



#756
02 JULY 2021



MILLFIELD
PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



FAREWELL MRS SHAYLER!

We have been saying goodbye and farewell to Mrs Shayler over the past two weeks at various events. She is leaving the Prep School after 11 years of total commitment and dedication. She will leave a very big hole in the community but will be remembered by hundreds of families with thanks and appreciation for her warmth and sage advice.

Our Head Boy has written a special message from the students:

Dear Mrs Shayler,

Thank you for being such a kind and supportive Headmistress. In particular thank you for all the opportunities you have provided for us all. You have always put us children first.

I have really enjoyed our regular meetings with you and Matilda. Thank you for all the Kit Kats!

Please could I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy retirement.

Best wishes
Will M-H



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Pre-Prep Newsletter

THE SHAYLER PAVILION



In honour of Shirley Shayler's eleven-year stint as the Millfield Prep School Headmistress, the sports pavilion has been named the 'Shayler Pavilion'.

Shirley said: "Working at Millfield is a way of life, in fact it becomes your life, and I am so thankful for all the opportunities that I have had, and all the children I have met and helped steer along the way."

Shirley first stepped foot in Millfield as a trainee teacher some 30 years ago, having travelled to Somerset from Ireland. Her long and successful career led her to take on the headship of Millfield Prep School in 2010. She project managed the building of the pavilion, coming up with the inspired idea to shape it like a rugby ball, which was opened in September 2014 by former Millfield Prep student and England rugby player, Chris Robshaw.

Shirley began her career at Millfield teaching biology to A level students, subsequently introducing psychology at A level too. She had many other roles, including Housemistress, Senior Tutor in the Sixth Form, in charge of junior girls' games; prefect team leader and instigator of the Biology Symposium and single science. She was a first team hockey manager/coach, and slightly more surprisingly but very Millfield, she set up scuba diving, and was mistress in charge of parachuting and water skiing.

Shirley retires at the end of July when Gavin Horgan, Headmaster of Millfield, will take over the reins until Dan Thornburn joins Millfield Prep School as Headmaster in January 2022.



YEARBOOK COVER COMPETITION

We had some wonderful entries to the Millfield Prep Yearbook cover competition during the last few weeks and are delighted to announce the winners:



1st – **Masha Z** Year 8



2nd – **Chloe B** Year 6



3rd – **Sam L** Year 8

The theme options for this year were 'Science & Innovation' and 'What is important to you?' The entries were judged anonymously by Mrs Shayler and Mrs Webb, Head of Marketing. There were some really well thought through designs. It was lovely to see the things that matter to you most in life during this last year; rainbows featured heavily and it really made us smile. Well done to all those who entered.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

