org
+44 (0)1865 730771
www.chandlingspst.org

Copyright ©2021 Prep Schools Trust. Registered Charity No. 309639. All rights reserved.

