



PARKGATE HOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Autumn 2013



FROM THE STUDY

I am delighted to welcome you to Parkgate Update. The pages of this edition are filled with details of exciting events and trips enjoyed by our pupils in the latter half of the term.

The Prep girls' successful visit to the French Speaking Competition at Queen Anne's Girls' School in Caversham, the Pre-Prep 2 boys' and girls' trip to the Science Museum and the unique opportunity for the Prep 6 pupils to visit the White Cube Gallery with art historian Tim Marlow are just some of the highlights.

For those of you who attended this year's

Nursery Christmas Concert, you could not but be impressed by the sight and sound of the children's performance of Away in a Manger. I am incredibly proud of our Nursery pupils.

This year we were, once again, privileged to perform our Carols for Christmas at the Holy Trinity Church on Clapham Common. Pupils excelled in their individual class performances and the Parkgate House School Choir were in great voice; they sang with enthusiasm and joy. It was a really memorable concert and the culmination of Christmas celebrations at Parkgate. Parents, staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed the performances. Congratulations to our Music Department and well done to

everyone involved for making the concert such a success this year.

On the last day of term, excitement reached fever pitch for party day. We welcomed one very special visitor to school: Father Christmas. It was a really fitting ending to our Christmas celebrations this year.

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas; I look forward to welcoming you back to Parkgate on Wednesday 8th January 2014.

Catherine Shanley
Principal

*"Develop Confidence - Provide Opportunity -
Realise Potential - In every single child."*

www.parkgate-school.co.uk

PARKGATE FUN RUN FOR TRINITY HOSPICE

Each year the Fun Run evolves and this year was no different, with the fun element really on show as competitors found new and imaginative ways of running, including running backwards, sideways and on all four at times; all this with the added obstacle of the cargo nets which really gave the children an extra challenge!

Raising money for Trinity Hospice is always the main focus, with the pupils raising an amazing £3817.67.

It's always interesting to see how the children find the course and with so many children improving their fitness levels on a weekly basis, I'm sure I wasn't the only one who was impressed at the speed in which the course was completed, especially in the younger years.

As always, there were some great costumes on show; a real variety of different outfits. All were excellent so well done for the effort!

Well done to all those involved in the Fun Run and congratulations to the Parents' Committee who organised such a great event.



LANGUAGES AT PARKGATE

This has been a busy term in the Languages Department, made all the more exciting by the addition of our new scheme of work: **Languagenut**.

Languagenut has been used in French lessons, in Spanish Club and by the pupils at home. Pupils have gone nutty competing for bronze, silver and gold medals, with Parkgate regularly finishing the week in the top 20 of schools signed up to the programme and even coming as high as fifth! I have been delighted to see that so many pupils' interest in other languages has been piqued, with Japanese, Italian and German being especially popular. The games on Languagenut are a great way to consolidate the vocabulary learnt in class and I would encourage all the children to continue their great work on it.

Some of the Prep 4, Prep 5 and Prep 6 girls also had the chance to show off their French skills at the French Speaking Competition at Queen Anne's School near Caversham. Three girls from each year group had to perform a poem which they had learnt off by heart. I was so impressed with their confidence and the hard work that they had put in to perfect the poems.

This term has seen the introduction of a PP1 & PP2 Spanish Club run by Miss Forster to join the Nursery, Reception, PP1 and PP2 French clubs. It has been very popular, running at maximum capacity and it has been wonderful seeing the children using their new Spanish around the school and able to compare vocabulary with French words in French lessons. The three French clubs on offer continue to be very popular and I am always so impressed when the children speak to me around the school in French.



'Los Fuegos' (Fireworks) Activity at Spanish Club



Prep 4, 5 & 6 Girls at the French Speaking Competition, Queen Anne's Caversham



Pumpkin Mask Halloween Activity at French Club

AWAY IN A MANGER NURSERY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

What can you hear in the stable?

What can that sound be?

Is it Maurice munching his hay?

No it's the nursery singing away!

Munch, munch, munch, munch,
munch, munch!

The Nursery Christmas concert was a resounding success. It was an absolute pleasure to see that the children really tried their best and it seemed that the arrival of baby Jesus wasn't the only miracle that happened that day! The endearing story of Maurice the mule and his manger was a lovely adaptation of the traditional nativity story.

The children did so well to remember all the words and actions to the songs and it was very impressive that they were able to perform the concert on stage with so much confidence. It really was amazing!





CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

On Thursday 5th December we held our annual Parkgate House School Christmas Carol Concert at Holy Trinity Church, Clapham Common.