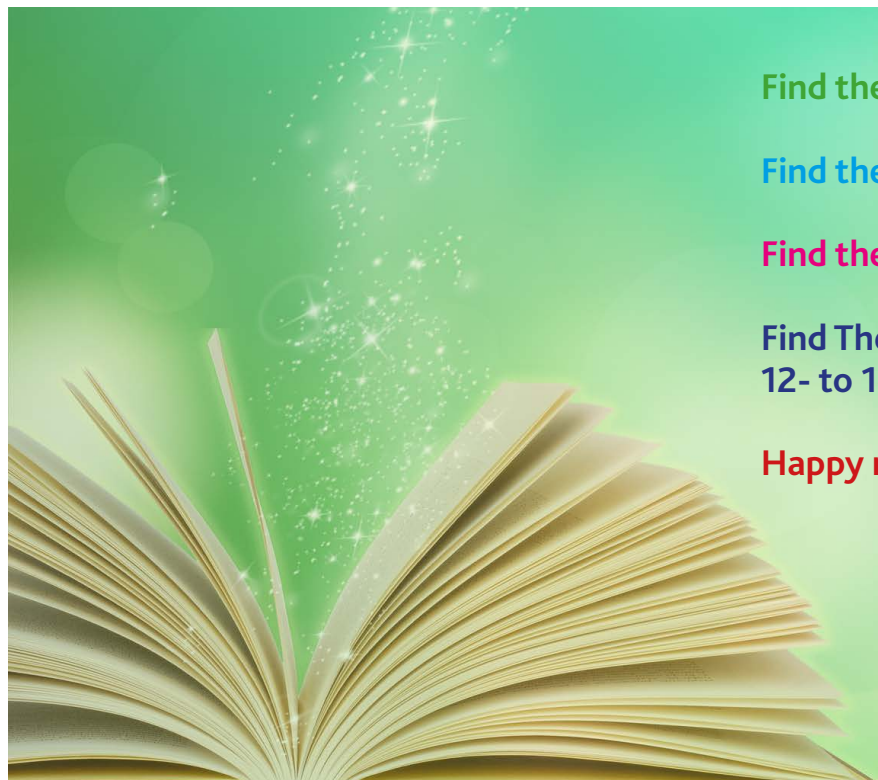


This week's 'Picture of the week' is this excellent watercolour painting of a horse by **Zara B**, 7RF/ANH.

SPEECH DAY



SUMMER BREAK RECOMMENDED READING...



Find the school reading list for Year 6 [here](#)

Find the school reading list for Year 7 [here](#)

Find the school reading list for Year 8 [here](#)

Find The Book Trust recommendations for 12- to 14-year-olds [here](#)

Happy reading!

THE NEARLY NEW SHOP



The Nearly New Shop offers a service to those parents who would welcome the opportunity to purchase school uniform at reduced prices, and to those parents seeking to sell current school uniform no longer required. Items purchased from the Nearly New area will not be considered for returns or refunds.

Nearly New items will be offered for sale with at least 50% discount off the current retail price (depending on the condition of items). Items are deposited on the understanding that 50% of the agreed selling price will go to the vendor and 50% to Millfield.

All garments are inspected by our staff to ensure suitability for re-sale and any items found unsuitable are given to charity or returned, on request. If wishing to donate any items for the Nearly New Shop, please bring them to the school shop during opening hours.

RSPCA YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER AWARDS

It's back! The RSPCA Young Photographer Awards is now open. Entries are invited from anyone aged 18 years or younger. It's FREE to enter and the closing date is **Monday 16 August**.

There are 11 categories to choose from, including the new Schools Challenge where students enter individually but also represent their school. There will be a winner in each category, an overall winner and an online public vote in March 2022 for the People's Choice Award.

CATEGORIES:

- Under 12 years
 - 12-15 years
 - 16-18 years
 - Portfolio
 - Mobile phone and devices
 - Picture perfect pets
 - Instagram
 - New: Schools challenge - Animal welfare watch
- Find entry details [here](#)



Chaplain's News...

Our school Chaplain, Rev Kitto, was ordained as a priest on Saturday 26 June at Wells Cathedral by Bishop Ruth. She then took her first mass/holy communion service on Sunday at St John's church, Glastonbury.

She is very much looking forward to sharing her ministry further with the school. If your son or daughter is interested in baptism or confirmation do get in touch. Email: Kitto.m@millfieldprep.com



The Reverend Michèle Kitto
Chaplain / Head of RS



BRILLIANT BOARDSERS...

The Hollies' Brilliant Boarder award this half term goes to Katherine, pictured right, who has really shone. She has been thoughtful and kind to others and made a great improvement in personal organisation. Well done, Katherine!



It was an easy decision to appoint this term's Brilliant Boarder for Champion. Whenever there is a job to be done - Gracie is there. Happy to help with anything asked of her, even helping her friends to tidy their dorm! This week when we were preparing for Mrs Shayler's farewell, Gracie was there, offering to check we had all the letters we needed and, more importantly checking they were in the correct order. Well done, Gracie!

TRIP TO WORLEY HILL

7LSF explored the countryside this week. A big thank you to Shane, the conservationist, for all his time. This is such a beautiful nature reserve that is owned by Millfield and being restored to its natural English heritage.



MEMORY AND PHOTO BOOK

As part of the Gratitude Project, students from 7AYC and 7LSF made a book of photos and memories to present to Mrs Shayler in the final week of term.



