



#793
04 NOVEMBER 2022



MILLFIELD
PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

After such a marvellous first half of term, and what I hope was a useful rest for two weeks, it did feel a bit like coming down to earth with a bump this week. The clocks going back, torrential downpours and floods, a lightning strike and gale force winds in the first three days certainly kept us on our toes. Mr Close remarked to me, as we were assessing the tree damage that we should probably prepare for a plague of locusts next – it certainly felt a little biblical at times!

Thank you then, for adjusting to the forced changes to drop off and collection. In tricky circumstances, I thought the school community pulled together very well. Indeed when I step back a bit to reflect, I am incredibly grateful that we got so lucky. A single bolt of lightning, out of the blue without any sort of warning, striking the very centre of the campus, could have been an awful lot worse. Well done to the children and staff for the way they managed themselves and huge thanks to the Grounds, Maintenance and IT teams who were so quick to help us get back on our feet.

Elsewhere this week, it was lovely to hear about the exploits of the rugby tour to Dubai – they all represented Millfield Prep brilliantly. During half term there was also further success in the Biathlon and

Triathlon World Championships in Madeira so many congratulations to all involved.

Last night, Year 6's contribution to the Shakespeare Festival at Millfield was really excellent. In my experience, asking Prep pupils to perform Shakespeare is a brave decision but it is one that really paid off. In only a few short weeks, to get every member of the year group to appear on stage and do so confidently while bringing understanding to each of their roles was very impressive. There were also some standout individual performances. Well done to everyone involved but particular thanks to Petrina Fitzpatrick, Chris Carruthers and Anujah Sheppard for bringing it all together. Thanks also to Rhian Fox for enabling us to use the superb Meyer Theatre.

I look forward to seeing many of you this evening at the Fireworks Night. My thanks in advance to those parents who are helping with the ticket collection and food and drink stalls. Let's hope we don't have quite such an eventful week next week...at least we've got plenty of wood for the bonfire tonight though!

Yours,

Dan

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

This week's 'Picture of the week' is this excellent painting by **Polly W 6CJJ**



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Minis News



UAE Rugby Tour Diary 2022

[Watch our video: MPS UAE Rugby Tour 2022](#)

Day One

Dressed in our team travel kit we waved goodbye to parents and the Headmaster before embarking onto our executive coach for transfer to Heathrow airport. Allocated a block of seats at the rear of the luxury Etihad plane, certain tour members commenced an eight hour session on the in-flight entertainment while others dozed.



Day Two

After arriving in Abu Dhabi we transferred to the Staybridge Suites Hotel for a superb breakfast. We changed to training kit and headed to the magnificent Rugby 7s stadium for a training session. The heat was incredible but the session helped us to acclimatise and become familiar with the pitches and facilities we would be frequently using. After a great lunch at the club house we practised our scrummaging techniques in the swimming pool before returning to our hotel. After collecting pizzas and garlic bread from the staff's rooms, we enjoyed a most welcome early night!



Day Three

After an early start we headed back to the 7s stadium for our first training matches. Initially we joined the club side Exiles to train before splitting into three mixed teams. As the morning progressed we split into two teams and played matches against Exiles and Hurricanes. There was time for a team swim at the ground before a brief trip to the shopping mall for supper at Carluccios. They enjoyed the water fountain and the incredible light show on the Burj Khalifa.



Day Four

We had an early morning Kite beach trip for a 32 man swimming session in the ocean. The sea was like bath water. We then headed to the incredible Dubai Sports City to play a mixed Sharks club side under flood lights. Our coaches ensured pitch time was shared while we enjoyed a closely contested encounter.

Day Five

In the morning we caught the river taxi into the Spice Souks in Dubai Creek. At the local markets we haggled and bought some "Genuine Fake" watches and handbags! In the afternoon we headed for Dubai College for back to back fixtures. Our 'B' team participated with huge determination against our wonderful hosts before the 'A' team tackled superbly against an older side from The Sharks Club.