The concert was a huge success and everyone from Reception up to Prep 6 performed brilliantly. The concert included the carols 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' and 'Once in Royal David's City', the latter being led by our head chorister Jedidiah Burge-Thomas. The class pieces ranged from 'Frosty the Snowman' and 'Walking in the Air' to the more traditionally known 'O Holy Night'. The Prep children even sang in three different languages.

At the front of the church we had our very own Parkgate House Christmas tree, decorated beautifully by the children and their specially made Christmas decorations. I want to take this opportunity to say well done to all the children. It was a magical concert.



PRE-PREP 2 VISIT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

This term, Pre-Prep 2 had the opportunity to visit the Science Museum.

During this trip, the pupils enjoyed exploring some of the exciting and engaging exhibitions including the Bubble Show and the Pattern Pod. In the Bubble Show, they learnt all about the properties of bubbles and gases. Some of the students

volunteered to participate in the experiments.

Both classes worked together and explored the different interactive experiments in the Launch Pad. They put some of the science they had learnt this term into practice by experimenting with magnets and different materials.

Fun was had by all and we thank the Science Museum for making the day so memorable.

"I liked the space section. It showed lots of different pictures of the sun. You could see lots of colours and details."

Freddie Charnley (PP2B)

"I liked going to the Launch Pad. I learnt how to see through a telescope and use the centrifugal spinner."

Ned Stein (PP2B)



PREP 6 VISIT TO THE WHITE CUBE GALLERY WITH TIM MARLOW

Prep 6 had the privilege of visiting the White Cube Gallery in Bermondsey and meeting the art historian Tim Marlow. Tim Marlow is the Director of Exhibitions at the gallery and is an award winning television and radio presenter.

Tim Marlow very kindly took the children around the gallery, discussing the work of the American artist Mark Bradford and encouraging the children to engage with the enormous collages on display.

Prep 6 were then shown the archive room, the photography studio and the packaging workshops. They also had the opportunity to go into a smaller showroom where private and museum collectors view artwork produced by very famous artists. On show were two Damien Hirst pieces and a Mark Quinn painting. The children responded so enthusiastically and really grasped the concepts behind these works.

'My favourite piece of artwork was a symmetrical picture made out of real butterflies and beetles. It was my favourite because it looked so beautiful and elegant and special like a treasure.' Martha Maloney (Prep 6)

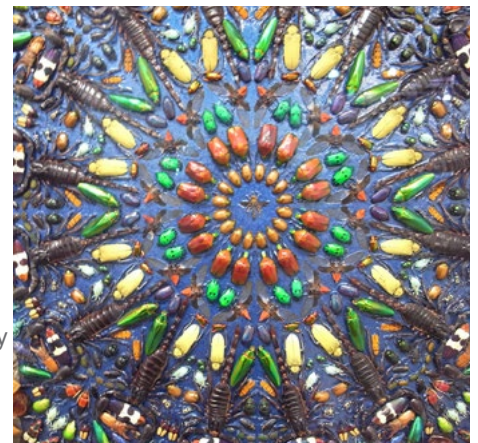
'During this I learnt that art is much more than painting pictures and making sculpture. It is about expressing your ideas and letting people know what you feel. It is also about creativity and determination as it is hard to live an artist's life. I don't think I'll ever look at art the same way.' Oliver Fiddy (Prep 6)

Finally, the children were able to discuss with Tim Marlow his career and the running of the White Cube. Prep 6 discovered that Tim studied history at university and then did a postgraduate course in Art History at the Courtauld Institute. In his role as Director of Exhibitions for all three White Cube Galleries, he travels to art hubs around the world such as San Paulo and Hong Kong. Here he hosts exhibition openings and meets international artists.



This trip was a rare and very inspiring opportunity for the children to begin to understand how a gallery functions and how artists work. Occasions like this one change lives and the part Tim Marlow played in that was very significant. The children will have lasting impressions that will hopefully inspire them to work in the arts!

I would like to thank Mrs Stephanie Griffith (Prep 3 mother) for her generosity in helping organise this event. Without her support, Prep 6 would not have had such a meaningful and personal experience.



'Capaneus' by Damien Hirst



'Riding the Cut Vein' by Mark Bradford

SATIPS SONGFEST 2013

On Monday 21st October, choir members from Prep 5 and Prep 6 attended a SATIPS songfest day at St Paul's School in Barnes.

The day was lead by two prestigious children's composers, Lin Marsh and Alan Simmons. The event was attended by ten other London schools and gave the children the opportunity to learn lots of new songs and movements in the morning and perform them in the afternoon, in the concert hall at the school.

During the afternoon concert, our 13 strong chamber choir also performed 'I Got Rhythm' for the concert and sang wonderfully. Well done!