GREAT OUTDOORS WEEK

The students in Years 6 and 7 enjoyed a few more days of outdoor activities at the end of last week. This included a mock archaeological dig, as well as some dance, 'old school' games and a session considering our school impact on the environment. The children were brilliant, giving lots of new activities a go!



SHAKESPEAREAN CELEBRATION

On Midsummer Night, Year 7 gathered in the woods to experience a Shakespearean style celebration. They learned about the Elizabethan world view, traditions of the celebration of Midsummer Night, the establishment of Elizabethan theatre and how Shakespeare changed our modern understanding of fairies. The evening started with fairy face-painting and making ivy crowns, and to finish off we were treated to a compelling performance of 'Robin Hood' by the players of Drama Club: **Scarlett, Victoria, Mila** and **Tabitha**. Fortunately, the magic was restricted to the joy of being outdoors and stopped short of suspicious spells – no one was turned into a donkey.



HAMMOCKS CAMP WEEK

6BAM had fun erecting hammocks and trying them out!



COUNTRY WALK

7DEH took to the countryside for an enjoyable walk under blue skies!



YEAR 7 WRITERS' GROUP

The Year 7 Writers' Group has been inspired by locations around the campus this term. Here is a couple of the entries in the beautiful and reflective magazine they worked hard to compile.



Bees and butterflies love sucking on the sweet nectar contained in the pink flowers

Lots of petals tumble to the ground

Orange, pink, white, it can be any colour

Silently

Swaying in the wind

Ornamental

May is when it blooms

Grey opaque clouds swiftly swallow any trace of a sunny day. Not even a chink of light manages to infiltrate the mass of clouds. From above, a clap sounds once, and again, until the entire sky is aroused by a thunderous applause.

A patter of rain drums on the muddied ground, accompanying the racket above. Soon, discordant music plays as the rain falls and the steady bang of the thunder carries on. But then, the sky falls silent, almost like an orchestra had played the final note of a song, and then the sun begins to shine again.



ROCK AND POP CONCERT 2021

Friday night saw the first live music event in over a year take place – the much anticipated annual Rock and Pop concert. We were determined to go ahead despite the difficulties and restrictions still in place, so we decided to take inspiration from The Beatles and Glastonbury Festival, holding an amazing outdoor event on the balcony of the newly named Shayler Pavilion.

The audience, kept in bubbles, was made up of boarding houses, Year 8 day pupils and staff. All embraced the festival spirit, enjoying a BBQ dinner and then singing and dancing with abandon, despite the rather chilly weather! Weeks of preparation and hard work culminated in some fantastic performances from all the pupils and bands involved. From current chart hits through to iconic 80s rock 'n' roll (complete with the most enviable of epic perms!) there really was something on offer to satisfy all tastes in music.

We were so proud of the students' ability to learn and choreograph their songs, as well as the courage they displayed in standing on the balcony and entertaining the crowd so wonderfully well, especially considering that many have not performed to a live audience in over a year! A special thank you to Mr Mark Lawson who acted as compère for the evening, Mr Will Bix for filming and to all other staff who supported the event.

The evening was rounded off in style with all the Years 7 and 8 students coming together to perform an uplifting version of 'Shut Up and Dance' alongside a good bit of audience participation and amidst thunderous applause. Well done again to all involved – you can be hugely proud of yourselves and we would not be at all surprised to see you on a Glastonbury stage in the near future! If you would like to watch the concert, please follow this link: [Concert](#)



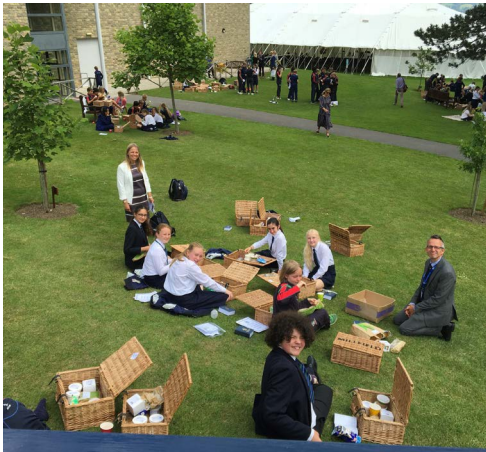
Goodbye and good luck to our Year 8 leavers. Here are those who have been with us since Pre-Prep, shown with their photographs from that time!



