

TAKING / STOCK

Stockport Grammar
School Newsletter



Issue 76
Autumn/Winter 2020



FIRST YEAR TRIP PAGE 6



VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS
Page 2



NEW SIXTH FORM BUILDING OPENS
Page 5



CHILDREN IN NEED
Page 13



TASTY SCIENCE
Page 14

**A-MAZING 2020
EXAM RESULTS!**
Page 3

SCHOOL LIFE



HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE

I have been hugely impressed with the resilience and creativity of the school community this term as staff and pupils have found new ways to develop their skills despite the coronavirus restrictions. Events have moved on-line with socially distanced Remembrance and Carol Services and Music and Drama performances all filmed, edited and linked to allow talents to be showcased and wider participation. Whilst the videos are pale imitations of the experience of being physically present, they have sustained the sense of community that underpins SGS. Teachers have had to innovate in their lessons, trialling new methods to support and engage their pupils whilst still remaining at a suitable distance or behind a Perspex screen. Sport has continued to flourish.

We have not been able to offer fixtures against other schools but this has driven a fresh focus on mass participation and on skill development, the fruits of which will be seen in the post covid era. Many academic clubs have been offered through Google Meet to allow pupils from different year group bubbles to join in, actually increasing the number of participants. Building work has continued with the fantastic new Sixth Form facility now completed and occupied. A new Pre-Reception building just awaits the finishing touches to the external landscaping scheme. Whilst we all hope for a quick return to normal social interactions and an end to the coronavirus difficulties, the school community has certainly risen to the challenges of 2020.

Dr Paul Owen



CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to our A Level and GCSE pupils on their outstanding academic success. At A Level, 86% of grades were at A* to B and at GCSE over 27% of the grades were at the top mark of 9, with 76% at 9, 8 and 7.

Headmaster Dr Paul Owen said: **"I am delighted by the success of our GCSE and A Level candidates. Their hard work over many years has enabled them to move on confidently to the next stage of their lives with excellent examination grades as well as a wide range of interests. I am so proud of the resilience and adaptability that our students have shown through this unprecedented year, qualities that will stand them in good stead for their future studies."**

For the A Level students, their success takes them on to the next exciting stage in their education with courses at prestigious universities across the country, including Cambridge, UCL, St Andrews, Bristol, Durham, Nottingham and Manchester. A Level study in Stockport Grammar's brand new Sixth Form building is the next step for the GCSE students.

Jamie Carson and Eve Gibbons were among the students celebrating their A Level success, with both now studying at Cambridge University.

Jamie was delighted with his 4 A*s in English Literature, French, German and Mathematics and is studying Languages. Model United Nations and Debating Competitions were amongst the activities Jamie enjoyed at SGS. Eve is studying Veterinary Science following her 2 A*s in Chemistry and Mathematics, A in Biology and A* in her EPQ.

Over 10% of the year group have gone on to take Medical degrees, including Head Girl Kate Roberts and Deputy Head Girl Phoebe Christodoulou – Kate is studying Medicine at Bristol and Phoebe is at Nottingham studying Veterinary Science.

At GCSE, Isabel Marshall was very pleased with straight 9s across all her ten subjects. A Levels in Maths, Physics, Psychology and Geography in the SGS Sixth Form are next for keen climber Isabel who also plans to take on the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award.

Joseph Farrelly who achieved seven 9s, three 8s and a 7 in his eleven GCSEs said **"so many teachers have inspired me at SGS, it's been great"**. Joseph is involved with lots of SGS sport – athletics, basketball, table tennis, swimming, climbing and football. He is now studying A Levels in English Literature, History, Maths and Economics in the SGS Sixth Form.

FABULOUSLY FESTIVE CONCERT

Pupils and Old Stopfordians worked hard to produce a Virtual Christmas Celebration to mark the traditional Stockport Grammar School Carol Service, which is usually held at St. George's Church each year.

The virtual celebration brought together carols performed by Chamber Choir, Chorus and Junior Chamber Choir as well as the story of the birth of Jesus, read by current and former Head Girls and Head Boys, Old Stopfordian President Graham Earles, former Headmasters Mr Wright and Mr Chicken, and current Headmaster Dr Owen. The Service was directed by School Chaplain, Reverend Leaver, and Director of Music, Mr Dow.

