

# Warwick Prep

AUTUMN 2024

*Life*



## *What's inside*

### CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Year 1 dazzled in their performance, sharing tales of global traditions.

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### BRINGING STORIES TO LIFE

Step through the wardrobe with Year 4 on their magical adventure to Narnia.

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### ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Take a peek at Year 5's festive 'Ojos de Dios' Christmas decorations.

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# Welcome from the Head

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Autumn Term edition of Warwick Prep Life. Our skilled Year 6 Editors have been out and about to bring you the highlights of another successful term at Warwick Prep; they have done a marvellous job!

The pages before you capture an incredible range of curriculum days, special events, sporting success, musical matters, behind the scenes stories and much more. It is a joy to read about the early steps of adventure taken by our children in Nutkins and The Squirrels Nursery, and I hope you enjoy reading all we have accomplished together during the term, bringing to life our values of Creativity and Curiosity.

Through our focus on Community and Social Responsibility, we have supported various local and national charity initiatives. Our traditional Harvest celebrations were hugely successful in supporting our local food bank, Year 5 led the school's Remembrance tribute to the fallen, and we raised a record amount for Children in Need. More recently, we have provided a magnificent collection of gifts to the Salvation Army to be given to families this Christmas – the spirit of giving generously runs as a golden thread through Warwick Prep.

Our 'Squirrels in the Community' have decorated their customary tree, and our senior musicians entertained residents of local care

homes, both as part of the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's. Our children who sing in the choirs of St Mary's will be living out our values of Character and Confidence as they perform live to the world during the broadcast of Midnight Mass on BBC1 this Christmas Eve.

We end the term with our customary Christmas celebrations. It has been a privilege to share in the Pre-Prep Nativities and school Carol Services, all masterminded by our incredible staff. As always during the term, they have worked tirelessly to ensure the richness of experience for our children, and I am indebted to them for all they have done.

All that remains is to thank you for your tremendous support of Warwick Prep. As the corridors and halls echo, once more, with the sound of carols, I wish you and your families a peaceful Christmas, and a happy and healthy 2025.

Mrs Hellen Dodsworth



# Welcome from the Principal

As a chorister in my younger days, I loved the season of Advent (actually, I still do). There was something rather special about the very structured sense of climax towards Christmas, including less familiar, infrequently performed music. Later, as a Director of Music, by the time Christmas Day arrived, I never wanted to hear another carol ever again!

One of the great joys of my role as Principal is supporting as many events across the schools as I can. As I write, there have already been fourteen Christmas events, from nativities to concerts and services, and some thirty-five yet to come. What I find most joyous is that each manages to capture the spirit and personality of the school. A Kingsley Carol Service has a uniquely Kingsley feel, just as the Warwick Carol Service is unmistakably 'Warwick'. The King's High and Warwick Prep Services also beautifully embody their own distinct spirit, showcasing the shared values and traditions of their communities while celebrating their individuality. Each and every one is perfect.

A key Foundation Value – arguably the most important – is 'drawing on the best of each other'. Another way of putting this is 'sharing the best of ourselves', because being as generous as we can with our gifts and talents is a tremendous way to live. The joy of our Foundation is that we can enable our pupils to do just that, by working towards common goals which enable them to contribute to a community larger than their own school, and in return, be the recipient of the support of their Foundation peers. So often when we do this, we see true magic happen.

Most recently, we brought together hundreds of pupils for our Gala Concert in Butterworth Hall. This was by far the most ambitious whole Foundation endeavour we have staged, featuring over 450 pupils from our schools and pupils from our four key partner schools – Evergreen School, Exhall Grange Specialist School, Clapham Terrace Primary School, and Westgate Primary School. The concert demonstrated the depth and breadth of music talent and ambition within each school, provided an amazing experience for all our Year 7 pupils, and showed the heights that our most able musicians reach. Truly, an inspiring and unforgettable evening.

As we look beyond the festive period and into 2025, that sense of common endeavour will remain such an important focus for us – ensuring excellence in all that happens across our schools and our Foundation family. Thank you for your support in enabling it to happen.

Mr Richard Nicholson



# Meet the Editors

Meet our Autumn Term team of Editors who have been working hard behind the scenes on Warwick Prep Life magazine. Elicia, Elsie, Prabhjot, Phoebe, Sienna and Sophie have been busy interviewing members of staff, writing informative articles and helping to design our festive front cover. Let's find out what they enjoyed most about their role as Editors.

*“The best part was interviewing Liz England and the House Captains.”*

Sienna

*“My favourite part was working with my friends and witnessing the magic of this opportunity.”*

Prabhjot

*“My favourite part was the independence, as I had to work with my Editor partner to arrange when we would write up our interviews.”*

Elicia



*“I have really enjoyed the new experiences I've shared with my Editor friends.”*

Elsie

*“My highlights were working with the other Editors and conducting the interviews.”*

Sophie

*“I enjoyed the opportunity to work with my friends and contribute my ideas to our school's very own magazine.”*

Phoebe

# *Starting the journey together*

At the start of the Autumn Term, The Squirrels Nursery warmly welcomed the Nutkins children as they began their journey at Warwick Prep. It has been a joy to watch the children grow in confidence and start forming new friendships.

The children have been exploring the Nursery garden, making the most of the autumn sunshine. In the Art Room, they have enjoyed painting, crafting, modelling with playdough and fishing for treasures in the water tray.

Miss Hollocks, our Early Years Music teacher, has delighted the children with songs and activities. They have marched like soldiers to the beat and balanced colourful beanbags on their heads before practising sorting them into different hoops.

With Christmas spirit in the air, the children enjoyed making calendars and tree decorations, icing festive biscuits and celebrating the end of the term with many new friendships.



*Messy hand print art!*



*Visiting the hairdressers for a trim*



*A sparkly salt dough Christmas decoration*



*Crafting Christmas decorations and calendars*



*A bejewelled Christmas tree calendar*



*Sorting coloured beanbags*



*Being creative with playdough in the Art Room*

THE SQUIRRELS NURSERY NEWS

# Harvesting creativity

Sharing books and stories is one of the Nursery children's favourite activities and acting out 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' with little puppets really brought the story to life! The children enthusiastically squelched through the mud, splashed through the river and loved hiding the bear in his cave. ROARRR!

We welcomed a visit from our new Librarian, Mrs Giacomelli-Harris, who read to each class. They were thrilled to visit the Library for the Warwick Prep Big Book Sale where they carefully browsed the selection and enjoyed the experience of purchasing their very own books.

Collaboration and Communication have been a key focus of our Skills for Life programme and our children have shown these skills beautifully by listening to each other's ideas and working together as a team. In the Art Room, water play has been a highlight as the children splashed, poured, sprayed, and created imaginative potions! This activity enhances creativity, promotes wellbeing and provides excellent opportunities for investigative and scientific learning.



Children in The Squirrels Nursery celebrated Harvest with a lovely retelling of the story of 'Handa's Hen'. As Handa and Akeyo set out to find Mondri the Hen, they counted butterflies, sunbirds, lizards, crickets, frogs, spoonbills and starlings along the way. The celebration concluded with a beautiful Harvest song from Burkina Faso called 'Sarana'.

To end the Autumn Term, the Nursery children performed a delightful Christmas concert featuring elves, robins, presents, Father Christmas and his reindeer, line-dancing sheep and shepherds, stars, Kings, angels, and, of course, Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus. You will be pleased to hear that we didn't forget the donkey!



Children from NPB meeting Pudsey Bear



Aisha, Freddie and Dishaan, in NWR, making a splash!



Isla, Adi, Oliver, Avaya and Ruby, in NHT, retelling 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'



Remembrance poppies by Isabella in NWR



Remembrance poppies by Zorah in NPB



Autumn leaf painting by Taha in NHT



Florence, Jorvun, Zorah, Elliana and Adi celebrating Harvest

RECEPTION NEWS

# The magic of reading

It has been a busy start to the year for children in Reception. They have made new friends and have become familiar with school routines, such as attending assembly and choosing their lunches.

Our new outdoor classroom has been enjoyed by all, with classes taking it in turns to use the space when the weather allows. We have been visiting different parts of the school and were excited to meet our new school Librarian, Mrs Giacomelli-Harris, for a story session in the main Library just before half term. Mrs Giacomelli-Harris shared several stories with us, including a new 'You Choose' book which sparked some wonderful discussions!

In September, we began a new topic, 'A World of Imagination'. This was a super opportunity to enjoy a variety of new and classic picture books and to encourage a love of reading. We enjoyed sharing stories including 'Elmer' and 'The Bumblebear' and produced some brilliant artwork linked to our stories. Many children also completed activities at home including making fruit caterpillars, creating colourful butterflies and baking 'Bumblebear' biscuits. Our final book was 'The Smeds and the Smoos' which we watched at Warwick Arts Centre at the end of term. We had great fun decorating the Reception corridor with scenes from the story.

After half term, we learnt about two different celebrations – Diwali and Bonfire Night. The children were interested to learn how both are celebrated and enjoyed making diva lamps, lanterns and creating firework art.

The children performed their songs and lines with great enthusiasm for our Christmas Nativity performance of 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel'. Well done, everyone!



Stratford Herald 'First Day' photo of RSJ



Stratford Herald 'First Day' photo of RKC



Pupils in REB rehearsing for their Christmas Nativity 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel'



Pupils in RHE performing their Christmas Nativity



First day painting by Weiyi in RSJ



First day painting by Victoria in RKC



First day painting by Dyaal in REB



First day painting by Alex in RHE

YEAR 1 NEWS

# Toy story

As the vibrant colours of autumn brightened up our days so did Year 1! The children settled in well to the new routines and expectations of Year 1, rising to the challenge of becoming more independent, both in organising themselves and in thinking about their learning and how we learn best. We have enjoyed sharing our ideas, challenging each other's opinions and building upon them. The Imagination Station has been a favourite for all, offering a space to think big, explore new concepts, and collaborate with our peers.

