

Prep Department Report

This year has seen record numbers of pupils in our Reception Class. Excellent results are being achieved in this area of the school, with many children working beyond our expectations. For the first time, we shall be offering two Prep 1 classes in September.

Academic performance at Key Stage 1 is still well above the expected level 2, with 63% even achieving level 3 in numeracy Well done to all Prep 6 pupils who shone in the 11 Plus entrance exam and to Trinity pupil Jessica Holding who gained a top scholarship for entry into Year 7.

Music and expressive and performing arts:

English Speaking Board continues to flourish, with over forty-two pupils sitting their ESB exam. The examiner was very impressed with the quality of performance and remarked "I have learnt a lot from these interesting, eloquent and confident children. Their enthusiasm was infectious!"

For the first time, we entered Plymouth Festival and won two of the three classes entered. First places were won by Edmund Twohig and Oliver Holdup. A record sixty-four children entered the Exeter Festival and for the first time we had entries from Reception and Year 1. Young blood indeed! Nine cups were won overall, with first places going to Hollie Robinson, Indy Henderson, Patrick Kelly, Emma Hawley, Ewan Mackay and two to Freddie Fearnley. Year Four were destined for great heights, as they competed magnificently and for the first time, in Choral Speaking. Their performance of 'The Wind' and 'The Ning, Nang, Nong' were so good, that their marks not only earned them Winner of the Class, but the overall

Speaking cup:

More recently, we held a Rotary Speaking competition for our older juniors, with thirty-six entrants. Well done to Byron Jennings and Daisy Waggett for winning their classes. The Rotary Competition is now set to become an annual event.

This year saw Music and Drama working closely together. The infants' 'A Tale of Two Birthdays' at Christmas and the Drama Club's 'Doo Wop Wed Widing Hood' in March, played to packed audiences. Our Chamber Choir have enjoyed a busy year. They entered the Devon Performing Arts festival in Exeter and for the second year won their class. The Inter-house Music Festival, Devon County Show and Junior and Infant X-Factors give our students plenty of opportunity to perform, as does the Prep Rock Band 'Kick' who cut their first CD 'Put Your Foot Down' (please see Mr Graham Foulser, the band's manager for your copy!). The choir also sang at the St Michael's Flower Festival and the Summer Concert clearly showed that music is very much thriving.

Art:

Art continues to be a successful area. At the South-west ISA Art Competition, Reception student Lottie Atkinson and Year 2 pupil Callum Bevis were winners. At the Devon County Show, a large number of prizes were won, with particular congratulations to Jean Luc Chenery, Lydia Waggett and Natasha Davey who won their classes. During the year local artists Liz Mogford and Greg Ramsden have been working with Prep 1 and Prep 6 children. The children's work has been exhibited locally as part of the International Art Forum.

Extra-curricular activities and outings:

Our extra-curricular programme continues to develop, with some joint sport clubs being run with Year 7, two art clubs, and the introduction this year of Hand Chimes and C.A.B. (children against bullying).

This expansion will continue next year when Louise Knapman from the Dawlish Academy of Dance will be offering Ballet, Tap and Jazz classes. There will be an opportunity for pupils to enter exams with the Royal Academy of Dance.

Special Days have included a PSHE Day which included visits from the Coastguards, The Fire Brigade, Shaldon Wildlife Trust and two highly popular guide dogs and our Maths 'Tableathon' was won by Ugbrooke House. Successful Joint Days with the Senior Department included Geography, Sport and Art. Our Activity Week, on the theme of The Olympics, was greatly enjoyed by the children. One child commented "we achieved so much in just a few days". The organisation of team-building activities such as these allows our children to demonstrate team spirit and emphasises Trinity's ethos of empathy, caring and supporting each other.

Sport:

In sport, in the National ISA Cross-country, Harry Hawkins represented the South West. Shona Plunkett, Dominique Ford and Louis Weight attended the National ISA Athletics, with Shona becoming the national high-jump champion, for the second year.

Tennis continues to expand, with over sixty children receiving lessons. Shona Plunkett, Emma Hayes, Rhia Lloyd and Annie Downey have represented the school at 13 and Under level and have helped the team reach the semi-finals of the County league. Joe Wilcox, a Year 4 pupil competed in the 13 and Under ISA Schools Tennis event in May, reaching the Semi-Finals. In swimming, Emma Hawley and Freddie Fearnley represented the South West at the National Swimming finals in Coventry, with Freddie gaining third place in both events.

We look forward to expanding and developing our sport next year with the appointment of two new teachers.

Conclusion:

Reflecting on this past year, there have been yet again so many achievements made. Our children have strived, often outside their comfort zones, to give of their very best, supporting each other, and reaching their potential. I would like to thank the Preparatory department staff for their commitment, hard work and enthusiasm. Very well done, children and staff. Sadly this year we say goodbye to Mr Rob Giffard, Mrs. Caroline Phillips and Christian Dobson and wish them all the very best for the future.

Mrs Jean Whatling,

Head of Preparatory Department