

NEWSLETTER

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

This week's Picture of the Week is this excellent still life drawing by **Agnes C** 6BVG.



MRS SHAYLER'S SHORTBREAD RECIPE

Growing up, my father loved shortbread with a big glass of cold milk and I used to make this recipe for him. It is quite easy and tastes yummy. If you try the recipe send me some photos, I'd love to see them. I hope you enjoy it!

Ingredients

230g unsalted butter 170g golden caster sugar 340g plain flour 55g semolina 2 tablespoons golden caster sugar (for dusting)

<u>Method</u>

1. Heat the oven to 160'C (or 140'C fan)/ Gas mark 3 2. Put the butter and sugar into a mixing bowl and beat until pale and fluffy.

3. Add the flour, then add the semolina and stir until the mixture forms a ball – you might need to bring it together with your hands.

4. Knead very lightly until smooth, then wrap in cling film and chill for one to two hours.

5. Roll out the mixture on a lightly floured surface to about the thickness of a pound coin. Cut into rounds with a 6cm pastry cutter and place on a baking tray lined with baking parchment.

6. Chill for 10 to 15 minutes.

7. Place in the oven and bake for 12–15 minutes, until very lightly coloured.

8. Remove from the oven and sprinkle immediately with the golden caster sugar.

- 9. Leave to cool.
- 10. Enjoy!



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CONTENTS

PAGE 2 Parent Notices Chaplain's Thought of the Week

PAGE 3 Egg-citing Experiments Amazing Authors

PAGE 4 Alfie's Teenage Cancer Trust Challenge Walk With Tom Competition Winner

PAGE 5

Music News

Children's Mental Health Week Writing Big Garden Bird Watch Super Self Portraits

PAGE 6 The View From My Window

PAGE 7 Academic Extension Fabulous Hats

PAGE 8-9 Saturday Enrichment Activities

PAGE 10 Boarding News

PAGE 11 Sport News

PAGE 12-14 Pre-Prep News

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Parent Notices

LAPTOP DONATIONS

Glastonbury & Street Lions Club, in conjunction Cheddar Vale Lions Club, are coordinating the collection of used and unwanted laptops to help support the BBC's Give a Laptop campaign. If you are in the local area and have any items that may be suitable, please contact David Atkins (Club Secretary) on 03458 336714. All items are wiped before being distributed to the end recipient. To date, the two Lions clubs have collected 62 laptops from the local area.

ONLINE SAFETY UPDATE

You may be wondering when the best age is to let your child have a social media account, or have some concerns if they're already using them. For advice and guidance, read <u>Is your child ready for social media?</u> Remember, most social media services require users to be at least 13 years of age before they can register.

Most young people have positive experiences socialising online, but it can be easy for young people to share things or post things they wish they hadn't. The simplest way to have information about your child removed from a website, or app is to contact the site itself. Read <u>Reporting to social media sites</u> for more information.

Social media can offer young people opportunities to express themselves and have fun, but they could be exposed to harmful content which might include sexual images or videos which could impact on their understanding of sex and relationships. For information, read <u>Teens and the sexual content on social media</u>.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Please feel free to have a browse of the resources below around wellbeing and mental health.

10 Things to Say Instead of 'Stop Crying' How Anxiety May Present Itself Emergency Care Wall Managing Stress Online Resources, Websites and Apps Stress Relief Giraffe Structure and Routine 8 Ways to Help Your Child Through Lockdown

Chaplain's Thought of the Week

This week is Children's Mental Health Week. The theme we have been discussing is expressing yourself, through music, poetry, art, dance and design. When I was in Sixth Form at boarding school many years ago, I had the privilege of having the study of Coleridge as my dorm. Like many of us, I didn't really appreciate the most amazing scenery that I had just out of my window and the creativity that had taken place in my dorm back in the 17th Century, I just took it for granted! I now of course wish that I had made more of the opportunities that I had laid before me. How often do we regret things in the past? What if we could change them? Therefore, the lesson is to make the most of everything that is laid before you.

