



NEWSLETTER



A Message from the Headmistress

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all your support to date. I hope the children have now settled into a routine and are re-adapting to remote learning. Please do continue to feedback to Group Tutors or Heads of Year if you have a concerns or questions.

The non-return to school has given us some proper time to set up and trial the mass asymptomatic testing for Years 7 and 8 and staff, so as and when we return to school we will be ready. We still have the Pre-School children on site, they are very chirpy and it is good to have some company, but otherwise it is all rather quiet. The government have just announced that they will be providing asymptomatic tests for primary school teachers which they can carry out at home. They have also indicated that there will be asymptomatic testing for primary aged children at home, though we have not had the detail of this yet

In assembly last week we rolled out our 'MPS 2021 Gratitude Project' and I am very much looking forward to what initiatives the children come up with this year and, in the words of Martin Luther King, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?".

I do hope you and your families are staying safe and well.

Best wishes

A MISTY, FROSTY MORNING



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Pre-Prep News

This week's Picture of the Week is this excellent drawing of a Van Gough self-portrait by **Matilda W 8XM**

CLUBS

Thank you if you were able to enter preferences on SOCS for this term's activities. We very much hope that when we return to school pupils can participate as originally planned. We will open the sign-up window in case any pupil (or you) did not manage to enter preferences. You can check the choices and change these at any time. Please ensure that for categories asking for a preference, that a second and third choice are given, even if that is not having an activity.

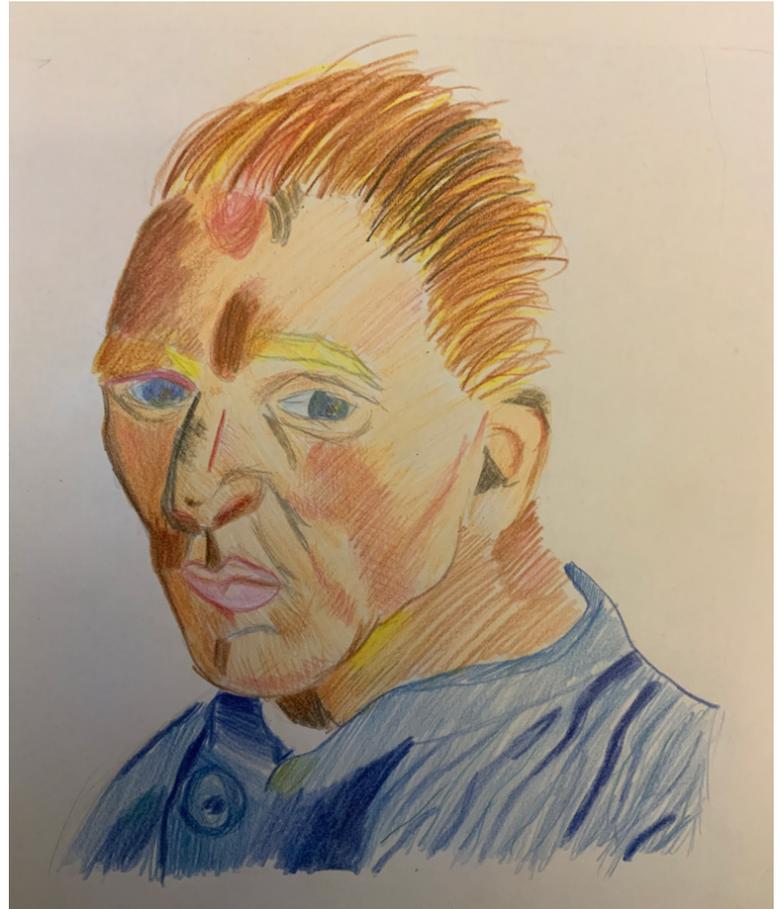
YEAR 7 PARENTS

Dear Year 7 Parents.

Advanced notice that we will be running live online Parent/Teacher meetings later this term. These will replace our traditional physical meetings. You will be sent booking information and further details in due course. You will be able to access meetings on either 5 or 8 February with appointments starting from 6.15pm.

Best wishes,

- Mr Guthrie
Head of Year 7



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

A huge thank you for your most generous donations of hampers and vouchers for our local community. I spent the first week of the Christmas holidays delivering them to organisations and schools in our local community of Glastonbury.

These were donated anonymously to the families, but they were so touched with the little messages and cards saying from my family to yours or love from....