A highlight of the term was Toy Day. The children wore some fantastic costumes and everyone enjoyed learning about old toys and discovering how children played in the past. We also had fun creating portraits inspired by famous artists such as Picasso and Andy Warhol. The children's artwork was amazing!

In Science, we explored our senses through fun, practical investigations. We loved testing our sense of smell, touch, taste and hearing. We were interested to learn about Louis Braille and how he invented a way for blind people to read quickly. We felt some Braille and tried to identify the letters.

It was wonderful to go to Forest School and explore autumn around us. We loved the mud kitchen, climbing trees, sawing wood and making potions! It was a joy to see everyone having fun while learning and laughing together.

As the busy term drew to a close, Christmas brought a special celebration. The children shone brightly as they performed 'Children of the World'. Their fabulous singing and confident performances shared the traditions of Christmas from around the world. "Children of the world, celebrate Christmas!" echoed through the classes - a truly fantastic way to end an enjoyable term. Well done, Year 1!



Grace and Lottie, in 1JB, testing their sense of touch in Science



Ahaana, Baxter and Rosie, in 1HC, drawing their favourite toys on Toy Day



Elodie, Dominic, Wilfred, Isabela, Aria, Olivia and Emma, in 1SC, on Toy Day



Arya, Iwan, Zara, Connie, William and Thomas, in 1JF, on Toy Day



Picasso inspired portrait by Cyrus in 1JB



Hundertwasser inspired portrait by Mahnoor in 1JF



Year 1 performing 'Children of the World'

YEAR 2 NEWS

# Taking flight through history

“Jambo” means “hello” in Swahili, just one of the many fascinating facts that the Year 2 children enjoyed learning during our Geography lessons in the first half of term. We began by looking at the continent of Africa and then zoomed in to focus on the country of Kenya. Our studies culminated in a day where we celebrated Africa. The children learnt fun African games, African dances and songs, completed an animal pattern art challenge and produced an animal picture in the style of the Tanzanian painter, Edward Tingatinga.

In the second half of term, we switched our focus to History. The children worked their way along a timeline, tracking the history of flight. They asked and responded to some big questions during our studies and learnt about truly inspirational people including the Montgolfier brothers, the Wright brothers, Amelia Earhart, Bessie Coleman and Neil Armstrong.

In Science, we have explored all the different ways we can keep our bodies healthy. The children have been able to explain and justify their thinking very well during discussions. As our area of study shifted to ‘Forces’, we conducted experiments, made connections to our History lessons about the Moon Landing, and delved into the concept of gravity.

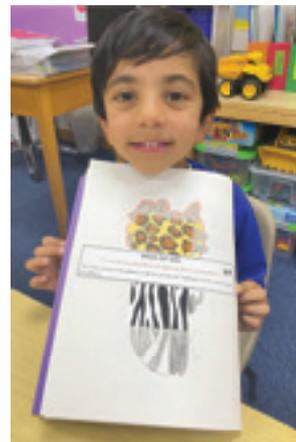
Throughout the term, we have encouraged and promoted ‘Critical Thinking’, incorporating it into as many lessons as possible. Weekly activities in the Imagination Station have supported this goal, with children showing great progress in using ‘Thinking Moves’ and starting to take more initiative. They have enjoyed using AI (ChatGPT) to help find out about our fortnightly ‘Inspirational Person’ and to respond to the ‘Thunk’ that we have up in the classroom.

This term, all four Year 2 classes had the opportunity to lead an assembly. The children spoke confidently in front of the audiences and worked well together on their chosen themes.

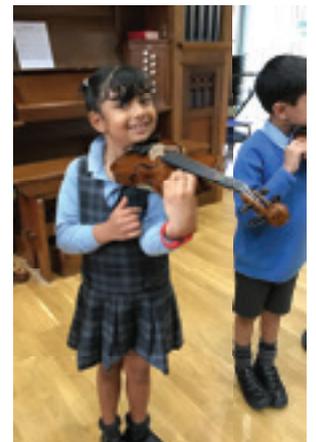
Well done, Year 2, for settling in so well to your new classrooms and routines! It has been wonderful to see you aiming to be more independent and responsible, setting an excellent example for the younger children in Pre-Prep.



Pupils from 2AD learning African dances on Africa Day



Kishan, in 2EC, exploring African animal patterns



Giana, in 2AW, learning the violin in the Year 2 Strings Project



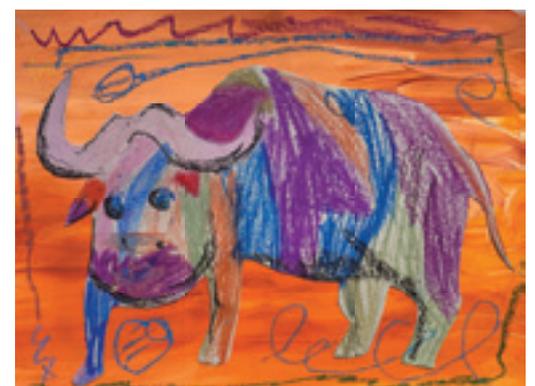
Pupils in 2JW performing their Christmas Nativity in the Chapel



Tingatinga inspired lion by Thomas in 2AW



Tingatinga inspired cheetah by Rosie in 2JW



Tingatinga inspired buffalo by Anika in 2AD

YEAR 3 NEWS

# Unwrapping the secrets of mummies

It has been a busy and industrious term for the Year 3 girls who have all settled quickly into life in the Prep department. In September, we visited the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to learn more about the Ancient Egyptians. It was lots of fun to explore the museum and handle authentic Egyptian artefacts.

This term's English learning was also centred about Ancient Egypt. Pupils enjoyed reading 'The Egyptian Cinderella' and 'Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx', producing some wonderful pieces of writing inspired by the texts. Everyone was fascinated by the slightly gruesome details of how the Ancient Egyptians used to mummify their dead. The girls consolidated their learning by making 'How to Mummify a Doll' videos on the iPads. We suspect there are a few future TV presenters in this year group!

November marked the start of the annual Christingle preparations. A visit to St Nicholas' Church in Warwick provided an excellent introduction to why Christingles are made and what they symbolise. A lively game of 'Find the Christingle Parts' around the church added excitement to the learning experience.



Exploring the Ashmolean Museum



Daisy, in 3LG, dressed as an Ancient Egyptian



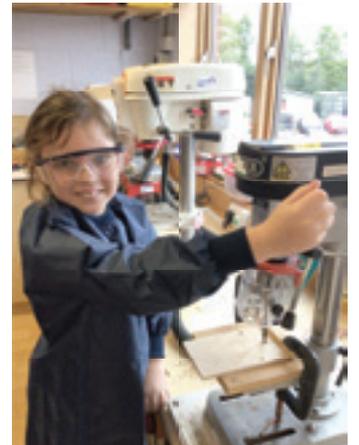
Annie and Lily, in 3LG, and Erin, in 3NM, in a coffin from the Great Temple



Mixed-media painting by Nimi in 3LG



Suri, in 3LW, creating her mixed-media painting



Zahra, in 3NM, using the drill to make her wooden peg hook



Mixed-media painting by Calista in 3LW

The start of December was a highlight as the pupils presented their Christingle assembly to parents, family and fellow pupils. They read poems, reports about their church visit and shared interesting facts about Christingle traditions. The girls looked very smart on stage, proudly holding their oranges.

As the term came to a close, the Year 3 pupils participated in the Prep Carol Service at St Mary's Church for the first time. This annual event is always special and they sang beautifully, making it a memorable way to end the term.

YEAR 4 NEWS

# A tale to tell

Our first key event in Year 4 was the beautiful Harvest assembly where we shared messages about the importance of supporting those less fortunate than ourselves. We presented songs, poems, and heartfelt words to encourage everyone to think about helping others. Mr Bower from the Warwick District Foodbank expressed his thanks to everyone in our school community for the generous donations of food and sundries.

We had a magical visit to The Story Museum in Oxford. The day started with us listening to chapters from our class text 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' on the coach. At the museum, the children took part in 'A Day of Delights' which included a guided walking tour around Oxford to spot the historic sites that inspired C.S. Lewis, as well as time inside the museum rooms. The first room was the 'Magical Forest' where the girls listened to stories, followed by the 'Dragon's Lair' where they explored fantasy fiction. The highlight of the museum visit was the 'Enchanted Library' where children entered famous stories. They stood inside Alice's Wonderland, played Poohsticks on Winnie the Pooh's bridge and were brave enough to step through the wardrobe and enter Narnia! What an experience! Finally, in the historic 'Backstage' classroom, the children channelled their own author skills to design and describe the perfect room for a fawn.

Year 4 have been leading the Times Table Rock Stars minutes over several weeks this term which has been so encouraging! Well done to all the mathematicians who are dedicated to mastering this key skill for Maths.

We have also started preparing for the LAMDA exams which will take place in the Spring Term. With the help of Ms Springs from King's High School, the girls have been practising their public speaking and drama skills every fortnight.



Ellie and Sophia, in 4VS, solving practical math problems



Amaya, in 4HF, discovering the Dragon's Lair at The Story Museum



Pupils in 4VS on a guided walk around Oxford



Winnie and Tilly, in 4VS, creating an electrical circuit in Science



Gabriella and Lily, in 4HF, entering the wardrobe to Narnia!