HARRODS SCHOOL UNIFORM

At Parkgate House School, we are proud of our long-standing relationship with Harrods. We work closely with the school uniform team to ensure our uniform is beautifully designed and hard wearing.

School uniform can be bought directly from the Harrods store in Knightsbridge or online. Alternatively, Harrods offer the fantastic weekly drop service whereby parents can order items over the telephone and collect their delivery from school within a week.

Harrods also attend each Open Day, giving parents the opportunity to have their children fitted for any items of uniform they might require. These services make it even more convenient for parents to shop for Harrods school uniform.

The next school visit will be Saturday 2nd March, 9.30am - 12.00pm. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the school uniform department at Harrods on 0207 225 5989.



Reception B's Christmas Snowmen and Christmas Tree display.

PARKGATE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

The children have enjoyed producing a range of artwork on the theme of Christmas, with a focus on snowmen and using a range of artistic techniques. They have created some exceptional pieces of collaborative work.

In Reception this term, pupils have been looking at a range of festivals of light across the different religions. As part of the topic they created a display representing the Christian festival of Christmas, the Hindu festival of Diwali and the Jewish festival of Hanukkah.

Here are some of the displays which can be found around the school.



Reception A's 'Festivals of Light' display.



'Winter Wonderland' featuring work from Pre-Prep 1 - Prep 6.

PARKGATE HOUSE SCHOOL PARENTS' COMMITTEE

QUIZ NIGHT

On Friday 18th October, Parkgate parents throughout the school attended the much anticipated annual Parents' Committee Quiz Night in aid of the Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts.

The evening was a resounding success with parents bidding for fabulous prizes for the auction such as: a luxury weekend in Cote D'Azur, behind the scenes experience at Saturday Kitchen Live.

The atmosphere during this event was fantastic. Stomachs were satisfied by the delicious fish and chips supplied by Fish Club. Afterwards, there was hearty competition between all teams as brains were racked to find the answers to questions posed by



Miss Shanley, Mr Mckinlay, Miss Treherne and Parkgate Parents' Committee at Quiz Night

quizmasters Quiz Quiz Quiz.

The amount raised was a fantastic £10,000! Even better, the charity matched this amount resulting in a grand total of £20,000! The Committee would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that helped make Quiz Night such a success.

has been involved in filling and gift wrapping shoe boxes of new or nearly new toys, toiletries, sweets, stationery etc. Thank you to everyone who put together a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child. The boxes have been collected and are on their way.

CAKE SALE

Thank you to all those bakers who helped to raise £280 at October's cake sale.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Operation Christmas Child is the UK's largest children's Christmas appeal and has been running for over 20 years. Samaritan's Purse are able to deliver gift-filled shoeboxes to children in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

This is the fourteenth year running that Parkgate House School

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE SPRING TERM

The Parents' Committee will be selling Easter Chicks to raise money for Trinity Hospice. Look out for these in the front playground.

Following on from the success of last year, we will be working in partnership with shelters in Vauxhall run by Missionaries of Charity by holding another Spring Clean Up event.



Prep 6 pupils with Samaritan's Purse gifts

SPORTS FIXTURES

It has been a great second half of the term with some great fixtures and some BIG wins. The standard of performance and the amount of improvement that we've seen has been really impressive and seeing everyone have the chance to get out on the pitch and express themselves was great to see.

We started off with a tough Prep 3&4 netball match against the Roche in what ended up a bit of a miss match but a great lesson also. Losing 7-1 in the A's and 3-1 in the B's actually helped the girls record two magnificent wins the following week, both matches against the Hurlingham finishing 3-1 which was a great turn around and a huge leap in performance.

Next up were the Prep 5&6 boys who had the rescheduled football tournament at Hall School Wimbledon. Going into this tournament we knew we had the players to go far and our performances matched our expectations as we cruised through



a difficult group as winners, scoring 4 goals and conceding none. Our opponents in the semi final were Prospect House, a team who hadn't scored a goal in the group stages, and we set about dominating the match but struggled to get that elusive breakthrough. With a chance in the dying moments of the game going agonisingly wide, we went to penalties.

Sadly for us we lost the shoot out 2-0 but we were widely recognised by players and coaches alike as the best team there. Definitely an opportunity missed.

Chance for redemption came quickly, however, and poor Garden House felt the full force our Prep 5&6 boys' frustration as they were dispatched 8-0 and 6-2 within the space of a week. This trend continued with a 4-0 drubbing in the A's and a 3-2 cracker in the B's against Hornsby House School in their final match of the season... and what a season these boys had!

Whilst the Prep 5&6 boys were demolishing everything in their wake, Prep 3&4 found their only fixture against Garden House this half of term a bit harder. The B's succumbed to a 4-0 loss and the A's just couldn't find the form that helped them to a 9-0 win against Finton House earlier on in the term. Chances went begging as did possession which ultimately led to the score finishing 0-0.

