



#736
3 DECEMBER 2020



MILLFIELD
PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



PICTURE OF THE WEEK



This week's Picture of the Week is this excellent painting by **Abigail M 8XF**

FEELING FESTIVE

Some pictures of our campus being decorated for Christmas this week.



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COLLECTION TIMES

Please see below the collection times for Thursday 10 December:

- Years 3 & 4 – 3.40pm
Year 5 – 3.50pm
Year 6 – 4pm
Year 7 – 3.45, Top Car Park
Year 8 – 4pm, Top Car Park



PASSION, PURPOSE, PERFORMER

THE SPORTING PARENT WEBINAR

A webinar series exploring topics that matter to parents in sport.

TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER

– The Role of Pressure
In Student Development

7.15pm-8pm

This talk will be led by Dr Scott Drawer, our Director of Sport and special guest panel:

- Katie Warriner (renowned Sports Psychologist)
- Tom Mitchell (GB & England 7s Captain)
- Rhian Fox (Millfield Head of Dance & Drama)

Join the Zoom webinar live – see details on Twitter: @Millfield Sport

Millfield are hosting this webinar next Tuesday, which may be of interest to parents of Year 8 pupils. Please contact beaumont.l@millfieldschool.com to reserve a place.

PARENT NOTICES

Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 10 December

We are hoping to raise funds for Save the Children and an optional donation of £1 would be welcome.

There will also be Christmas lunch on 10 December, so a perfect chance to get into the festive spirit!

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Please bring in any contributions for the Christmas hampers, which will be distributed to the local community, before the end of term - in person or via Amazon Pantry. A huge thank you in advance for your generosity: it makes a huge difference to the lives of families who are struggling even more during this pandemic.

Any queries please contact kitto.m@millfieldprep.com

BEBRAS COMPUTATIONAL THINKING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the following Year 7 pupils who gained a Distinction in the recent Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge.

Name	Achievement
Bertie W	Best in School
Mila B	Distinction
Seth C	Distinction
Alex M-O	Distinction
Lottie R-B	Distinction
Brychan J	Distinction
Toby Mo	Distinction
Joe Tucker	Distinction
Isla Sully	Distinction
Shunsaku K	Distinction
Georgie G	Distinction
Rebecca W	Distinction
Chloe J	Distinction
Tabitha O	Distinction
Charles R	Distinction
Aman T	Distinction
Asta M	Distinction
Leon H	Distinction
Cecily L	Distinction
Lottie R	Distinction
Caty R	Distinction



A special mention must go to **Bertie W** who gained the highest score for a Millfield Prep School pupil and received a 'Best in School' certificate.

Just over 241,000 pupils nationwide took part in the UK Bebras Challenge this year, and 68,535 in the same section as our Year 7 pupils. Therefore, further congratulations must go to the following pupils who were placed in the top 10% in the country for their age group and have been invited to participate in the TCS Oxford Computer Challenge in March 2021 – **Bertie W, Alex M-O, Mila B, Seth C, Lottie R-B** and **Brychan J**.

MR ABSALOM'S 'DAY IN THE LIFE' OF A MILLFIELD PREP PUPIL

This week, as part of my voluntary teacher placement here at Millfield Prep, I was given the opportunity to shadow one very 'lucky' pupil for the day, **Seb G** in Year 6!

Our day starts with a little time spent reflecting on Mrs Shayler's morning assembly all about kindness, making good impressions and being thoughtful towards others. I'm reminded of my old prep school motto: "Treat others how you would like to be treated" and the lasting impact those words have had on me. I wonder what other valuable life lessons I might learn today?

The bell rings for the start of lesson one and Mr McNulty gets us underway with a spot of double English. We're straight into the festive spirit with a variety of comprehension exercises based around the poem *Twas the Night Before Christmas*. At the end of the lesson I'm asked to judge a recital competition between the boys and the girls. The girls pinch it by a whisker with extra points awarded for rhythm, diction and good cheer.

On to the art block next, where I get the chance to dazzle Mr Maxwell with my 'sensational' art skills. I attempt (very badly) to sketch a dog, which Seb has loaded onto his iPad from a project the Year 6 pupils are working on, based around German painter Franz Marc. I scribble down various pearls of wisdom I hear from Mr Maxwell during the lesson as he passionately engages with the children, "Does it matter if I make a mistake? - No!" and "If you have a go, the hard gets easy." I like what I'm hearing. I wonder how these teachings might translate to the other areas of a these pupils personal development, whether that be in the classrooms, music rooms, or on the sports fields?

