



# Newsletter

February 2024

We hope you have been enjoying the brighter mornings and first few signs of spring. The Prep girls have been embracing these longer days and the air of positivity this new season brings by preparing for our Wellbeing Week. Each Action Group has been working on special projects to boost pupils' self-esteem, encourage movement and activity, bathe in nature and enjoy fruit smoothies. There was also a reminder that we should enjoy a little of what might not be so healthy through the Prep Bake-Off bun sale – it proved too hard to say no to these tasty goodies!

K Hrabovsky

## Dates for your diary....



- Friday 8 March: World Book Day Celebrations character dress-up day
- Thursday 14 March: Prep 5 Music Makers Event in Hazelwod IPS
- Friday 15 March: School Development Day - pupils do not attend
- Monday 18 March: Bank Holiday, school closed
- w/c 18 March: Final week of swimming lessons for P3-7 for Spring term, last week of extra-curricular activities
- Tuesday 26 March: Whole School performance of *Mary Poppins* @ 1pm
- Wednesday 27 March: Whole School performance of *Mary Poppins* @ 7pm; **all classes dismissed at 2pm**, After Hours available until 6pm
- Friday 29 March: School Development Day - pupils do not attend
- Monday 15 April: Summer term A begins, School open from 8am, canteen and After Hours available

## Sporting Stars



Our KS2 cross country teams were competing on a gloriously sunny but chilly February morning at the Belfast Cross-Country Championships in Ormeau Park. They did a marvellous job with Olivia Johnston finishing in 5<sup>th</sup> place and Willow Steen in 6<sup>th</sup>, plus Cara Savage and Kitty Osborne were within the top 15 finishers.

Cara Savage was also selected to compete in the Ulster Finals this month and represented Prep brilliantly. Well done, everyone!



Tickets will go on sale soon for our performances of *Mary Poppins Junior*:

- **Tuesday 26 March @ 1pm**
- **Wednesday 27 March @ 7pm**

Tickets are priced at £7.50 (to cover hire of sound and lighting equipment) and initially set at a maximum of 4 tickets per family per show. Any additional tickets will be released during w/c 11 March. Tickets can be purchased via Parent Pay and are strictly given on a 'first come, first served' basis.



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## Pre-School

Pre-School have been out and about looking for signs of Spring. We are happy to report that we found daffodils, cherry blossoms, buds on trees and even some earthworms. Spring is definitely on the way! We took inspiration from our time outside and painted some beautiful daffodils during art time. We also have some frog spawn in our classroom and are watching them carefully to see if any tadpoles develop. We have been working on our counting during our circle time and have been building towers of blocks to see who has 'less and who has 'more', and we have been using words like few, many and amount. These are great words for describing our findings when we count. Our girls are as busy and as enthusiastic as ever - keep it up girls, you are great!



## Prep 1

P1 have been busy finding out more about keeping warm in winter – an important investigation at this time of year! Despite the cooler temperatures, we have continued going outdoors on any milder or dry days to make some Winter stew during playtimes. We have visited the library for a singalong story of *Little Rabbit Foo-Foo*. Miss Bodner, an Erasmus student from Austria linked to Stranmillis University has joined our class for this term. We enjoy hearing about school life there and trying the activities she has planned for us.





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## Prep 2

At the beginning of February, Prep 2 went to the Little Wing Pizzeria. They really enjoyed learning about the local pizzeria on the Lisburn Road and exploring the history of pizza. They even got taught how to make Italian pizza and got told by a native Italian that it is wrong to put pineapple on pizza! Before beginning, the girls put on their aprons and chef hats. They then rolled out the dough, added the tomato sauce and chose toppings to put on their pizzas. Whilst their pizzas were cooking in the oven, the girls were given dough sticks and ice cream to enjoy.



## 'Entrepreneurial Me' Business Fair

Thank you to Ms Mullan and the wonderful Friends of Prep Committee for organising a fantastic event on 29 February. Not only were the girls encouraged to let their creativity and artistic abilities shine, they also put their business acumen on display as they became 'Boss Ladies' for the night developing their own business, planning the initial outlay, preparing their items for sale, deciding on a price to make a profit and marketing their goods in a busy seller hall. It was a fun evening that raised over £800 towards our new iPad goal. Thank you to everyone who attended, supported and shopped.