Audiences enjoyed traditional carols including Once in Royal David's City, Good King Wenceslas, O Little Town of Bethlehem and Come All Ye Faithful, alongside beautiful choral compositions including Gaudete, The Angel Gabriel, Torches and Lullay My Liking.

A total of 31 readers participated in the celebration, the artwork featured was designed by Third Year pupil Beatrice Downing and teacher Dr T Kampelmann.



SCHOOL LIFE



CREST AWARD EXTENDS KNOWLEDGE

Each year, pupils from the Fourth and Fifth Year at Stockport Grammar School have the opportunity to take part in the Silver CREST Award. CREST is a nationally recognised scheme for student-led project work in the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and maths).

Last year, 25 pupils split into three groups achieved the award. One of the groups investigated the topic of pain relievers and the organic chemistry behind them, including its functional groups, and carried out chemical tests for them.

Guided by their teachers and using SGS's state of the art chemistry labs, the pupils formulated a sample of synthesised aspirin and tested it using recrystallisation. They then analysed the product and calculated its purity by doing a titration experiment.

Group member Yicheng Xia said: **"Throughout the project we evaluated our experiments, to see how we could improve them to obtain more accurate**

results. I found many of the practicals fascinating because we could use equipment and techniques that we don't normally do in class.

"I'm now studying A Level Chemistry at SGS's Sixth Form. I believe the CREST project has contributed to my learning of Chemistry at A Level and will help me beyond the classroom. I found the project really inspiring; it is a fantastic opportunity to explore an area of a subject that is beyond the syllabus and learn some useful knowledge and skills."

SGS Chemistry teacher Jess Berry said: **"The pupils worked extremely hard both individually and as a team throughout their project. We guided them through areas of the chemistry and facilitated the practical work but everything else was down to them. Their final project was very detailed and they should be very proud of what they achieved."**



GERMAN TRANSLATIONS APPLAUDED

Congratulations to Upper Sixth pupil Katie Collier who was awarded 'Highly Commended' for her translation of an online article about books for young German readers in The Queen's College, Oxford University's Translation Exchange competition.



RESPECTS PAID TO FALLEN HEROES

Stockport Grammar School marked this year's Remembrance with virtual services shared across the Pre-Reception, Junior and Senior Schools.

The Senior School service was led by Senior School Headmaster Dr Paul Owen, with Upper Sixth Form pupils present for their final service in school.

Readings were given by Upper Sixth Form pupils Rebeeah-Nuur Mohammed, Henry Davies and Holly Buckley.

The Last Post was played by Patrick Owen, while the wreath was laid by Head Boy, Cam Wylie, and Head Girl, Grace Shropshire, during the two-minute silence.

Due to coronavirus restrictions, the Act of Remembrance was filmed and shared virtually with pupils across the school in their classrooms, as well as with Old Stopfordians who would normally be present for the service.

Old Stopfordians who were unable to attend the service were asked to share their school-time memories with the school.

For the service for Old Stopfordians, a selection of memories was read by Cam Wylie, Grace Shropshire, Deputy Head Boy, Panashe Munaiwa and Deputy Head Girl, Lydia Johnson.

Mozart's *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* (1st movement – Allegro) was played by the school's String Quartet, and Fifth Year pupil, Ella Moran, sang Handel's *Lascia ch'io pianga* accompanied by Director of Music, Mr Dow, on piano.

In the Junior School, the Head Boy and Head Girl created a short video about Remembrance Day that was shown to pupils before they went outside.

When they were outside, the pupils – many of whom were wearing their personally designed poppies – lined up in year group bubbles as they listened to Senior School musician Emily Edwards play *The Last Post*. The pupils impeccably observed the two-minute silence.

SIXTH FORMERS DELIGHTED WITH THEIR NEW BUILDING

There was no hesitation from the Sixth Form – as soon as the doors to the new Sixth Form social and study spaces swung open the students were eager to make great use of the large, modern and well-equipped areas.

The stunning glass roof creates a bright and vibrant atmosphere, allowing a great sense of community to flourish, and there is ample space for students to quietly get on with their studies.

Head of Sixth Form, David Stone said: **"It's fantastic to be able to provide this new space for our Sixth Form students. Within their separate year group bubbles, it is providing our Sixth Formers with excellent social and study spaces which will help further support their personal and academic development."**





FRIENDSHIPS FORGED ON FIRST YEAR TRIP

First Year pupils enjoyed exploring the wonderful surroundings of Chatsworth House during their Induction trip.

