

# Warwick Prep

Spring 2025

*Life*



## What's inside

### Springing into action

Children in The Squirrels Nursery have been celebrating Nowruz and painting stunning spring flowers.

### Fine prize cow

Read all about the Reception children's countryside adventures as they learn about life on the farm.

### Squirrel's Den

The Year 6 girls launched their own virtual businesses and pitched their ideas to a highly discerning Year 5 audience!





# Welcome from the Head



**As we approach the end of term, the Editors and I are delighted to share with you some of the experiences and achievements that have enriched our school community over the past weeks.**

Our Spring Term Editors have done a fabulous job of distilling the spirit of another hugely successful term at Warwick Prep. The golden threads of all the opportunities and experiences we have enjoyed together are our school values and Skills for Life.

Amongst the highlights, we have seen Year 1 embarking on a thrilling journey to the Polar Lands, immersing themselves in the wonders of these frozen landscapes, sparking curiosity and a deeper understanding of our planet's diverse environments. Year 6 have displayed typical Squirrel Spirit in abundance as they delved further into our Skills for Life and also started to consider life beyond Warwick Prep. Equally exciting have been the off-site expeditions that have broadened our children's horizons both locally and further afield; don't miss reading all about Year 5's adventures in France!

On the sporting front, our annual Netball Tournament was a resounding success, with twelve teams showcasing their skills.

Our swim squads and athletics team have enjoyed various fixtures both home and away, and we are incredibly proud of our ski team's outstanding performances, demonstrating that Warwick Prep's excellence extends way beyond the classroom.

Music continues to be a cornerstone of school life. The Year 2 and Year 3 instrumental Showcases were an absolute joy and demonstrated the breadth of our musical offering. The Spring Concert was quite incredible, a sentiment echoed by so many who were there, and featured The Luminae Trio, our Chamber Music group, who reached the national finals of the prestigious Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival.

Our school community's compassion shone brightly during Pet Week and through our Comic Relief fundraising efforts. The generosity displayed reminds us of the importance of empathy and social responsibility, as exemplified by our 'Squirrels in the Community'. As I write, WPSA's Easter Egg hunt is in full swing and as the warmer days of spring have finally arrived, it is a joy to see the children enjoying time together through the hard work and commitment of our WPSA Committee.

All that remains is for me to thank the inspirational staff who lead every day with vision and vigour to enable all this to happen, and to thank our parents for their tremendous support of all we do. I wish you all a happy Easter, with plenty of time for rest and recreation.

**Mrs Hellen Dodsworth**  
Headmistress

# Welcome from the Principal



**One of the joys of our Myton Road campus is the access it gives to all our pupils to such an amazing array of facilities.**

I overlook the Head's Garden, which has been home to our Warwick Prep Forest School for some years, and it is now also the venue for a new

Warwick Junior School gardening club. All manner of seeds have been planted in readiness for a new raised bed (tomatoes get a big thumbs up, broad beans a rather more mixed response). I shouldn't be at all surprised if, after Easter, the boys are showing off their new gardening exploits to the Warwick Prep children, and that before we know it, there's a Prep vegetable patch too!

I have always believed that education is about opening as many doors as possible for young people and keeping them open for as long as possible. That may be through a broad and varied curriculum offer, vibrant experiences outside the classroom, or meaningful opportunities to engage with the wider community – ideally (and here), all three. These experiences over the duration of a school career enable each one of our pupils to get the best out of themselves and to give the best of themselves to others.

Whilst each school does this brilliantly for the pupils directly in their care, being part of a family of schools provides an extra layer of richness. Some initiatives grow organically from pupil or staff interests, whilst others come from a more structured approach.

One such development has been the extension of 'link days' between the Prep and Juniors. This term has seen activities in engineering and arts for Years 3 and 4. They are important opportunities for the girls and boys to 'check in' with each other, and to explore common interests. Another structured change has been the introduction of the Junior Foundation Symphony Orchestra, whose first performance is this term, bringing together the orchestras of Kingsley Prep, Warwick Prep, and Warwick Juniors.

These types of opportunities simply cannot be provided by single schools on their own.

Amidst the profound challenges the independent schools sector is facing, our ethos and values as a community have never been more important. We cannot compete with the political headwinds, but we can proudly and boldly restate our purpose: to transform lives through the power of education. We live that every day and know that our pupils, your children, benefit in so many different ways from a very distinctive education.

Thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support.

**Mr Richard Nicholson**  
Foundation Principal



# Meet the Editors

Introducing our Spring Term team of Editors who have been working hard behind the scenes on Warwick Prep Life magazine. Alice, Emily, Karen, Mila, Olivia and Tuppence, in Year 6, have interviewed members of staff and written informative articles. Let's find out what they enjoyed most about their role as Editors.

“

I found it interesting to see behind the scenes of our everyday school life.

Olivia

“

I enjoyed working together and learning more about people through interviewing; I would recommend applying to be an Editor!

Emily

“

I loved being an Editor because I really liked interviewing Mrs Smeeton!

Alice



“

I liked learning lots of new skills.

Tuppence

“

I enjoyed working collaboratively as a team and interviewing.

Mila

“

My favourite part of being an Editor was writing articles.

Karen





PRE-PREP NUTKINS NEWS

# Blooming at Nutkins

The Nutkins children have continued to enjoy the Thursday morning 'stay and play' sessions in The Squirrels Nursery. They have grown in confidence and have begun to form friendships, eagerly taking part in the planned activities.

The children have joined in with circle time, standing tall like pencils, balancing bean bags on their heads and taking giant steps. Miss Hollocks, our Early Years music teacher, has sung songs with the children as they marched like soldiers to the beat of the music.

In the Art Room, the children have been making Mothering Sunday cards and spring crafts, developing their fine motor skills by snipping paper daffodils and Easter chicks to take home. Easter eggs were decorated in preparation for our Easter egg hunt in Forest School which marked our final session of the Spring Term.



A chirpy Easter chick!



Carefully cutting out beautiful paper daffodils



Being creative with playdough



Creating Valentine's cards in the Art Room



Crafting an Easter chick



Building big



# PRE-PREP THE SQUIRRELS NURSERY NEWS

## Blossoming creativity



This term, children in The Squirrels Nursery enjoyed the spring festival of Navrose (Nowruz), fostering a sense of community and respect for different cultures. Orion's Mummy came in to talk about the traditions that they follow as a family, such as the Haft-Seen table with things that bring good luck. Orion and Yara came dressed up in their new clothes to celebrate the festival. We finished with a happy dance and made wishes for a happy new year.

As part of this term's Skills for Life, the Nursery children showed wonderful kindness – helping their friends put on aprons, showing care, tidying up and drawing pictures to give as gifts.

In order to develop the children's pencil control, they are given lots of opportunities to improve their fine motor skills and hand-eye co-ordination. Transferring objects with tweezers and threading beads onto pipe cleaners to make icicles are popular activities.

Another way to brush up children's fine motor skills is to clean their shoes! This Montessori practical life activity also helps the children develop their concentration in a fun way, as well as their independence skills. We saw some beautifully polished shoes!

The children are encouraged to foster their creativity in the Art Room, exploring and experimenting with paint. The Nursery walls are filled with their vibrant spring artwork, featuring daffodils, blossom and beautiful flowers inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe.



Amishka, in NWR, painting a cheery spring flower



Archie, in NPB, polishing his shoes



Chloe and Isla, in NHT, being creative in the Art Room



Emily, in NPB, transferring beads with tweezers



Spring flower painting by Taotao in NPB



Spring flower painting by Ivana in NWR



Evie, in NHT, with the Maclaren Acorn for kindness



Felicity, Elvis and Raffy, in NWR, testing their fine motor skills



Orion and Yara, in NWR, celebrating Nowruz



PRE-PREP – RECEPTION NEWS

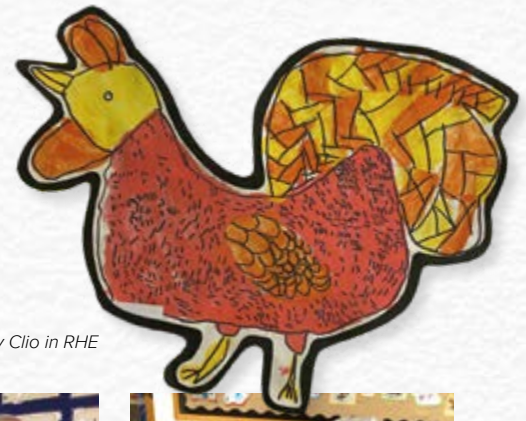
# Down on the farm

How long would it take to travel to the Sun? This was just one of the many thoughtful questions posed by the Reception children during their work on 'Space' this term. They enjoyed exploring the Solar System, identifying planets and finding out about life onboard the International Space Station.