I know that families were overwhelmed by the generosity of other families who cared and many were crying when they received them out of delight and surprise, but also because more importantly you made their Christmas! These were all things these families could not afford and you brought much happiness in a year that had been so difficult for vulnerable families in more ways than one.

I cannot thank you enough for your generosity and kindness and I know from your messages that the act of making the hampers brought much delight and started conversations in your own families as well.

God Bless you all in your kindness.

- Reverend Kitto

SOCIAL MEDIA & MESSAGING NOTIFICATIONS

Understandably, a fair few of our pupils are using either social media or messaging apps to stay in touch with their friends and extended family during the current lockdown. If you are allowing your children to access these apps, can we please ask that you get them to switch off notifications whilst they are in lessons, as staff and fellow pupils have noticed them popping up and this can be very distracting.

If you need help managing notifications [this link](#) explains how you can change iPad notifications.

Please also take a look at these social media checklists:

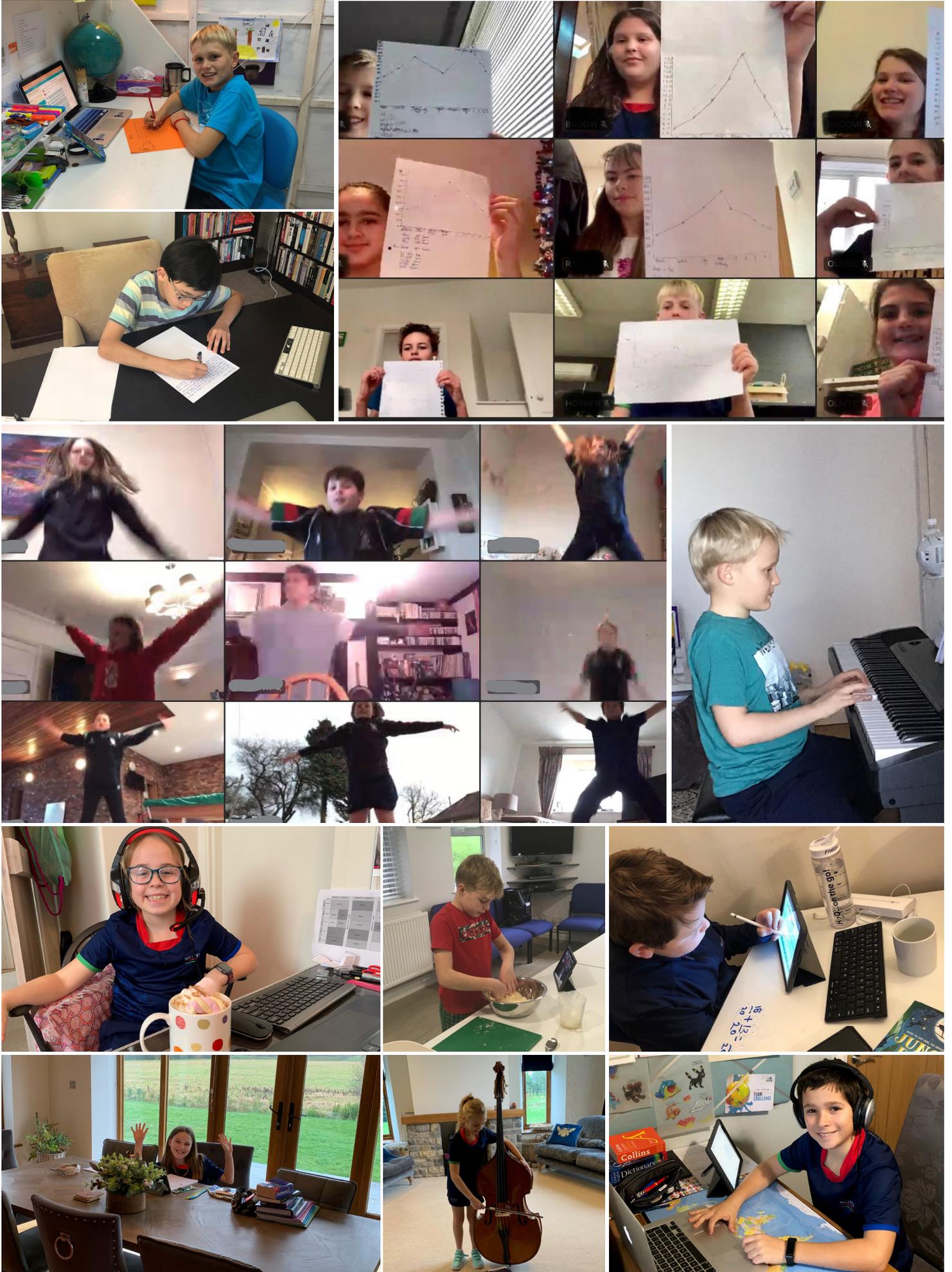
[Snapchat](#)