The trip replaced their usual residential to Ilam Hall which could not take place this year due to government guidelines.

Two form groups a day over four consecutive days made the journey to the stately home in the Derbyshire Dales and they had a great time taking part in games and activities which helped pupils get to know each other.

With 105 acres to explore, pupils were tasked to count their steps around various parts of the grounds before taking part in games – helping to develop their teamwork and communication skills.

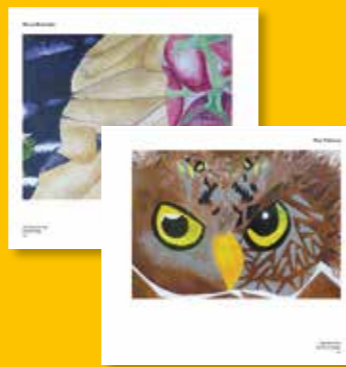
Samuel Burden enjoyed the trip. He said: **“It was fun walking with our friends all over the grounds.”**

Orlagh Bentley exclaimed: **“The ice-cream in the farm shop was delicious!”**

CATALOGUE SHOWCASES WONDERFUL WORK OF ARTISTS

The Art, Design and Technology department took a creative approach to the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic. In place of the Annual Exhibition, they produced a beautiful, printed catalogue to showcase the pupils’ artwork.

The catalogue gives a real insight into the pupils’ vision, ideas and technical skills and is a tangible record that students can have to look back on in years to come.



Mr Chris Dunn, Chairman of Governors, sent his congratulations, saying: **“Whilst it is not possible to hold the Exhibition, this brochure makes it possible for a wide audience to view and admire the accomplished artwork of the pupils of the school – the very high standard of which reflects great credit on the students and staff.”**

HALLÉ SELECTION SUCCESS FOR MUSICIANS

A number of the school’s talented musicians have cause for celebration after gaining a place in The Hallé’s prestigious ensembles.

Fifth Years Lily Amet, Liv Dow, Eloise Scott (all soprano) and Ella Moran (alto) join the Upper Sixth’s Kate Langton (soprano) in the Hallé Youth Choir whilst Liv (cello) also appears in the Hallé Youth Orchestra alongside Sixth Former Zoe Shah (violin) and Fifth Year performers Talia Zelhof (oboe), Ben Wood (clarinet) and Patrick Owen (trumpet).

The Hallé Youth Choir was established in 2003 and is recognised as one of the country’s leading mixed-voice youth choirs.

The Hallé Youth Orchestra offers outstanding young instrumentalists the experience of playing in a full symphony orchestra supported by professional musicians.

We look forward to watching the gifted students continue to flourish.



WALKING ADVENTURE AWAITS AWARD WINNER

Upper Sixth student Matthew Howling will head to south-west England next summer after winning this year’s Albert Johnston Travel Award.

Matthew impressed the six-strong judging panel with his confident and well-researched ‘Walking the Cornish Coast Path’ proposal and he will now put his plan, which is to walk the approximate 300 miles from Morwenstow to Plymouth over three weeks, into action.

The Sixth Former has previously completed long distance walks including the Pennine Way (270 miles) and he is part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at SGS.

Matthew said: **“I was really happy when I found out that I had won. I felt fairly relaxed when I was doing my presentation – I had done a lot of research.”**

“As well as visiting museums and theatres, I would also like to explore the small village churches along the way as I would like to plan a choir tour to Cornwall in the future.”

The judging panel this year included Old Stopfordians Hayley Shepherd (OS 2007), Oliver Hopwood (OS 2003), Bursar Chris Watson (OS 1973), Archivist Stuart Helm (OS 1964), Governor Chris Muscutt and Psychology Teacher Mrs Larkin, who is the organiser of the Award. Hayley and Oliver are both former winners of the prize.

HARVEST GENEROSITY

Thank you to the pupils and staff who brought in Harvest donations for The Wellspring Stockport. Cereal, tea bags, wet wipes, shower gels and long-life milk were amongst the items requested by and delivered to the Stockport based charity.

The donations will provide essential support for those who are homeless or vulnerable.



FUNDRAISING FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Following the Bright Clothing Accessory Day held in school to mark World Mental Health Day, our pupils were pleased to receive a thank you certificate from the charity Mind.