Day Six

A quiet day at the Wild Wadi Water Park! Afterwards we headed back to the 7s stadium for a joint training session with a local Barbadian team, before checking into the most incredible luxury Radisson hotel. Trying to decide what (and how much) to eat for supper was a real challenge!

Day Seven

In the morning we visited the Sheikh Mohammed bin Al Maktoun Centre for Cultural Understanding and learnt a lot about local customs. Some of the party dressed in local costumes and we ate local food. Returning to the 7s stadium we enjoyed two magnificent games against the Hurricanes. Our 'B' team opened the proceedings with a fine display of handling before an epic encounter under the lights for our 'A' squad. We were superbly hosted and enjoyed pizzas, presentations and speeches. The return journey witnessed a rowdy rendition of our House Song: 'Eye of The Tiger'.

Day Eight

We spent a rare relaxing morning, making our last trips to the supermarket and lazing by the pool. After a sumptuous lunch and final packing, we headed out to the desert in six 4x4 jeeps. Racing up and down the sand dunes was awesome. This was followed by camel rides, sand surfing, supper and belly dancing! We then transferred back to Abu Dhabi to check in to our return flight for another eight-hour stint on the in-flight entertainment system.

Day Nine

We landed in the rain at Heathrow, and we couldn't believe it was all over already! A great trip and life long memories made for all concerned. Thank you to our tour sponsor. Thank you also to the parents who were able to support and provided numerous frozen drinks.



Perspective?

Close one eye and place a coin close to your eye (Remember real money?). If you have got two coins you can try with both eyes. If no coins, try using the corner of a debit card! When the coin is close all you can see is the coin, and that is mostly in shadow. Slowly move the coin away from your eye, notice how light comes in so you see the coin better. Notice too how you start to see what is beyond the coin: colours, shapes the expanse of space, other people...something more. On an even greater scale, just look at the incredible pictures of the unknown universe coming back from the James Webb telescope!

Moving the coin, or yourself from the coin, enables entirely new perspectives to develop and is, perhaps, a simple way of demonstrating the concept of spirituality, of 'something more'. Brene Brown, international leadership lecturer and author, encourages curiosity and reflection, looking beyond the immediate. Brown shares her favourite definition of spirituality as the 'Deep human longing to experience a transcendence in our ordinary human life,' and goes on to say that she sees spirituality as experiencing 'The extraordinary in the ordinary; the miraculous in the mundane and the sacred camouflaged in the profane.' In the Bible we read: 'Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see' (The Bible, Hebrews, chapter 11 verse 1).

How often do we get caught up with what is immediately before us? Sometimes we forget to look beyond, to look around, to look up. Schools are wonderful places where we encourage curiosity, new perspectives, imagination and creativity everyday. The very simple action of looking up can help us take a deep breath, change our perspective, notice something more and begin to reset ourselves. It may be scary, sometimes we appreciate the security of what is before us even if it is challenging.

What is immediately before your eyes at the moment? What, or who, can help you to seek a new perspective, to affirm you or to support you; to see the extraordinary in the ordinary?

Dear God,

Today will you help me to look at things differently,
May I notice the extraordinary in the ordinary of my life,
May I see the miraculous in the mundane,
May I find the sacred camouflaged in the profane,
May I find faith, confidence in what I hope for and assurance of what I do not see.

Amen

WELLBEING TIP FOR THE WEEK:

Well-being tip for the week: Look up more! Ideally outside, look up at the sky – day or night, there have been some beautiful sunrises and sunsets recently as well as clear night skies. Look at things from a new angle, at home, outside, in a building. Give yourself time to look up and to really look, and see, what do you notice in the view and about yourself as you do this?

WORD OF THE WEEK

Welcome back to the Millfield Prep Languages game in the Newsletter! Each word will have three potential meanings and the first pupil to email Mrs Crispin (crispin.g@millfieldschool.com) with the correct answer, will win a merit and a small prize.