During the boys' year group rugby session with Mr Gardiner, I feel like a proud parent watching on from the touchlines as Seb weaves his way through the defence to score a peach of a try. I applaud his efforts as if watching an international fixture live at Twickenham. I find myself day dreaming about the return of inter-school matches and I'm desperate to find out if our pupils have managed to get an edge over their opponents during lockdown.

Next, Music - not my area of expertise... I deliberately try to keep a low profile. I leave it to the Year 6 professionals to belt out the high notes of *O Little Town of Bethlehem*. I'm staggered how well these pupils are harmonising. Fifteen lucky students get pulled out from the class to thrash out a few chords on the ukulele - surely this is what it's all about, isn't it? The opportunity to try something new each day.

Onto a spot of Maths with Miss Newman. "What's a parallelogram?", she asks the class. I avoid eye contact, just in case she's looking at me. The other pupils in the classroom kindly save my blushes further by answering for me and clearly explain the fundamental theory behind 'Base x Height'.

Finally, we finish our day off with an intense hockey session up at Millfield, led by Mr Guthrie, on the same pitches where I captained the Millfield 1st XI back in 1998. Talk about coming full circle and back to teaching at the Prep School.

And breathe! So what have I learnt from my 'day in the life of' experience?

Well, every day there are valuable lessons to be learnt, no matter how old we are. It's about listening, observing what's going on around you, absorbing any new knowledge that's out there and then applying it, practising it, embracing new challenges, making mistakes and overcoming existing obstacles, whether that be in the classroom or away from the school environment. That, for me, is what personal growth is all about.

A huge thanks to Seb and everyone in Year 6 for making me feel so welcome in all their classes. Keep up the good work!

Mr A.

EAL PUPIL OF THE WEEK

3



This week our EAL Pupil of the Week is **Olivia S.**

Olivia shows a lot of enthusiasm in class. She is always quick to contribute with ideas about the current topic and she has also been keen to practice her writing. Impressively, Olivia has asked for extra work to complete at the weekends. Keep it up!



'A SEA CREATURE ATE OUR TEACHER'

Year 3 have been covering poetry over the last few weeks and have been working on writing their own version of *A Sea Creature Ate Our Teacher* by Brian Moses.

Here is the complete poem, which contains work from various children in the class:

*Our teacher said that it's always good
to have an examining mind,
then she told us, 'Go investigate the coastline,
let's see what scraps we can find.'*

*The hair on her head was tangled
as she heaved boulders out of the way
'Identify what you see,' she screamed
'Jot it down in your books right away.'*

*It was just as she spoke when we heard it,
A wave so wild and blue
A giant mountain of water
That ate the teacher like stew.*

*In front of us, coming over our heads,
was a tremendous black hole of fears,
like a catastrophic megalodon,
our teacher was crying tears.*

*I didn't actually see her go,
I was looking at a rock,
then I turned and saw the whole class,
standing there in shock.*

*The wave broke loudly,
the teacher got whirled away,
all the class were laughing
as they got covered in spray.*

JUNIORS' AWARDS

This week's awards are as follows. Two are for kindness, but Oreo is always for achieving a personal goal in inquiry.

Miffy – **Georgina F** for being consistently kind and lovely. She always looks out for others, ensuring everyone has someone to play with at break times. She is also wonderful at giving compliments to her peers on their achievements.

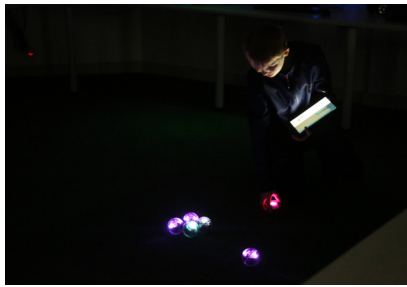
Chota – **Seb G** – Mrs Harris was walking to lunch and was carrying two large bags of cardboard. Lots of Year 5s ran past as lunch was calling and they wanted to be at the front of the queue, but Seb asked if Mrs Harris wanted helped and then carried a bag for her.

Oreo – **Isabelle P** for resilience, collaboration and adaptability. Year 5 have been working on their Greek buildings this week, some paint was put in the wrong place but Isabelle didn't let her mistake faze her and kept going whilst also encouraging her group as well!