Year 4 Harvest assembly



Mexican clay sugar skull by Cleo in 4VS



Mexican clay sugar skull by Milly in 4HF

YEAR 5 NEWS

# Echoes of the Great War

The Year 5 pupils have certainly impressed this term, having made an amazing transition from Middle School into Upper School. They have eagerly embraced opportunities for further responsibility around school, taking on roles such as Play Leaders, Digital Leaders, Librarians and Wellbeing Ambassadors.

Our learning so far has been extraordinarily thought-provoking, with The Windrush Generation being a key focus in History. A very special visit from Mr Johnson, a Warwick Prep grandfather, helped deepen our understanding through his first-hand account of travelling from Jamaica to Britain aboard the SS Ascania in 1960. Leaving behind the warmth of the Caribbean as a young boy, Mr Johnson shared his journey, reflecting on the new friendships he forged and the racism and hostility he overcame, through his courage and compassion.

In English, we have been reading Michael Morpurgo's novel 'War Horse' which has inspired us to write from the perspectives of Joey, the brave World War I horse, as well as a soldier and a civilian affected by the war's tragedies. This powerful story complemented the knowledge we gained while preparing for our Remembrance Service held in the Warwick School Chapel. Each Year 5 pupil made a poignant contribution to the service, expressing respect and gratitude to those who fought for our freedom.



We had an exciting Link Day with the boys from Warwick Junior School, centred around Maths and STEAM activities. Working in mixed groups, pupils tackled two fun and engaging challenges: designing an experiment to measure and test reaction times and constructing a wind-powered car using just three straws, a piece of paper, two paper clips and four Polos. The day showcased our Skills for Life in action, with pupils demonstrating creativity, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and problem-solving throughout the challenges.

The final highlights of our term included the fabulous Winter Concert, our Prep Carol Service at St Mary's Church, and, of course, Christmas lunch and the Upper School party. A fantastic term indeed!



Year 5 pupils learning to play Gamelan instruments



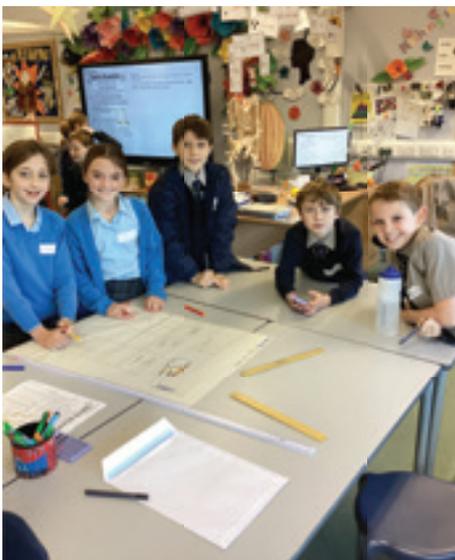
Pupils from the Prep department enjoying an explosive visit from Dr Volcano



3D clay turtle by Lola in 5AM



3D clay turtle by Georgia Bee in 5JJ



Amy, in 5AM, and India, in 5KC, becoming Sports Scientists on Year 5 Link Day



Keira, in 5JJ, and Emily, in 5AM, collaborating on Year 5 Link Day



Hardaya, in 5JJ, dissecting a fish in Science

YEAR 6 NEWS

# Unearthing the Shang Dynasty

The Year 6 girls settled in quickly this September, ready to embrace everything the final year at Warwick Prep has to offer. Those in positions of responsibility swiftly grasped their roles and all Year 5 and Year 6 pupils were delighted to welcome back the Tuck Shop at break times after half term!

The primary focus for the first half of term was preparation for the entrance exams. It was evident that the girls who had worked hard over the summer holidays hit the ground running and were eager to build on their efforts in English and Maths lessons. Their dedication was rewarded with an impressive range of academic and subject scholarships and we are incredibly proud of all their achievements.

As part of our History topic on the 'Shang Dynasty', we visited Compton Verney to learn more about Ancient Chinese artefacts dating back over 3000 years! The girls examined a variety of ritual vessels which deepened their understanding of life during this fascinating period. Wearing protective gloves, the girls were allowed to handle authentic artefacts dating back to 1600 BCE, working out what they were made from and what they would have been used for. The afternoon was spent creatively, as the girls modelled their own ritual vessels out of clay.

Year 5 and Year 6 girls were introduced to Café Scientifique by the Year 12 editors from King's High School who explained the science behind their e-magazine and encouraged our pupils to write an article.

In November, we enjoyed a Maths Link Day with the Year 6 boys from Warwick Junior School. Working in mixed groups, the children designed and built wind-powered vehicles and tested their reaction times against one another. This activity sparked lively competition between the girls and boys, though we couldn't possibly disclose which group came out on top!

At the end of November, the girls took part in our annual visit to the Space Centre where they explored our place in the solar system and beyond. Throughout the day, the girls learnt about the skills needed to become an astronaut and the history of the Space Race.

The term finished with the Upper School Christmas party where the girls enjoyed traditional party games and showcased their dance moves – a warm-up for the school disco next term!



An out of this world trip to the Space Centre



Marta de Sousa, Stemettes ambassador, inspiring our Year 6 girls



Daya, in 6SW, handling Ancient Chinese artefacts at Compton Verney



Annabel and Loretta, in 6CM, collaborating on Year 6 Link Day



Mila and Chloe, in 6SW, and Athena, in 6CM, sculpting clay ritual vessels at Compton Verney



Lottie, Amelie, Alice and Florence, in 6CM, and Liv and Chloe, in 6SW, at the Space Centre



Pop art 'Fast Food' by Libby 6SW

Pop art 'Fast Food' by Ava in 6CM

# Sports Round-up

September and October saw Warwick Prep pupils showcasing fantastic spirit and teamwork across various sports, including hockey to aquathons, skiing and equestrian events.

Our hockey teams had an impressive start to the term. The U11A and B teams secured dominant 6-0 victories over Bablake Prep. Special mention goes to Izzy for her outstanding undercut goal and to Lottie and Ava for their dynamic wing play. In a closely fought match against The Croft Preparatory School, the U11A team displayed excellent teamwork in a tightly contested match, winning 1-0, while the B team secured a decisive 6-0 win.



A win for the U8 hockey team against Bablake Prep

The U10A and B teams enjoyed a trip to Oxford High School where they demonstrated the skills they have been developing in training. Their efforts paid off with a 6-0 victory for the A team and a 1-0 win for the B team. Meanwhile, our U9 and U8 teams also kicked off their seasons with energy and enthusiasm, taking on Bablake Prep in their first matches of the year. It was wonderful to see the team spirit as pupils tried different positions and applied their training.

The IAPS hockey tournament brought mixed emotions, with the U11 girls progressing to the quarter finals but narrowly missing out after a penalty shootout. Despite the close defeat, the girls remained upbeat and proud of their teamwork and progress.



U11 hockey team at the IAPS tournament

This term has seen fantastic equestrian success for Warwick Prep girls. Francesca competed at the Unicorn Equestrian Grassroots qualifier where her outstanding performance earned her a spot at the NSEA Grassroots Festival. In October, a combined Warwick Prep and King's High School team competed in the Eventer Challenge qualifier, finishing 2nd and securing a spot in the Eventer Challenge Championships at Hickstead next year.



The Warwick Prep Aquathon



Year 6 pupil Mila shone at the Home Pony International Competition, qualifying two ponies for the U10 teams and earning 1st and 2nd place in the U10 Championship class. Mila's strong rides continued in the Fledglings class where she achieved a 4th place finish among sixty-five competitors – an amazing accomplishment!

The Warwick Prep Aquathon, now an annual event, saw over two hundred pupils from Years 3 to 6 participating in a swim-run challenge. The younger swimmers were inspired by the older pupils' determination and completed their races with enthusiasm. It really is an event that encapsulates the spirit of our school.

Later in the term, our Year 3 girls had their first experience in a school gala, taking on friendly competition against Warwick Junior School and working hard on their techniques. The Warwick 25s gala brought further excitement, with Year 5 and Year 6 girls competing against schools like Edgbaston High School and Blue Coat School. Our girls performed brilliantly, taking home the Year 6 trophy and the overall girls' team trophy. Special congratulations to Chloe and Nehna for securing 1st place in their individual events.

The U11 football team faced strong opposition in their season opener at the ESFA U12 Cup. Despite the challenging match, the girls displayed persistence and resilience and are motivated for the season ahead.

Their next test came in the IAPS Regional Finals where the team experienced a day of mixed emotions in Loughborough. After a strong start in the group stages, including a standout 2-0 win against Tranby, the girls advanced to the quarter finals. Despite dominating play and creating several chances, they were narrowly defeated 2-1 in a tense penalty shootout against Berkhamsted Prep. Though disappointed, the girls gained valuable experience and kept smiling throughout – a testament to their resilience and team spirit.

The Warwick Prep ski team delivered a spectacular performance at the ESSKiA Team National Finals, retaining their title as National Champions! Congratulations to Loretta, Bea and Otie for their impressive skills, with Loretta and Bea being selected for the English School Alpine Ski Squad for 2024-2025. What a tremendous achievement.

Well done to all our pupils for their hard work and achievements throughout the busy Autumn Term. We look forward to more exciting matches and events as the year progresses!



U10 netball squad hosting a netball triangular

## Musical Matters

The Autumn Term began with a thrilling burst of cultural rhythm as Year 5 pupils were transported to the vibrant world of Gamelan music. Guided by Mike Simpson from Inspire Works, the children explored the captivating sounds of Indonesia, playing authentic traditional instruments and uncovering the intricate structures of this ancient musical form. The workshop created a truly unforgettable experience for all involved.