Throughout the topic, the children engaged in a variety of space-themed tasks, including creating junk model rockets, painting aliens and paper plate planets and writing a list of items that they would take to space with them. In Music lessons, they listened to and responded to pieces of music from 'The Planets Suite' by Gustav Holst. Such was the enthusiasm for the topic that many children completed related activities out of school, including building rockets, going to local libraries to find books about space and visiting the National Space Centre in Leicester.

After half term, the children began their next topic, 'Why do we need farms?' The children compared town and countryside, using thinking maps to illustrate what they may find in each. We shared farm-related stories including 'Rosie's Walk' and 'What the Ladybird Heard'. Inspired by Pat Hutchins, all classes created fantastic artwork and wrote imaginative 'Wanted' posters describing Hefty Hugh and Lanky Len.

In the Imagination Station, we thought about why the 'fine prize cow' in 'What the Ladybird Heard' had won a rosette and back in the classroom, we designed our own award-worthy rosettes.



Hen from Rosie's Walk by Clio in RHE



Alex, in RHE, with her rosette for the 'fine prize cow'



Jessica, in REB, dressed as Neil Armstrong with her Alien in Underpants



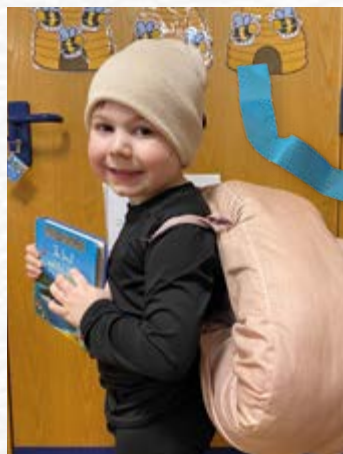
Emily and Grace, in RKC, building a farm animal home



Hannah, Titilayo and Emma, in RSJ, sorting pictures into countryside and town



Windmill from Rosie's Walk by Anatolia in RSJ



Benjamin, in RHE, inspired by The Snail and the Whale on World Book Day



Teddy, in REB, making moon craters

Alien in Underpants by Rowan in REB



## PRE-PREP – YEAR 1 NEWS

# Polar explorers

What a wonderful start to the year! The Year 1 children have enjoyed creatively exploring their topic of the 'Polar Lands'. Many discussions have taken place about the animals and people of the Arctic and the Antarctic. Everybody has grown in confidence when justifying their opinions or building on their peers' ideas.

A highlight of the term was a visit from Andrew Cooney, Antarctic explorer, who inspired us all to be brave, confident, resilient and to follow our dreams. The children loved investigating his expedition equipment and asked lots of interesting questions about his incredible achievement of walking to the South Pole.

Science lessons have been a firm favourite this term, sparking curiosity and creativity. The children made predictions and carried out investigations linked to our 'Polar Lands' topic. They freed animals from ice, decided on the best insulators to keep an ice troll frozen and investigated how polar bears and penguins survive by having waterproof coats and layers of blubber. Our lessons have been filled with teamwork, decision making, laughter and lively discussion. Would you rather be a polar bear or a penguin?



Arctic polar bear by Sophia in 1SC



Arctic polar bear by Zara in 1JF



Arctic polar bear by Rivan in 1JB



Holly and Callen, in 1SC, releasing polar animals from the ice



Pupils in 1JF meeting Andrew Cooney



Edward, Rosie, Ahaana and Baxter, in 1HC, experimenting with 'waterproof' flippers!



Amira, in 1JB, trying on Andrew Cooney's expedition clothing



Matilda, in 1HC, testing out Andrew Cooney's polar goggles



# Tale as old as time

What a busy and productive term this has been in Year 2! The Spring Term began with zooming-in on traditional tales, exploring 'Cinderella' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We then shared the story 'The Day the Crayons Quit' and the children used this for inspiration to write three different styles of colour-themed poems.

Connecting with our History topic, the children produced diary entries and a non-fiction fact file about the Great Fire of London. They thoroughly enjoyed their topic on 'Fantasy Stories' where they focused on dragons and explored problems and solutions in their fiction writing.

In Maths, the term began with a strong focus on 'Multiplication and Division' involving practical, pictorial and abstract representations. The children have been practising their 2-, 5- and 10-times tables. We then introduced 'Data Handling' and learnt how to use tally charts, pictograms and block diagrams as methods to display and interpret information. The children also explored 2D and 3D shapes, symmetry and repeating patterns. At the end of term, they looked at simple fractions – halves, quarters, thirds and three-quarters of shapes and numbers.

In Science, the pupils had great fun learning about 'Electricity', especially when they went to Mrs Charl's Science Lab to build and test circuits!

After the half term break, they investigated 'Plants as Living Things' and used cress to find out what plants need for healthy growth. In History, the children learnt about The Great Fire of London and William Shakespeare. In Geography, they explored maps and plans using symbols, grid references and compasses.

The children rose to the challenge in PSHEE, learning both the words and sign language for all twenty-six 'Thinking Moves'. They also tackled 'The Pasta Challenge' which saw them moving spaghetti one piece at a time using only their index finger on one hand. They quickly discovered that teamwork was the key to success!

Throughout everything we have undertaken this term, the children have continued to use their Critical Thinking skills brilliantly. Well done, everyone!



Still life by Aveer in 2AW



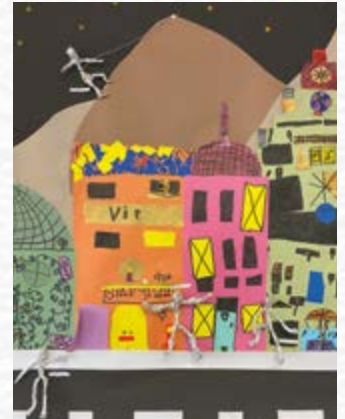
Pupils in 2JW performing in their Strings Showcase



Henri Matisse inspired 'Les Oiseaux' by Francesca in 2EC



Pupils in 2AD learning to play winter themed music



Town sculpture scene by pupils in 2JW inspired by Alberto Giacometti



Pupils in 2EC enjoying their Music lessons



Still life by Thomas in 2AD



Pupils in 2AW celebrating World Book Day



# PREP – YEAR 3 NEWS

## Stone Age explorers

The Year 3 girls have had a wonderful term, with the highlight being their trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park. The pupils visited the park to connect with their Geography topic on Madagascar and were especially thrilled to see the lemurs up close as they eagerly gathered for feeding time. With the sun shining, everyone explored the park, finding some of the "Big Five" from Africa too.

In History, the focus has been on the Stone Age to Iron Age. The girls had fun visiting the Headmaster's Garden (next to Forest School) to create weapons and miniature Stonehenges. An impressive amount of "flint" was discovered and the teachers were impressed by the pupils' creativity in bringing prehistory to life.

In Music, the Year 3 Instrumental Showcase for parents and family was a great success. A standout moment was the whole year group's rendition of "Mr Cool". Everyone has embraced their new instruments, including the J-sax, flute, clarinet, pBone, and pTrumpet.

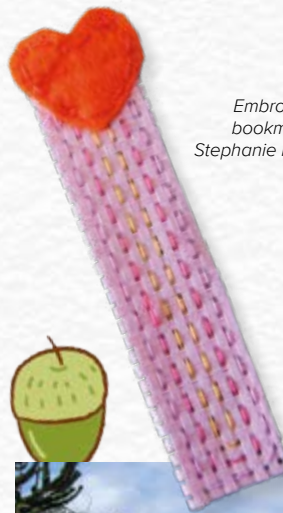
In English, pupils linked their learning to History by writing wonderfully imaginative stories about travelling back in time to the Stone Age. With their first-ever LAMDA exams approaching in the Summer Term, work has begun on learning poems and Drama sessions with Miss Spring, Head of Drama at King's High School, have been a big hit!



Up close with the giraffes at the Cotswold Wildlife Park



Embroidered bookmark by Sophia in 3LG



Embroidered bookmark by Stephanie in 3NM



Isabella, in 3NM, was thrilled to spot a red panda at the Cotswold Wildlife Park!



Amarjot, in 3LW, investigating colour absorption in Science with Eric



Meeting the lively lemurs at the Cotswold Wildlife Park



Diana and Harriet, in 3LW, testing opacity of liquids in Science



Pupils in 3NM celebrating World Book Day





# Marching with the Romans

The Year 4 girls reconnected with the boys from Warwick Junior School for a fun and collaborative morning of Maths activities, using creativity, logic and teamwork. The boys and girls worked together in teams to tackle various tasks, including a quiz, shape-work and a co-ordinates Battleship game. They supported each other throughout and enjoyed playing together in the Warwick Junior School playground.