YEAR 8 LEAVERS' DINNER



YEAR 8 PICNIC



JUNIOR OLYMPICS

This week Years 3, 4 and 5 took part in the Junior Olympics. Each class was assigned a country and they all got a chance to participate in multiple activities. We started the event with the opening ceremony where each class presented their country. We were entertained with songs, poems, facts and even a video about the different countries. The activities that each class took part in were synchronised swimming, archery, dance, trampolining, a talk from an Olympic athlete (Gary Jennings, Denise Bodman, and Helen Gouldby), Olympic history and mascot making. We finished on Wednesday with the closing ceremony where all the pupils sang and danced. They then enjoyed a picnic with their group tutors in the lovely sunshine.



Sporting News

EQUESTRIAN

As you can see, there were lots of rosettes for our fab teams at the Grass Roots NSEA Regional final qualifier competition on Sunday.

Dottie S also came Individual 4th in the 50cm and 60cm classes on Missy. Also, in the 60cm class **Matilda R-C** came 3rd on Bluebell, while **Sarah H** came 6th on Sonny.

Brilliant riding guys. Well done!



From left to right: **Dotti S**, **Matilda R-C** and **Sarah H**. These riders won the 50 and 60 cm team classes.

The team below was on a winning streak at the Grass Roots NSEA Regional final qualifier too, taking first place as a team in the 70cm class.

In the individual results, **Isla** took 2nd place and **Sophie** 3rd. There was no team competition in the last class but individually, **Isla** came 2nd, **Sophie** 4th and **Bella** 6th.

Fantastic results!



From left to right: **Bella H-L**, and **Charlie**, **Sophie B** and **Poppy**, and **Isla S** and **Bob**.



Mimi W and **Natty** won the 90cm show jumping class and were 2nd in the arena eventing at Tumpy Green in Gloucestershire.



Emily G has been selected to compete for England in the 128cm team showjumping in the SNEC Home Pony Competition. This is an amazing achievement considering that she only started riding two years ago and has been in competition for less than a year. She will compete against the top riders from Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The competition will take place in Scotland in July. Well done Emily, and good luck!

Sporting News

CRICKET

The 2nd XI teams season has now come to a close and it has been a delight to see the emerging talent within Years 7 and 8. We have played some strong opponents this year, often playing other schools 1st XI or U13A sides. While cricket is a team game, I would like to mention some stand-out performances. With the ball, **Hamish H** has taken three wickets on three separate occasions. With the bat, **Jamie H** has been very consistent, with scores of 32, 35NO, 34 and 44, while **Brychan J** has also added a significant amount of runs, with scores of 74, 35, 31 and 51.

BIATHLE



On Sunday 27 June, 28 pupils from Years 3 to 8 competed in the National Schools' Biathle Championships at Leweston School, near Sherborne. Throughout the continuous run-swim-run races, Millfield's care and community spirit really shone. Members of Team MPS were the loudest supporters for both their teammates and competitors from other schools!

MPS recorded 19 top ten finishes; starting the day with **Raffie B** who raced brilliantly to secure 3rd place, joined by **Noah K** (4th) and **Dylan D** (7th) in the Year 3 category, to claim the overall team gold medal position! **Sophia E-N** also secured 5th position in a hotly contested Year 3 girls' race. The Year 4 boys: **Wills J**, **Hugh M** and **Jonah D** raced impressively to secure a bronze team medal, whilst **Polly W** (3rd), **Elsie S** (4th) and **Ella D** (5th) won the Year 4 girls' event as a team. **Millie E-N**, **Amelia S** and **Florie W** also claimed the bronze team medal in the same category! Podium finishes also came from the Year 6 girls' team of **Iona M** (1st), **Ruby B** (3rd) and **Noelle D** (10th). The girls stood on top of the podium in gold team medal position!