The musical adventure continued in September as Year 5 and Year 6 joined forces for the Foundation Service. Holly and Alice shone as they performed alongside junior players from across the Foundation, presenting Handel's 'Water Music'. The Senior Choir added their own magic, moving the audience at the Legal Service for the High Sheriff with their heartfelt rendition of 'One Moment, One People.'



Year 5 pupils exploring Indonesian music with Mike Simpson



Felicity, in 6CM, singing at Squirrels in the Community at St Mary's Church



Izzy, in 5JJ, and Chloe, in 6SW, performing at Squirrels in the Community

Squirrels in the Community, a beloved part of the school calendar, brought joy to senior community members in local care homes. Pupils delighted audiences both at a special school event and at St Mary's Church in Warwick, during the Christmas Tree Festival. Their performances highlighted the power of music to connect generations and plans are already underway to extend these outreach activities in the future.

As the new half term began, the school's guitarists were treated to an incredible day with internationally acclaimed guitarist Amanda Cook. Pupils faced the challenge of performing in a masterclass, showcasing their skills with poise and confidence. The Groovy Guitars ensemble also rehearsed with Amanda and had the privilege of performing alongside her in an inspiring after school concert. We are very grateful to Mr Crawford for organising another wonderful guitar day.



Our Beginner Brass group

Our informal concerts have continued this term, offering soloists a chance to perform in front of a smaller, supportive audience. It is a wonderful opportunity for our young musicians to share their talents and grow as performers and we look forward to hearing more wonderful performances over the year.

The term reached a crescendo with the Winter Concert, an afternoon brimming with musical talent. Families and friends gathered to enjoy dazzling performances from the school's ensembles and Junior Choir. The debut of Beginner Brass was a particular highlight, delighting the audience with their energetic playing.

Another milestone was the Foundation Gala Concert at Butterworth Hall where the Senior Choir proudly represented Warwick Prep. Singing in multiple languages – Māori, Mandarin, Swahili, and Japanese – they performed a movement from the choral work 'Calling All Dawns' with the Warwick Junior School Micro Choir. The evening which featured collaborations with musicians from local schools and all the schools within the Foundation, was a resounding celebration of musical excellence and unity.



Millie, in 2AW, learning the double bass in the Year 2 Strings Project



Charlie, in 2AW, learning cello in the Year 2 Strings Project

As the festive season approached, the school was alive with the cheerful melodies of nativities, productions and celebration assemblies. Traditional carol services, led by Year 2 and the Prep department, wrapped up the term with a celebration of festive spirit. These occasions, filled with laughter and song, reminded everyone of the true meaning of Christmas.

This term's musical achievements reflect not only the talent and dedication of our pupils but also the deep sense of connection and joy that music brings to our school community. Bravo to all our young performers for an extraordinary term!

# Spotlight on Drama

It has been a wonderful start to the dramatic year for Warwick Prep. In their Drama lessons, the Year 4 girls have been learning all about tone, projection and articulation through tongue twisters, songs and scenes. They even brought along a few of their own favourite tongue twisters and songs to teach to the staff!

Our Year 3 and Year 4 Drama Club remains as popular ever, with pupils exploring storytelling skills bringing Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' to life. This year, we were excited to launch a brand new Drama Club for Year 2. During the Autumn Term, the focus has been on developing new characters, ranging from superheroes to magical genies. The clubs have provided a wonderful opportunity for younger and older girls to make connections and celebrate their love of Drama. A special mention goes to Phoebe, in 6SW, one of our talented older performers, who has been supporting the Year 2 group. Additionally, Drama Ambassadors and Scholars from King's High School have been helping across all year groups.



Year 4 girls practising their Drama skills

Harvest is a very special time of year for our pupils who marked the occasion with a series of assemblies. Children in The Squirrels Nursery performed to their parents for the very first time, with a piece inspired by the book 'Handa's Hen'. We were incredibly impressed by their lovely musical renditions and acting skills – we never would have imagined it was their debut! The Year 1 and Year 2 pupils held a special service in the Warwick School Chapel, singing Harvest songs and sharing their own poems. The Year 4 pupils performed a selection of thoughtful poems and prayers, including our traditional school recitation of Ecclesiastes 3:1-10. Their hard work on projection and gesture skills paid off, as they brought the message of Harvest to life.

To prepare for their production of 'Children of the World', the Year 1 children learnt about festive customs from different cultures. They sang songs including 'Christmas Day on the Beach' to represent Australia and 'The Tree of Light' to represent China, offering a wonderful insight into how Christmas is celebrated around the world. We were incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication as they learnt their lines in preparation to step on stage. It was a fabulous end to the term!

# Question Time

Liz England, Dance teacher

By Sienna and Sophie



**Q** When did you start at Warwick Prep?

**A** I joined Warwick Prep in 2020 but I joined King's High School in 2003 so over twenty years ago!

**Q** When and why did you start dancing?

**A** I started ballet when I was five-years-old. However, when I found out I couldn't wear a tutu and pointe shoes but instead had to wear a bottle green leotard, I decided it wasn't for me. A little later, my friend suggested disco dancing which I loved and that eventually led me to hip hop.

**Q** What types of dancing do you teach?

**A** I teach Pop & Street Dance at Warwick Prep and King's High School but I'm also a qualified fitness instructor.

**Q** What is your favourite style of dance?

**A** I love seeing the effect my Pop & Street Dance style has on my pupils' mood, making them happy, energetic and confident. As for myself, I enjoy dancing Ballroom and Latin American because they are so expressive.



**Q** Who is your favourite dancer?

**A** There are so many to choose from! One of my favourites is Ashley Banjo from 'Diversity'. My greatest influence has been Len Goodman. He was my dance examiner and truly an expert in his field.

# Charity News

This term, our charitable efforts have focused on fostering compassion and kindness throughout our community. With the belief that “every little helps,” our initiatives have been dedicated to supporting those in need.

Our Harvest collection this year was donated to the Warwick District Foodbank, an essential organisation providing emergency food supplies and support to individuals in crisis across Warwick, Leamington, and Kenilworth. Thanks to the generous contributions from our pupils and their families, we were thrilled to present a ‘bumper crop’ of donations. We were also honoured to receive a certificate of thanks from Mr Andy Bower at the Warwick District Foodbank.

The Poppy Appeal made a meaningful impact at Warwick Prep, with the sale of poppies and related merchandise raising an impressive £915.11! All proceeds were proudly donated to the Royal British Legion in support of their vital work.



*Pupils in NHT meeting Pudsey Bear!*



*Maddie, in 2AW, completing her washing up personal challenge*

We were delighted that this year's Children in Need Week was our most successful yet! Through Pudsey-themed playground games and activities, we raised an incredible total of £2,441.18 - our best ever! The week was filled with fun challenges and games, bringing smiles to faces while making a real difference.

A special shout-out goes to everyone who participated in the Pudsey Personal Challenge over half term. We were especially impressed by the outstanding fundraising efforts of the following pupils:

- Mahi in 3LG: £210
- Erin in 4HF: £182
- Emilia in 5KC: £120
- Clara in 5KC: £105
- Hardaya in 5JJ: £100

Thank you to all who contributed to this amazing achievement. Your generosity and enthusiasm embodied the true spirit of Children in Need.



*Keira, in 5JJ, tackling her swimming personal challenge*



*Baxter, in 1HC, and Teddy, in 3LG, riding their bikes for their personal challenge*



*Supporting Children in Need*

This year, we were proud to support the Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal for the first time. Our Charity Team was determined to make a real difference for disadvantaged children and young people in our local community during the festive season.

Our school community came together with incredible generosity:

- The Squirrels Nursery and Reception collected dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys and puzzles
- Year 1 and Year 2 donated colouring sets and other items suitable for children aged 3-5, such as dolls, action figures, cars, lorries, pencils, crayons, books and puzzles
- Year 3 and Year 4 contributed items for children aged 5-9, including educational games and toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), books, puzzles, word searches and crosswords
- Year 5 and Year 6 focused on gifts for children aged 9-12, such as games and toys, stationery, books, T-shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves and hats



*Generous donations towards the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal*



*Spirit the Squirrel donating towards the Christmas Appeal*

Thank you to everyone who took part. Your kindness helped brighten the holidays for many children in our community, making this appeal a truly meaningful success!

The success of our charitable endeavours would not have been possible without the dedication of our House Captains, Charity Team and other Year 6 pupils. They played essential roles in organising, rallying, counting and encouraging their peers. Their remarkable example of seeing charity as an unconditional act of kindness is inspiring. Thank you!

The charities we have chosen to support this year are:

- **Breast Cancer** – A cause close to many of our hearts, we are committed to making a difference for those affected
- **Mencap** – Supporting people with learning disabilities to ensure they receive the care they need to live happy and fulfilling lives
- **MSF (Médecins Sans Frontières)** – A global charity providing life-saving medical care to those in urgent need around the world

# Squirrels in the Community

Squirrels in the Community holds a cherished place in our school calendar, as pupils once again delighted senior community members from local care homes with a wonderful array of musical performances.

This year, pupils from Year 2, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6, along with our Music Captains and our Wellbeing Ambassadors, showcased their talents at a special in-school event held in partnership with Kissing it Better. Following the performances, pupils and visitors enjoyed an afternoon tea prepared by our wonderful Catering Team. Stories and laughter were shared, with pupils amusingly recounting far more positive tales of school life than their senior guests! This intergenerational experience continues to be a highlight for everyone involved.



