ANNUAL REPORT
TO PARENTS 2023-2024

Introduction

The academic year 2023-2024 was as action-packed as the previous year! Although we are a small school, our staff maximise the school's ability to help every child achieve their potential, whilst also enriching their school experience through a diverse range of trips and other extra-curricular activities.

From my perspective as the Headteacher, it is always pleasing to stand at the gate in the morning and see the smiles on the faces of the pupils as they enter the premises for another day of learning. We are on a mission at The Prep to make learning exciting, fun and as authentic as possible, as we strive to prepare every child to lead a successful life post-education. The children care deeply about the world around them and this is evident through our thriving Eco-Committee, (made up of representatives from every class, voted for by their peers) and our School Council, which gives the pupils a strong voice in matters related to the running of the school. In Year 6, every child is expected to take on a position of responsibility.

Our Independent Schools Inspection was a major milestone in the life of the school and whilst we initially faced setbacks from the original inspection team's findings, I am proud of the way the school rallied to ensure that by the time of our re-inspection, which occurred in late July 2024, we had addressed the areas needing improvement, resulting in all five standards being met.

It gives me great pleasure to share with you the highlights of the last academic year.

Mr Pascoe



"Pupils develop effective linguistic, literacy and numeracy skills through a daily focus in these areas of learning. Staff have secure subject knowledge and use resources effectively to help pupils gain a greater understanding in lessons. As a result, pupils make good progress from their starting points, particularly in Maths and English." ISI Report 2024

Academic Achievement

It's a rite of passage for our Year 6 pupils to take The Gregg School entrance assessment each year.

This year our pupils excelled once again in the assessment, which comprises English, Maths, Verbal and Non-Verbal reasoning. We were delighted with all of our pupil's results and celebrated that four of our pupils were awarded prestigious scholarships across academic, sport and art.

Modern Foreign Languages

There were many highlights in our Spanish lessons last year. In Form 3, pupils ran a Spanish café where parents were invited to taste authentic Spanish delicacies and the children practised the Spanish they had learned.

New for last year, we introduced Language Ambassador roles for Form 5 and 6 students, who played a key role in organising a Language Fun Day towards the end of the Summer Term. The event was a huge success, offering the children opportunities to sample different foods, learn greetings in various languages, and decorate biscuits with country flags, alongside a host of other fun activities.

Mrs Goss

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Hub

The EAL Hub saw a successful year, with seven children completing a year's intervention with our specially trained EAL staff.

They focused on improving their reading, spelling, speaking, listening and vocabulary.

The children received dedicated English lessons outside the classroom which enabled them to apply the skills learnt in the intervention back into their classwork.

By the end of Summer term 2024, 100% of the EAL children achieved their age Related Expected grades for Maths and English.



Pre-Senior Baccalaureate (PSB)

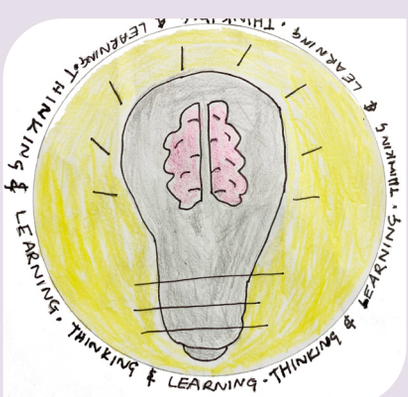
The PSB is about challenging perceptions of school and developing a love of learning.

This is best achieved by children developing a clear understanding of their skills and their areas for development. By focusing on the core skills children are best equipped to deal with the challenges and opportunities of senior school life and beyond.

Having joined the Learning Schools Trust last academic year, we spent this year bedding in the six core learning skills of: Thinking and Learning, Independence, Reviewing & Improving, Communication, Collaboration and Leadership.

Each half-term our pupils focused on a different learning skill, with competitions run for the children to create posters to explain each learning skill.

These skills were taught and the children were given opportunities to start to embed the core skills through Project-Based Learning Sessions.













Connections with local businesses

This year, we built links with local businesses including as Tesla, HSBC and the Apple Store in West Quay.

TESLA bought two brand new cars to showcase which the children were very excited to be allowed sit in! The idea behind inviting TESLA was for the children to hear about sustainability and new ideas for the future. George and Melissa from TESLA carried out a quiz in assembly, engaging the children by keeping it interactive.

HSBC came to talk to the children about how money matters. The session started with a whole school assembly and then short workshops for each year group were carried out around different money topics from budgeting a birthday party to planning a day out. The staff from HSBC are due to come back in Spring 2025 so we can achieve the Smart Save Money Award.



Each year group made a trip to the Apple Store in West Quay at some point during the academic year, getting an opportunity to be involved in an Apple Today workshop.

Depending on the age group, they either learnt how to draw with an iPencil or designed an emoji. The staff at Apple were great at encouraging the children to learn new skills and teaching them how they could develop these new skills at home on their own devices, directing them to the software.