Well done also to **Isaac C**, **Harry D**, **Lois M**, **Eva D**, **Alex T**, **Joshua S**, **Agnes C**, **Enid McG**, **Asta M**, **Georgie G**, **Oliver T** and **Steffi B D L O**, who raced in extremely competitive categories to post many personal best times – all whilst smiling! Overall, a fantastic day!



TENNIS

Toby W played in a National Grade 2 Tournament in Glasgow at the weekend, which provided a brilliant learning experience. This weekend **Charlie R** and **Joshua C** are also travelling up to Scotland for the Grade 2 in Edinburgh. Josh has qualified for the main draw and Charlie is currently in the qualifying event. They are both hoping to be accepted into the Tennis Europe event at Queenswood School later this month.

We wish all our tennis players the very best of luck in their tournaments over the summer.

Boarding Life

CHESTNUT

Even though it's the final week of the year, the boys have still been as busy as ever. The boys hosted Mrs Shayler to say 'thank you'. She sat in a big, black chair under a spotlight and had to answer on her chosen specialised subject of 'Millfield Prep over the last ten years'. She had to think hard for some of the answers, but she got almost all of them right! She then left her handprint on the leavers' wall, to a big cheer.



The boys had a busy final Sunday with a three venue trip. They went coasteering in wild seas, ventured underground into some prehistoric caves and finished off at an 'all you can eat' buffet. They were brave, inquisitive and hungry, so the activities fitted really well.



On Wednesday we popped over to the senior school to spend an hour at the funfair. The boys span until they felt unwell!
A busy week with their friends before the summer.

BEREWALL

Our final contribution to this year's newsletter is a bumper week of excitement. After Saturday night treats then a lazy lie in on Sunday in preparation for an afternoon of coasteering was the beginning. Then packing did have to feature but a fond farewell to Mrs Shayler followed with a result against Germany for all our England football fans. A trip to our senior school fair for an hour of thrills on the fairground rides. Wednesday leavers dinners where we all dressed to impress! We thank all our boys for their company this year and wish them all the best for everything they do in the future.



HOLLIES

What an action-packed weekend! The entertainment began on Friday with the Rock and Pop concert. The girls enjoyed a BBQ on the grass by the pavilion before turning their attention to the pavilion balcony for the concert. Huge congratulations to **Annabelle S** and **Tamara G V** for their high-energy performance. We thoroughly enjoyed it! Excitement continued on Sunday as we headed to the beach for a surfing lesson. Wetsuits, ice cream, hot chocolate, fantastic instructors and great friendships made the day, and the rain stayed away!



The girls also enjoyed a surprise visit to the funfair at the Senior School on Tuesday. Dodgems, a Ferris wheel and a number of adrenaline rides tested their bravery. The term draws to a close, along with the Hollies girls' time at the Prep School, with their formal dinner on Wednesday. Preparations for dresses, shoes and hair styles have been extensive and they had an amazing night. Goodbye and good luck to all of the girls as they move up to their senior schools.

CHAMPION

We seem to have packed an awful lot into our last week with still more excitement to come. On Sunday our house trip headed to Portland,



where all the girls took part in sailing school. A few managed to end up in the water, one citing her friend's steering as the cause, but our patient instructors guided us through. On Tuesday we headed over to Millfield to have some fun at the funfair, located on the Sir Gareth Edwards pitch. Thank you Millfield! It was so lovely to be able to visit. We would like to wish all our girls and their families a brilliant summer break and we look forward to seeing you all in September.



On Wednesday we said a fond farewell to Mrs Shayler - Champion style. Everyone was allocated a letter and thought of a few words to describe Mrs Shayler - there was 'A' for awesome Headmistress, 'G' - good at pouring water for us at snacks, and many more. It was quite an emotional evening.