The generous SGS community raised an amazing £1,264 and we would like to share our thanks – as the certificate says – for all of you ‘Superstar Fundraisers’!

GEOGRAPHERS EXPLORE THE PEAKS

Fourth Year Geography pupils headed to the peaceful surroundings of the Peak District on a field trip to collect data for their GCSE course.

Using a variety of methodologies, pupils worked in small groups to collect river data.

Under Edale’s blue skies, the geographers also spent some time engaging in mindfulness and sketching the river and valley landforms beneath the tallest mountain in the Peak District, Kinder Scout.

Head of Geography Mr Alex Cooke said: **“All of the students worked well and with a big smile on their faces – evidently enjoying the chance to work outside again.”**



MANCHESTER INSPIRES ARTISTS

Lower Sixth pupils studying A Level Art and Design were pleased to be able to make the short journey into Manchester for a drawing research day.

The morning was spent drawing the industrial architecture around Castlefield Basin before they moved on to Spinningfields, Chinatown and the Northern Quarter in the afternoon.

Each area presented the students with different visual characteristics and challenges and the sketches and photographs they produced will be used to develop more resolved work back in school and form part of their A-level coursework portfolio.

SPORT

THE RETURN OF THE SPORTING SEASON

Pupils have loved pulling on their kit and getting back out on to the courts and pitches during co-curricular sports clubs and Games lessons.

In adherence to government guidelines, sports are taking place in year group bubbles and pupils have thoroughly thrown themselves into the action under the guidance of their enthusiastic and experienced teachers and specialist coaches.

Although external fixtures cannot be played there have been plenty of House competitions and co-curricular sports clubs currently take place after school and on Saturday mornings. Netball, hockey, football and rugby players diligently follow the protocols that are in place as they are put through drills to improve their skills, movement and teamwork.



HOCKEY PLAYER HEADS TO NATIONAL TRIALS

Fifth Year Lucy Stead attended a three day Hockey England trial over the Autumn half-term break.

The SGS hockey team goalkeeper headed to Lilleshall in Shropshire with the aim of reaching the next trial sessions later in the year.

Pupils at SGS enjoy playing hockey from the Junior School through to the Sixth Form during lessons and as part of the after school club.



HOUSE FALLOWS SHIELD 2020-2021	
1	ARDEN 47 points
2	WARREN 40 points
3	VERNON 37 points
4	NICHOLSON 26 points

THE FALLOWS SHIELD IS AWARDED TO THE HOUSE THAT ACCUMULATES THE MOST POINTS THROUGHOUT THE ACADEMIC YEAR.

FALLOWS SHIELD RESULTS

The Fallows Shield is awarded to the House that accumulates the most points throughout the academic year.

Following a term of tremendous sporting competitions, here are the latest House Fallows Shield scores.

Arden have currently taken the lead with 47 points with Warren hot on their heels with 40 points.

Acquiring the Fallows Shield is a proud moment for the winning House and the healthy competition between all of the Houses showcases a number of the character strengths – such as enthusiasm, grit and a community ethos promoted by SGS.

◀ RESULTS AT THE BEGINNING OF DECEMBER

NETBALLERS TRIUMPH

Congratulations to our U14 Netball squad who have been awarded North-West Netball's Golden Globe. Last school year, the team finished third in England at the National Netball Finals.



U14 team in March 2020

SERVING UP A STORM

Well done to Fifth Year tennis player Oliver Hague who won the consolation final at the U16 National tournament in Bolton over half term.

After being knocked out of the main competition by the eventual winner, Oliver won his next four matches against tough opposition to come away from the tournament with a smile on his face.

Pupils have the opportunity to join Tennis Club and participate in competitions in addition to playing tennis during the Summer Term as part of their Games lessons.



CO CURRICULAR

VINCIT QUI PATITUR

I am delighted to have been appointed to the role of Deputy Head (Staffing & Co-curricular). Co-curricular clubs and activities are an essential part of supporting our pupils in developing their resilience through overcoming challenges and achieving their goals in a safe and fun environment. This is not something we pay lip service to at SGS, it is part of who we are.

It has been super to see so many pupils continue to be involved in a wide range of clubs and activities this term.