In English and History, the pupils have been marching with the Romans, learning about their empire and time in Britain. They have used the fabulous History timeline which adorns the Lower School stairs to connect key events with their existing knowledge of the Greeks and Romans. The girls have learnt about many aspects of Roman life – from their gods to their bathing rituals – as well as the bravery of Boudicca in resisting Roman rule and the empire's lasting legacy on Britain.

Nerves were put aside for the LAMDA exams in February where the Year 4 pupils recited two poems from memory to the examiners. Staff were thrilled with the results and we extend our congratulations to all the girls who took part.



Lily, in 4HF, celebrating World Book Day dressed as Paddington Bear



Annabel, in 4VS, experimenting with egg density



Picasso inspired self-portrait by Eleanor in 4HF



Picasso inspired self-portrait by Lucy in 4VS



Amelia, Poppy, Annabelle and Maddie, in 4VS, going wild at the WPSA Wild Disco



Milly, in 4HF, taking on Battleships on Link Day



Stella, Willow and India, in 4HF, investigating states of matter with oobleck



# PREP – YEAR 5 NEWS

## Fantastique!

This term has been packed with engaging experiences, inspiring discussions and a deep dive into history, literature and empathy.

History came to life as the pupils took part in our immersive History Day. Sargeant Parsons, dressed in full uniform, transported us back in time with his incredible storytelling, making the past feel vividly real. Our VR trench experience provided a powerful glimpse into life on the front-line during World War I. Mr Sandu and Mr Lewis delivered an informative and thought-provoking talk, helping us further understand the technologies used. Adding to the experience, the girls showcased their dramatic skills in reenactments that truly captured the emotions and struggles of the time.

On World Book Day, the children had great fun coming to school dressed as their favourite book characters. The highlight of the day was our engaging debate: If you could take only one book to a desert island which would it be? The discussions were passionate, with compelling arguments for classics, adventures and modern favourites.

In our English lessons, we've been exploring 'Wonder' as part of our Empathy unit. The pupils brought in their own precepts – personal guiding principles which led to meaningful discussions about kindness, courage and understanding others.

The highlight of the term was undoubtedly our unforgettable residential trip to France. After settling into the château, the girls embraced French culture, using their language skills at mealtimes and enjoying activities like camouflage games and quizzes. They explored a snail farm where many bravely sampled escargots and



Spring flowers by Alyssa in 5AM

Spring flowers by Anna M in 5JJ

spent a sunny afternoon at the beach, building sandcastles and indulging in crêpes. Our visit to historical World War I sites, including the Lochnagar Crater, Beaumont-Hamel, and Thiepval Memorial, was deeply moving, with the girls showing great respect and interest in learning about the past. Evenings were spent singing around the campfire and playing games, making lasting memories with friends.

The trip also brought plenty of opportunities to explore French cuisine and shopping! The girls visited Le Touquet market where they enthusiastically picked out local delicacies for a food-tasting evening, trying cheeses, pâtés, jam and more. Another sun-soaked afternoon at the beach was followed by a guided tour of Rue, discovering key landmarks. As the trip came to an end, the final treat was a visit to a chocolate factory! The Year 5 girls returned home with new friendships, stories to share and a greater appreciation for French culture.

What a fantastic term of learning and discovery!



Games and singing around the campfire



Eliska and Ottie, in 5KC, enjoying French crêpes



Daisy, Georgia Bee and Avery, in 5JJ, sampling snails!



Taliah, in 5KC, sampling delicious chocolates



Jessica W, Jessica G, Pippa, Emily and Sophia, in 5AM, celebrating World Book Day



Fun on the beach!





# Entrepreneurial spirit

The Spring Term has been very busy but great fun for the Year 6 girls. They started the term by thinking about everything involved with putting on a Summer Term production. They had a talk from Ian at the Bridge House Theatre to understand how to create special effects on stage and the role of the Tech Crew. This led to auditions where all the girls were encouraged to act and sing in front of the whole year group. We are now in the midst of learning lines, songs and dances for 'Newsies Jr.' which the pupils are excited to perform in June.

Weekends have been spent working on a variety of Skills For Life modules, from managing a budget to create a new bedroom design, to learning about inspirational women in History, creating islands with new species and producing healthy space smoothies for astronauts.

As part of the PSHEE curriculum, Year 6 pupils from Warwick Prep and Warwick Junior School took part in a Loudmouth workshop about safe relationships. The pupils watched and learnt about specific scenarios, sharing their thoughts and increasing their understanding of what is safe. This was followed a few weeks later by a joint assembly at Warwick Junior School about hate crime, racism, homophobia and misogyny.

Tuesday 4 March was Mars Day! The children had an assembly all about the Red Planet, then learnt about how Dust Devils form on the Martian surface. They took part in a live lesson about the next Artemis missions to the moon and the Lunar Gateway – a space station planned to be assembled in orbit around the moon.

At the end of March, the girls spent an action-packed day at Challenge Academy, taking part in team-building activities and pushing themselves to complete challenging high-wire courses. They learnt the importance of clear communication and evaluating performance as a means of being successful.

The last part of the term was spent working in teams to set up a virtual business. Each team shared ideas, invented a new product, created an advert and 'pitched' their ideas to a tough a Year 5 audience. Dragon's Den, here we come!



Amelie, in 6CM, with her new island – Isle of Meliea



Sienna, in 6SW, with her new island – Sennie's Island



Sophie, in 6SW, with her space-themed bedroom mood board



Prabhjot, in 6SW, taking on the climbing wall at Challenge Academy



Sophia, in 6CM, pushing her limits at Challenge Academy



3D clay Converse sculpture by Tuppence in 6CM



3D clay Converse sculpture by Mila in 6SW



## SPORT



# Sports Round-up

This term, our pupils have shown remarkable enthusiasm, talent and determination in a wide range of sports. From tense football matches to inspiring athletic performances, it has been a term filled with achievements that highlight the hard work, teamwork and spirit that defines our school.

In swimming, our pupils have competed at several high-profile events. The Warwick 50s Swimming Gala which hosted eighteen schools, was a key highlight. Our Year 6 team had the privilege of competing in the U12 event against some tough competition and they finished a commendable 8th overall. This achievement not only reflects the team's swimming ability but also their dedication and teamwork.

Our swimmers also participated in a gala with the U12 and U13 teams from King's High School, along with swimmers from Warwick Junior School and Warwick School. The event, held against Bromsgrove, was a fantastic display of strength across our swimming teams. Our pupils not only set new personal best times but also demonstrated improved techniques they have been perfecting throughout the term. The Foundation team emerged victorious with an impressive 190 points!

In the U8AB/U9AB swimming gala against Solihull Prep School, our Year 3 and Year 4 girls, competing alongside Warwick Junior School, faced some tough competition. The U9 team clinched victory overall with Warwick emerging victorious against Solihull. Congratulations to all the swimmers involved for their excellent performances!

Another fantastic event this term was the U10/U11 swimming gala against Blue Coat School and King's Hawford. The competition was intense but our A team swimmers demonstrated excellent focus and determination, resulting in several personal best times.

Netball has been a standout sport this term, with our teams showing fantastic progress. The U10s had a very successful afternoon against the strong Blue Coat School teams, experimenting with different pairings and combinations. The girls showed excellent teamwork and the matches were a perfect opportunity to put the skills and tactics they've been working on in lessons and club sessions into practise. Well done to everyone for their efforts and growth!

The U9s have enjoyed playing in three competitive fixtures against Blue Coat School. Strong performances across all three matches demonstrated the Year 4 girls' development and the children enjoyed putting what they've been learning into action.

The U11 C team had a memorable fixture against a strong RGS team. In a very well-matched encounter, the team stuck to their tasks and pulled away in the final quarter to secure a 9-5 win. Excellent communication and teamwork were key to their success and we couldn't be more proud of their performance.



ISGA Gymnastics 5 Piece



Ottie and Loretta attending the English Champs



U10 team at the Warwick Prep Netball Tournament

For the U10s, the games against Bablake School showed their hard work and basic skill development. With one win and one loss, the games were closely contested and many goals were scored.

A highlight of the term was hosting the annual Warwick Prep Netball Tournament where we welcomed twelve teams in the U11 category and eight in the U10 category. The U11 'Blue' squad had a stellar performance, progressing to the semi-finals before narrowly losing to Heathmount School. The U10 team performed superbly, beating King's Worcester in the semi-final before losing a close final match to Bromsgrove School. Congratulations to all the girls who represented Warwick Prep so well in these prestigious fixtures!

Though early in the athletics season, our U11 Indoor Athletics team had a superb time at the Central Warwickshire Sports Hall Athletics competition. For some athletes, this was their first experience with indoor athletics and the excitement was evident. The team performed brilliantly, finishing as runners-up.

It has also been a successful winter season for our Warwick Prep ski racers. In October, Bea, Loretta, and Ottie won the junior event at the English Schools Ski Association Finals in Norwich, becoming national school champions for the second year in a row – an amazing achievement for them!