Robot Art

Year 6 pupils enjoyed programming the Sphero robots to change colours and zoom around the room in patterns. Mr Ford set a long shutter speed on the camera, to make robot art!



Year 4's Compass Creations

Year 4 have been investigating magnets and compasses. Pupils looked at magnetic fields and how they affected a compass, then they made compasses of their own.



MILLFIELD PREP SCHOOL

Performing Arts Course Panto Week 2020

14th -18th December 2020

9am until 3:30pm



DEVELOP YOUR PERFORMING ARTS SKILLS WITH LOTS OF
FUN ACTIVITIES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: MISS CHATWIN
CHATWIN.A@MILLFIELDPREP.COM

ACTING

PROP MAKING

DANCE

DRAMA

Juniors

This half term, Years 3-5 have been preparing for their Christmas production and have all been wonderful to work with. You will all get to see it in the last week of term, so watch this space! The production will be raising money for Julia's House this year. Click [here](#) to donate and find out more about the chosen charity.

Year 8 Production Club

Year 8 pupils have continued to work hard on their radio play. Listen out for an episode every day, starting this Saturday and running until the end of term. The pupils have also created a physical theatre performance around the importance of wearing a mask.

Christmas Workshop

There are a few spaces left for the Christmas Panto Week course, which will be running during the first week of the Christmas holidays. Contact chatwin.a@millfieldprep.com to book a space.



CHAPLAIN'S THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

7

Look after you!

Whilst we are all so busy lighting the tunnel for others, we must also be mindful of our own wellbeing. We won't burn out by doing the right things. We will burn out because of what we don't do. Ali Worthington says "We have to start breaking busy before the busy breaks us."

Jesus, as a minister and a leader in great demand, knew this. In the gospels, we read how Jesus, who was faced at the end of a busy day with a huge crowd and their compelling needs, asked his disciples to sail the boat to the other side of the lake. He knew, even though there was great need, that to be able to face this need, to show care, to heal, to lead, he required rest. Like many of us, he was exhausted and immediately fell asleep in the boat, sleeping even whilst a storm raged.

Dear God,

Thank you that every day I have opportunity and capacity to do the right things.

Help me every day as I choose to do the right things, that I will be brave enough to do things right.

As I do the right things for others, please help me remember to do the right things for me.

Thank you for the example of Jesus and for this time of advent, time to reflect, to prepare, to hope, to pray.

Amen

Wellbeing tip for the week: On Sunday just gone, we had Advent Sunday (and it was November) and just this week Advent calendars have begun to be opened. Using some post its, pegs or your amazing creativity make yourself an advent calendar of wellbeing! Write yourself a treat for every day, something that you will enjoy and that is achievable, perhaps something you might need a nudge to actually do. Mix up the papers so they come up randomly and really enjoy your mini treat every day as we prepare for Christmas.

- Reverend Kitto

PUBLISHED WORKS AND POWERFUL POETRY

Well done to **Tilly A**, **Eva L**, **Dexter T**, **Daniel P** and **Daniel B**, who have represented Millfield Prep in a book called *Spine Chillers* where they have had their spine chilling short stories published!

Year 6 have been looking at Ted Hughes' poetry this term. They had a go at writing their own poems, using Ted Hughes' poetry as a stimulus. Here is a fantastic poem written by **Max B**, using personification and repetition to great effect.

The Planet

Who's killed the planet?

"Me", said the petrol,

"I've let chemicals out in the air.

I've killed the planet."

Who got rid of the animals?

"Me", said the machines.

"I have run over their trees and homes.

I got rid of the animals."

Who destroyed the land?

"Me", said the War,

"I had them fight and they threw explosions.

I destroyed the land."

Who took the elephant's tusks?

"Me", said the gun.

"I shot them off and now they have been sold.

I took the elephant's tusks."

Who made the people lose their jobs?

"Me", said Covid.

"I've made people shut their shops.