School Productions

In December, Key Stage One performed their annual Nativity performance at Avenue St Andrews' Church. A star-studded affair, the Nativity gave Key Stage One the opportunity to show off their acting and dancing skills, ably supported by Mrs James and the choir.

In March, the children who undertake peripatetic music lessons were given the opportunity to perform in front of their parents and the school. Setting aside their nerves, the children performed brilliantly.

Our summer production was the musical "Olivia," a modern interpretation of the Dickens' classic, "Oliver." The school gym was transformed into bygone London and parents and staff were treated to a fabulous show. We were immeasurably proud of all involved to bring the musical to life.



Charity Fundraising

At The Gregg Preparatory School we support a number of national and local charities over the year.

We started the academic year with our Macmillan Coffee Morning where we raised £95 in support of Macmillan Cancer Trust.

To support Blind Awareness Month in October the school invited in a representative from the Guide Dogs to talk to the children about the work of the Guide Dogs. We then raised £150 for the RSPCA.





We sent food donations to Southampton Sunday Lunch Project as well as Fareham Food Bank in support of Harvest.

The whole school engaged in our dress-down day for Children In Need, raising £260 through donations on the day and our movie night.

We commemorated Remembrance Day by selling poppies donated by the British Legion.

We supported Crisis at Christmas through donations made at our annual Nativity Performance at a local church. The donations of over £100 were made by parents and split equally between Crisis and St Andrews Church.

Extra-curricular Activities

For a small school, we are proud of the range of activities we are able to offer Key Stage 2 pupils outside of their structured lesson times.

Popular clubs and activities have included Football club, Sports club, Netball club, `Taskmaster`, Art club, Gardening and Music lessons in Violin, Cello, Piano and Guitar.

Additionally, Form 6 pupils represented the school with pride at football and netball tournaments organized by Southampton City Council as part of their School Games offer.





Form 6

Project Based Learning

Throughout the Spring Term, pupils in Form 6 engaged in exciting project-based learning which challenged them to answer complex questions and solve real-world problems.

They demonstrated their knowledge and skills by creating a product, app or presentation. As a result, pupils developed deep content knowledge as well as critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication skills. Project Based Learning unleashed a contagious, creative energy among pupils and this was evident in their presentations and fantastic project work.

Mr McPhillips and Mrs Shone

The Sporting Year

Form 6 pupils enjoyed a rich and varied sports curriculum in 2023/24. Whether it was PE with Mr Quinn; football with Mr McPhillips or swimming at Red Lodge, our pupils are active, healthy and competitive all year round. Our Sports Day and Swimming Gala were huge successes. Not only were they great ways of bringing people together from all year groups, it allowed pupils to work together in teams and build leadership skills.

Pupils from all year groups participated in a variety of different sports throughout the academic year displaying determination, perseverance and a great amount of effort.

School Trips and Thematic Learning Events

Form 6 concluded their journey at The Gregg Prep with a well-earned residential trip to Stone Farm. Their learning about World War II was enhanced with an action-packed World War II day, when,dressed in a variety of authentic outfits, they immersed themselves into wartime life by taking part in a range of activities such as codebreaking and cryptography. A fascinating trip to Beaulieu also taught them many secrets of World War II espionage.

Earlier in the year, Form 6 also became Vikings for the day in a visit to Butser Farm and their Geography 'Rivers' unit ended on a high with a field-work investigation along the course of the Itchen River.

Residential 2024

In May, eighteen pupils accompanied by Mrs Shone, Mr Milton, Mr Quinn and Mrs Carrett, travelled to Stone Farm in Cornwall for their residential experience. Every morning at 7.30 am, all pupils were ready to feed and care for the animals before breakfast, going about their tasks with excitement and commitment.

It was a pleasure to watch the pupils demonstrating empathy, care and responsibility. On the first day, there was a test of endurance and resilience, as the children headed out for an 8 hour walk across Dartmoor in the torrential rain! Their spirits were not dampened, however. They thoroughly enjoyed exploring the Moor's history and mysteries and they were determined to complete the two routes, Bellever and Four Winds.

By contrast, our second day was spent at The Eden Project, where the children took part in a 'Rainforest Uncovered' workshop, experiencing the heat, sights, sounds and smells of the tropical rainforest and considered how people from other places and cultures lived. The sun shone brightly on our third and final day at Widemouth Beach, with crabbing, exploring, ball games, beach art sculptures and a picnic with ice cream! The comradery, friendships, trust and compassion towards each other was a wonderful sight, special memories were made and forever friendships forged. It demonstrated, once again, the value of learning beyond the classroom and providing curricular enrichment opportunities that allow pupils to excel and develop life skills.



Enterprise Week - Key Stage 2

We announced the launch of our second Enterprise Week during the Summer Term, on a quest to discover the next Richard Branson or Deborah Meaden! Each child in Key Stage 2 received an initial £2 `investment`, and, working independently or in groups, were encouraged to devise strategies to increase this investment. Pupils created products and services which were made available to the public at our Summer Fete.