In December, a number of students from across the Foundation, including Loretta, travelled to Avoriaz in the French Alps for an exciting week of race training with PDS-Kandahar Racing where they worked hard to improve their technical skills on snow. Over in Obergurgl, Tilly and Trixie raced hard in ski school events, winning gold medals. Effie, Ottie and Lola also skied brilliantly, earning bronze podium places in their age groups.

The skiers have been training diligently at our base in Swadlincote, preparing for the upcoming season of events. Both Loretta and Bea were selected for the English Schools Ski Association Alpine squads.

The Warwick Prep and Foundation skiers are now looking forward to the Summer Term of training and racing at both the English School Ski Association and NSSA events.

This term has been a wonderful celebration of sport at Warwick Prep, and we are incredibly proud of all our pupils. Their achievements reflect their hard work, determination and joy in being part of a community that values sportsmanship and friendship.



Seb, Effie, Ottie and Lola skiing in Obergurgl





# Musical Matters

**This term has been a dazzling showcase of musical talent, with pupils from Years 2 to 6 delivering stunning solo performances in our informal concerts. Their remarkable progress was evident, captivating audiences and highlighting their dedication to their musical journeys.**

A particular highlight was the Year 6 Blue Lagoon Jazz Group, who had the thrilling opportunity to perform at the Bridge House Theatre. Sharing the stage with senior pupils at the King's High School Jazz, Rock, and Pop Concert, they embraced the challenge with enthusiasm, demonstrating their growing confidence and skill.

Meanwhile, our youngest musicians in Year 2 and Year 3 impressed in the Instrumental Schemes, showcasing their development to parents and family with energetic performances such as "Dig that Dog" on string instruments and wind and brass players joining together with "Mr Cool."

The Foundation Chamber Choir delivered a wonderful performance in our whole school assembly. It was a delight to see former Warwick Prep pupils, both boys and girls, return as senior singers.

The Spring Concert provided a superb finale to the term's musical events. Featuring a dynamic mix of ensembles, the evening was a celebration of talent.

Our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils who already play in the Prep Orchestra, took part in the Junior Foundation Symphony Orchestra Day, joining forces with pupils from across the Foundation for a spectacular concert with the Foundation Symphony Orchestra.

Our youngest learners in The Squirrels Nursery had a musical adventure, enjoying an engaging organ demonstration from Mr Hancock. Exploring the 'orchestra in a box,' they discovered the magic of high, low, loud, and soft sounds.

Beyond school events, we were thrilled to participate in the Pro Corda National Chamber Music Festival this year. The Luminae Trio – Alice, Chloe and Holly – worked closely with Mrs Wimpenny and Miss Wrighton in rehearsals and successfully progressed to the finals at Woldingham School in Surrey – a fantastic achievement!

The Spring Term has really celebrated the incredible talent of our young musicians. We look forward to more inspiring performances next term!



Year 6 Blue Lagoon Jazz Group playing at the King's High School Jazz, Rock and Pop Concert



Our Spring Concert



Year 3 pupils performing at the Wood and Brass Showcase



Children in The Squirrels Nursery learning about the organ with Mr Hancock



Our outstanding Luminae Trio



Year 2 pupils performing at the String Showcase



## DRAMA

# Spotlight on Drama

The Spring Term has been an exciting one for Drama. In their Drama lessons, the Year 4 girls applied their knowledge of tone, projection and articulation to short scenes while also practising their LAMDA poems. The results are in and they have done fantastically well – we are very proud of them all!

Pupils in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 have been busy with their Drama Clubs, ably assisted by volunteers from Year 9 and Year 10 at King's High School. In their lessons, they have visited all manner of unusual and wonderful locations, from space to the Wild West. A particular highlight was the Year 2 Drama Club session on World Book Day, with everyone from Hermione to the Hulk making an appearance! World Book Day was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the creation of characters, with teachers and pupils alike bringing their favourite characters and stories to life.

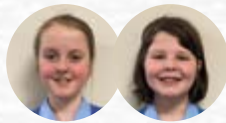
Rehearsals are now well underway for the Year 6 production of 'Newsies Jr.', a fantastic show featuring brilliant, catchy songs and lively dances. Following the success of last year's 'Peter Pan Jr.', it promises to be an absolute hit!



Year 6 rehearsing for their production of Newsies Jr.

BY ALICE AND OLIVIA

## LAMDA



The LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) program offers pupils a fantastic opportunity to develop their performing arts skills from Year 3 to Year 6.

In Year 3 and Year 4, all girls take part in LAMDA, building a strong foundation in drama and performance. Many pupils choose to take the two exams offered during this time, showcasing their progress.

As you move into Year 5 and Year 6, the structure of the program becomes more flexible, with LAMDA lessons becoming optional. This gives you freedom to decide whether to continue. A highlight is the LAMDA Showcase at the Bridge House Theatre where you perform for parents and family. It's very rewarding!

If you are considering LAMDA lessons, go for it. You will love it! The lessons and exams are not only fun but also brilliant for building confidence.

*"I have continued LAMDA and it has built my confidence a lot and has brought me joy"* Olivia, in 6CM

# LAMDA



Performing in the LAMDA Showcase





CHARITY

# Charity News

During the Spring Term, our charitable efforts once again focused on fostering compassion and kindness throughout our community.

We supported Pet Week by inviting the school community to donate pet essentials, including wet and dry food, toys, bedding and grooming equipment. The generous contributions were donated to the Cats Protection and The Biggies' League Rescue for dogs, making a meaningful difference to the animals in their care. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

On Friday 21 March, we celebrated Red Nose Day with the theme 'Do Something Funny for Money'. Pupils were invited to wear a red accessory alongside their normal school uniform for a donation of £2. At lunch, they were treated to a delicious Red Nose muffin, baked by our talented Catering Team!

As part of the event, pupils were encouraged to take on a 'Personal Challenge' – an opportunity to do something that made them feel good or made someone laugh – while being sponsored for their efforts. Challenges included James, in REB, and Pippa, in 2AD, dressing up in fancy dress for a litter pick raising £28.60, Zara, in 1JF, running 1km every day for seven days and raising £170, Emma, in 4HF, swimming the equivalent of Mount Everest in lengths while dressed as a red nose to raise £155.30 and Ronnie, in NWR, who did a good deed each day and raised £110. A huge well done to everyone who took part.

We are delighted to announce that we raised a grand total of £1362.62 in aid of Comic Relief. Thank you to everyone who supported this worthy cause.



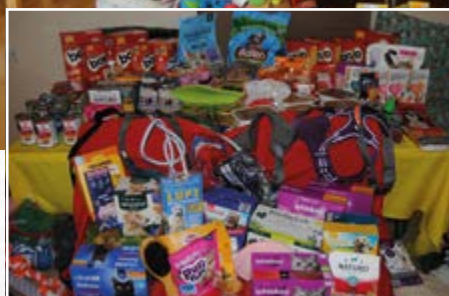
Pupils in 2AD dressing in red for Red Nose Day



Pupils in 2AW supporting Red Nose Day



Our House Captains with Pet Week donations



Generous donations towards Pet Week



Children in RSJ celebrating Red Nose Day



James, in REB, and Pippa, in 2AD, on their personal challenge litter pick for Red Nose Day



Zara, in 1JF, ran 1km every day for her Red Nose Day personal challenge





# COMMUNITY

## Squirrels in the Community

In March, the Year 6 House Captains – Karen, Phillipa, Annabel, Phoebe Florence, Georgia, Athena, Prabhjot, Libby and Bani – along with Spirit the Squirrel, had a pan-tastic time participating in the annual Rotary Club Pancake Race in Market Square, Warwick.

Competing against other local primary schools, the girls ran as fast as they could, skilfully flipping pancakes as they raced.

While they did not win the overall contest, being part of this local event and supporting other schools in the area was a rewarding experience! The girls even had the chance to meet the Mayor and Olly from Molly Ollys Wishes.



Year 6 House Captains meeting the Mayor



Phillipa racing ahead!



With Olly from Molly Ollys Wishes

BY EMILY

## Have you met Ollie, our school dog?



Ollie is Warwick Prep's very first school dog! He started coming to Warwick Prep in November 2022 when he was two years old. Born on 5 August 2020, Ollie will be celebrating his fifth birthday this year.



Ollie



Ollie lives with Mrs Dodsworth and comes into school every Monday, and sometimes other days, to meet the pupils. He also makes special appearances at events such as World Book Day. Having a school dog was an idea raised by the School Council, as dogs are known to have a positive impact on wellbeing. Ollie turned out to be the perfect addition to our school community.

Ollie loves eating chicken and cheese. He also loves soft toys and chewing antlers from Scotland! In his spare time, his favourite activity is going on a walk in the woods and playing 'tuggy' with a piece of rope. Did you know that Ollie is best friends with Spirit the squirrel?!