Spanish - **Un amigo**

- 1) friend
- 2) a cousin
- 3) a neighbour

EAT TO EXCEL

5

The school nutritionist Adam Sutton, who works for the school's catering provider Chartwells, offers an introduction into our Eat to Excel initiative:

Eat to Excel is Millfield's healthy eating initiative, which relaunched in September across both Millfield Prep School and Millfield. It is not only an educational resource, but an attitude held towards food and nutrition. The initiative highlights the importance of eating a well balanced diet whilst keeping nutrition simple by using a colour coding system for each food group. This is further supported at Millfield Prep School with the Eat to Excel superheroes. Captain Active, Professor Protein, Dr Function, The Green Guardians and Aqua are all on hand to help students plate up nutritionally balanced plates of food. Each superhero's power represents the role of the food group in a balanced diet and how they come together to fuel success through tasty and nutritious food.

You can find this information by clicking [here](#)



MUSIC

Over the summer, pupils sat exams across these 3 boards: Music Teachers' Board Music Examinations Summer 2022, Trinity Guildhall Examinations Summer 2022 and ABRSM Millfield Prep School Period Summer 2022.

The results are in...

Pre Grade:

- (Sofia L, Oboe)
- (Lowri S-M, Oboe)

Initial Grade:

- (Sophia V, Violin)
- (Sofia L, Violin)
- (Isobel A, Violin)
- (Muna I, Violin)
- (Chloé S-S, Violin)

Grade 1:

- (Maddie M, Oboe)
- (Olivia H, Oboe)
- (Sam X, Drum Kit)
- (Vivienne L, Drum Kit)
- (Lottie B, Singing)

Grade 2:

- (Timothy D, Drum Kit)
- (Charlotte B, Singing)

Performance Grade 2:

- (Sophia E-N, Violin)
- (Joe T, Violin)
- (Muna I, Singing)

Grade 3:

- (Enid M, Violin)
- (Morolayo A, Trombone)
- (Myrtle B, Singing)

Grade 5:

- (Georgina F, Double Bass)
- (George H, Trombone)

Grade 6:

- (Amber J, Double Bass)

YEAR 3

6

Year 3 have been working all term on their Egyptian boats. This week, it was time to finish the sails and then have the Battle of the Nile. The 'Tutankhamen's' defeated the 'Cleopatra's' on a close battle 5-4. Well done for excellent work this term and for the exciting battle.



YEAR 5

Year 5 have been designing a small box based around an image of their choice. They designed them on the computers and enjoyed learning about CAD-CAM and how machines can be used to cut and etch onto materials. They were thrilled to construct them and take them home this week.