Pupils were encouraged to work as part of a group; skills of co-operation, listening, problem-solving and creative thinking were necessary for the success of their particular enterprise. The Enterprise Project was a huge success with pupils' businesses earning over £500 for the school PTA. The winning teams, generating the greatest profit at the end of the Summer Fete, were also given certificates at a whole school reward assembly.



Form 5

Last year, Form 5 we were able to go beyond the classroom to extend our learning. We had an amazing trip to Manor Farm, where the pupils learnt more about living and working in the Victorian era.

We visited Avenue St. Andrew's Church to discover the history of Southampton and the part that the city, and specifically the church, played in World War 1. Highlights from work undertaken at school include creating ancient Chinese-inspired dragon eyes from clay, making contraptions that would keep an egg safe after being dropped from height and in our Project Based Learning sessions the pupils took ownership when creating school podcasts and new app ideas to help with world issues as well as preparing fantastic stalls for our Summer Fayre. Project Based Learning was introduced as an opportunity for the children to have more control over their learning and as an opportunity to use the Pre-Senior Baccalaureate skills being taught over the year.

Mr Quinn



Residential

During our three-day residential trip to Grittleton House, pupils took part in a range of activities, including `Jacob's Ladder` and an escape room, both of which fostered their resilience and teamwork.

The experience of staying away from home for two nights also played a significant role in developing their independence, and many of the pupils were proud of what they had achieved by the end of the trip. It was a memorable experience that contributed to their personal growth and confidence.

Mrs Gates



Form 4

Form 4 started the academic year with our study of The Romans, and much fun was had constructing the layers of a Roman road using custard, chocolates and biscuits. Many Roman shield models were made as part of `Spice-o-meter` homework projects, ranging from doll-sized to full Roman legionary size! The topic concluded with a visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace, where the children were able to dress up and engage in Roman role play.

In the second half of the autumn term, Science provided many opportunities for engaging and entertaining learning, when studying the digestive system, The 'Generation Game' style task of placing internal organs in the right place in the body brought much amusement to the study of the digestive system, as did the experiment using orange juice, biscuits and a pair of nylon tights to emulate the end product of human digestion! The results worked and one grandmother, a former GP, commented on how impressed she was with her 8-year-old granddaughter's knowledge of the working of the digestive system!

Spring brought our ever-popular cross-curricular topic of 'The Wonderful World of Chocolate` to lessons in History and Geography, and the chocolate sampled during the chocolate tempering workshop run by the Gregg School chef was a definite highlight for the children. Our Charlie and the Chocolate Factory themed day saw many Oompa Loompas and Willy Wonkas in school, alongside Mrs Carrett as Violet Beauregarde and Mrs Lincoln dressed as a bar of Cadburys Dairy milk!



Also in the Spring Term, Form 4 studied multicultural versions of 'The Princess and the Pea.' The children made fantastic models of multiple layers of mattresses on beds out of plasticine, material, feathers, Lego and even on Minecraft. A new school trip to `878AD` in Winchester provided an immersive experience into Anglo Saxon life, pupils dressing in costumes of the period and discovering what life was like in Anglo Saxon times.

Summer brought the very exciting topic of the Titanic and its local links. Mrs Sellers, Head teacher at The Gregg School, gave a fascinating talk about her relative who survived the Titanic disaster and accompanied us to the Sea City Museum, finding photos of her relative and joining in with our workshop. Again, the `Spice-o-meter` homework projects were impressive with a wide range of Titanic ship models arriving at school, some small and intricate whilst others covered an entire classroom table!



As the school year came to a close, we visited Roche Court Sculpture Park – a beautiful setting in which Form 4 participated in outdoor art activities. By the time Speech Day arrived, everyone felt proud of their achievements and had definitely made happy educational memories

Mrs Lincoln

Key Stage One

Key Stage One had a highly successful year both in the classroom and in the wider community, enjoying visits to Marwell Zoo, local parks, the pantomime and the Isle of Wight.





We worked hard on our reading curriculum, developing skills in prediction, inference and retrieval. To end our Significant Explorers work in History, Key Stage One pupils dressed up as a variety of important figures including Amelia Earhart, Matthew Henson, Buzz Aldrin and Felicity Aston, and enjoyed sharing their discoveries during a class presentation to their parents in the final half term.



Mrs Jones

Reception

Reception Class settled well into the new routines of our school, soon becoming a tight-knit group. They were extremely competitive, but also looked out for one another. The group enjoyed our many adventures in the local community, including feeding the ducks, visiting the local bookshop and a trip to the local greengrocer to buy produce.

We visited the local Southampton farm with Forms 1 and 2, enjoyed our pony care and riding adventure as well as sampling the delights of Peppa Pig World. Forest School was a huge highlight in the Autumn Term - topics included 'All About Me, Colours of the Rainbow, Celebrations, Animals, Minibeasts and Explorers' and the children loved real-life observations of butterflies. We even had the opportunity to observe chicks hatching in our classroom.