Ollie with Agatha, from Warwick School, and Parsnip, from King's High School





CHARITY NEWS

# World Book Day

On Thursday 6 March, we celebrated World Book Day with this year's theme, 'Read Your Way'. Research from World Book Day 2024 showed that some children see reading as something they have to do rather than something they choose to do. With this in mind, we wanted to empower the children to discover the joy of reading on their own terms.

Excitement filled the school as the children arrived dressed as their favourite book characters including Dog Man, Isadora Moon, The Snail and the Whale and The Magic Faraway Tree, to name but a few. There were some super homemade creations – thank you to everyone who reused, recycled or repurposed their costumes!

The day began with a brilliant World Book Day assembly featuring the MC Grammar rap dancers. Throughout the day, the children took part in book-themed activities including cracking clues to 'Escape the Library' and enjoying stories outside in the beautiful sunshine.

It was wonderful to see so many children engaged in reading and storytelling in their own unique ways. We hope they have been inspired to continue exploring new books and the joy of reading.

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
6 MARCH 2025



Celebrating World Book Day



## LIBRARY NEWS

# Book Fair

We were delighted to once again collaborate with our brilliant local independent bookshop, Warwick Books, for our Book Fair.

During the Book Fair, every child at Warwick Prep had the opportunity to choose books during the school day and create their own 'Wish List' to take home. Parents were then able to visit the Book Fair to browse and purchase books from their child's 'Wish List'.

The children were very excited to browse the Book Fair and discover new reads. Thank you for your support which is invaluable not only in helping us update our classroom libraries but also in fostering an ongoing love of reading in our pupils.



Our Librarians choosing their favourite books

## LIBRARY NEWS

# National Storytelling Week



During National Storytelling Week, our Librarian, Mrs Giacomelli-Harris, led an assembly to highlight the joy of creating and telling a story. She showed the children that with the roll of a story cube, simple ideas can lead to the creation of the most extraordinary tales.



Emma and Esme, in 3LG, using story cubes with Mrs Giacomelli-Harris

Mrs Giacomelli-Harris also highlighted how telling a story enhances oracy, sentence formation and an awareness of the audience. The children were enthralled as the story progressed and left feeling inspired to create their own story adventures.

We were also delighted to welcome author Robert Alexander, who led an assembly for the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children. The pupils learnt more about his work as an author and had the exciting opportunity to have their copies of 'The Raccoon from Rangoon' signed by him.



Matilda, in 1HC, having her book signed by Robert Alexander



Anatolia, in RSJ, feeling inspired by Robert Alexander



BY ALICE AND OLIVIA

## Spirit investigates... Mrs Smeeton



Together with Spirit, Alice and Olivia interviewed Mrs Smeeton to find out about her role as Head of Pre-Prep.

**Q. What is the best thing about being Head of Pre-Prep?**

**A.** The best part is watching the children grow on their journey from The Squirrels Nursery and Reception all the way to Year 2 and then as they

continue progressing through the school. It's incredible to see how much they change – growing in confidence and personality.

**Q. How do you remember all the names of the children in Pre-Prep?**

**A.** It is tricky to remember everyone's names as there are three-hundred children in Pre-Prep but having a weekly lesson with all the children really helps.

**Q. How do you encourage Critical Thinking and creativity in the children?**

**A.** By providing lots of opportunities for the children to think, question and explore as many different things as possible. Young children are naturally curious so it is our job to help support and encourage them to develop these skills.

**Q. What do you think is the most valuable skill to learn?**

**A.** Perseverance. Being able to keep trying and not give up, even when things go wrong is such an important skill.

**Q. What do you find most rewarding about teaching?**

**A.** I love seeing the moment that a child realises that they can do something, especially reading.

**Q. What is the most memorable lesson you have taught?**

**A.** Gosh, I have been teaching for nearly thirty years so that is really hard! Once in a previous school, I convinced a parent to leave their horse in the playground so that we could pretend that a knight had come to rescue a princess. I even managed to get someone to dress up as a knight! The children were so excited and wrote some fabulous letters to the princess as a result. More recently, I have loved the lessons where the children have been helping to teach the class all about their own beliefs and religions.

**Q. If you could choose any other job in the world, what would you do?**

**A.** As a teenager, I did lots of scuba diving and my dream job (other than teaching) would be to work with the Blue Planet team making documentaries about the fascinating creatures that live in our oceans.

### DIGITAL NEWS

## Safer Internet Day



Safer Internet Day is an annual event celebrated globally that promotes the safe and responsible use of digital technologies, particularly among

children and young people. First launched in 2004 by the European Commission, it has since grown into an international movement, with hundreds of organisations, schools and communities participating worldwide.

The purpose of Safer Internet Day is to raise awareness of the potential risks children and young people face online, such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content, privacy issues and online exploitation. It also encourages safer and more responsible digital behaviour. The day is dedicated to fostering positive conversations about online safety, digital citizenship and the importance of creating a safer internet for everyone.



*Our Digital Leaders with Year 11 students from King's High School*

We marked Safer Internet Day with an assembly led by Mrs Drury, Head of Computing, and our amazing Digital Leaders. They explored this year's theme, 'Too Good to Be True,' by looking at pop-ups and scams. They also introduced AI, explaining how it can help us find information but reminding everyone to check multiple sources before trusting what we read online.

Year 11 students from King's High School shared real-life experiences of online scams, explaining how they or someone they knew had been affected and what they did to resolve the situation. The Digital Leaders also spoke about their role at Warwick Prep, why they chose to become Digital Leaders and how they support their fellow pupils. To round off the assembly, they created a quiz to test everyone's online safety knowledge.



## MATHS SKILLS

# NSPCC Number Day

As part of our commitment to make maths exciting and high-profile, pupils joined schools across the UK in a friendly competition to celebrate the 25th anniversary of NSPCC Number Day. The event raises awareness and funds for the NSPCC while encouraging a love of maths among children.

Pupils across the school took on the 'NSPCC Rocks' challenge on Times Tables Rock Stars, testing their maths skills in a sponsored event. Meanwhile, the Pre-Prep children took part in class-based maths activities, such as building igloos from 3D shapes.

We were thrilled to have raised £660.21 for the NSPCC. Thank you to everyone who supported this fantastic cause!



*Pupils celebrating their NSPCC Rocks success*



*Hattie and Lydia, in 5KC, and Avani and Lily, in 5AM, rocking out on TT Rock Stars!*



*Edward and Francis, in 1HC, taking on a 3D maths challenge*

## MATHS SKILLS

# World Maths Day

World Maths Day celebrates the fascinating world of Mathematics and its profound impact on our lives. Whether you're a numbers whizz, a problem-solving enthusiast, or simply intrigued by the beauty and logic of mathematical concepts, the day encourages us all to embrace the wonders of maths and unleash our inner mathematician. This dedicated day also enables us to recognise the importance of numeracy and mathematical literacy in fostering critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills.



We celebrated World Maths Day with a rather special assembly. Lots of "oooohs" and "ahhhhs" could be heard from the school hall as our guest speaker Mr Wild, Head of Mathematics at King's High School, delivered an engaging and thought-provoking assembly all about division and counting. Mr Wild amazed the children and adults alike and encouraged us all to think about zero and infinity.



*Welcoming Mr Wild on World Maths Day*





OUTDOOR LEARNING

# Forest School

Children in The Squirrels Nursery started the term by searching for signs of winter. On frosty days, they observed ice on the pond, silver frost on trees and hunted for berries, pinecones, brown leaves and bare branches. The Reception children explored the differences between evergreen and deciduous trees, spotted frost-covered cobwebs, bird tracks in the frost or mud, and holly with bright red berries. They were also delighted to see our little feathered friend, the robin!



Titilayo, in RSJ, with her colourful dragon kite

Inspired by the traditional story of 'The Three Little Pigs', the Nursery children enjoyed building homes for the pigs using natural resources found around Forest School. They carefully balanced sticks, wooden blocks and pieces of bark, then used leaves, grass and feathers to make their creations more comfortable.

As part of the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, the Nursery children made bird food to take home and hang in their gardens. After grating apples, bread and cheese, they mixed in bird seed and

placed the mixture into small containers. Meanwhile, the Reception children made bird feeders to hang in Forest School. We think Spirit the Squirrel enjoyed the feeders too!

Towards the end of January, we learnt about Chinese New Year and the symbolism of cherry trees which represent new life and the arrival of spring. Using twigs and tissue paper, the Nursery children created their own cherry blossom trees while the Reception children used their creative skills to make dragon kites with colourful streamer tails which swooped majestically in the wind.

During the second half of the term, we welcomed the arrival of spring with some fabulous sunny days and lessons on growth and new life. Inspired by 'Jack and the Beanstalk', the Nursery children planted runner beans and grass seed in celebration of the festival of Nowruz. They also took great delight in counting the bright, cheery daffodils and admiring the primroses around our Coronation tree.