Calm after the storm



JUST ONE TREE COLLECTION

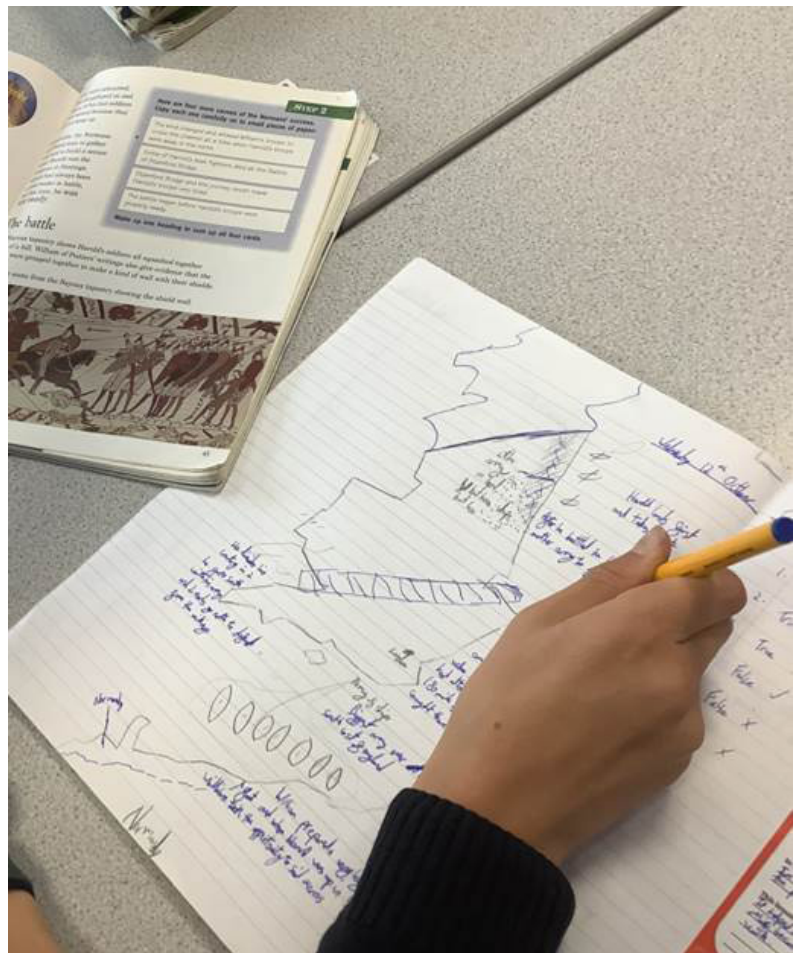
Thank you for supporting Just One Tree in the collection after house song. We collected £370.62 which the charity will use to plant one tree for every pound across a number of their projects worldwide. Just one tree can store up to a tonne of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, if it has a long lifetime, as well as providing a habitat for other species. Raising funds for environmental issues is a key part of our eco-school status, thank you for your generosity.

HISTORY

Invasion: One Crown, A Duke and Two Kings.
The story of 1066, arguably the most important turning point in English history is central to our Year 7 lessons this week. With the invasion of two armies we have considered how King Harold deals with the dual threat to his authority in 1066. At the start of the wonderful House Singing competition, Mr Close made reference to the fact it was anniversary, 14 October and almost the very hour the Battle of Hastings began.

Knowing the four claimants to the throne in 1066, our industrious Year 7 students have been working carefully to build up their historical knowledge of the events leading up to Hastings. In a single lesson heavily reliant on role play, students in 7SP were given the roles of the main protagonists, Harold Godwinson, William of Normandy, Harald Hardrada, Edgar Atheling as well as lesser known parts, Earls Tostig, Edwin and Morcar. They were challenged to decide who should be King at crucial points in that fateful year by voting at the end of the lesson. Using extracts from the TV series, *Battlefield Britain* the movement of three armies was tracked on a rapidly drawn map of the British Isles. Each 'character' asked a series of questions, - what should Harold do in response to Viking invasion? Why disband your army at the end of the summer Harold? Why is William banking on Harold coming south to fight him and not stay in London? This led to a lively debate about the decision making that brought about the showdown at Hastings (or more precisely, at the town of Battle) 956 years ago.

Well done to 7SP for getting into the spirit of the debate, arguing who deserved the crown and next week, they will be taken on a virtual tour of the Battle of Hastings itself.



BOARDING LIFE

EDGARLEY MANOR

It has been lovely welcoming the boys back after half term. They have hit the ground running with getting back into routines and have loved catching up with their fellow boarders. Sunday evening was kicked off with a birthday! We celebrated **Sam's** birthday with pizza and a cake, which was much appreciated by all. On Monday, the boys were greeting with some 'spooky' goings on. There were ghosts, skeletons and pumpkins galore! The boys enjoyed some pumpkin carving, before tucking into some gruesome jelly, ice-cream and 'blood' sauce.



