



Newsletter

March 2024

The corridors have been filled with singing, dancing and lots of props as we prepared for our whole school performance of Mary Poppins. With mounting excitement, the stage went up, backdrops arrived and mics started to crackle into life. Yet, despite all the preparations for the shows, there was still a lot of learning and teaching taking place across Prep. This month you will read about classroom visitors, collaborative music events, new playground equipment and firemen visiting. We hope you enjoy reading about all the opportunities pupils have had this month as you tuck into some hot cross buns and crème eggs!

Mrs K Hrabovsky

Dates for your diary...

Monday 1 – Friday 12 April (inclusive): Easter Holidays

- **Monday 15 April:** Summer term A begins, canteen and After Hours available as usual.
- **Friday 19 April:** VCB Prep and Inchmarlo Open Morning, 9.30-11.30am
- **Monday 22 April:** Summer term extra-curricular activities and swimming lessons begin.
- **Friday 26 April:** Preps 5-7 attending tennis event at Windsor Tennis Club (*details to follow*)

Wednesday 1 May: Friends of Prep Games Night in Harlequins @ 7pm

Mary Poppins Junior

Our Prep 7 girls ensured the Spring Term ended in style with two amazing performances of Mary Poppins Junior. The cast danced, sang and entertained the audience who were enthralled by their characterisation and professionalism. How they remembered all the lines, dance routines and entrance cues is a mystery almost as confusing as Mary Poppins bottom-less bag! Well done to all the cast and the super chorus of Prep 1-6 girls who supported them brilliantly throughout with their own class numbers and songs. A truly supercalifragilisticexpialidocious event!





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Pre-School

Pre-school have been having lots of fun with their new playground equipment. The girls have been climbing and swinging and developing their gross motor skills. We also have new space hoppers and a lovely little playhouse. Over the next few weeks we will be doing some planting in the playground and learning how to take care of the flowers and herbs that we plant.



In the classroom, we are learning to take care of our friends and to consider how others are feeling. We have been working in little groups and figuring out how to deal with differences of opinion in our play. The girls are doing well with this tricky developmental area. They are really enjoying painting pictures in pairs and reading books together. Well done girls!

World Book Day 2024



World Book Day is always an exciting celebration with discussions about costumes and characters taking place weeks before the event – even in the staffroom! This year, as well as our traditional dress-up day, we highlighted the works of some outstanding female authors as it coincided with International Women's Day. Thank you to all who supported the Scholastic Book Fair in School during the lead up to World Book Day. Over £500 was raised for School to put towards purchasing new Accelerated Reader titles in our class libraries.



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Prep 1

P1 have been finding out about people who help us in an emergency. We had a most exciting visit from the Cadogan Fire team and tried out being trainee fire fighters, we learned about the job of a teacher when Miss Bodner, our Erasmus teaching student told the girls about schools in Austria, and we are looking forward to finding out about Nurse Fiona's job. We have been working very hard to perfect our Mary Poppins song, ready for our first whole school show!



Prep 2

It has been a super busy month in P2 as we have been preparing our dance routine and practicing the songs for the upcoming school production of Mary Poppins Jr. Away from all the preparations, P2 have enjoyed saying goodbye to the dark winter mornings by writing about the signs of spring, creating spring acrostic poems. They also enjoyed a trip to the park where they explored the signs of Spring in the natural world.

To celebrate World Book Day at the start of March, Prep 2 visited the library where Ms Farrelly shared a Julia Donaldson story with the girls before they indulged in some personal reading time from the class library. We are growing in confidence with our phonics skills and are able to tackle quite tricky stories independently.





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Prep 3

This term in Prep 3 we have been busy learning about weather. Through our topic work, we investigated and contrasted the weather conditions in arctic and desert locations, and we have completed some fun science investigations looking at the impact of wind and rainfall – never a difficulty getting this weather in Northern Ireland! Through all this work the pupils have been developing their enquiry skills, of predicting, observing, measuring, recording, evaluating, and concluding their findings. Prep 3 also planned, wrote and filmed themselves presenting the weather forecast in front of a green screen. We had some very competent and professional meteorologists!



Prep 4



Another busy month in Prep 4 with lots of exciting lessons! In World Around Us, we have been researching about World War II and we recreated some propaganda posters. We learned about rationing and why 'Digging for Victory' was important during the war so we thought it would be good fun to have a go of our own. Each class in Prep now has their own planter in our garden area where we will all grow some vegetables or flowers. Prep 4 enjoyed researching what vegetables would be suitable to grow in our country. We decided to have a go growing carrots and enjoyed getting our planter ready with compost and sowing seeds. Hopefully we will have some delicious carrots in a few months ready to sell.