Baani, in NHT, planting a beanstalk!



Zorah, in NPB, making a beautiful blossom tree



A highlight of the Spring Term was watching Mrs Lees cook over the fire. The Nursery children enjoyed toast with a cup of hot chocolate and on Shrove Tuesday, the Reception children were thrilled to eat pancakes! Some children declared, "This is the best day ever!". The children are well-versed in our fire safety rules, ensuring they sit on their logs, stay outside the fire circle and never touch matches.

To consolidate their Maths learning, the Reception children took part in a variety of challenges, including hunting for a set number of sticks and pebbles before using them to create shapes. As part of their learning on farms, they had great fun constructing farm animal homes using natural materials. Each child eagerly set to work, creating an array of imaginative homes!

Caring for the environment is a key part of our Forest School ethos. The children understand the importance of looking after the garden and know not to pick living plants or flowers. As a Mothering Sunday treat, they made wildflower seed bombs to gift to their mothers or special person in their lives, with some extra bombs planted in our wildflower space.

In Year 1 Forest School lessons, pupils embraced the chilly January days by searching for signs of winter. They then enjoyed making wonderful creations in the mud kitchen, tree climbing, hammering and building dens. Later in the term, they learnt interesting facts about robins, including how they build their nests and the materials they use. Inspired by this, the children worked hard to craft their own nests, with some even balancing twigs and leaves in the trees to create homes high above the ground.

In Year 1 Forest School Club, pupils explored the herb garden, smelling different varieties before planting seeds to grow their own herbs at home. They also used pinecones and pipe cleaners to create imaginative creatures – some with antennae, others with multiple legs, all looking fantastic!

Revisiting their peeling skills, the children concentrated while making magical stick wands. They also learnt how to hammer nails to create rainmakers.

At the end of the Spring Term, all year groups took part in an Easter egg and chick hunt – hidden by the Easter bunny!



Rome and Edith, in RHE, constructing a farm animal home

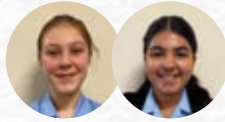


Rosie and Ahaana, in 1HC, building a robin's nest



BY KAREN AND MILA

# In a nutshell



Editors, Karen and Mila, joined Eco Council members Teddy, Elodie and Ophelia, along with Eco Council Leader and Head of Geography, Mrs Griggs, to understand more about how we can take care of our planet.

**Q. Mrs Griggs, when and why did you start the Eco Council group?**

**A.** The group was first started by Mrs Wilkinson over ten years ago and was originally called the 'Eco Amigos'! I took over as Eco Council Leader around five years ago. As Head of Geography, I'm very passionate about the environment and finding ways to make positive changes to protect our planet. I also enjoy bringing together pupils from different year groups.

**Q. Why did you want to become an Eco Councillor?**

**A.** T: I love our planet and protecting the animals too.

**A.** E: I also would like to protect the planet and all animals living in it.

**A.** O: I love animals and wildlife and want to protect them.

**Q. What are your favourite animals?**

**A.** T: My favourite animal is a giraffe.

**A.** E: I would say my favourite is an elephant.

**A.** O: I really like cheetahs.

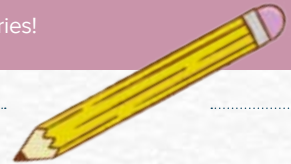


**Q. What is your favourite part about being an Eco Councillor?**

**A.** T: My favourite part was when we led the United Nations World Wildlife Day assembly.

**A.** E: Yes, that was my favourite part too as we launched our Eco Council competition.

**A.** O: I can't wait to see all the entries!



## ECO COUNCIL

# Eco News

The Eco Councillors have been busy this term, meeting regularly to share ideas from their forms. A key concern for everyone is the overuse of electricity, particularly leaving lights on unnecessarily. The Council is encouraging all classes to be mindful of their energy use and to switch off lights and devices when they are not needed.

In March, the Eco Councillors led an impressive school assembly for the United Nations World Wildlife Day. The children spoke

passionately about the importance of protecting our planet and the animals we share it with, inspiring everyone to play their part in caring for the environment. They came up with a fantastic idea for a competition to raise awareness of protecting endangered animals – to create an endangered animal from recycled materials. The Eco Councillors judged all of the entries and were very impressed with how the pupils creatively used recycled items from their homes to make animals! Well done to everyone who took part!



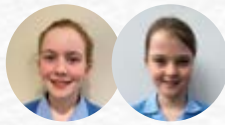
Our Eco Councillors





BY TUPPENCE AND EMILY

## Question time with... Mrs Whitehall



**Q. When did you join Warwick Prep?**

**A.** I joined in September 2024, but it feels like I have been part of the Warwick Prep family for a long time. My children go to school here and I have been involved with WPSA.

**Q. What has been the most enjoyable part of your role?**

**A.** As a form teacher, the most enjoyable part has been getting to know both the other teachers and my form. I love seeing my class every day, especially since I used to work part-time. As Head of PSHEE, I really enjoy teaching and helping children learn how to stay safe. It is very rewarding.

**Q. What do you love about being Head of PSHEE?**

**A.** I love that the role allows me to help the children develop the skills they need to feel safe and confident in the big world. PSHEE also links very closely with Skills for Life.

**Q. What does PSHEE teach the pupils at Warwick Prep?**

**A.** PSHEE equips pupils with the skills they need to make them feel safe and protected. It teaches them how to make the right decisions to stay safe in various situations. Pupils also learn about Protective Behaviours which help build their confidence and awareness.

**Q. What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

**A.** I am always busy with my children and their activities but when I do find time for myself, I love going to see musicals, travelling and going out for dinner. I am a big foodie!

**Q. What is your favourite food, both in and out of school?**

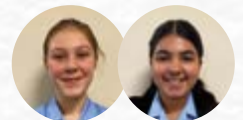
**A.** My favourite school lunch has to be the roast so Thursdays are a win for me! That said, I really enjoy all the school lunches. Outside of school, my favourite food is Southeast Asian, especially Thai food.

**Q. If you didn't have this job, of being a teacher, then what would you be?**

**A.** I think I would have become an optician, as I am really interested in how our eyes work and how we can look after them. It would still involve working with both children and adults and helping people – similar to what teachers do!

BY KAREN AND MILA

## Fuelling our day



School lunches at Warwick Prep are a big part of our day, giving us the energy we need to power through lessons whether in the classroom or outside. Not only are our lunches delicious but they are also nutritious to keep us healthy and strong. Our hardworking Catering Team go above and beyond every day to prepare hot, hearty meals, and they even bake special treats for events like Red Nose Day and Children in Need.

We went behind the scenes to find out which lunches are the Editors' favourites.

**Mila:** Chicken wrap with skinny fries and fruit

**Karen:** Roast dinner and a chocolate cookie with watermelon

**Emily:** Mac and cheese with salad and a fruity flapjack



*Delicious school lunches*



## LINK DAY

# Links with Warwick Junior School

Pupils from Year 3 and Year 4 participated in successful link events with Warwick Junior School.

The Year 3 boys came over to Warwick Prep for a fantastic Maths-themed morning. First, they became 'Engineers,' designing and testing the flight of paper aeroplanes. Then, as 'Artists,' they created pictures using Tangrams before putting their communication skills to the test. They gave their teammates clues to help them recreate the picture without seeing it. The teamwork was brilliant!

Meanwhile, the Year 4 girls walked over to Warwick Junior School for a morning of group activities, including building 3D shapes with matchsticks and plasticine, creating Tangrams and battling it out in a game of Battleships!



A tense game of Battleships!



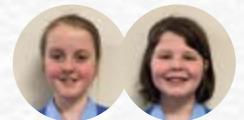
Year 3 with their Tangrams



Year 4 building 3D shapes

BY ALICE AND OLIVIA

# Our Critical Thinking Champions



As part of our Critical Thinking initiative, launched in September 2022, we have appointed Critical Thinking Champions – a valued group of pupils nominated as ambassadors of Critical Thinking.

These pupils have contributed to our school's definition of Critical Thinking: 'Thinking outside of the box and being

curious'. They also play a key role in helping other pupils understand the importance of Critical Thinking, both now and in the future.

Our Critical Thinking Champions meet each half term to share which of the Thinking Moves they think they have used most in their lessons: Connect, Group, Ahead and Back were most popular. They are also set a half term challenge such as thinking about what they would like to be when they grow up and which Thinking Moves and Skills for Life they will need.



Critical Thinking Champions meeting



Meeting some of our Critical Thinking Champions



SCIENCE

# British Science Week



British Science Week entered its third decade in 2025 and to mark the start of this new era, this year's theme was 'Change and Adapt'.