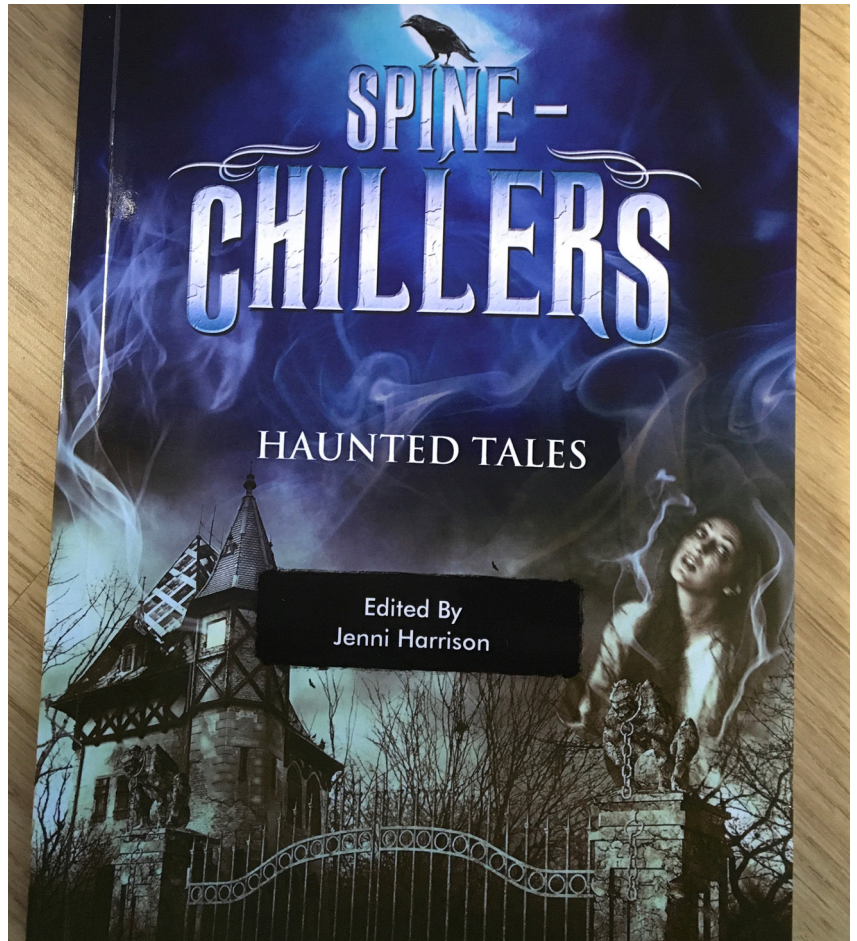
I made them lose their jobs."

Who will save the planet?

"Me", says the positive energy.

"I will get people through Coronavirus.

I will save the planet."



Amazing Architects

Year 5 were classical architects for the day! They designed and constructed historical buildings from Greece and Rome. Here are some examples of their brilliant work.



Boarding Life

CHESTNUT @MPS_CHESTNUT

Wednesday evening saw the first visit to the 'Chestnut Cinema'. The boys settled down to watch the Christmas movie *Elf*. It was fantastic to watch a film on the big screen and the boys said that it was even better than a real cinema, as they were able to take their duvets!



CHAMPION @CHAMPIONMPS

There's been plenty of birthday cake in Champion this week. **Zara** turned 12 on Friday and on Saturday we celebrated **Chloe's** 12th birthday. The Bake Off has continued with some delicious cakes being baked.



Boarding Life

HOLLIES

@MPS_HOLLIES

Christmas has certainly been the word of the week with lots of exciting preparations. The girls have been warming up their voices with festive singing around the kitchen table and our house elf has been found getting into mischief before delivering advent calendars to the girls early on Tuesday morning. Activities have continued the Christmas theme, with sock snowmen and Christmas cards being created. Den building was another highlight over the weekend, with treats round the campfire to finish. The treats continued with the final two delicious Bake Off cakes. **Chiara** and **Watita** made a delightful Raspberry Forest Cake and **Masha, Sylvie, Sasha** and **Ari** made The Awesome Aero cake. An early birthday celebration finished the week – happy birthday **Millie**.



BEREWALL

@BEREWALLHOUSE

The boys enjoyed a weekend of decorating gingerbread, putting up the Christmas decorations, a movie and snack night and pizza making!



SPORTING NEWS

EQUESTRIAN

This week's Rider of the Week is **Olivia S**, who went out for her first hack on Louella.



CROSS COUNTRY

The Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 had their final races of the term on Tuesday. Conditions were perfect and a huge thank you to the ground staff for sorting the courses all term. The runners have all worked hard and they can see their progress in their times. They are running faster and we hope that they will keep it going over the holidays with a few runs. Thanks to Mr Gardiner and Miss Luxon for recording and timing the athletes.