Expressing yourself through any art form is wonderful and you don't need to be an expert or even show anyone. We cannot all be a Coleridge, but in 1827 he defined poetry as 'The best words in the best order'. Words too can be captivating and inspiring, whether poetry like Coleridge's *The Ancient Mariner*, songs (insert your favourites here!) or stories that you lose yourself in.

Your response to this pandemic, the love reflected, and the care you show, your connection with other people, with the natural world, with words, with music will be remembered. What has distracted you from the endless news? What has lifted your heart or raised a smile during this lockdown, when it all seems more draining than before? What have you done that has made you proud, that may have lifted the spirits of another through your care, your words, a simple observation or a random act of kindness? Maybe it's time to write your own poem, song or story? Or perhaps it is just time to allow yourself to be inspired, to follow the advice of the great philosopher Winnie the Pooh and go somewhere 'Where poetry and hums can find you'.

The Bible is full of poetry, songs and wisdom to encourage us, inspire us to look beyond the immediate. Some even enables me to think of Winnie the Pooh! Proverbs 24 verse 14 says 'Eat honey, my child, for it is good; honey from the comb is sweet to your taste. Know also that wisdom is like honey for you: If you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off'.

Dear God, thank you for things around us that captivate and inspire, Help me to notice, let me be captivated and inspired, Help me to notice others, that I might care and encourage Thank you for our wonderful world, our perfect planet full of wonder Thank you for words and songs and poems Thank you for your promise that I may be filled with joy and peace That I may overflow with hope, through your Holy Spirit Amen

Wellbeing tip for the week: Be like Winnie the Pooh! Find somewhere where poetry and hums can get you. Give yourself a break to enjoy or create some of your favourite music, poems, walks or food. Notice others and hold out a (virtual) paw. - Reverend Kitto



Year 4 have been looking at inventions in their Inquiry lessons. We have recently been focusing on flight carrying out air experiments, understanding the forces involved and also looking at what materials are useful for particular roles. As part of this, the children were set a challenge of designing and creating something which would hold and protect an egg when dropping it. Click the icon to watch the video.





AMAZING AUTHORS

In English this week, 7BM have been researching a variety of different authors from the past and present. Each pupil was given an author and prepared a short presentation which they performed in front of the class. Here is a brilliant timeline created by **René M**.

AUTHORS PAST AND PRESENT - TIMELINE

- 1) Add all of the authors from yesterday onto this timeline. Use their birth dates to put them into order.
- 2) Add the dates they wrote their most famous novels.
- 3) EXTENSION: Add some other famous authors that you know. The adventures



ALFIE'S TEENAGE CANCER TRUST CHALLENGE

8DBS (Alfie's tutor group) took part with **Alfie M** to help him towards his 100 squats a day for the whole of February, to raise money for Teenage Cancer Trust. An amazing show of support from his classmates! Click <u>here</u> to watch Alfie's message. Good luck, Alfie!



WALK WITH TOM ART COMPETITION

The Walk With Tom Art Competition was inspired by Captain Sir Tom Moore's #WalkWithTom campaign, which aims to get as many people as possible walking, talking, spreading hope and easing loneliness.

Our thoughts go out to Captain Sir Tom's family during this difficult time. We feel honoured to have witnessed his amazing achievements and to have been inspired by his messages of hope, which touched the entire nation during a period of great uncertainty.

Well done everyone who entered the competition that was run over the holiday.

Pupils were invited to create a visual art piece that was to be accompanied by a sound piece.

Congratulations to our winner Maddie M and runner up Alex M-O! You can listen to the sound whilst viewing their pieces by clicking the links on their names.





CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK WRITING

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, 7RD have been expressing themselves through the art of creative writing. Each pupil took a positive quote and turned it into a poem or a story. Here are two brilliant examples:

<u>A humorous poem from **Toby M**</u> Breathe, be kind to yourself, you've got this.

There was a kind man Who loved his pan One day it disappeared, He thought, "this is weird", He loved his pan and began to sob But then a man called Bob Said to the pan man, who began to beat himself up about his pan, 'Breathe. Be kind to yourself. You've got this, man'

They found the pan together.

