



Preshute Newsletter

End of year letter from Neil Baker

As we are coming to the end of the academic year I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your welcome and trust. Preshute is a great school and has much to be proud of.

Firstly, and foremost in everything we do, are the amazing children. They are polite, well-mannered and are willing to share their learning with me at every opportunity. Since I arrived in February there have been many changes and the needs of the children have remained the reason why most of the changes have taken place. An example of this is the mature way in which the children have embraced the change in moving around the school and coming in from the playground - the process is slick, quick and quieter. This has resulted in the children entering into the classroom quicker and ready to learn. After some discussion with the children we have now staggered the morning and lunch breaks. This new system also appears to be working well. Every class has much to celebrate, but I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the Year 6 Play. This is an example of how an engaging curriculum enhances learning and grows life-long skills. The play was not only entertaining and well executed, it allowed for personalities to shine. The level of confidence in the children was outstanding. They spoke with clarity and sang beautifully. It was a production where memories are made. What confidence! Well done to Mrs Kennedy who enabled this to happen and congratulations Year 6.

Secondly, the staff of the school have also had to embrace change. They have taken on these changes with true professionalism and have worked hard to ensure the changes will have positive outcomes for both the children and themselves. At the parents' forums I have outlined the changes. In summary the staff: now work with a newly created curriculum map; have been introduced to a new pupil progress tracking system; have embraced a system of classroom moderation; have introduced learning walls; have introduced a language of learning and are using this to reinvigorate Preshute's ethos (Live life. Love Learning) and together have planned the next academic year. Preshute is fortunate in having such a hard-working and dedicated staff team. It is an honour to be part of this team. This term the school has also been part of several external reviews and moderation visits by the Local Authority. Year 2 were visited to validate teacher assessments. The outcome was very successful. The moderators recorded how well the teachers knew the children and praised the accuracy of their judgements. Reception also had an external review. Again, the outcome was very successful. The report praised the quality of teaching and curriculum planning and noted how well the teachers knew the children in such a short time. It also reported how our reception class kicks against the county trend in having more children, particularly boys, choosing to write as part of their continuous provision. Something not seen in many schools.

Finally, last but not least, we have the community. Parents, governors and friends of the school, all who have shown their love and care for the school in so many ways. All groups have given up their time in some way to enhance the provision for our children. For this we need to say collectively - thank you. The grounds look amazing, the resources of the school have been enhanced through fund raising, and the direction of the school has been driven in part by our newly appointed governing body.

The rest of this newsletter will show images to give a flavour of the last few weeks. I will be in school Monday, Tuesday and on the morning of the last day to see the children before they break up for the summer and wish the Y6's every success in their new schools. Over the summer there is going to be a lot of maintenance work as the school is being rewired. We will return in the summer with new lights!

May I wish you all a restful summer break and look forward to seeing you again on our return in September.

What's Inside

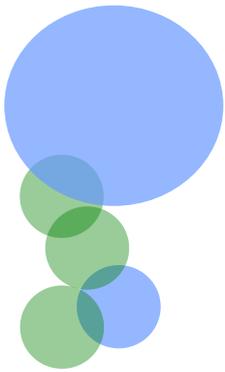
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Recently in School.....

It's been a very busy couple of weeks! Here's a flavour of what's been going on... The Infants thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Steam museum in Swindon.



On Wednesday the 10th July more letters to our pen pals in the Gambia were collected by representatives of the local charity, Thriving Through Venture in time for their next trip to the Gambia in August. This is a charity that helps teenagers experience life beyond Wiltshire, who very kindly deliver our letters to our African pen pals in two Gambian Schools. It is the second year that they have taken our letters for us and it continues to be a wonderful way for our children to become more globally aware.



Doctor in the house! One of our parents, Mrs Tilney, visited Y2 and YR to tell the children about her job as a doctor. We had a great time learning about stethoscopes, bandages and washing hands properly!



Our Sports Week was kicked off by a very busy Sports Day! Children took part in a variety of events: long jump, vortex throwing as well as the running events that the parents attended. The children showed great sportsmanship as well as lots of our learning powers, such as resilience and building relationships. Throughout the week we explored some minority sports, including Boccia, Goal ball, Gagaball and Tchoukball as well as yoga, cheerleading, squash, parachute games, cricket, rounders, hobby horse riding and dance. The children also took part in a workshop run by 'Fit4kids' about the positive effects of healthy living and exercise.



Recently in School cont'd

Our swimming team were invited to the School Games event at Marlborough College. This is a level 3 competition - County finals! They swam amazingly and managed to come 5th out of 12 schools. We were also cheering along our new friends from Christchurch, who pipped us at the post, coming 4th!! Well done! We all shared a picnic lunch and sampled some of the other sports on offer.



Welsh Brass Trio

We had a real treat when the Welsh Brass Trio came in this week. They entertained the children, not only with their beautiful playing, but using other objects to produce sounds - like a hosepipe! The children were given a chance to have a blow too! Grateful thanks to the PPSA for funding this.



Radio Shows!

This week we borrowed the radio station from Christ Church Primary School. Both Year 4 and Year 5 have worked with Mrs Hann-Perkins who is the Interim Head of School at Christ Church, to learn how to use the radio equipment and produce a radio show.

Year 4's radio day involved learning how to use the equipment, making jingles, writing scripts and then finally recording the show. You can listen to their amazing work by following the links below:

<http://www.preshute.wilts.sch.uk/Classes/Year-4>

You can also listen to the emails that Y4 sent to Christ Church Primary School radio that were read out during Christ Church's weekly show, Episode 21.

<https://www.christchurch.wilts.sch.uk/for-pupils/radio-station/>

Year 5 wrote scripts about the Battle of Hastings -these were also recorded on the radio.

Follow the link below to listen to the Y5 radio show.

<https://soundcloud.com/user-75197700/preshute-primary-school-year-5-radio>

All the links have also been uploaded onto our website, the class pages.

Some pictures follow:



Year 6 Play

As mentioned earlier by Mr Baker, Y6 performed their play "Pirates of the Curry Bean" in front of the other pupils last week, and then two performances for their parents. Special thanks go to Mrs Kennedy for all the extra work she puts in every year to produce such great performances. Well done Year 6!