Year 4 girls performing to local care home residents



Hosting Squirrels in the Community in the Music School

As part of the St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival, our musicians once again performed to senior community members from local care homes, creating a magical afternoon filled with festive cheer.

To spread even more Christmas joy, some of our musicians and Wellbeing Ambassadors visited Jubilee Care Home where they sang Christmas carols and hosted a Christmas quiz.

We are excited to continue strengthening our relationships with local care homes throughout the year and look forward to many more meaningful moments together.

# Spirit Investigates...

## Year 6 House Captains

By Sienna and Sophie



Together with Spirit, Sienna and Sophie interviewed the Year 6 House Captains – Lottie, Tabby and Iris – to explore their key responsibilities in our school.

**Q** How did you become House Captains?

**A** L: The teachers decided who would be suitable for the role and we were chosen!

**Q** Which are your Houses?

**A** L: Dudley which is the yellow House.

T: Rich, the red House.

I: And Greville which is green.

**Q** What do you do in your role?

**A** L: We work with charities and encourage each House to try hard to earn House Points.

T: We think of fun activities for our House such as designing a Christmas jumper.

I: We help the local community and organise House meetings with the whole school.

**Q** How was your experience of our recent Squirrels in the Community event in the Music School?

**A** L: It was fun talking to the residents from the local care home. One of them told me a story about being Head Boy at school.

T: I performed as part of the Year 6 Handbells group which everyone enjoyed. The Catering Team prepared a wonderful lunch.



**Q** What is the best thing about being a House Captain?

**A** L: I enjoy having more responsibility and contributing towards our school community.

T: I had so much fun organising the Children in Need playground games.

I: There is always lots to do as House Captain so you are kept busy!

**Q** What is your favourite colour and why?

**A** L: Baby pink because it's pretty.

T: Yellow because it's lively and red because I like showing support for my House, Rich.

I: Lavender because it's very calming and it smells lovely too!

# Harvest Festival

To support Harvest Festival, our parents, pupils and the local community donated items to the Warwick District Foodbank. Each House filled a shopping trolley with food cupboard essentials and beauty products to help those in crisis. Congratulations to everyone in Rich, who were the winners of the House Competition and had a trolley overflowing with donations! A special thanks goes to Cordelia, in 2AD, who donated items every day.

For their Harvest assembly, children in The Squirrels Nursery performed for their parents for the first time at Warwick Prep. Their assembly, based on the book 'Handa's Hen' was wonderful. The children were fantastic, showcasing excellent acting and beautiful singing, including a Warwick Prep favourite, 'Big Red Combine Harvester'!



Pre-Prep Harvest service in the chapel



Year 4 Harvest assembly

Pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 presented a Pre-Prep Harvest assembly in the Warwick School Chapel. The service began with a welcome from Reverend James Holden, Foundation Chaplain, followed by beautifully sung Harvest hymns. The children listened to prayers, written and read by Michael, in 1JB, Alice, in 1JF, Matilda, in 1HC, and Elodie, in 1SC. It was a joyful service, celebrating the importance of Harvest.

The Year 4 girls led a beautiful Harvest assembly, delighting parents with poems, prayers and hymns. A particularly joyous song was 'Thank Your Lucky Stars' which the girls happily sang twice! We were thrilled to welcome back Mr Andy Bower from the Warwick District Foodbank for his tenth Harvest assembly at Warwick Prep. He was overwhelmed with the quantity of donations and the £100 raised during the retiring collection.

Thank you to our Charity Coordinators and everyone involved in making our Harvest Festival such a success!

# Remembrance Week

During Remembrance Week, the House Captains launched our Poppy Appeal by selling poppies and poppy merchandise to our school community during break times. We were delighted to raise £915.11 for the Royal British Legion.



Lottie, Iris, Annabel and Amara, in Year 6, launching our Poppy Appeal

Throughout the week, many year groups created beautiful poppy artwork. In Forest School, children in The Squirrels Nursery made poppies using sticks and wound wool around them. It was quite tricky but the children persevered to create a beautiful display.



Blythe and Bronte, in 5KC, with Lieutenant Colonel Tony Glover

To honour Remembrance Day, the Year 5 girls, along with Lieutenant Colonel Tony Glover, Chairman of the Warwick branch of the Royal British Legion, led a moving service in the Warwick School Chapel to commemorate service members who gave their lives for our freedom. With deep reverence, Pahal filled the chapel with the poignant notes of the Last Post on the violin.



Finger painted poppy by Raeya, in RSJ

# Behind the Scenes – Reception children

By Elicia and Prabhjot

Elicia and Prabhjot went behind the scenes with Phoebe, Anatolia and Jeevan, from Reception, to chat to them about their first few weeks at Warwick Prep.



**Q** What is your favourite thing about Warwick Prep?

- A P:** I like colouring and playing on the climbing frame.  
**A:** I enjoy learning lots of phonics and having sports lessons.  
**J:** I love learning new things and playing with my friends.

**Q** What new things have you learnt in Reception?

- A P:** I have been learning how to read which is lots of fun.  
**A:** I have learnt how to write proper sentences.  
**J:** I have learnt lots of new phonics.

**Q** What fun activities do you take part in?

- A P:** Forest School where each week you go on a new adventure.  
**A:** Learning about lots of different shapes.  
**J:** Rehearsing for our Christmas Nativity has been lots of fun!

**Q** Do you have a favourite lesson?

- A P:** Maths because I enjoy counting.  
**A:** PE because sport is my favourite thing.  
**J:** Forest School because you can explore! I like After School Club too.



**Q** Can you tell us a little about your form teachers?

- A P:** Mrs Earl is very kind and she likes colouring.  
**A:** Mrs Jones has a dog and she's funny.  
**J:** Miss Keen and Mrs Coldwell-Horsfall are really kind to me.

**Q** What exciting activity are you looking forward to this week?

- A P:** Painting pictures.  
**A:** Practising our Christmas Nativity.  
**J:** School lunch! I especially love mac and cheese.

# Maclaren Acorn

By Elicia and Prabhjot

You may have noticed an acorn in our classrooms. Its name is Maclaren. The Maclaren Acorn is a kindness award given to pupils who show exceptional kindness both in and out of the classroom. Teachers carefully observe and choose who deserves this recognition.

When a pupil is awarded the Maclaren Acorn, they get to bring it to their lessons where it sits proudly on their desk. Now, you are probably wondering why the acorn is called Maclaren Acorn.



Hugo, in 2AW, proudly holding Maclaren Acorn

Mrs Maclaren was the Head of Pre-Prep and a wonderfully kind person who always brought smiles to everyone's faces. When she left, the equally wonderful Mrs Smeeton stepped into her role. We missed Mrs Maclaren so much that we decided to name our acorn award after her, as a tribute to the kindness she brought to our school.

Here are some examples of acts of kindness that could earn you Maclaren Acorn:



Introducing Maclaren Acorn

- Listening to your teacher
- Including others on the playground
- Following our Fair Rules and Squirrel Standards
- Remembering your manners
- Holding the door open for someone

These may seem like small acts of kindness but in our school, they can make a big difference.

# Anti-Bullying Week

By The Wellbeing Ambassadors

In November, we supported Anti-Bullying Week with the theme 'Choose Respect', aimed at empowering children and young people to take positive action against the harm and hurt caused by bullying.

Now in its seventh year, we kicked off the week with 'Odd Socks Day', celebrating what makes each of us unique. It was wonderful to see so many different socks! On the same day, we organised and led a Wellbeing Walk around the blue playground. It was great to see everyone supporting each other. We had lots of fun and it was a fun way to start the day.

Throughout the week, we enjoyed homework focused on wellbeing and mindfulness activities. These included playing with pets, knitting, yoga (even FaceTime yoga with friends!), drawing together online, breathing exercises, finding new self-care apps, listening to music, dancing and playing board games with family.

We also organised an Anti-Bullying poster competition. Congratulations to the winners:

- Connie in 1JF
- Francesca in 2EC
- Stephie in 3NM
- Addy in 4HF
- Athena in 6CM

On Wednesday 13 November, we celebrated World Kindness Day. Each form in school was tasked with naming one of the foods on the lunch menu with a word linked to kindness. It was lovely seeing the menu written up in the dining hall and everyone especially enjoyed their lunch that day!



Odd Socks Day



Starting the morning with our Wellbeing Walk



Odd Socks Day

During Children in Need week, Pudsey Bear joined in our Anti-Bullying assembly! The House Captains from all four houses organised games during break and lunch times to raise money which included skipping, archery, hopscotch, Jenga, colouring and hula hooping.

In what was already a very busy term, we were also working towards our 'Community Badge'. As part of this, we took part in our Squirrels in the Community event where we enjoyed lunch with visitors from local care homes. We enjoyed telling stories and sharing a questionnaire to find out about school life experiences; in particular if they had had experiences of bullying. We performed poetry, some of which needed audience participation. The well-known classic poem, 'Please Mrs Butler' was a real hit!

We are excited to continue building connections with the local community and look forward to new projects in the coming year.



Sharing stories at Squirrels in the Community

# Empowering the next generation

By Elicia, Elsie, Prabhjot, Phoebe, Sienna and Sophie

On the afternoon of Tuesday 12 November, we and other pupils from local primary schools had the opportunity to attend a Q&A session with Malala Yousafzai's parents, Mr Ziauddin Yousafzai and his wife, Toor Pekai. They were visiting King's High School to open their new 'Peace Pod' and 'Prayer Room' which were devised by the school's Interfaith Group.