SQUASH

Shunsaku K broke the whole school Millfield record this week, scoring 358 in a 15 minute non-stop 'ghost' - which is shots played without a ball. This is something the Senior Squad at Millfield have used to see how economical their movement on court is. This is an absolutely amazing feat from Shunsaku, who was a little tired after the effort. Well done Shunsaku!



SAILING

Congratulations to **Noelle D**, who has been selected for the South West Regional Optimist Squad!





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NEWSLETTER



CLUBS

DAZZLING DANCE

Well done to the members of the Dance Club for your brilliant performances this week! You can watch the Reception group's dance [here](#) and the Year 1 and 2's dance [here](#).



DIARY

WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER

Gingerbread houses judging.
Please email in photos of your festive creations.

WEDNESDAY 9 & THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER

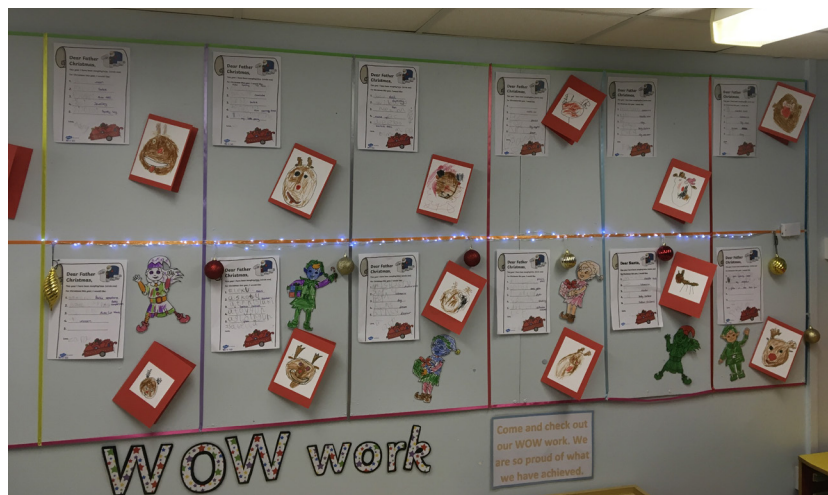
School finishes at 3.15pm
No clubs, creche or late club

THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER

Christmas Jumper Day and
Christmas Lunch

FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER

Christmas Parties
School finishes at 12.30pm



RECEPTION

FEELING FESTIVE

Christmas is definitely on its way and the Reception children are really very excited. They have been doing lots of lovely writing, including the letters to Father Christmas and amazing Christmas cards. We have lots more lovely Christmas activities planned and can't wait to share them all with you soon.



PRE-SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS CRAZY

Pre-School have been getting into the festive spirit this week!

IT'S SHOCKING

In Year 1's second week of their 'It's Shocking' topic, the children found out more about electricity. They learnt how to make electrical circuits including lights, switches and a motorised fan. The children soon realised that, if they left the fan on long enough, the plastic rotating section flew up just like launching a flying saucer! Next, the children had an investigation to carry out. After making an electrical circuit, one section was removed, leaving a gap. They tried a selection of objects, to see if any of them could successfully bridge the gap. The children discovered that the paper clip and the split pin could both be used. Great investigations, Year 1.



TADPOLES

ALL ABOARD!

After a great PE session, which involved trying really hard to only run on the lines on the Astro, the Tadpoles went for a walk to feed the ducks and to see how their balancing skills were getting on! It ended up with the climbing equipment becoming a train that was on its way to find Father Christmas!



SUPER SCIENTISTS

Year 2 have been scientists this week, using their observation skills. They discussed what seeds would need to grow and set up an experiment to test their hypothesis. Over the week, the children will be recording their findings.



PRE-SCHOOL

CRAFTY CHRISTMAS TREES

The Pre-School children have made beautiful Christmas tree pictures using green milk bottle tops! They were shown how to make a triangle shape with the bottle tops. Next they had to carefully lift one of the lids, glue it and place it down again. Once they had formed the tree shape, they added glue to the inside of the lid and filled them with either glitter, pom poms, buttons or sequins. A trunk was added and a star to sit at the top of the tree. The trees look amazing!

