



AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,



Saturday 3rd December kickstarted the fun and festive atmosphere at the Prep School, with our annual

Christmas Fair and enterprise event. Our small but mighty PTA team really excelled and pulled together a super event, enjoyed by all who came along.

Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day was also a highlight of the week, raising money for important local charities, whilst enjoying the opportunity to let our hair down a little and enjoy ourselves. I couldn't have felt more proud of our youngest children, performing in *The Sleepy Shepherd*; the singing, acting, dancing and storytelling was all performed with such conviction and confidence.

A huge thanks to Miss Fitzgerald, Mrs Newlands and the EYFS and Key Stage 1 team for bringing it all together for such an impressive performance. Finally, the mini strings and speech and drama event was also a really lovely moment to share with so many families, and the staff were immensely proud of all the performers, as I am sure those in the audience were too.

Wishing all our families a restful weekend

Mrs Jodene Panteli
Head of Preparatory

The Sleepy Shepherd



PTA Christmas Fair

Saturday 3rd December saw the return of the annual Christmas Fair. Our PTA team had worked hard to decorate the school and bring some festive cheer, ready for the day. There was a really good turn out of families and friends during the course of the event and there was a truly warm and happy atmosphere around the Prep School.

The Old Palace pupils had been busy in the lead up to the event, planning and preparing their enterprise stalls – from scented playdough to Christmas cards and rocky road, each class worked together as a team to try to sell their products. Aside from the enterprise stalls, we also had the Scholastic Book Fair, a disco, a second hand uniform sale and a Santa's grotto.

The event did really well, bringing in around £2,100. Some of this money will return to the classes, for them to invest in their next enterprise event later in the year, whilst some of the money will sit in the PTA pot of money, until good causes are agreed upon.

If any of you have feedback that you would like to share with the PTA or if you would like to get involved and support the PTA team, I am sure they would love to hear from you!





Year 3-6: Soloists' Concert

Last Wednesday, after school, a total of 26 Prep musicians entertained a packed hall of parents, teachers and friends when they performed in the second Prep Soloists' Concert of the year. They played a range of instruments and for some of the students it was their debut performance on the instrument they chose! Congratulations to all the girls that took part.



The Sleepy Shepherd *continued*

On Wednesday afternoon, pupils in Pre School, Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 entertained family and friends to the most enchanting performance of *The Sleepy Shepherd*.

From twinkly angels and delightful sheep, to the whole cast of the Christmas story, the girls danced and sang their way through the whole production with great enthusiasm.

Our thanks go to all the staff who worked so hard on the costumes, the set and at the many rehearsals to ensure the cast knew all the dance moves, songs and words. It really was a joy to behold.









Christmas Jumper Day & Lunch at Prep

Wednesday at Prep was all about Christmas; Christmas jumpers: Christmas lunch and the Pre School and Prep Christmas production of 'The Sleepy Shepherd'.

The girls gathered in the dining hall to enjoy a full Christmas

lunch with all the trimmings, including crackers (much fun was had by the pupils telling jokes) and chocolate cup cakes decorated with Reindeer (who knew that half a pretzel made such convincing antlers?).



Reception: Getting Ready for Christmas

Reception have enjoyed taking part in lots of festive activities within the classroom.

We created our very own post office role play area where the girls used their phonics to write letters to Santa and posted them through our Christmas post box.

We have also been decorating stars and baubles and reading a range of Christmas stories in our very cosy home corner.



Year 1 & 2: Baking Gingerbread Biscuits

Last week, Year 1 and 2 were busy preparing gingerbread biscuits. We had so much fun rolling the dough and cutting out the different shapes. Once these were baked, we spent time decorating them.

On Saturday, we ran our own enterprise stall at the Christmas fair and our gingerbread was a huge success!

Year 1 and Year 2 would like to thank Holyroyd Howe catering team for helping us to make the dough and sharing their expertise with us.

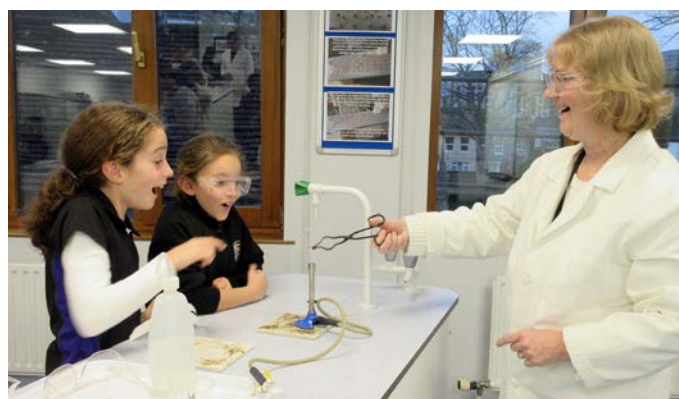


Year 5 Alchemists

Last Friday, Year 5 enjoyed a trip to the Science Museum. First, we watched the Wondershow full of chemical reactions like elephant toothpaste, disappearing water and dancing flames based on the chemistry of matter, sound and light. After that, we visited 'The Secret Life of the Home' gallery. The exhibits were all household appliances from the past, including a washing machine and computer game that Mrs Elliott remembered from her childhood!

Finally, we spent an hour in the Wonderlab – a huge room full of interactive scientific activities and shows by the museum's explainers on subjects like the phases of the moon and electricity.

On Monday this week, the brilliant Chemistry department at Seniors helped us to become alchemists, turning 2p coins into silver and then gold! After cleaning our coins in a mixture of vinegar and sodium chloride, we watched in wonder as they were heated in a 'magic' solution to gain a silver zinc coating. The Year 12 chemists then used bunsen burners to heat the coins, creating a golden bronze alloy. Thank you to the staff and Year 12s who gave up their time to treat us to such a fun session. The girls are very enthused about Chemistry and what they will be able to do in the future!



Ruby-Lee 'stars' in *Matilda The Musical*



If you've already seen the new film 'Matilda The Musical', then you will remember the scene where one of the pupils is covered by coats to prevent him being seen by Miss Trunchball. Our very own Ruby-Lee, now in Year 6, was one of the pupils in this scene.

Here, she writes about her experience being part of the filming.

Matilda the film was finally released a few weeks ago. This was particularly important to me because I knew I was part of something amazing. Being able to have an opportunity like this was amazing, as was being able to make new

friends and connections with new people. Many people shed tears as we wrapped up the movie as they had to say goodbye to their friends.

I was a dancer in the movie, which was a big deal for me. Being on set was exhausting; doing the same thing over and over again until we got it right and filmed it. Most days we were there for over 16 hours! But I think all that hard work, exhaustion and time was worth it.

Ruby-Lee, Year 6

Adelise Comes First in 2022 Catleaps Invitational



Many congratulations to Adelise who came first in the 2022 Catleaps Invitational Gymnastics competition.

Pre School Makes Christmas

Pre School children have been busy making lots of lovely Christmas-themed decorations this week.