Our staff have worked incredibly hard and we are very grateful to them for continuing to provide opportunities for our pupils to develop their characters and enjoy time with friends whilst maintaining our usual high standards of academic and pastoral provision. Animal club, climbing, House Badminton, Saturday sports, Model United Nations, chess... are just a few examples of what has been going on. We have had to find new ways to give our pupils these opportunities and share their success with families and friends such as a virtual Carol Service and drama productions.

We have also continued to add to our provision for our pupils, for example, a recent appointment of an Assistant Head of DofE will allow us to continue to expand our programme and ensure even more pupils can complete expeditions in canoes or on bikes as well as walking. It is another example of SGS enduring and conquering. It is a pleasure to be part of this community and one I am very proud of.

Mrs Jackie Smith, Deputy Head (Staffing & Co-curricular)



MARPLE MOUNTAIN BIKING

A group of pupils had an exciting day mountain biking in Marple and Raworth with SGS Outdoor Co-ordinator Adam Hughes.

Taking on a 12 mile loop, the cyclists made the most of the good weather with a range of challenging climbs and descents.

Mr Hughes commented: **"It was great to get out and catch up with pupils after such a long time away. I know some pupils took the summer to improve their riding skills and it was evident."**

BOOKWORMS JOIN TOGETHER

Every Friday, witches, wizards and muggles from the First Year meet to cast spells and talk about all things Harry Potter at the club of the same name.

Over the first few weeks the aspiring Hogwarts pupils were sorted into Houses and the week before half term they held their first spell battle. After bowing to each other, the pupils used their wands to cast spells at their opponent; the quickest off the mark was the winner.

To celebrate the end of their first half term, the inaugural Harry Potter Club party was held which inspired some pupils to bake.

Sadie Canty baked a version of the cake Hagrid bakes for Harry at the opening of *'The Philosopher's Stone'* and Molly Keenan made little treats shaped like the golden snitch from the game of Quidditch.

During the second half term, the witches and wizards are making butter beer, attempting some potions and learning about the Latin derivations of the spells.

Molly Steele said: **"Harry Potter Club is amazing and it was really fun to be sorted into Hogwarts Houses by Mr Johnson - the real, live sorting hat!"**

EXTENDING INTEREST

Second Year drama club remains a hive of excitement with pupils working together to create dynamic performances.

The Lower Sixth Debate Club has met fortnightly with the monarchy the first in a varied series of topics. The club gives students an opportunity to develop their communication and debating skills, as well as utilising their research and case building ability.



LOWER SIXTH DEBATE CLUB



MUSICIANS IMPRESS IN REHEARSALS

Senior School musicians are making the most of the wonderful space and acoustics in the Hallam Hall as they take part in rehearsals before and after school and during lunchtimes.

Whether it is the Junior Percussion Ensemble, Senior Jazz Band, First Orchestra, Chamber Choir or many of the other groups, it is great to hear the beautiful sounds emanating from the Hallam Hall as the talented pupils hone their skills.

JUNIOR SCHOOL



MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR HEADMASTER

My first term at SGS has certainly been different from what I had imagined back at the beginning of March when I was appointed! It has been an absolute delight to see both staff and children adjusting so well to our new routines and expectations over this challenging time. They have all certainly demonstrated a very positive outlook over this period - well done! It has been great to witness, over this term, the Pre-Reception building taking shape and all the additions to our outdoor learning spaces - new playground areas and equipment. These most recent developments will only further add to the fantastic facilities that we already have in the Junior School.

Mr Matthew Copping



YEAR SIX PUPILS INSPIRED BY POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Junior School is committed to developing skills of citizenship, personal responsibility and care for one another and every Year Six child is given the chance to apply to become a Prefect.

Each year up to three Head Boys and three Head Girls are selected - one pair per term.

The Head Boy and Head Girl for the Autumn Term were Finn R and Charlotte U.

House Captains for the Autumn Term were:

- Arden: Jasper H and Yasmine Z
- Nicholson: Archie M and Lola F
- Vernon: Lucas S and Erin R
- Warren: Finn M and Sadie-May F

The list of Prefects for the 2020-2021 academic year are: Jonathan J, Zack J, Neave S, Ella H, Sophia M, Robert L, Florence B, David A, Noah M-E,



Stanley D, Emily R, Freya I, Sophia SC, Pearl W, Maya G, Joshua H-H, James P, Aniya R-P, Charlotte S, Mina F, Rebecca C, Zahira T, Ethan T, Ted D, Jennifer G, Priya M and Evelyn T.