<u>A short story by **Tiffany H**</u> Even if I don't understand, know that I want to.

BIG GARDEN BIRD WATCH

Here is a great photograph taken by **Hastings A** for the Big Garden Bird Watch!



The girl slammed down her pencil furiously, causing her lead to bounce across the table. The next thing she slammed down was her head, with a groan she sank down, dropping her head against the table. Her black ringlets spilt across the table as she carried on groaning and banging her head. With every bang she uttered the same words. 'I. Can't. Do. It.'

The second girl, graced with a head of chestnut plaits, who had been surveying the scene with an air of worry, picked herself up and wandered over. She noted the balled up fists and the restless legs swinging back and forth in anger. 'Do you need help with the homework?' she said, a slight note of impatience in her tone, but it quickly disappeared as a pencil plunked off her forehead. Her eyebrows locked. 'I'll take that as a no.'

But before she could turn away, the girl grabbed hold of her arm and looked her dead in the eye. Her grip tightened and she opened her mouth, words clearly failing to come out. The girl wanted to wrench her arm out of the steely grip but thought better of it. The girl looked down as the ringlets swung down but words began to form. 'Even if I don't understand, know that...that I want to.' She mumbled, and she let go abruptly. She went back to fiddling with the pencil, ignoring every else, as if the conversation never existed. The girl glanced back over to her chair, plaits swinging, on the other side of the room before pulling it over to sit next to the girl.

Her eyes weaved over to the girl's face who smiled, or was it just the corner of her mouth turning up in a smirk? It didn't matter, as the plaited girl brought a new pencil, with its lead firmly planted in the centre. She handed it over, and the ringlets tumbled as she took it. 'Question number one...' said the girl clearly and she looked rather quickly at the mass of curls and swore she saw a sort of grateful smile grace her face, but it was gone as fast as it came.

But it was enough.

SUPER SELF PORTRAITS

Year 3 have been looking at their inner and outer self and have used self protraits to show how they appear to others on one side and their hobbies and interests on the other.





THE VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

The View From My Window by Charlie R

One day, I was gazing through the window looking down at an amazing sight. Without me noticing, it had been snowing all night so in the morning my garden had been covered in snow. The snow had to have been at least a football deep and as white as a piece of blank paper. Icicles were hanging on the branches of the the tall oak trees that stood at the end of the garden. There were a couple of snowflakes that had managed to hang onto the window sill like their life depended on it. A bit of snow wasn't the only thing on the window. Frost was starting to form as well, rapidly covering the window blocking part of my view. I reached my hand out to touch the frost. The window was freezing to touch and I could feel the strong, icy wind pushing against the glass. My feet started to become cold from standing next to the windows so I backed off and got ready to go outside. But then I saw it. It was an owl. Sat high on one of the snowy tree branches. Its majestic, feathery coat slightly swaying in the wind. Wings flapped frantically when a pile of white snow landed on its back.

Then when I turned around to stare at it again, it was gone. All I heard was a distant hoot.

Winchester's Wonders by Matilda W

Frost settled on the ground, but not a trace to be tracked. A white blanket coats the surrounding land, the morning air sharp as knives.

All is still, all is silent, 'till a little red robin chirps 'good morning' to the world, announcing itself, with his bright red chest, before quickly retreating back into the almost barren hedgerows.

Deciduous trees native to the land, Have now slipped away, leaving witches fingers sprouting in their graves. While evergreens stand tall, proud of their mighty conquest in these foreign lands.

Small houses peppered across the fields, But none too close, only far. They all wore white woolly hats, With a red pom-pom that I could make out.

Only one caught my eye though, A grand brick cathedral that was ringing loud, its call was so mighty and proud. It really stood out from the surrounding crowd.

Its turrets were a crown, With golden letters N,S,E,W and a golden rooster that perched above. It really fits the landscape like a glove.

The birds are more awake now, chirping to a beat. The world is still so peaceful with nature singing, But everything must come to an end.

With spring nearing, The frost is melting. We're sad to see it go, But the snow will be back, that we do know.