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PRE-PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Message from Mr Jory, Pre-Prep Headmaster

As we come to the end of a busy and fulfilling year, it is with great pride that I can look back at the many achievements of Pre-Prep School. The children never cease to amaze us with their independence, resilience and desire to learn. Our school values continue to be at the forefront of everything we do, which all strengthen the children's characters and their ability to make the most of every aspect of school life, and to be brilliant. We are so proud of all the children, especially how some year groups adapted to home-learning again, and how we all dealt with the difficult times of COVID-19. Whether in school or at home, we have celebrated all of the children's achievements, where they have demonstrated how brilliant they are by being challenging, curious and kind. With these key values, the EYFS and IPC curriculum, amazing staff and the stimulating indoor and outdoor spaces, this has allowed for positive, engaging and inspirational learning experiences.

Even with all the restrictions, Pre-Prep has been full of energy, enthusiasm and excitement, creating a buzz of learning in every bubble. Productions, music events, dress-up days, charity events, celebrations and festivals have all enhanced the children's learning experience.

I would like to wish all children who are leaving us at the end of this year all the very best as they continue their educational journey. I know that they have all had a great start here and that they will go on to achieve great things, and I hope they will take with them many happy memories of Millfield Pre-Prep.

Wishing you all a safe and happy summer holiday.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Pre-Prep Picnic

Monday 5 July.
(children only)
Creche and late club available.

Pre-Prep Sports Day

Tuesday 6 July.
Parents invited from 1:45pm (two spectators per family).
Events to start at 2pm on the Prep sports field by the Pavilion.
School finishes at 3:15pm, no creche or late club.

Year 2 Leavers' Assembly

Wednesday 7 July 11am.
Year 2 parents only. More information to follow.

End of term

Wednesday 7 July 12noon.

DANCE GROUPS

The various dance groups have worked really hard this term and wanted a chance to be able to show their parents what they have been working on.

As we aren't able to invite an audience in for our usual end of term presentations we have put together a few short videos of everything that we have worked on. The links are as follows:

[Reception Dance 2021](#)

[Years 1 & 2 Dance 2021](#)

[Grade 2 Ballet](#)

This leads to the exciting announcement about the formation of the MPS Dance Company, starting in the next academic year! Pupils will be invited to join the group, representing the school at various competitions, festivals and events throughout the year.

They will also be working closely with the Millfield teachers and pupils, and our own senior students will also have the opportunity to train regularly at senior school. Please contact Miss Chatwin or Mrs Kincaid for more details.



TADPOLES

Tadpole tea party time



PRE-SCHOOL

The Pre-School children have enjoyed being back together. They quickly settled back into the routine and couldn't wait to tell us how funny it was that they saw us on their iPad or TV screens reading stories and singing songs!



They have continued their sports day practice with only a few false starts and the odd hand holding their object to their spoon!!! As the children enjoy their final few days for this academic year, the Pre-School Team would just like to wish all the Frogs and Tadpole leavers good luck in their exciting adventures ahead. Have a safe and exciting summer everyone!

To view the Pre-School Leavers video, please follow this link:

[Pre-School Leavers](#)

YEAR 1 - Wonderful Whales



Year 1 have been reading a book called 'Dear Greenpeace' by Simon James. In the story a little girl called Emily sees a blue whale in her pond. Wanting to look after it properly she writes to Greenpeace for help. Inspired by the story, Year 1 made their own model of a whale and a piece of the ocean for it to live in.

YEAR 2

Year 2 have been problem-solving with paper straws and pipe cleaners! They were given the task of creating a cube with only these items, no glue or tape involved. The children used rulers to measure out their lengths of straw to make sure all the sides were the same length. Once they had made a cube they then moved on to harder 3D shapes. Some even managed to make tetrahedrons and octagonal prisms! Well done Year 2!





MINIS NEWS



WIMBLEDON TENNIS WITH THE MINIS

The Minis enjoyed printing strawberries with bubble wrap and making gold medals. They rolled and bounced painted tennis balls and watched how far they went, and followed the tracks they made. They were terrific at scooping and pouring refreshing lemon and orange mint coolers, and practised their tennis skills, whacking balloons over the net and balancing bean bags on rackets. I think we have some budding tennis stars in the making!