[TikTok](#)

[Instagram](#)

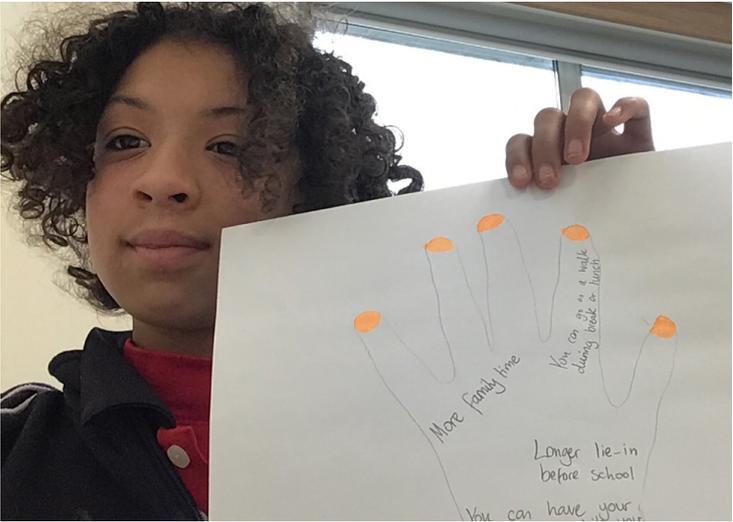
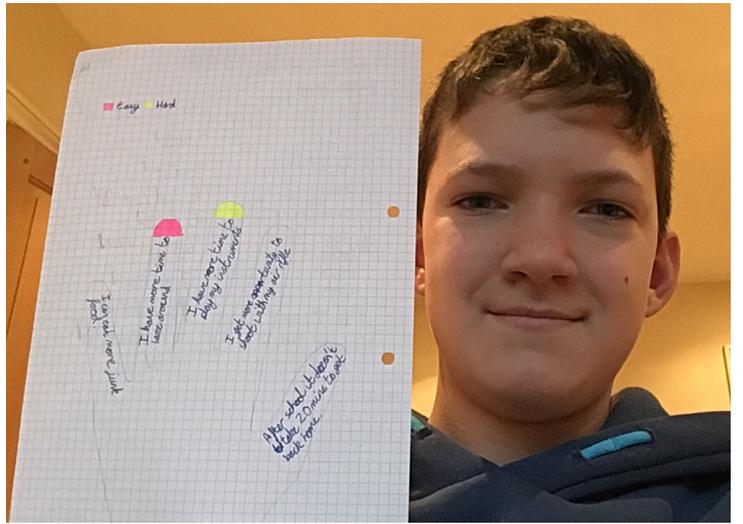
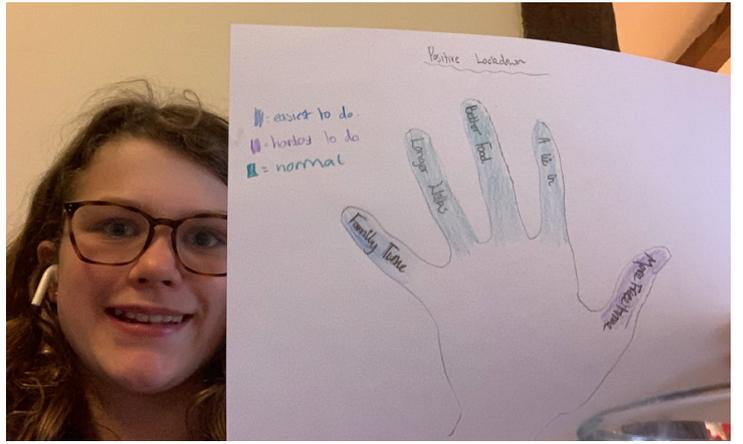
[Roblox](#)

REMOTE LEARNING SUPERSTARS



LOCKDOWN POSITIVES

In Religious Studies with Rev Kitto, Year 7 and 8 have been exploring the positive things about being in lockdown and recording these on their handprints. They then placed them on the fridge or above their desk to remind themselves of the positive things when they feel it is challenging! Always look for the positive in every situation, even if it might be hidden, do keep looking!