REMOTE MUSIC AND UPCOMING VIRTUAL CONCERT

Our musicians have had an exceptionally busy start to the term and they certainly haven't let the second lockdown stop them from continuing to enjoy individual music lessons and choir rehearsals, albeit remotely! Choirs have continued to run before school for pupils in Year 3 through to Year 8, and the Year 7 and 8 Chamber Choir have been working hard during their Saturday morning 'Masterclass' session. The choirs have all been preparing repertoire for the Spring Concert which will be streamed towards the end of the term. These sessions have been a delight each week and, despite having to rehearse in a completely different way, the pupils have been enthusiastic and fantastically hard working. Hearing them singing so beautifully from wherever they are in the world has also been profoundly moving during this difficult time.

Individual instrumental and vocal lessons have been so successful that a great many pupils have signed up to take part in the upcoming Tea and Music concert which will stream via YouTube Premiere next Wednesday 10 February at 4pm. The concert will include performances from pupils in Year 3 through to Year 8 and a link to the concert will be sent to all parents early next week. For those unable to join us at 4pm, please rest assured that the concert will remain in the school YouTube channel for you to enjoy at a convenient time. I have been hugely impressed with the videos already submitted. The variety and standard are fantastic and the concert promises to provide a wonderfully entertaining afternoon of music. Congratulations to all those who are taking part - we are exceptionally proud of what you have achieved, how hard you have been practising and how well you have adapted once again to engaging in remote music lessons.

For any who would like the opportunity to perform in a future concert, we will be holding another Tea and Music event in March and would be delighted to involve as many as possible. Details of how to sign up for this will follow shortly after half term.

We sincerely hope you will be able to join us for the concert next Wednesday and well done again to all our pupils who have been continuing to work so hard in their music lessons and rehearsals.



ACADEMIC EXTENSION THROUGH PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND ETHICS

Year 8 pupils are engaging in an extended academic project, based on a topic or a religion they have not studied before, using their philosophical thinking, argument and analysis skills. They have had to research their topic, use different methods of collecting data, write an abstract and question research. This academic extension forms a significant piece of academic work, that shows independence and flair. Topics include mental health and gaming, human rights, China and persecution of Muslims, death penalty, feminism, human sexuality, transgender, poverty, privilege, to name just a few. Every project has to examine religious dialogue about their topic and draw a conclusion.

Pupils say:

Our extended project is good to do as it increases our understanding on what's going on around the world. The reason I chose human rights is because in the UK we are quite privileged but people in other countries, especially those with low income, their rights just drown in chaos and poverty.

I think it's challenging, because most articles online are for the UK problems only and it's challenging to find facts and problems that other countries are facing.

I'm enjoying this project, because it gives me a chance to learn about a religion I never heard of before and explore it in depth.

I'm enjoying researching my topic and learning how much different religions' views differ as well.

This project is a really good project to try, as it can help spread the word about the subject that you are doing but it also allows you to learn about it at the same time.

I am enjoying doing our individual project work this term, because I think it is nice to do some independent work. Especially now we are remote learning, I think it is a nice way to take a break from the screen. I have learnt so much already about how different religions view feminism and what important things females have done for their religion.

FABULOUS HATS

Mrs Velasco's tutor group had a fun hats day on Friday to celebrate working hard with their remote learning. Great hats, everybody!







Saturday Enrichment Clubs

RUGBY CLUB - Q&A WITH CALLUM

On Saturday, the Year 7 and 8 Rugby Enrichment Group were lucky enough to be joined by Callum Sheedy for a remote question and answer session. Callum is an Old Millfieldian, who currently plays rugby for Bristol Bears and gained his first international cap for Wales during the recent autumn internationals. In the week before he joined us online, Callum, who is a member of the Welsh squad for the upcoming Six Nations that starts on Saturday, was in a training camp in Cardiff and then on Friday evening came off the bench to help Bristol Bears to a very convincing win against Bath Rugby.

