

The Friends Of Staines Prep was formed in 1989 and they have provided enormous support for the School in many ways ever since. In particular, by drawing the whole school community together, but also through their fundraising activities, which has enabled them to provide many valuable items that benefit the children.



Mr Roberts was appointed as Headmaster in November 1998 and SPS began preparing for its first full inspection, which took place in November 2000. The School became a member of IAPS in 2002. The same year also saw the completion of the Jubilee Wing and in 2003 the ICT Suite and Peter Monger Library were completed. The Jubilee Wing was extended in 2007, enabling Sunflowers Nursery to occupy No.1 House. In 2008 the Floodlit Court and Cricket Nets were built and the Environmental Area begun.

From its very early days Sports' Day has been a key event in the Staines Prep Calendar. In the Senior School Games were played daily until 1987. Over the years SPS has produced many fine teams and won numerous tournaments. However, pride of place must go to the U11 Netball team from 2005/06 whose excellent season culminated in their winning the IAPS U11 National Netball Tournament. Music, Drama and Art have also expanded since 1991 and there have been many fine concerts, plays and exhibitions.



Another regular feature in the School Calendar from 1979 has been the popular Year 6 Field Trip to the Peak District in Derbyshire. A number of other residential trips are now arranged, some as part of the newly introduced Staines Prep Challenge Award, plus the trip to Melun and other foreign visits, but many former pupils still talk about their coveted Year 6 trip to Derbyshire.

Following Mrs Burges's death in 1999 a stained glass window, which is located in No.3 House overlooking the back of the School, was commissioned to commemorate the lives and work of Mr & Mrs Burges, without whom there would be no Staines Preparatory School and none of the fond memories that we have of our time at the School.



STAINES PREPARATORY SCHOOL

'Educating Today's Children For The Challenges Of Tomorrow'

1935

2010



A BRIEF HISTORY OF STAINES PREP



1935 - 2010

In 1935 Mr Burges and Miss Hanson (as Mrs Burges was then) were following very different careers. Mr Burges was a teacher and Miss Hanson worked as a private secretary in London. Mr Burges dreamed of having his own school and it was decided that an advert would be placed announcing the opening of a new school in the Staines area. They searched for a property to house the School and were able to rent No.1 Gresham Road, often referred to as No.1 House.



The School opened on Wednesday 8th May 1935 rather than Monday 6th which was the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Miss Hanson had received a special invitation to attend the procession. Originally Staines Prep was just a boys' school and when it opened there were just eleven pupils.

In 1937 Mr Burges married Miss Hanson who became Mrs Burges. She continued with her work in London and the money she earned helped to support the School in its early days. Soon No.3 Gresham

Road became available. It was bought by Mr & Mrs Burges and the School moved next door! During the Second World War girls were first admitted to SPS which followed a successful introduction in the Summer 'Club' in order to keep families together. By 1942 numbers had increased to 60 pupils despite the War. As numbers continued to increase Mr & Mrs Burges were able to buy No.5 House and then No.1 House. There are some photographs that were taken just after No.5



had been bought. They show Mr Burges clearing the garden to make playing space for the children! In fact Mr Burges could often be seen after school working on the grounds after a hard day in the classroom. In addition to his teaching, Mr Burges enjoyed writing books and rhymes to help the children learn and inventing devices, such as his 'bowling' chute to help in other areas.

Meanwhile Mrs Burges continued her career but as time went on devoted more and more time to the School. She continued her public life by becoming a County Councillor for Staines in 1967 - a role she filled until 1985.

Mr Burges died in 1975 and Mrs Burges took over as Headmistress. As Mr & Mrs Burges did not have any children there was nobody for Mrs Burges to leave Staines Prep to. The School had always been her husband's dream and she wanted it to continue beyond her lifetime. In 1987 Mrs Burges effectively gave the School away by setting-up The Staines Preparatory School Trust ensuring that SPS would continue into the future. Mrs Burges continued as Headmistress for one year and retired to the 'Blue Cottage' next door in 1988 when Mr Monger took over as Headmaster.



During the next nine years the School continued to develop under the newly formed Board of Governors and Mr Monger's leadership. In 1991 the Burges Wing was built and the Cedar Classrooms, old Science Room, Games Sheds and the beloved Tectum were demolished. In terms of pupil numbers the School also hit its peak at this time with 419 pupils on role. Over the next few years further building work was undertaken; No. 1 and No.5 Houses were extended and in 1995 the Nursery was built. In 1996 the management structure of the School was

extended to include a Deputy Head and Heads of Junior and Senior School (now called Lower and Upper School) facilitating developments in a wide range of areas both academically and pastorally. In 1998, Mr Monger decided he wished to 'step down' as Headmaster and return to the classroom.