WELCOME RAY

The Equestrian team want to welcome our new pony Ray to the Millfield Prep stables! Ray has settled in well and we are sure he is going to be a great assist to the stables teaching lots of pupils to ride.



EAL PUPIL OF THE WEEK

Our first EAL Pupil of the Week for the spring term is **Claire G.**

She has shown so much enthusiasm in her classes, making sure she communicates well by offering opinions and being quick to answer questions. This dynamic approach to remote learning has made the lessons productive and enjoyable for all.

Excellent work, Claire!



Record Reader

5

At the start of the summer holiday, **Georgina** was set a challenge by her parents; to read her height in books before the end of the calendar year. This was made more tricky by the speed Georgina has grown; however, she has succeeded with flying colours! A wonderful array of books, Georgina, well done!



RIGHTS OF A READER

Last week, 6BVG discussed the 'The Rights of the Reader' by Daniel Pennac. Here's **Charlie L** and **Tom B** exercising right number 7: The right to read anywhere.



Great Geographers

Daniel and **Helena C** in Year 8 decided to run their own geography fieldtrip during the Christmas holidays by visiting Durdle Door, a famous sea arch along the Jurassic coast on the South Coast of England. 'Coasts' is the topic they have been learning about in their Geography lessons at school and Durdle Door, along with neighbouring Lulworth Cove, are places we would normally have visited on a fieldtrip as a year group. It is wonderful that they took the initiative to visit the area with their family and took this impressive photo using a drone. A great day out!



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

If nothing else, being in lockdown has shown us how wonderful it is to be able to get outdoors. Not only is there scientific evidence to support that spending time in nature is good for your physical and mental health, but it can be great fun! So whatever the weather and wherever you are, we hope you are taking some time to spend outdoors. Please send us some pictures of your outdoor adventures, but don't spend long on your device out there! (Twitter: [@MPSOutdoors](#))

This week, see if you can build a den. This could be in your garden, or if you are lucky enough to go to a woodland on a walk. How many of your family can fit inside it? Is it rain-proof? Does it have any special features? Maybe spend some time reading a book in there and enjoy the peace and quiet. If you visit it again in the week, does it look like any wildlife has used it too? Always make sure nothing is going to fall on your head! Remember teamwork is helpful to move big items around.

Also - it's the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch this month. Join in and be part of some amazing citizen science! [Click this link to find out more about it.](#)

CHAPLAIN'S THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

I really enjoyed watching Strictly Come Dancing last year, it came just at the time we needed something to cheer us up on a Saturday night. I was also really pleased with the winner Bill Bailey (although you might disagree with me!).

I love my coffee and I was interested to learn that Bill Bailey makes his coffee with a small coffee press. He reflects how this simple, well-known, comfortable action is an anchor point in his daily routine. Keeping a regular coffee time and routine is, according to Bill in his book *Bill Bailey's Remarkable Guide to Happiness*, always important and even more so when on tour or facing otherwise new changes and challenges.

The news, the changes and challenges of another lockdown will affect us all in different ways. As the days progress we need to be mindful of maintaining safe spaces and routines for ourselves and for those we are with, through our work or at home. Given the right conditions we can all find ways to be more open to sharing our thoughts and feelings, to be honest with ourselves and with others, to re-centre and release pressure. If you have a faith, you may turn to prayer and, regardless of any faith or none, personal meditation and peace have enormous benefits. Jesus ensured he made time to pray. He taught us words that could become a familiar framework, as well as encouraging prayer as a simple, private, conversation with a loving God who is always there to hear our words and, if we can find no words, to listen to our hearts.

*Dear God thank you for the small things in life that help me to be,
Dear God thank you for the small things in life that help me to cope,
Dear God thank you for the small things in life that help me to grow,
Dear God thank you for the small things in life that help me to flourish.*

Dear God help me as I am, as I cope, as I grow, as I flourish, help me to value the small things.

Help me to share the small things and encourage others to be, to cope, to grow, to flourish,

Through the small things and through your boundless love.

Amen

Wellbeing tip for the week: Value the small routines that you have. Notice the simple routines that help you to feel calm or to re-energise. Use these times wisely and treat them as precious moments, protecting them and expanding on them if you can or when you need to.

- Reverend Kitto

THE SUPER YUMMY KITCHEN

Chartwells have put together [this lovely recipe book](#) which is a roundup of the most popular recipes from its 'The Super Yummy Kitchen' channel.

It has some great recipes for pupils to cook at home with their parents, as cooking with one another supports a positive relationship with food.