The boys had prepared some excellent questions for Callum and it was very interesting listening to him talk about his rugby journey, his transition from school boy rugby to a professional rugby player, the importance of playing different sports and playing in lots of different positions on the pitch when developing as a rugby player. Callum gave the boys some great advice throughout the session and the key messages were - make sure you are having fun, work hard on your skills, don't be afraid to ask questions and don't be too hard on yourself, as you are on a journey and there will be ups and downs along the way.

"It was very inspiring to hear about Callum's journey for Millfield to international rugby." - Brychan J

"It was amazing to hear his experiences in school as well as his professional rugby career." - George M





CARTOON DRAWING CLUB

In Cartoon Drawing Club, there were some excellent illustrations done of Spongebob, Groot and some manga too! We even had a parent take part!



HOT CHOCOLATE AND CHAT CLUB

The Hot Chocolate and Chat group enjoyed a range of activities on Saturday morning. Scavenger hunt style games, such as 'find an item that starts with first letter of your name', 'something that goes on your head' (one was an avocado!), 'something blue', 'something with words' and 'an item of sports equipment'. There were also some funny questions posed, such as 'Would you prefer to have an aggressive tiny elephant or a giant, house-sized friendly mouse as a pet?'

We even had a joke told by a Grandad who was phoned up specifically for his genius jokes - thank you Grandad Jamieson!

It was great fun, with lots of amusing items found and shown on the cameras including parents (whose names started with the specific letter), a variety of pets, teddies in all shapes, sizes and colours, toilet roll, avocados and crowns on heads and even some balsamic vinegar!



he Saturday morning Circuit Club baying a cool down

CIRCUITS CLUB

The Saturday morning Circuit Club having a cool down stretch after a tough work out.



Saturday Enrichment Clubs

ART WALK CLUB

Some wonderful photographs from Saturday's Art Walk Club. The sprouting plants photograph is by Matilda W and the swan photograph is by Alfie M.



WRITING CLUB

The Saturday writers have been exploring the role of character in writing. Here are a couple of brilliant pieces:

Conversation with a Tomato by Frankie Y

Tomato - Hi, Peter Potato, How have you been? Potato - Hello Tammy Tomato, I am good. Thank You. How are you doing?

Tomato - Thanks dear. I am okay. But at times I am very sad and unloved. Potato - Why you saying that? You are loved by all.

Tomato - Because I am getting wasted so much due to pest and disease attack in fields and improper storage methods. I am not as lucky as you are. Potato - Lucky me. Huh! Not at all. I get stored in a sack with four other potatoes!

Tomato - You must be kidding. You are a staple food in almost every diet and used in every meal of the day. So, people want you more. You can thrive in any conditions and you are not as perishable like me.

Potato - That I know, but still I am not given due respect. I am left spoilt here and there and no one notices me. No one loves my colour as like they prefer more reddish tomatoes. You get to enjoy the cool refrigerator in summers and I live like a downtrodden in some basket down somewhere.

Character study by Emilia B

Poppy sat on the step waiting for her uncle to come and pick her up. Her mind wandered to the future; oh what could happen? There would be bombs no more, fighter jets galore, there would be flying cars. Oh, how the future holds such promise!

Poppy thought of her family. Her dad and brother home, her mother cooking their favourite chicken! It would be cosy and calm, a nice little cottage. They would have duffel coats and pretty dresses to go to parties and balls of all kinds. She would fall in love with a kind boy and they would live their lives together.

Then sweets and chocolate popped into her mind, and all she could want to eat. A little girl sitting on the stairs dreaming of her future, dreaming of what could be.

Character study by Vansh S

It was the best day at daycare... We got to take dress up photographs. I, on the other hand, wore Mummy's beach hat and pearl necklace with her black umbrella and sat on the stairs like an absolute diva.

I thought to myself, as I was bombarded with camera flashes, "Is this what fame feels like?". Well, I just had to go and ask Daddy, or as other people would call him, Mr President.

PS. I like the name Daddy more!