HOLLIES

Chatter and laughter filled the air in Hollies on Sunday evening as we welcomed the girls back from the half term holiday. We heard tales of travels and excited screams at seeing friends again before the girls carved pumpkins. Halloween games and competitions coupled with **Lola's** birthday on Monday evening produced more excited screams and lots of singing. **Myrtle's** birthday was on Tuesday and **Zoe's** quickly followed on Wednesday with more cake and singing. Happy birthday to **Lola, Myrtle and Zoe!**



BEREWALL



The Berewall boys have returned refreshed and raring to go. Monday night saw the boys enjoy lots of fun and games for Halloween. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate, so the Pumpkin carving was postponed until Wednesday evening. The boys showed great creative ability and produced some outstanding carvings! The evenings are now cold and dark, so our boys are finding new entertainment in the house. Board games and made-up activities are proving popular, as is the Champions league action! Our games room will soon be open after a refurbishment...which we are all looking forward to!



CHESTNUT



The second half of this term started with a spooky Halloween evening. The boys picked out of a cauldron to see if they would be getting a trick or a treat. The tricks ranged from 'egg roulette' to the 'spoon of doom'. The boys then bobbed for apples and attempted to eat doughnuts on strings without using their hands. After the games we ate a Halloween feast with a huge selection of spooky foods. The boys devoured 'blood' syringes, ghost pizzas, severed fingers, 'radioactive' houmous and other scary but delicious foods. Wednesday saw a wet and wild ASFL under floodlights before it was eyes down for a full house with house Bingo. They found the calls for the numbers very confusing and it may cause confusion for their teacher in their next maths lesson when they call out "Legs eleven" or "Two little ducks, quack quack"



CHAMPION



It was lovely to hear all the chatter and laughs in Champion on Sunday as the girls arrived back from half term. They were so excited ahead of Halloween, and no wonder! By Monday morning the Champion entrance had been filled with creepy decorations, pumpkins and even a dangly spider! For the evening, Mrs Smith set up activities in the Champion garden and the girls enjoyed a host of spooky games, even 'worm' jelly for snacks, great fun!



SPORTING NEWS

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

We are so proud of the Millfield Prep athletes who qualified to represent Great Britain in Madeira, Portugal in the Biathlon/Triathlon World Championships over the half term break. Well done to **Iona M**, **Ruby B**, **Vienna T** and **Ella D** what an incredible achievement. There were super performances from all of our pupils who were competing against the best athletes for their age in their respective disciplines. A huge congratulations to **Iona M** for bringing back the team bronze in triathlon, silver in the U13 mixed triathlon, team bronze in U13 biathlon.

U13 Mixed Biathlon relay: **Vienna T** 4th, **Iona M** 6th, **Ruby B** 8th

U13 Mixed Triathlon relay: **Iona M** 2nd, **Vienna T** 6th

U11 Triathlon: **Ella D** 11th

U13 Triathlon: **Iona M** 6th

U13 Biathlon: **Iona M** 6th, **Ruby B** 10th



We would like to congratulate the following: **Ruby B, Agi C, Eleanor E, Charlie L, Lola S, Livi S** for successfully being selected for Somerset U14 County Hockey. Fantastic achievement, well done to all.

EQUESTRIAN

We had a great, clear round of jumping on the Wednesday afternoon before half term. Pictures from L-R. **Jack G, Vaasvi** on Quin and **Larissa** and Thunder who won best turned out. The other pony is **Elsie** on Ruby. **Elsie** and Zorro have been picked to race at London international 15th-19th December with Shetland pony Grand National.



A new pony for **Everley** so we would like to wish her good luck with Diddles.



Jack and Charlie at the Mendip Plains Showjumping and the Moreton. **Jack** came away with the sixth place rosette in the 50cm at Moreton and fifth at the Mendip Plains Showjumping. In the 60cm Charlie jumped and they had a clear round, completing the course comfortably and stylishly! Over the two days of competing they learnt a lot and **Jack** was very pleased with how it went.



Three competitions: Combined Dressage / SJ - second Overall, Grassroots at Moreton - two clears , Millfield first and second and an individual third, British Dressage Youth Camp at Stretcholt - first in D squad test with 86.2%. 12

The British Dressage Youth Camp was amazing. There was a horse simulator, physio, biomechanics and psychology sessions over the two days and some brilliant coaching sessions.