Prep 5&6 girls finally had their chance to get out and show what they'd learnt against Prospect House and the Hurlingham in consecutive weeks in November. Both matches were hotly contested with great skill on display





from both sides; unfortunately for us though the scores in both games went against us 8-5 and 6-2 respectively. Their final match, again against Prospect House, was an absolute classic. We reinforced the side with some of the Prep 4 girls who have

been doing so well this term and their presence made an immediate impact. Leading the match going into the 3rd quarter, we unfortunately managed to concede six goals meaning the score going into the 4th quarter was a daunting 9-3. The gap proved too big to

close in the end but our girls valiantly brought the gap down to just three with the final score of 9-6 to Prospect House. (We won 3 quarters!)

This term we have also had the cross country team out competing at the Hall School Wimbledon cross country meet. This is a highlight of the year and with running club proving such a popular club, with over 40 runners on any given Tuesday and Thursday, we had for the first time ever a full complement of runners available. Both the boys and girls raced on consecutive Fridays and although we didn't manage to get a year group on the podium, we did see some unbelievable efforts for our team and it stands us in very good stead for the years to come.

Well done to everyone involved in fixtures, it's been a great term for sport.

NURSERY SWIMMING

We've had another great term in the pool during Nursery Swimming Club, a club which is proving as popular as ever. We spend time on building water confidence, developing basic core swimming skills and establishing a fun environment where nursery children can enjoy being in the pool whilst developing their confidence.

The club provides our pupils with a fantastic foundation and grounding in swimming, and it is seen by parents and coaches alike as the starting point for many of our top swimmers throughout the years.

We are very proud of this club (one of the longest running clubs at Parkgate House) and it provides a wonderful opportunity to give your child a head start in swimming.



Diary Dates

Spring Term 2014

JAN		
T	7	January Nursery Starters Induction – PHS, 2.00pm – 3.00pm
W	8	Beginning of Term
F	10	Entrance & Academic Scholarship Exams, by invitation only (PP2 – P5) - BAC, 8.30am – 12.30pm
Th	16	Goslings, Prep & Specialists P/T Meetings – PHS, 4.30pm – 7.30pm
F	17	Music Open Morning – BAC, Lower Hall, 10.15am (Individual Music Lesson Students)
Th	23	Nursery, Reception, Pre-Prep & Specialists P/T Meetings – PHS, 4.30pm – 7.30pm
F	24	Parents’ Assembly– “Humanities” (PP1B, P3, P4) BAC, Lower Hall, 8.50am
M	27	Music Scholarship Exams – PHS
T	28	PP2 Parents “Intro to Prep Department” Meeting – PHS, 6.30pm
F	31	Reception Open Swimming Session – Latchmere Leisure Centre 10.00am Reception B, 10.30am Reception A
FEB		
W	5	Swimming Gala (PP2 – P6) – Latchmere Leisure Centre, 10.30am – 12.00pm
F	14	Parents’ Assembly “Parkgate House Writing Competition” – BAC, Lower Hall, 8.50am
M-F	17-21	Half Term
Th	27	ABRSM Music Examinations – BAC Lower Hall
MAR		
S	1	Open Day & Harrods Uniform Sale – PHS, 9.30am – 12.00pm
Th	6	World Book Day
M-F	10-14	Prep 6 Events Week Film Project (Monday 10 th – Tuesday 11 th) Residential Trip to The Mill (Wednesday 12 th – Friday 14 th)
Tu	18	Prep 5 Parents “Introduction to Prep 6” Meeting – PHS, 6.30pm
F	21	Parents’ Assembly– “Ancient & Modern Languages” (PP1A, PP2B, P5) BAC, Lower Hall, 8.50am
T	25	Goslings Class End of Term and Easter Bonnet Competition – 12.30pm - 3.30pm
W	26	Easter Bonnet Competition – PHS End of Term, 12.00pm
Th-W	27 – 2	Easter Holiday Activity & Sports Week (Nursery, Reception, Pre-Prep & Prep) – PHS, 10.00am – 3.00pm

Term Dates

Spring Term 2014

Commences - Wednesday 8th January
Half Term - 17th – 21st February
Term Ends - Wednesday 26th March (12.00)

Summer Term 2014

Commences - Thursday 24th April
Bank Holiday - Monday 5th May
Half Term - 26th – 30th May
Term Ends - Friday 4th July (12.00)

Autumn Term 2014

Commences - Wednesday 3rd September
Half Term - 27th – 31st October
Term Ends - Wednesday 10th December (12.00)