What an exciting afternoon this was for us as Warwick Prep Life Editors! In preparation for the event, we each thought of a question we hoped to ask during the session. We were not disappointed. Mr and Mrs Yousafzai were both calm, engaging and eager to answer as many questions as they could.

Elicia was one of the first Editors to pose her question, "How and where did Malala find the courage to speak out about education for girls?" Mr Yousafzai shared that their family deeply values democracy and freedom of expression. Smiling, he revealed he felt that he himself was her inspiration.

Sophie asked Mrs Yousafzai, "How has your life changed since moving to the UK in 2012?" Mrs Yousafzai candidly shared that the move was very challenging. "I was unable to speak English when we arrived. The culture was so different. I cried every day for three years and I only talked to the moon and the trees as they were familiar to me. In 2016, I began taking English classes and by the end of the year, I gained much independence. I could even go to the doctors for an appointment on my own."



Our signed books



A wonderful opportunity speaking with Mr and Mrs Yousafzai

Mr Yousafzai asked Mrs Yousafzai to share a funny story. "I found the confidence to go to the shops by myself to purchase a pair of weighing scales. I asked the shop keeper and mimed the action of jumping on a pair of scales but he couldn't help me because he was a greengrocer." She laughed at the memory, though admitted to feeling embarrassed at the time!

Phoebe was very keen to find out what Mr Yousafzai's thoughts were as Malala's father when his daughter wanted to oppose the Taliban restrictions on female education. He replied, "My thoughts were very mixed, but at the time, we didn't really reflect on it. You don't think about putting out a fire, you just get a bucket of water and put it out. No one had the right to take away Malala's education. She was unstoppable."

Sienna was deeply moved when Mr Yousafzai talked about what schools and children can do to help. He passionately urged, "Use your voice. We all have one. We should raise it for all those under oppression. Think of girls being denied an education and speak out."



Meeting Mr and Mrs Yousafzai

For Elsie, the most inspiring moment came when Mr Yousafzai talked about how girls should not be kept from being part of the outside world and have a right to an education. He said, "Education is the front door to the house of life."

As the event came to an end, Mr Yousafzai graciously signed books we had purchased for our library to commemorate the occasion. Prabhjot was able to ask one last question composed by a fellow Editor, "If you had the ability to time travel, what would you change from the past and what would you change in the future?" Mr Yousafzai replied, "If I could go back, I would speak to my parents and ask them to give my five sisters the chance to be educated. I believe they had so much to offer. For the future, I dream of a world where everyone can access and complete their education."

What an unforgettable afternoon we all shared.

## Forest School

After the summer holidays, the return to Forest School is always a hive of excitement. Not only do we spot changes in the vegetation but the new cohort of children from The Squirrels Nursery are eager to explore and discover all the activities we offer. The new children quickly learnt our Forest School rules which keep them safe and help preserve the garden for everyone to enjoy.

Mrs Lees, our Forest School Leader, has been busy enhancing the garden this autumn. The bug hotel was relocated and a new bird hide was built with a camouflage net, binoculars, and bird-spotting sheets. A simple swing in the climbing tree has quickly become a favourite activity for the children.

Children in The Squirrels Nursery planted daffodil bulbs around the Coronation tree - they were fascinated to look at the Coronation pebbles which surround the tree. In early October, the children explored the school grounds, engaging with nature as they collected autumn leaves, conkers, and acorns. These treasures were used to craft beautiful crowns and magic wands. For Remembrance Day, the Rainbow class made poppy crosses as a touching tribute to those who have been lost. Later in the week, the Sunshine class collected yellow leaves to make a giant Pudsey Bear face for Children in Need.



Jaeden, in RHE, painting with blackberries

The Reception children were delighted to see the pond area had been refurbished so they started the term with pond dipping. The children found fish, snails, pond skaters and newts. Despite some very wet autumn days, the children embraced the weather, building dens, splashing in muddy puddles and making mud pies, proving the wet conditions only added to the fun! The children squashed blackberries using a pestle and mortar to make paint from the juice. As the leaves changed colour, they went on a hunt for signs of autumn, armed with clipboards and spotter sheets. Some even spied a squirrel which was very exciting!

In November, the children made their own version of a firework using a conker wrapped in tissue and tied with string. For Diwali celebrations, the children made rangoli patterns using natural materials. A highlight was sitting around the fire circle and enjoying tasty hot chocolate made using the Kelly kettle on the fire. The children followed the safety rules carefully, staying seated on their logs and respecting the fire circle boundaries.

The Year 1 children explored potion making and mashing petals, leaves and herbs to create delightful smells and colours. We now have a bow saw and sawhorse so after discussing staying safe around tools and putting on child size rigger gloves, the children had a go at sawing using a 'me to you' method.



Matilda, in 1HC, planting spring bulbs

In Year 1 Forest School Club, the children have collaborated on a range of activities, including creating leaf pumpkin windows, planting Muscari bulbs, harvesting the last few runner beans and building dens. To the children's delight, our crafty elf, Eric, made a special appearance in December. He had hidden all the Christmas tree baubles and tinsel, providing lots of fun as the children searched for them! Inspired by the baubles, the children created their own, filling them with natural treasures to hang in Forest School.



Ivana, in NWR, collecting conkers



Charlie, in NHT, proudly wearing his autumn crown



Hannah, in RSJ, on an autumn hunt

## In a nutshell



By Elicia and Prabhjot

Our Editors, Elicia and Prabhjot sat down with our new Librarian, Mrs Giacomelli-Harris to explore the wonderful world of books.

**Q** *What inspired you to become a librarian?*

**A** I have always loved books – reading them, chatting about them, and sharing their magic. As a bookseller for ten years, the children’s section has always been my favourite. There’s something magical about the way stories come to life and I’m passionate about inspiring others to experience the wonder of reading.

**Q** *What is your favourite part about being the Warwick Prep Librarian?*

**A** Preparing the library for its reopening after the refresh was such a rewarding experience. I’ve also enjoyed getting to know everyone and welcoming pupils of all ages. A particular highlight has been storytime with the younger pupils and recommending books to the older ones.

**Q** *Do you have any tips to become a better reader?*

**A** Challenge yourself to read fifteen minutes a day and try something new. Remember, there is no such thing as the ‘wrong’ book to read.

**Q** *Which is the most read/requested book at Warwick Prep?*

**A** The most requested books are the ‘Murder Most Unladylike’ series by Robin Stevens and ‘Diary of a Wimpy Kid’ by Jeff Kinney.

**Q** *What are your long-term plans for our Library?*

**A** To expand what is on offer to inspire both enthusiastic readers and those still discovering their love for reading.



**Q** *Who is your favourite author? And what is your favourite book?*

**A** This is an exceedingly tricky question! I couldn’t pick just one so I’ve chosen a few books that have really moved me. ‘The House with Chicken Legs’ and ‘The Girl Who Speaks Bear’ by Sophie Anderson are among my favourites. I’m currently reading an advance copy of ‘My Dog’ by Olivia Wakeford which is set to be published in 2025 – I had to stop reading twice because it made me sob!

## St Mary’s Christmas Tree Festival

Each year, St Mary’s Church in Warwick hold their Christmas Tree Festival, supported by local businesses and schools that sponsor and decorate the Christmas trees. The festival officially opened during the Warwick Victorian Evening on Thursday 28 November.

As visitors entered St Mary’s Church, they were greeted by a stunning display of seventy beautifully decorated Christmas trees, filling the space with festive wonder. We were proud to sponsor one of the trees again this year.



Our beautifully decorated Christmas tree



Year 5 girls with their Mexican God’s Eye decorations

The Year 5 pupils had great fun creating Mexican God’s Eye ‘Ojos de Dios’ decorations to adorn our tree. Using two sticks crossed together, they wrapped coloured wool around them to form a diamond-shaped pattern. These spiritual symbols represent the idea of watching over and protecting loved ones.

We do hope you were able to visit the Christmas Tree Festival and vote for our tree. We were delighted to be awarded the prize for ‘The Starriest Tree’!

# Introducing Spirit the Squirrel

After many years of dedicated service at Warwick Prep, our beloved mascot, Cyril the Squirrel, has embarked on an exciting new journey, travelling the world! Cyril has been sending us postcards from his adventures which have enabled us to learn more about different countries.

Before he jetted off, Cyril entrusted his important role to someone very special - Spirit the Squirrel! Spirit has been busy learning all about life at Warwick Prep and getting to know the children.

Spirit embodies the core values of our 'Squirrel Spirit': creativity, curiosity, community, social responsibility, confidence, wellbeing, and forward-thinking. These qualities will inspire our pupils to embody these values in everything they do.

With Spirit by our side, we're ready to embark on exciting new adventures together, celebrating the heart of what it means to be part of the Warwick Prep community.



Mapping Cyril's travels

## Eco News

The new Eco Councillors were extremely enthusiastic about starting their new roles this year, and Mrs Griggs was inundated with their fantastic ideas at the first meeting!

During one meeting, everyone thoroughly enjoyed travelling around the school on a 'light hunt', surprising teachers in their classrooms and checking to see who had left the lights on in their cupboards. The Councillors were very pleased with their findings and suspect that teachers will now turn their lights off after a visit from about fifteen eager children!

The Councillors also went on a litter hunt around some key Foundation sites, noting that the bus stop near the Bridge House Theatre was a "hot spot"! With litter pickers at the ready, they made it spick and span in no time.

They enjoyed decorating the Christmas tree with recycled decorations from last year's competition (so pleasing to see them up again), showing the importance of reduce, reuse, and recycle.



Our Eco Councillors



Alec, Arthur and Ophelia turning off the lights!