To celebrate, we held a special Science assembly, exploring how change and adaptation shape every area of STEM. From technological advancements such as the evolution of televisions, toasters and telephones to the incredible ways animals have adapted to survive, such as owls' big eyes for night vision and penguins' waterproof feathers for extreme cold.

The children were fascinated by Mrs Charl's chemical reactions, watching as substances changed colour and reacted!

We look forward continuing our passion for Science during our own Science Week in the Summer Term.



Eliska, Abigail, Ottie and Daisy, in 5KC, showing how animals have adapted to survive



Mrs Charl demonstrating chemical changes

DESIGN

# Inspiring Year 4 Designers



In March, the Year 4 girls welcomed Maartje Pel and Charlotte Smith from DCA Design International Limited to share their career experiences. The girls enjoyed asking insightful questions about the specifics of working in the design industry.

Our visitors encouraged them to consider the many ways designers and engineers collaborate to produce products from initial concept to final outcome. Maartje explained her role as a product designer, while Charlotte shared her experiences as a mechanical engineer.

The girls were then set a design task – to create a product for a specific user while considering both practicality and purpose. Their designs were carefully thought through and Maartje and Charlotte were very impressed by the innovative ideas shared by the Year 4 girls!



An inspiring talk from Maartje and Charlotte



Girls in 4VS with their completed design tasks



Charlotte helping girls in 4HF with their design task





## SCIENCE

# Explosive Science

As part of our ongoing efforts to inspire future career aspirations, pupils from Year 5 and Year 6 were invited to King's High School for a Chemistry assembly led by Dr Mather, Head of Chemistry.

The girls observed and participated in some explosive chemistry experiments, including testing for gases. The assembly was truly inspiring and many of the girls left feeling keen to join the Chemistry Department!



Early exposure to STEAM – particularly for girls – is crucial in challenging stereotypes and expanding future career possibilities. By introducing these opportunities from a young age, we encourage our pupils to think ambitiously and explore paths they may not have considered before.



*Dr Mather inspiring future changemakers*

## GUIDE DOG TRAINING

## Meet Henry!

Meet Henry, Warwick Prep School's adorable new Labrador pup and guide dog in training! You may remember Basil and Theo – two puppies we previously sponsored. Basil was too playful to become a guide dog but we are delighted to share that Theo has recently qualified as a 'buddy dog' for Anna, who was diagnosed with Alstrom syndrome at the age of six.

Henry was born weighing 460g, making him the biggest pup in his litter! His mother, Mara, cared for him until he was old enough to be weaned. Now, Henry lives with Jo, his puppy raiser, who will look after him for around a year and help him explore the sights, sounds and smells of the world around him.



It's important that Henry experiences a wide range of environments so he doesn't become nervous or fearful of new situations. He will learn how to be clean and calm both at home and in public places, develop problem solving skills and respond to everyday cues such as "sit", "down" and "come."

When Henry becomes a confident young dog, he will head off to guide dog training school where he will learn all the skills he needs to guide a person with sight loss. We look forward to following his progress on this exciting journey!

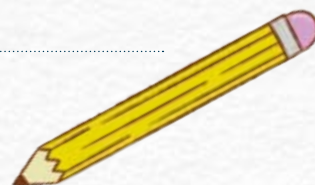


*Meet Henry*



# Art Gallery

## Reception



*Rosie's Walk inspired fox by Aria in RHE*



*What the Ladybird Heard inspired goose by George in REB*



*Rosie's Walk inspired fox by Amheera in RSJ*

## Year 1



*Arctic polar bear by Aria in 1SC*



*Arctic polar bear by Blake in 1JF*



*Kandinsky inspired tree by Francis in 1HC*

## Year 3

The Year 3 children have been exploring the theme 'Fruit and Vegetables', zooming in on sliced fruits and looking at colour and detail. Inspired by fruit photography by Edward Weston and oil paintings of illuminated fruit by Dennis Wojtkiewicz, the pupils have created sliced fruit prints on fabric which will be later made into cushions in DT.



*By Annabelle H in 3NM*



*By Mahi in 3LG*



*By Ria in 3LW*



## Year 4

The Year 4 girls have been working hard to prepare for their exhibition in collaboration with Warwick Junior School. Inspired by Picasso's style and techniques, they first created self-portrait collages and then developed them into mixed-media portraits.



By Poppy in 4VS



By Shiloh in 4HF



By Sophia in 4VS

## Year 5

The Year 5 pupils have been looking at 'Patterns in Nature', exploring artists such as Amy Giacometti and Stef Mitchel. They have also been testing wax resist techniques to create beautiful floral A3 pieces.



By Abigail in 5KC



By Georgia Bee in 5JJ



By Louisa in 5AM



## Year 6

The Year 6 girls have been working on designs inspired by 'Colourful Everyday'. They studied Michael Craig-Martins' use of everyday objects to create exciting outcomes. More recently, they explored trainer designs inspired by David Galan to inspire their 3D clay Converse sculptures.



By Amelie in 6SW



By Elsie in 6SW



By Lottie H in 6CM





**WPSA**

Warwick Preparatory School  
Association

## WPSA News

BY NICOLA MARKLEW, WPSA COMMUNICATIONS

### WPSA Committee

WPSA is a charity run by a team of volunteer parents and teachers, with a commitment to devoting time to furthering the great opportunities that Warwick Prep has to offer. We run the Uniform Shop enabling parents to sell and purchase second-hand uniform and we organise fun-filled events and activities donating funds raised to enhance the children's educational experience.

WPSA and PAWS (Warwick Junior School) are raising funds to support the development of a new outdoor classroom in the Forest School area, to be utilised by children from both Warwick Prep and Warwick Junior School. Outdoor classrooms have been proven to increase interest in a subject and intrinsic motivation to learn, giving children a longer retention of information, increased focus and creativity, as well as better sleep!

Thank you for your continued support.

### WPSA Committee Recruitment

On Friday 28 February, we held a WPSA Committee Recruitment Coffee Morning with Mrs Dodsworth to which all parents were invited. There was a fantastic turnout and we are delighted to welcome some new parents to the Committee.

There is still space for new members so if you would like to join, attend Committee meetings and help organise events throughout the year, please reach out to Class Reps or WPSA members – we would love to hear from you!

### WPSA Pre-Prep Magic Show

In February, Year 1 and Year 2 returned to school in the evening to enjoy a Magic Show, with parents invited to stay for refreshments. The show was a huge hit with the children and they were delighted to finish the evening with a delicious cookie. It was a magical night for everyone.



### WPSA Easter Egg Hunt

We were egg-cited to welcome so many of you to our WPSA Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday 29 March. It was fantastic fun and it's easy to see why this event is always so well-loved and well-attended. We hope you all left feeling egg-tremely happy!



### WPSA Phone Box



In collaboration with Tyto Contracting, WPSA is proud to announce the successful refurbishment of the traditional British phone box located near Eastgate, Castle Hill in the heart of Warwick. This iconic red phone box which had fallen into disrepair due to vandalism, has been meticulously restored to its former glory, celebrating the rich heritage and historical significance of these quintessential British landmarks.

The restoration project, spearheaded by WPSA and Tyto, aimed to preserve the cultural heritage of the phone box while enhancing its aesthetic appeal. The project was made possible through the generous support of Wigley Investment Holdings and the expert craftsmanship of Roman Glass and Warwickshire Decorating Contracts.

Jason Taplin, Project Manager at Tyto Contracting said, "We are delighted to help restore this beautiful phone box. It stands as a testament to our commitment to preserving the heritage of Warwick and ensuring that future generations can appreciate these historical landmarks."





## WPSA Prep Disco



The annual WPSA Prep Disco was held at the end of January with a 'Wild' theme and the outfits were wonderful, fully embracing the spirit of the event!

The Year 3 and Year 4 girls had a wonderful evening, joined by the Year 3 and Year 4 boys from Warwick Junior School in a trial mixed-school event which proved to be a 'roaring' success. Meanwhile, the Year 5 and Year 6 girls enjoyed a smaller gathering with just their year groups and no boys but it certainly didn't feel much quieter!



The wild theme continued throughout the evening, with animal masks, mask-making in the chill-out/quiet zone and the ever-popular photo booth stocked with fun props. As always, there was plenty of dancing and fun, all fuelled by delicious snacks. At the end of



the night, everyone received a goody bag filled with wild-themed gifts to take home.



## WPSA Uniform Shop



As part of our effort to recycle the old school uniform, you may remember that we asked for donations of striped summer dresses to be dropped off at school in July 2024. Through a parent in Upper School, we partnered with a village in Cameroon called Baboucha Fongam to provide these dresses for their school children

Most of the donated dresses, along with other items, are awaiting shipment but some were taken over in person during the summer break. We were delighted to receive a photograph of the girls proudly wearing them! The village school also hopes to repurpose some of the dresses into shorts and tops in due course. We will share more photographs once all the dresses have been sent. It's wonderful to see them being reused and we hope parents will agree!