Prep 5

This term, the P5 girls were delighted to welcome Mrs McCoy, from the Schools Music Service to our classroom for a set of seven music making sessions on Friday afternoons. Mrs McCoy taught the girls songs and introduced them to a wide range of percussion instruments which they used as accompaniment to the pieces. In addition, Miss Nixon helped the girls to compose their own piece, "Train Journeys" using their own ideas and choices of instruments to great effect!

On Thursday 14th March, the girls travelled to Hazelwood Integrated Primary School to perform alongside five other schools. The girls thoroughly enjoyed both performing their own pieces and watching the other schools take part in this exciting and worthwhile venture.





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ECO Team in Action

Last month the Eco team encouraged all pupils to recycle their soft plastic waste. We wish to thank you for your support with this project as we were able to recycle 308g of soft plastic. This has now been added to soft plastics recycling trolley in Tesco's. We have also been working with the RSPB who came to school recently and positioned 6 swift bird boxes to Drumglass House. Next time you walk past take a look toward the roof and see if you can spot them. Lets also cross our fingers and hope that we see some swift birds using these boxes to nest in this summer.



Swimming Stars



Congratulations to our Prep 7 club swimmers who were in action at Belfast Royal Academy on 6th March. Cara Savage took gold in both breaststroke and freestyle. Daisy Coggins took gold in backstroke. The four girls swam in the "mixed" relay against several strong teams and were narrowly put in to second place by Ben Madigan boys' team. Eunice, Cara, Daisy and Lucy were placed first against the other competing girls' teams. A fantastic afternoon of swimming, well done girls!

CAST Success

The Lagan Festival of Speech, Drama, Music & Art hosted over 800 competitors this year. Many of our CAST girls placed highly commended, 3rd, 2nd & 1st across the poetry classes, prose classes & art competition. Nearly half of all the girls signed up to CAST competed in the festival. We are very proud of everyone for taking part and working so hard in the run up to the competition. CAST lessons will resume for the Summer Term from Friday 19 April.

Friends of Prep
VICTORIA COLLEGE BELFAST

Harlequins Games Night

Wednesday 1st May @ Harlequins FRC
7pm to late, meal included
Licenced bar on site
A fun night for parents and children!
Further details to follow after Easter



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Prep 6



Prep 6 have enjoyed a series of classroom visits this month. Building on their entrepreneurial skills at the craft fair, the Young Enterprise workshop explored the impact of exporting and importing goods. Pupils had to design their own advertising campaign for a product, remembering that this might need to be adapted according to their target market and demographic. We have no doubt these young ladies will be leaders in business and marketing in the future! We have also benefitted from participating in Queens University's Philosophy for Children programme with students Miss O'Keeffe and Miss Kirsten promoting deeper thinking, empathy and problem solving through stories and characterisation in drama skits. It has been such a privilege to run this course with the pupils.

Prep 7

P7 have been very busy rehearsing for their production of Mary Poppins Junior. However, they have also managed to enjoy their curriculum lessons this term, enter the Young Writers poetry competition, have their finished poems published in a book and welcome a new pupil to the class. Not to mention our netball, hockey and cross-country successes. A multi-talented group of ladies indeed!





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Archery Achievement

Congratulations to Mariam in Prep 7 who participated in the Northern Ireland archery Schools Cup competition on Saturday 23 March representing Victoria College Prep. She was one of the youngest contestants but that did not hold Mariam back as she won a bronze medal in her category! Mariam was in the recurve tier 2 category and as recurve is the bow style used in the Olympics, we have high hopes for even greater success in the future.



Hockey Stars



The Prep A & B hockey teams competed in the Belfast area heats on 14 March despite freezing temperatures and constant rainfall. The girls on both squads did a brilliant job representing the school and showcasing our sports talent, finishing third overall. The Prep A team have now been invited to the NI Finals on 19 April at Stormont Pavilion and we wish them every success. Go Victoria!

Amazing Readers!

What an end to the term. The Prep girls have really embraced our Accelerated Reader programme – look how many Prep 3-7 pupils reached their target before the Easter break. Not only that, but we have new Word Millionaires on our Millionaire Row plus a quadruple Millionaire in Prep 4!