Junior School Headmaster Mr Matthew Copping said: **"The children holding these roles will change each term in order to enable a greater number of children to take on additional responsibility. We are very much looking forward to working with the children and supporting them in their new roles."**

EXCITEMENT BUILDS OVER NEW DEVELOPMENT

The new Pre-Reception building is really beginning to take shape and the latest photos from the construction are creating a lot of excitement.

It will soon be ready to replace the current Pre-Reception classroom and will have a striking living green roof and utilise eco-friendly technology.

The new Pre-Reception building will allow SGS to continue to provide exceptional nursery provision with the highest standards of education and care in a modern, purpose built facility.

In addition, the project brings an opportunity to develop and extend outdoor play and learning spaces for children across the Junior School age range.



IMPRESSIVE IT SKILLS DEMONSTRATED

Hats off to Year Five pupils who have been developing flowcharts in order to control technology using simulation software.

The boys and girls began by talking about light sequences on school crossing patrols, zebra crossings and traffic lights.

To create the flowcharts, the pupils had to choose the correct symbols and place them in a specific order to ensure they worked correctly.

After mastering this, the children moved on to controlling physical objects using a FlowGo interface connected to their computer - where they programmed lights on a clown, a light on a light house using a sensor and a car with a very noisy horn.



WONDERFUL CHILDREN IN NEED CELEBRATIONS

Stockport Grammar Junior School supported Children in Need by dressing up in non-uniform, taking part in a range of Pudsey themed activities and enjoying the stunning scenery on our doorstep.

They raised £1,194.

The focus this year was children's mental well-being with a theme of 'The Great Outdoors'.

In the run up to the day, each year group was set their own unique well-being activities via Google Classroom or Tapestry.

Pupils were encouraged to spend time outdoors and take part in an activity - this included walking, making art from woodland materials, raking up leaves and reading outdoors.

The Year Six Charity Team - which includes Maya G, Yasmine Z, Evelyn T, Sadie May F, Charlotte U, Lola F and Charlotte S - headed outdoors separately to take part in a host of activities including running, cycling, toasting marshmallows and making a house for a hedgehog.

In classes, Year Two pupils worked on iPads in their ICT lessons to create a colourful picture of Pudsey Bear at a disco. After discussing what augmented reality was, they used an AR app to bring Pudsey to life and were astounded when they saw a spinning disco ball with shooting stars and their Pudsey Bear dancing and spinning on his head to music.

On the day itself, the school was awash with colour as pupils from Pre-Reception right through to Year Six dressed up as something, or someone, following the outdoors theme. Outfits included zookeepers, policemen, rock climbers, pirates, weather presenters, snowboarders, racing drivers and adventurers.



TASTY SCIENCE EXPLORATION

As part of their work on senses in Science, Year One pupils had a blast making rice crispy cakes.

The children suggested ways of melting the chocolate and decided the best way would be to use the heat from hot water. When mixing the ingredients together, the children thought of words to describe the smell, appearance, sound, feel and taste of the mixture before it set.

Once it had cooled, the children thoroughly enjoyed eating their cupcake and describing it using all of their senses.

Alston said: **"It tastes like hot chocolate."**

Zeena described the appearance as **"liquid with crumbs"** when they were mixing the ingredients together.

Ada added: **"It was really crunchy, like when I eat popping candy."**



FANTASTIC FITNESS CHALLENGE COMPLETED

A huge well done to Year Five pupil Sophia S and her Year Three brother Ethan and to Year Five Anabelle W and her Year Two sister Lola who took part in My Virtual Mission & The Conqueror Event Series.

The fitness challenge involved a collective effort of the group to cover the equivalent 1,083 mile journey from Land's End to John O'Groats.

The pupils, along with their respective parents, covered the distance by walking to school, jogging, doing sports and cycling, between August 22 and October 2.

SPORTS SKILLS CONTINUE TO GROW

Although there are currently no sporting fixtures for Junior School pupils, all of the children have been working hard to improve their skills and fitness.

In Games, pupils continue to make good progress working with their coaches and have been enjoying House competitions in football, rugby, hockey and netball.

In PE lessons this half term, pupils covered health and fitness and learnt why it is important to lead a healthy active lifestyle. The module has involved a number of tests and challenges and, as pupils move through the school, they will be able to revisit the tests and try and beat previously set scores. There has also been a 'House Cross Fit Challenge' for pupils in Years Five and Six.