In 2025, we will continue to donate funds towards various initiatives in collaboration with school departments and we look forward to sharing more details throughout the year.

As always, thank you for supporting the WPSA Uniform Shop. Buying and selling with us really does so much more than just helping to rehome school uniform!

Our next sale is on **Saturday 21 June, 9am-10.30am**. We will also be selling Oddball hats, tea towels and grey blazer cushions so please do pop along!

## Warwick Prep Tree



One element of our continued fundraising is a beautiful tree installed on the wall of the school next to Reception. A gift of £50 or more enables you to sponsor either an oak leaf or acorn which can be engraved according to personal preference, with suggestions being a child or family

name and dates of attendance. This not only raises funds but is also a stunning piece of artwork for the children, staff, and parents to enjoy. The oak tree is fabricated from copper with spaces for five hundred funded recognition plaques.

This is an opportunity to be part of something special and support WPSA fundraising initiatives. We anticipate this opportunity will be available over the next few years until all plaques are installed.

If you would like to sponsor an oak leaf or acorn, please use this QR code which will take you to an application form.



## Future WPSA Events

- 80 Year Challenge: May Half Term
- Uniform sale: Saturday 21 June
- Summer Fayre: Friday 27 June
- Anniversary Ball: Saturday 28 June



@WPSACentral



@WPSA10



@wpsa-prep



HOLIDAY ACTION

# Easter Action 2025!

Booking is open for Easter Action 2025 which runs from Friday 11 to Friday 25 April.

## Warwick School

- Early and late options available on select days
- Cygnets – available for children in Reception and Year 1
- Fun Short Courses – available for children in Years 2 to 7 (Friday 11 April only)
- Super Choice – available for children in Years 2 to 7
- Action Plus – available for 12-14 year olds

## The Kingsley School

- Kingsley Kookaburras – available for children in Years 2 to 7

There are early and late options available at Warwick School on selected days.

Activities include Forest School, Magic, Wall Climbing, Fun Cookery, Multi-Sports, Kayaking, and much, much more!

*Please note – activities are on specific days and are subject to change.*

For more information and to book yourself a place, please check out the Easter Action website [warwickschool.org/easter-action-2025](http://warwickschool.org/easter-action-2025)

## The Butterflies

In select school holidays, parents can also benefit from our 'Butterflies' holiday nursery group which is based at Warwick Prep School Nursery and run by the Foundation's Holiday Action team. The group is for children who attend either Warwick Prep School Nursery (The Squirrels Nursery) or Kingsley Prep School Nursery (Little Aviators).

This service is available 9am to 4.30pm on specific days during the school holidays. Each week will be based around a particular theme and will include a variety of outdoor, free play, sporting, creative and relaxing activities. All activities will be planned in accordance with the EYFS framework.

Parents are contacted prior to each holiday period with information on which dates are available and details of how to book.

If you're interested in finding out more about our 'Butterflies' holiday nursery group, then please feel free to contact the Holiday Action team by email at [holidayaction@warwickschools.co.uk](mailto:holidayaction@warwickschools.co.uk)



Warwick Schools Foundation

**Easter Action**

NOW ALSO AT  
The KINGSLEY  
SCHOOLS

**11 - 25 April 2025\***

Multi activities for Reception and Year 1  
Fun Short Courses & Super Choice for Years 2-7  
Action Plus programme for 12-14 year olds

\*excluding weekends and bank holidays

[warwickschool.org/easter-action-2025](http://warwickschool.org/easter-action-2025)

SCAN ME

All enquiries to Dan Partridge and Adrian Bevan 01926 735473  
[holidayaction@warwickschools.co.uk](mailto:holidayaction@warwickschools.co.uk)





## FOUNDATION

# Foundation Community



## WSF Multi-Academy Trust receives approval



Following a period of consultation with the communities of the founding schools in December, the Department for Education approved the creation of the Warwick Schools Foundation Multi-Academy Trust in January.

This means that the four founding schools – Evergreen School, Exhall Grange Specialist School, Clapham Terrace Primary School and Westgate Primary School – have received approval to become academies. The date for academisation and the opening of the Trust is now scheduled for 1 September 2025.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.warickschoolsfoundation.co.uk/wsf-mat>

## Foundation pupils perform alongside professional musicians at Warwick Hall



On Thursday 20 March, our ongoing partnership with Orchestra of the Swan resulted in another wonderful evening of music at Warwick Hall, with Foundation pupils having the truly unique opportunity to perform alongside professional musicians.

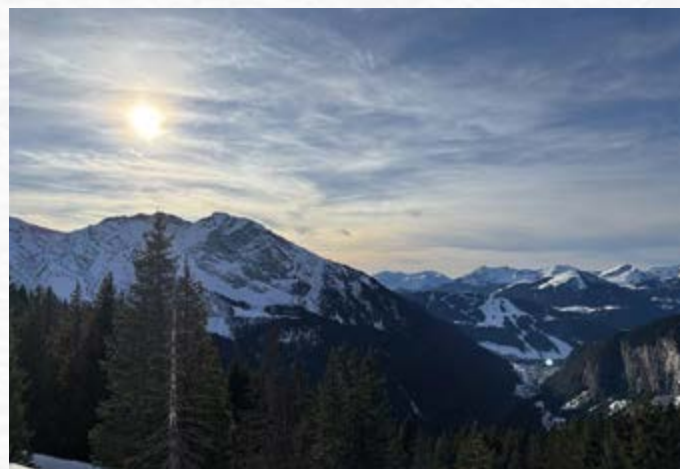
'Elements' presented the four classical elements in musical form, with the orchestra performing an array of musical pieces – including Jean-Féry Rebel's 'Chaos', Manuel de Falla's 'Ritual Fire Dance', and Debussy's 'La Mer'. It also featured a world-premiere performance of 'Air', a newly commissioned piece from jazz musicians David Gordon and Tim Whitehead which they performed alongside some of our top musicians and the Swan orchestra.

All of the pupils excelled; they fit in seamlessly on stage alongside the professional musicians which is testament to the quality of performance that they produced on the night.

We now look ahead to 'Interstellar' – the Swan's final concert of the season at Warwick Hall – on Thursday 19 June. Featuring acclaimed actor Anton Lesser and the intertwining of narration and musical pieces, you won't want to miss it. Book your tickets here:

<https://www.bridgehousetheatre.co.uk/show/orchestra-of-the-swan-interstellar/>

## WSF Wildlife Photography Competition 2025



Earlier in the term, pupils, parents and teachers from across the Foundation were invited to capture images of landscapes and wildlife as part of this year's Wildlife Photography Competition.

The submissions sent in were truly stunning. With photos taken in places across the globe – from Stratford-upon-Avon to Borneo – the Foundation community demonstrated outstanding creativity and showcased the natural wonders of the world!

## Plans for international expansion

Warwick  
Schools  
Foundation  
International



As part of the Foundation's ongoing development, and in particular the exploration of additional income

streams, we announced the exciting news that we are investigating the potential for establishing international franchise schools.

UK independent schools creating international brands is not uncommon and the market over the coming years is likely to become more crowded. Nevertheless, we plan to ensure that the educational provision which make our schools so special is translated into a compelling international proposition. However, this does not take away any of the focus on ensuring the excellence of educational provision for your children, now or in the future.

It is likely that any contracts will take a number of years to come to fruition and we look forward to updating parents with progress in due course. News and updates will be added to the Foundation website in the coming weeks and months:

<https://www.warickschoolsfoundation.co.uk/>

### Upcoming School Open Events

- The Kingsley School: Open Morning on Saturday 28 June
- King's High School: Open Evening on Friday 4 July
- Warwick Junior School: Open Evening on Friday 4 July
- Warwick School: Open Evening on Friday 4 July
- Warwick Prep School: Open Morning on Saturday 20 September



# Key Dates Summer 2025

**Term Commences:** Tuesday 29 April

**Half Term:** Monday 26 - Friday 30 May

**Term Ends:** Friday 11 July

## OPEN EVENTS 2025

**Open Morning:** Saturday 20 September

**Open Afternoon:** Tuesday 11 November

For more information about our events,  
please visit our website [warwickprep.com](http://warwickprep.com)



Warwick  
Preparatory  
School

Warwick Preparatory School,  
Banbury Road, Warwick, CV34 6PL 01926 491545  
[WPS-info@warwicksschool.co.uk](mailto:WPS-info@warwicksschool.co.uk)  
[warwickprep.com](http://warwickprep.com)

 **Warwick Prep**

 **warwickprep**

Warwick Preparatory School is part of the Warwick Schools Foundation, together with King's High School, Warwick School and The Kingsley School, providing high quality education for girls and boys aged 3-18.