Our brilliant grass roots team went out competing during the half term break and won the NSEA 50cm team competition and achieved team second in the 60cm.

The 50 and 60 Team were: **Olly R, Toby R, Everley S-D, Matilda R-C.**

Individual: **Jack G.**

They were all very excited to have been placed! Most importantly, in the 60cm they had four clear rounds!





Finn S also competed in an U8 tournament in Wellington and came second. **Fredi D-H** (No photo) played in an U11 grade 5 tournament in Bridgwater over half term.



Ollie W competed in an U14 grade 4 competition during half term and came away with a thoroughly deserved win!



Over half term, **Toby W** competed in Corby at an U11 National grade 1. This was his third grade 1 competition this year.



Ollie W, Toby W and **Riccardo C** all competed in an U12 European tournament held in Bath.



At a tournament in Frome during half term there were winners all round! In the U8 competition, **Isabella W** won and **Finn S** came second. **Willow S** came runner-up in the U9 competition and **Max W** won the U10s.



During half-term **Zach** competed in a National U11 grade 2 tournament. **Zach** did really well making his way to the semi-finals but then topped this by winning the doubles title.

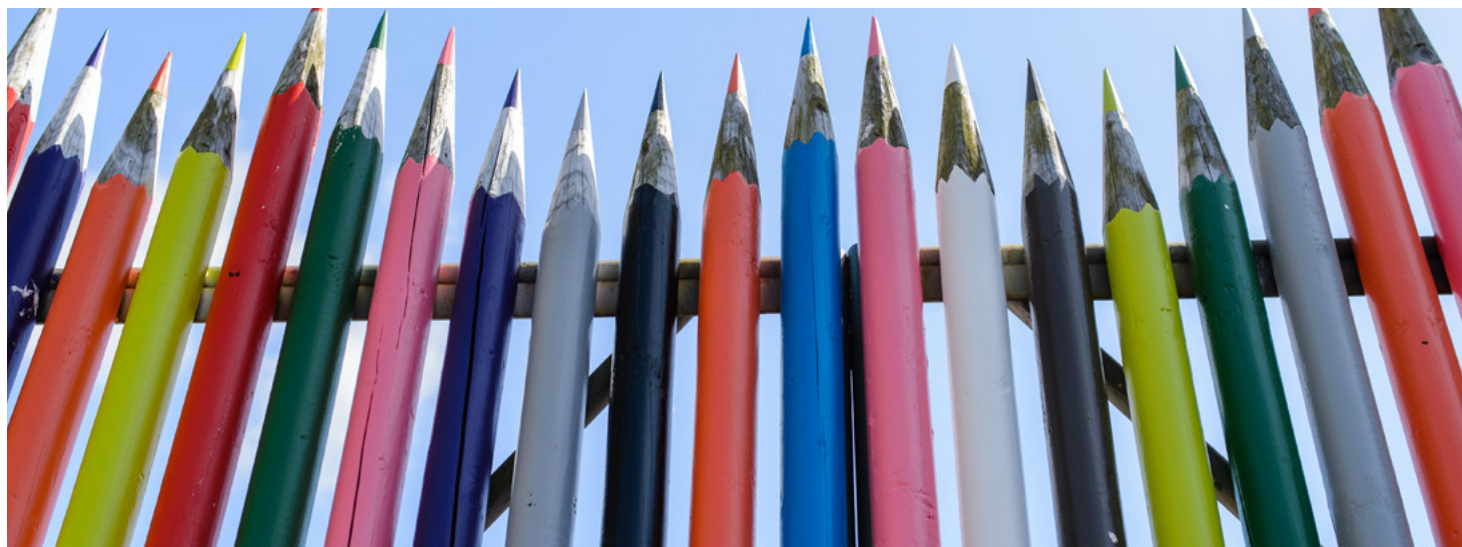


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NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM MR JORY

We had a fang-tastic start to the week in Pre-Prep as we celebrated and learnt about Halloween. Ask your children what they learnt about Halloween?