The Councillors would like to remind everyone to recycle as much packaging as possible during this Christmas season and they look forward to getting back to work in the Spring Term.

# Year 6 Stemillions Club

By Sienna and Sophie



Stemillions is our favourite club! So far, the best activity has been building marshmallow and spaghetti towers where we tested them to see which tower was the strongest and the tallest.



I made an air-powered launcher to propel a card mouse

Some of the activities we have enjoyed include: making oobleck which is a substance that acts like a solid or a liquid depending on how much pressure you apply, making our own 3D shoes, designing a Google sign, creating our own space badge and lots more!

Next term, we're excited to announce that we'll be doing Stemillions with Year 7.



My mouse flew to the stars!

# An interview with... Mr Rowan

By Elsie and Phoebe

Elsie and Phoebe scored big as they interviewed Mr Rowan, Sports Graduate, to gain an insight into the world of sport.



- Q** *Have you always aspired to be a sports coach?*
- A** After playing professional football at an academy in Scotland, I decided I'd like to move into coaching.
- Q** *What do you enjoy most about your role?*
- A** It's incredibly rewarding to see pupils listen, take on coaching advice, and show improvement.
- Q** *Which football team do you support?*
- A** I support a Scottish team called St Mirren, based in Paisley. I used to watch them as a child.
- Q** *Which sport is your favourite?*
- A** I have a huge passion for football but I also really like playing golf.
- Q** *What are your other hobbies and interests?*
- A** My main interests revolve around sport but I do enjoy cooking too.



- Q** *Who is your favourite sports person of all time?*
- A** My favourite sports person is Steven Thompson, a former St Mirren striker who scored the winning goal in the 2013 cup final.

# Branching out

By Elsie and Phoebe

Elsie and Phoebe met with Miss Rizzo, Admin Assistant (Pastoral), to learn more about her valuable role in our school.



**Q** How long have you worked at Warwick Prep?

**A** I have worked at Warwick Prep for nearly five years and the time has flown by!

**Q** Please can you explain your role?

**A** I handle a variety of tasks in the office including answering phones, responding to parent emails, overseeing registration, assisting Mrs Smeeton and Mrs Ward with pastoral administration and much more.

**Q** What is your favourite thing about working in the office?

**A** My favourite thing about working in the office is that every day is different. It's always busy but interesting and fun. There is always plenty to do.

**Q** What was your favourite subject at school?

**A** My favourite subject was Maths because I really enjoy problem-solving. This helps me a lot with my daily tasks.



**Q** What hobbies and interests do you have?

**A** I enjoy reading, going on walks, visiting restaurants to try new foods and visiting the beach as much as I can!

# News from our Digital Leaders

Our Digital Leaders have been hard at work this Autumn Term. Many of our new Year 5 leaders have been completing their training on the Childnet Digital Leaders portal, while our Year 6 leaders have been exploring new modules, including topics such as Influencers, Generative AI, Online Hate and Scams.

A commonly topic among our pupils is scams in online games and how to deal with them. It was great to see the new modules reflecting their ideas and questions which are often shared on the Digital Discussions page of our Digital Leaders website.

Our Digital Leaders also created an Online Safety quiz which they used during playground visits to test pupils' knowledge. Some of the questions included:



- What makes the safest password?
- How should you choose your avatar?
- What percentage of people have experienced kindness online?

The Digital Leaders were surprised by the results but they were thrilled to see that 100% of the pupils they quizzed answered the safest password question correctly. This gave them confidence that our pupils' logins are in safe hands!



# Ignite

We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to discover and grow their inner passions and talents. As Early Years and Primary educators, we understand the importance of these crucial foundation years, and we strive to provide an environment in which these passions and talents can be awakened, nurtured and cultivated, allowing our children to become the very best that they can be.

In addition to the array of activities on offer through the co-curricular programme, Ignite provides interested pupils with greater opportunity for new passions to be discovered and for existing ones to flourish, for intellectual curiosity and creativity to be encouraged, and for independent thought to be enhanced.

### Mission

To provide an academic enrichment programme of excellence.

### Vision

To provide outstanding opportunities for our pupils to discover, explore and ignite their interests, passions and talents beyond the classroom.



# Pupdate on Theo

In the Summer Term, we introduced Theo, an adorable yellow Labrador we were sponsoring to become a Guide Dog. Theo started his training and was progressing well, learning new skills such as stepping onto platforms, walking in a straight line and finding kerbs. However, Theo's trainer, Emily, noticed he was struggling with body sensitivity and wasn't comfortable wearing the guiding harness. Despite Emily's hard work to support Theo, he continued to show signs of stress and was easily distracted by other dogs.



Emily and Theo playing



Theo in his training coat

After careful consideration, Emily decided to have Theo assessed for an alternative career as a Buddy Dog. A Buddy Dog helps a child or young person with a visual impairment to build confidence and independence. We are delighted to announce that Theo was the perfect candidate and was accepted for this role!

Theo has now found his pawfect match in Anna, a thirteen-year-old with a rare heart condition that causes progressive vision and hearing loss. Anna has wished a dog for a very long time as she wanted a constant friend at home. Although the partnership is still new, Anna's family are dedicated to supporting her and Theo's training. We look forward to sharing more about Theo and Anna's journey in February 2025.

# Art Gallery

## Reception



First day painting by Clio in RHE



First day painting by Tommy in RSJ



First day painting by Ella in RKC

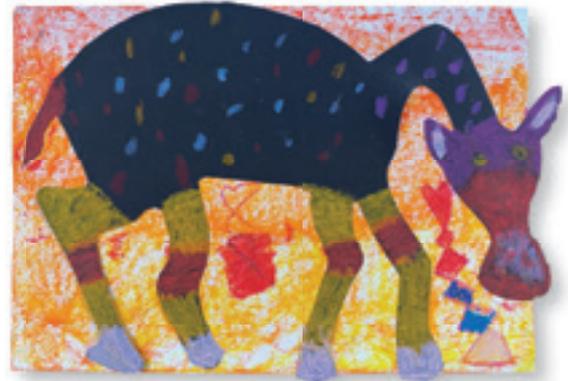
## Year 2



Tingatinga inspired lion by Francesco in 2AD



African giraffe by William in 2EC



Tingatinga inspired giraffe by Olivia in 2JW

## Year 3

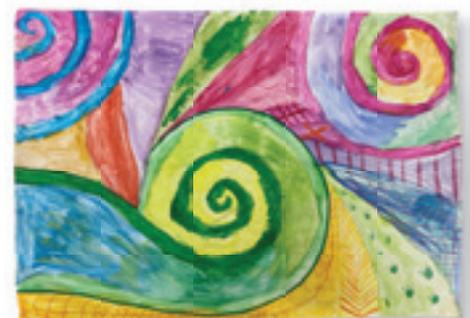
Year 3 have been exploring the elements of art, focusing on colour and brush technique. They have used colour mixing and design skills to create A3 mixed-media paintings inspired by New Zealand based artist, Raewyn Harris.



By Audrey in 3LG



By Rachel in 3LW



By Erin in 3NM

**Year 4**

Year 4 have been exploring art from around the world, focusing on Native American totem poles and sugar skulls from Mexico. They created 3D clay skulls and added fine detail using watercolours and paint markers.



By Heather in 4VS



By Maddie in 4VS



By Eleanor in 4HF

**Year 5**

Year 5 have been working on pieces in response to aquatic life. They have explored collage artist Jane Hirst and made 3D turtles in response to the sculptor, Matt Buckley.



By Ottie in 5KC



By Izzy in 5JJ



By Ella in 5AM

**Year 6**

Year 6 have been working on the Pop Art themed 'Fast Food' project. They have used observational drawing skills and mono printing to create burger outcomes. They have taken inspiration from fast food themed work by Claus Oldenburg and Betty Spindler and created some fantastic pizza slices in clay.



By Philippa in 6CM



By Lottie in 6CM



By Elsie in 6SW



**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.

Please take a moment to view the wonderful flyer included in this article, created by one of our team members which highlights where the money raised at WPSA events has been spent within our school community this year. Thank you to everyone for your generous support of WPSA events.

WPSA and PAWS (Warwick Junior School) are trying to raise enough 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.



### 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 £100 or more

enables you to sponsor either an oak leaf or acorn on the tree 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 memorable piece of artwork for the children, staff, and parents to enjoy. The oak tree is fabricated from copper and is 212cm wide and 213cm high, 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.



### WPSA Committee Members

If you would like to join the WPSA Committee, attend Committee meetings and help organise the many events we put on throughout the year, please do reach out to Class Reps or WPSA members as we would love to hear from you!



### WPSA Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 27 September, WPSA hosted the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. Thank you so much to everyone who baked or donated the wonderful cakes for us to sell and raise money for this worthy charity! It was lovely to see the dining hall full of friends enjoying tea, coffee and cakes. We raised £471.60 for Macmillan Cancer Support which is now just over £28,000 since 1995 - amazing! We really could not do it without you and your generous donations, and of course, the delicious cakes!

### Warwick Prep Big Book Sale

WPSA organised the Warwick Prep Big Book Sale to raise funds for additional library equipment and what a success it was! Thank you to all the parents who helped their children sort through books at home to donate those no longer needed. The children and staff loved the event and the enthusiasm for the 'new' books to take home was wonderful. We raised an incredible £1099.77 – what a fantastic achievement! Make sure you hold onto your 'old' books, as we will hopefully run this event again next year to continue raising funds for the library.