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## Prep 3

This month Prep. 3 took part in the RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch. We went for a walk around our mature school grounds listening for and spotting birds. The trickiest part was then identifying the birds from their calls and what they looked like. We found lots of birds enjoy the space around our school. On returning to class we passed our results onto the RSPB scientists and then created some fabulous bar graphs using our results and bird pictures. We have them displayed in our bright and beautiful classroom.



Big Garden  
Birdwatch

26-28 January 2024



## Prep 4

Prep 4 have been continuing our World War 2 topic and have been completing Science investigations about what materials would be good during a blackout and writing newspaper reports about the Belfast Blitz. In Art, we have been drawing WW2 self-portraits. We focused carefully on the details in our face then added camouflage backgrounds.



As part of our Compassionate Schools Award, our very talented Estates Team have been making us new planters for our garden area. Each class will be growing something different to hopefully sell to the community. Prep 4 decided to pay Mr Wilson from the Estates Team a visit and even got our hands a little dirty at his workshop. He showed us how he made our wooden planters and the various tools he used and some girls even got a chance to have a go helping him. It was lots of fun and something very different for us to try!



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## Prep 5

This term, the girls in Prep 5 are working on a very special joint project between our school and our partnership school in Kolkata, India. To begin with, our task has been to provide our partner school with an insight into our school community, curriculum and culture. To this end, the girls have been busy creating posters which showcase the important aspects of our school day and the wide array of activities available for every pupil at our school. We plan to share our informative posters with our new friends in India and make short videos introducing ourselves and describing life in a primary school in Northern Ireland. We look forward to hearing about school life in India from pupils in the junior department of Garden High School, Kolkata. Later, we will work together on the topic of "Climate Change" and compare and contrast its effects on our two countries.



## Prep 6



February proved to be a busy month in Prep 6 with an exciting trip to the Livingstone Centre in Killinchy to learn about the history of Northern Ireland through plantation and migration. Pupils had the chance to play the Lambeg drum and learned about the Ulster Scots dialect, as well as some important historical characters before climbing the ruins of Sketrick Castle and grabbing some hot chocolate in Little Eddy's. Work in class continues at pace with numeracy tasks focussed on percentages and grammar work on apostrophes. The girls have also been involved in their various action group tasks in preparation for our Prep 'Wellbeing Week' at the end of February. Pupils in iTeam and Welcome Team prepared some 'Kindness Rocks' to be placed around the school grounds for others to find.



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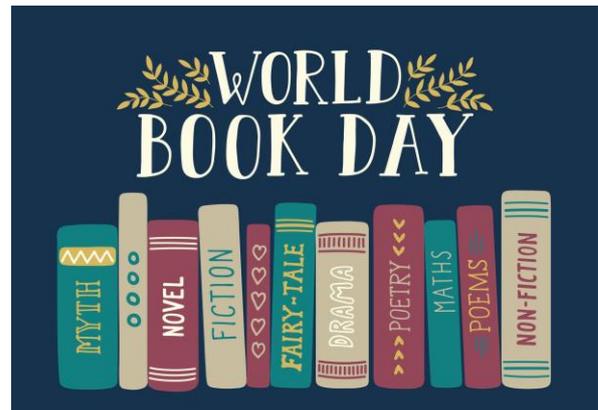
## Well Being Week

What do you do with an extra day in February? You maximise the fun that month!! Prep held a wellbeing week at the end of February with all action groups planning special events to help banish the winter blues and spring into the new season. With bun sales, fruit smoothies, yoga, mindfulness walks, positivity stones and the macarena, it lifted everyone's spirits.



IAG and School Council led a special assembly about keeping our bodies active and how to keep our minds healthy with breathing and stretching exercises.

## Get Ready!



Prep is focusing on the joy of reading during our **Brilliant Book Week** starting on 4 March, the highlight of which is our character dress-up day on Friday 8 March. This is advance notice to start preparing your costume (or to begin looking on Amazon!).

## Prep 7

P7 have had a very busy month working hard in class and rehearsing for their production of Mary Poppins Junior. They have all been working hard on their characterisation and the acting and choreography are progressing very well indeed – you are in for a treat next month!



The Netball Squads also hosted Knocknagoney Primary School and convincingly won another 2 league fixtures. Well done, girls!