HOLLIES

The Pastoral 1-1s, Hollies' Group Meetings and Parent Check-Ins are continuing to go extremely well. It has been wonderful catching up with all the Hollies girls and their parents. All continue to be in good spirits and enjoying the online lessons. With a slight improvement in the UK weather, some of the girls are venturing outside more and a few are going on runs. Many gardens are being fully utilised and have now become temporary netball courts and hockey pitches. The netball challenge has been attempted by a few with a variety of results, but a huge amount of fun and enjoyment. Spare rooms and dining rooms have become recital halls and music rooms for many of the Hollies girls and it has been superb to hear that many are practising their musical instruments. Many of the girls are keeping in regular contact with each other and it's wonderful to hear that friendships are flourishing even during this period of isolation. Overall, the girls are doing extremely well and we look forward to seeing them all this Monday in the last House Meeting of the half term.



CHESTNUT

It was Groundhog Day on Tuesday when we have our weekly house meeting, so we did another game of "Where Is Mr Duke?". Even though they have not been in house for a while, they still know their way around! Mr Maxwell then became Kahoot! Quizmaster and the boys joined in the Chestnut Game Show. **Miguel** showed everyone his new baby sister. **Luke** still has snow where he is and has made a massive snowball in his garden.





NETBALL SOCK CHALLENGE

Well done to all the netballers who sent their videos of their sock challenge into the netball staff. Good luck to everyone who is now in round 2 – check your Games team or the Showbie account for details and the new deadline is Friday 8pm. Good luck! Don't forget to follow @MPSnetball on Twitter.









SPORT VIDEOS

Make sure you follow <u>@MPS_Sport</u> on Twitter, as the Sport Department are posting lots of videos of pupils brilliant skills, warm ups and challenges!







YEAR 6 PE

6BVG complete the same mini circuit at the start of each week and we have been keeping track of their scores. All the scores have been going up through the half term. Well done, Year 6!



YEAR 8 PE

Year 8 built their own twister game during PE this week, to work on their balance and flexibility. **Angus** spent ages making his board before remembering he had the official game in the cupboard!











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NEWSLETTER



STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to this week's Pre-Prep Stars of the Week, who will receive a certificate from Mr Jory.

Pre-School Harry T Clara B Reception Alfred W Zara G Year 1 Huntter B Jonah B Emmelie P Year 2 Rosie K Matilda I Meilin K Trinity B

PRE-SCHOOL GREAT GRUFFALO DETECTIVES

Pre-School had quite a shock when they arrived in class on Monday morning. The Gruffalo toys were missing! Where had they gone? A hunt ensued! Everyone looked under the tables, inside the cupboards and then **Stan** spotted a clue, a footprint on the floor! The children followed the footprints and **Alice** noticed they led outside in the direction of Forest School. So everyone put on their Forest School kit and, armed with a check list to make sure they didn't forget any toy, they headed off towards the woods. With the help of binoculars and magnifying glasses the children discovered all the Gruffalo toys. They were hiding at the top of trees, under leaves and behind logs; thank goodness they found them!



SCIENCE SUPERSTARS

At the end of last week, the children were given a floating and sinking challenge. They had to predict whether something would float or sink and then test their prediction. Following this, they had to try and change the shape of some plasticine to make it float. There was a great variety of boat shapes, some of which were successful! Well done Year 2, for another fantastic week.



RECEPTION PERFECT PLAYDOH AND BRILLIANT BAKING

To promote Children's Mental Health Week, Reception class have been looking at emotions and the children have been making playdoh faces of their feelings on glass bowls. We have also had some late entries in the Gruffalo Baking Challenge - doesn't that purple prickled pavlova look amazing?!



POP UP PUPPETS

Looking at a selection of toys, the children in Year 1 focused on how they work. They noticed that some needed a push and some needed a pull. There were some toys that needed both forces to work, a push and a pull. The children were then set a creative challenge. After seeing some pop up puppet toys from the past, they had to design and make one of their own. They made some amazing pop up toys. Great work, Year 1!



YELLOW SCAVENGER HUNT

This week, Reverend Kitto did an assembly on feelings and the colour yellow. The **Turnbull** boys did a wonderful job with the challenge of collecting yellow things. What a wonderful array! Thank you for letting us know how much you enjoyed it!