**WPSA Pumpkin Carving Competition**

At Halloween, we held our annual spooktacular WPSA Pumpkin Carving Competition. It was hard choosing winners with such scary and imaginative entries - well done everyone! The winners were:

- Prep-Prep: Leo in 2EC
- Prep: Liv in 6CM
- Family: Francis in 1HC
- Overall: Hunter in 2AD

Thank you to everyone taking part and donating.



**WPSA Christmas Fayre and Father Christmas Drive-By**

We were very excited to welcome so many of you to our Christmas Fayre on Friday 6 December. There were festive stalls with games, tombolas and crafts for children and adults alike to enjoy, getting everyone into the Christmas spirit! WPSA also organised the much-loved annual Father Christmas drive-by. The children were delighted to see Father Christmas on his sleigh. It's always a magical moment!

**WPSA Uniform Shop**

We have had several very successful sales this term despite the old uniform now being completely discontinued. Our Uniform Sale at the end of September 2024 coincided with the Macmillan Coffee Morning and proved to be very busy. We held a Christmas jumper donation scheme during the November 2024 sale to allow old jumpers to be re-used, with proceeds going to WPSA and Save the Children.

In 2025, we will be looking to donate money towards the Science Department to arrange more fun science-based activities for the children. We hope to share more details on this throughout the year. As always, many thanks for your support of the WPSA Uniform Shop. Shopping and selling with us really does a lot more than just helping to rehome school uniform!

**Future WPSA events**

Here are some dates to put in your diaries for the Spring Term:

- Prep Disco (Years 3 to 6): Friday 24 January
- Pre-Prep Magic Show (Years 1 to 2): Friday 7 February
- WPSA Easter Event: Saturday 29 March
- WPSA Uniform Sale: Friday 4 April

f @WPSACentral

X @WPSA10

ig @wpsa\_prep



**WITH YOUR SUPPORT**

**WPSA DONATED**

**£5,294.29 IN 2024**

**30% FUNDING RAISED FOR OUTDOOR CLASSROOM**

Your generous support has already made a tremendous impact, enhancing our children's learning and environment.

**DONATION HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Skills 4 Life Badges
- Science Wall
- Outdoor Equipment
- Sports Bibs
- Books & Guitars

We've donated £516 for Skills for Life badges, £1457 for a Science Wall timeline, £479.99 for Outdoor Cushions, £75.96 for Sports Bibs, £1,823.93 for School Playground Benches, £398.00 for Leavers Books, and £437.49 for Guitars!

We're excited to share that we are now 30% of the way towards our next goal: raising funds for an outdoor classroom! Our aim is to reach £18,000, and we're well on our way, but we need your continued support to make this dream a reality.

Let's make it happen

**DIARY DATES!** CHRISTMAS FAYRE - 12 DEC, PREP DISCO - 24 JAN, PRE-PREP MAGIC SHOW - 7 FEB, EASTER EVENT - 29 MAR

# Foundation Community

## Orchestra of the Swan partnership continues to excite

The Foundation's ongoing partnership with Orchestra of the Swan continues to excite, and on Thursday 10 October, we welcomed actor Anton Lesser to Warwick Hall for the first Swan concert of this season.

The concert, also featuring conductor Rebecca Miller and the Swan's professional orchestra, was once again outstanding; the combination of symphonic musical pieces with readings from Anton made for a wonderful experience for those in attendance.

We look forward to three more concerts at Warwick Hall throughout this season; On Sunday 26 January, Anton returns for 'A Beautiful Thread'; on Thursday 20 March, our pupils will have the truly unique opportunity to perform side-by-side with the Swan's orchestra in 'Elements'; and on Thursday 19 June, we end the season with 'Interstellar'.

Find out more at <https://orchestraoftheswan.org/concerts/#warwick>



## Foundation Gala Concert

On Thursday 28 November, the Foundation Gala Concert took place at Butterworth Hall.

The concert was outstanding, bringing together singers and instrumentalists from all Foundation schools, and performers from our proposed Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) schools – including a performance of by the choir of Evergreen School.



The evening also included a performance of Christopher Tin's 'Calling All Dawns', with the massed choirs of the Foundation, the proposed WSF MAT, and the Calling All Dawns Orchestra of staff and students.

Various Foundation ensembles performed on the night - including our Ambassadors, Wind Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, String Ensemble, and Symphony Orchestra; some of the most gifted musicians from across the Foundation showcased their undoubted musical talent, and we couldn't be prouder.



## Foundation Service of Thanksgiving

The annual Foundation Service of Thanksgiving took place on Friday 27 September in the Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick.

The service brought together representatives of our whole Foundation community: pupils, staff, parents, and Governors, and provided a moment to reflect on everything our community - past and present - has achieved.

Pupils were represented by different year groups and joined forces to make music. This included several student choral and music groups, such as massed choirs from our senior schools; our Foundation Chamber Choir; and our junior-aged chamber music group.





**Warwick – A Singing Town named as finalists for national award**

Warwick - A Singing Town was named as a finalist for 'Outstanding Musical Initiative' in the Music and Drama Education Awards 2025.

The awards celebrate outstanding achievements in Music and Drama education, and 'recognises individuals, schools, and organisations that have made a significant impact in these fields, showcasing excellence in teaching, innovation, and leadership.'

The Foundation is delighted to support such a positive initiative, and this achievement reflects the truly positive impact that it has on so many lives across the local community; from weekly singing tuition for children at local primary schools, to 'Sing for Joy' community choirs based at local community centres.



By Polly Beidas, Development & Landor Administrator/  
OGA Secretary

**Landor Association – Landor Lecture**

We are delighted to announce that the eighth Landor Lecture will be given by Executive Mentor and Theatre Director, Sue Moore (KHS 1960 - 1967) on Tuesday 21 January, 7pm in the King's High School Hall.

Sue, who was one of the first King's High pupils to study Business at university, has had a stellar business career, mentoring top executives in companies such as Sony, Microsoft and John Lewis. In parallel to this, she also studied with RADA and LAMDA and is currently the Artistic Director of the Loft Theatre, Leamington.



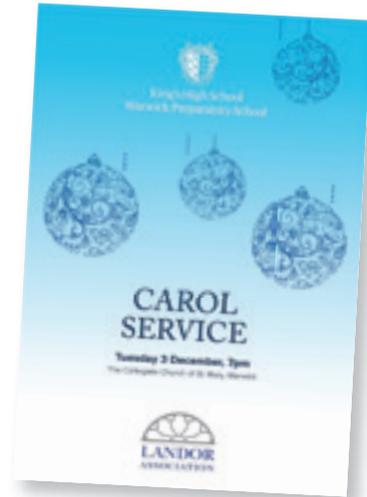
Recently, Sue has addressed the OGA Annual Lunch and AGM, the King's High Speech Day, and gave a fascinating talk to younger students at our Creative Arts festival about putting on a play 'from Page to Stage'.

She is a fabulous and engaging speaker. Her wise words will resonate with anyone in the world of work, and those who are studying business, as well as those with an interest in drama and the theatre.

Please email Polly Beidas on [p.beidas@warwickschools.co.uk](mailto:p.beidas@warwickschools.co.uk) to request a booking form.

**Landor Association – Carol Service**

On Tuesday 3 December, parents, friends and pupils were treated to a musical feast at the Landor Association Carol Service in the Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick. The magical evening featured a rousing rendition of 'Ding Dong Merrily on High' by the Warwick Prep Senior Choir and readings by Warwick Prep Headmistress Mrs Hellen Dodsworth, along with the Head and Deputy Head Girls. Thank you to the Foundation Music Department for organising such a magnificent programme.



**Landor Association – 'The Ilex 2024'**



We are delighted to share the latest edition of The Ilex magazine, summarising the activities of King's High and Warwick Prep over the 2024 academic year.

Many former pupils and staff remember the Ilex magazine as King's High's school publication from 1912 to 2014. In 2020, we relaunched a new-style Ilex as the magazine of the Landor Association, including features from pupils, staff, governors and parents past and present – the whole Landor community of King's High and Warwick Prep School. We hope you enjoy issue No. 135 of the Ilex, the fifth in its new format.

Enjoy memories from recent Landor and OGA events, recollections about our school song in its 100th year, and read about forthcoming reunions. View your copy here at [www.landorassociation.co.uk](http://www.landorassociation.co.uk)

**Landor Association – OGA Annual Lunch and AGM**

The OGA Annual Lunch and AGM takes place on Saturday 22 March 2025. Unfortunately, Baroness Judith Jolly has had to withdraw but we are delighted to announce that our guest speaker will now be Dr Anne Whitehouse (KHS 1980 - 1987), academic and feminist life coach. Anne is the author of a fabulous feminist toolkit book, 'Pull Back Your Power'.

The 'All the Fives' Reunion for anyone who took (or would have taken) their A levels in a year ending in a 5 - from 1955 to 2015 will take place on Saturday 14 June 2025.

Booking forms will be available shortly.

**Upcoming School Open Events**

- Warwick Preparatory School Open Afternoon, Tuesday 21 January
- King's High School Open Evening, Friday 31 January
- Warwick Junior School Open Week, w/c 24 February
- The Kingsley School Open Morning, Saturday 28 June
- Warwick School Open Evening, Friday 4 July



# *Key Dates Spring 2025*

**Term Commences:**  
Tuesday 7 January

**Half Term:**  
Monday 17 –  
Friday 21 February

**Term Ends:**  
Wednesday 9 April

## **OPEN EVENTS 2025**

**Open Afternoon:**  
Tuesday 21 January

**Entrance Assessments:**  
Monday 3 February: Year 3  
Wednesday 5 February: Years 4 to 6

**Open Morning:**  
Saturday 29 March

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



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