EYFS had an amazing time in the forest, with ghoulish games, spider and bat making, popcorn making on the fire and eating creepy jellies. Thank you to everyone who carved and created the spook-tacular pumpkins. Mr Hilton had the impossible task of picking the prize pumpkins. He was amazed by the variety of designs, colours, shapes and sizes. Well done to everyone and a special well done to **Beau, Oliver wLucca** for their creepy creations.

Halloween marks the end of summer time and that was definitely true this week with the torrential downpours, cold wind, thunder and lightning. Please remember coats and be extra vigilant on the crossing and in the car park as the evenings get darker and darker.

Enjoy reading what each class has achieved this week and we wish you all a safe firework night...

PRE-PREP PUMPKINS

The Pre-Prep children and staff took up the challenge of carving a pumpkin over the half-term. The end results were fantastic, all they pumpkins looked amazing! The pumpkins lined the walkway to a rather spooky Forest School.



KEY DATES

Friday 11 November
Remembrance Day
Poppies will be on sale every morning next week.

Friday 18 November
Children in Need
Spotacular Clothes
Parents invited to join us for some fun and games at 2pm
School finishes at 3.15pm for exeat

AUTUMN WREATHS

This week some of the tadpoles wanted to make a car park for the cars so we drew some rectangle spaces and numbered them so we could practise our numbers as we parked the cars. Some of the children practised their writing by putting letters from their names in a space so they knew where to park their cars. We then went outside and carried on our vehicle theme creating a bigger car park and a car wash in the garden. We also built a car and boat using the wooden planks and even saw a recycling lorry drive past. Lots of vehicle fun!



ROOM ON THE BROOM

Inspired by all the spooky fun at Forest School, the Frogs shared the story, 'Room on the Broom'. The witch in the story has a special spell and we decided to make our own spells. Dressed in a witches hat, with a witches nose the children added bugs, bits of pumpkin and different natural objects to the cauldron. They wrote down their special spells so they didn't forget. The children also enjoyed banging tacks into apples and gourds, exploring a pumpkin, counting pumpkin seeds and playing with green, wormy spaghetti. Great, sensory fun was had by all!



FOREST SCHOOL FUN

Wow, what a spook-tacular time Pre-School and Reception had at Forest School! We enjoyed games of spooky skittles, hoopla with pumpkins and rolling apples. We had a witches cauldron as part of the mud kitchen to concoct spells and craft areas to make spiders and bats. We helped pop popcorn over the fire and enjoyed eating jellied worms for snack! As we walked to Forest School our beautiful, carved pumpkins lined the way. Massive spider webs, ghosts and floating witches hats greeted us once we were inside the Forest. It was a truly fantastic, spooked filled morning, which everyone enjoyed!



THE CASE OF THE MISSING EVIL PEA

To conclude their interest led topic of superheroes, the Reception children made a short feature movie. They worked together to create a storyboard and props list, they then designed, and made their superhero costumes ready for filming day. The children made tickets to invite Preschool to come to the premiere of their movie, and they helped to transform the classroom into a movie theatre. The children did an amazing job and made a brilliant movie, they all loved having popcorn while they watched it and sharing the experience with Preschool.



BLAST OFF!

In maths this week, we have been focusing on the greater than and less than crocodile symbols. The children have been making their snappy crocs independently and building towers to eat. They then recorded their findings with drawings, numbers and sentences. We have been thrilled with all their independent play.



VISIT TO THE SURGERY

This week Year 2 visited the Surgery and had a tour by the lovely staff nurses. The children took their measurements of weight and height, practiced bandages and were also shown how a plaster cast is put on. Thank you for the visit Mrs. Swift and the nursing team!





MINIS NEWS

MINIS AUTUMN ART

The Minis had great fun in the forest surrounded by signs that Autumn has arrived! They painted mobiles to take home, sliced, scooped and mixed up an Autumn stew in our mud kitchen and made a pumpkin paper collage. We also cooked sausages on the fire for our snack and sipped on hot chocolate- delicious!