After school and lunchtime clubs continue to provide extra time for pupils to work with their coaches in games and mini-tournaments.

MAGICAL NATIVITY PERFORMANCES

Pupils from the Junior School delivered two sparkling virtual Nativity performances which were filmed and shared for pupils, families and staff to enjoy.

Year One and Year Two performed 'Hey Ewe!' - an original nativity play told from the perspective of a curious sheep.

The light-hearted show featuring songs such as 'Hustle Bustle' was filmed with groups of pupils per scene.

Meanwhile Reception children also took part in producing their own Nativity performance for camera.

The children had a magical time dressing up and performing 'A Wriggly Nativity'. This performance told the Christmas story almost entirely through songs, actions, movement and dance but with some wonderful speaking parts mixed in.



LOWRY INSPIRES PUPILS

Year Two have been learning about LS Lowry in both their Humanities and Art lessons.

The children were keen to learn facts about Lowry's life and how his initial desire to become an artist became reality.

After learning that he only ever used five colours and had to mix them to get other colours, the creative girls and boys set to work producing their own industrial landscapes in the style of Lowry.

Arlo T was pleased to announce: **"I discovered two ways of making grey."**



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ENJOYED BY ALL

Co-curricular opportunities in the Junior School continue to inspire our pupils to pursue their interests and try a new skill or sports.

Street Dance and Yoga have both invigorated and relaxed some of our infant children, whilst STEM and Touch-typing Clubs have challenged and inspired some of our Key Stage 2 children.

After the October half term, it was the turn of Year Five to take part in STEM Club.

Their first challenge was to build a tower with only seven rolls of newspaper and 60cm of tape.

The aim was to achieve a tower that was either the tallest or the strongest - or maybe both.

After initial planning, the pupils tackled the task and were allowed to trade items if they wished. Oliver D and Riley N's tower succeeded as the tallest whilst Marco B's and Thomas C's tower carried the most weight.

Children in Years Three to Six achieved superb LAMDA results in their summer examinations and were awarded Distinctions and Merits. During the exams, children performed individual pieces and verbally answered questions to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.

The children also enjoyed performing in an online showcase.



ROBOT CODING FUN

During their ICT session, Pre-Reception children have had lots of fun learning the basic concepts of coding when programming 'Robot Mouse'.

The children carefully counted the number of squares for movement that were needed to guide the mouse around a track to the cheese. As they became more confident in directional movement, the track was re-laid with more difficult configurations.

Maisie D-M explained: **"I liked making the mouse move,"** whilst Lilly F was a fan of: **"Making the mouse go under a tunnel."**

YOUNG POETS GET CREATIVE

Children in Years One and Two were encouraged to learn and perform a poem to an audience. Year One chose from a number of tiger themed poems and Year Two picked a poem of their choice.

Mrs Noble, the English Co-ordinator, judged the performance in each class and, although it was difficult to choose, Hayaan P, Harry C, Georgina S and Benjamin C emerged victorious.

As part of the competition, the reception of the Junior School has a lovely 'poetree' feature.

WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our children delivered a variety of wonderful readings, singing and orchestral performances for this year's virtual Junior Carol Concert.

The concert which would normally take place in St George's church has this time been filmed class by class showing off the talents of the pupils.

Families, the children and staff enjoyed watching the full video of performances which began with Year Six pupil Charlotte S's solo rendition of 'Once in Royal David's City'.

Readings were delivered by a number of pupils throughout the year groups and choir performances featured traditional classics. Whilst orchestral recitals, including 'The Holly and the Ivy' by the Year 6 String Ensemble, also featured in the concert.

Amongst the presentations, Year Four performed the 'Welcome Carol', Year Five delivered a beautiful rendition of 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' and Year Three sang 'Now Light One Thousand Christmas Lights'.

The Junior School Headmaster delivered the opening speech and a Christmas blessing was given by the School Chaplain, Reverend Liz Leaver.



IMPROVING COMMUNICATION SKILLS

As part of their learning in RE and Philosophy, Year Three have been learning about types of leaders in the community – including the qualities that make leaders effective.

They talked about the leaders that are in school and then thought about questions they would like to ask Junior School Headmaster Mr Copping about his role.

Mr Copping answered these questions during Year Three's form time.