Saturday Enrichment Activities

CARTOON DRAWING CLUB



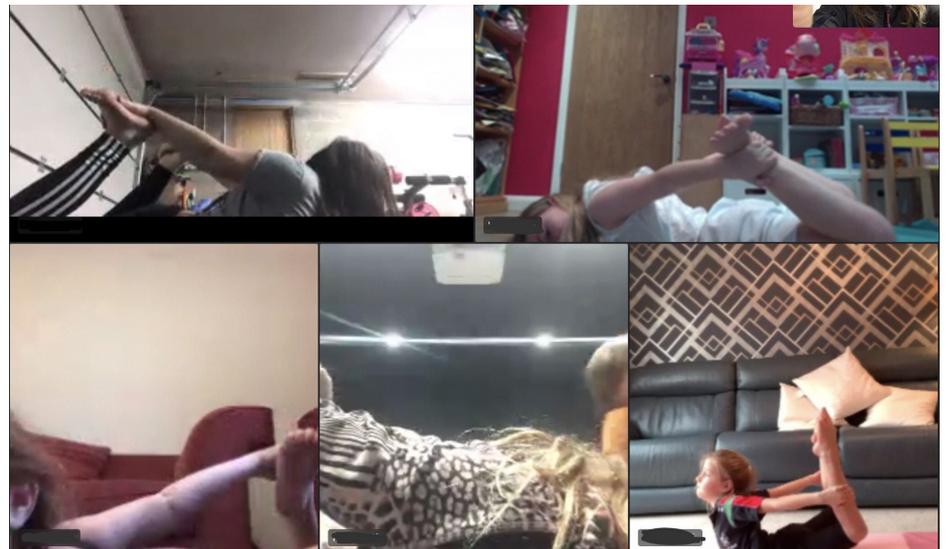
DRAMA CLUB



BAKING FOR FUN



GYMNASTICS AND YOGA



Great to see the girls engaging and smiling in our catch up meeting. We welcome **Isobel** and **Bronwyn** to Hollies House!



CHESTNUT
@MPS_CHESTNUT

The Chestnut Boys all got together on Teams this week. The meeting was just supposed to be a quick catch up to check all was going well. The boys chatted with each other for the whole of the break! It was great to see happy faces and listen to their funny stories. The boys will be catching up in big and small groups through the lockdown.





NEWSLETTER



A Message from the Head of Pre-Prep

It is incredibly strange not having everyone back in school to start 2021 together. We miss all of your children and we can't wait to see them all in Pre-Prep together, but in the meantime we know that we must follow government guidance and keep everyone safe.

We have all been so impressed with how enthusiastic, engaged and hard working the children have been, whether in school or at home. This is a really challenging time for everyone, and my thoughts go out to all of you and we thank all of you for supporting your children through their home learning, it is very much appreciated by all of us. Thank you for sending in all of your children's work and achievements, which we will continue to share in our newsletters. I look forward to seeing what you all achieve over the next few weeks. Keep smiling, keep safe, keep looking after each other.

Mr Jory

PRE-SCHOOL PRE-SCHOOL FUN

The Pre-School children have really enjoyed being back and seeing all of their friends! They have especially loved a frosty walk looking at the frozen spiderwebs. They also had PE and had to really work hard to try and stand up on a swinging rope...they were like Tarzan! We want to thank all of the catering and cleaning staff, for making it possible for us to be here and looking after us so well! Thank you all! A big welcome to our new Pre-School friends, **Willow** and **Foy**.



BRILLIANT BIRDWATCHING

As part of the RSPB Big Bird Watch, Year 2 were asked to record how many birds they saw in their garden and use the data to create a bar chart. The children were also asked to draw their favourite bird and create a poster on how we can protect the birds. **Matilda** and **Oliver** looked like they had a lot of fun completing this task, although Matilda did get distracted by some sheep!

Year 2 have also been learning about electricity. **William** found some resources at home and made his own electrical circuit. Well done to all the children for producing some fantastic work.



YEAR 1

TERRIFIC TEDDY BEARS

Year 1 have been looking at teddy bears this week. They described their own favourite teddy bears, using lots of great adjectives. Then they looked at the history of teddy bears and some famous bears. The children also enjoyed making teddy bear toast.



STORY TIME

[A lovely resource for story time!](#) Ideal for any parents needing a short break during lockdown. Have a scroll through and find your child's favourite book. If you've got the matching book why not try reading along? Parents could also set up an English comprehension exercise or mini quiz after each story, or ask the children to perform their most memorable bits of their favourite book for you, as a short play?