



#801
27 JANUARY 2023



MILLFIELD
PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

I hope that you all managed to have time to relax and reflect over the Exeat weekend - everyone has returned excited to learn and it has been great to see this enthusiasm. I expressed last week that I wanted to focus on standards of punctuality, appearance, general behaviour and manners, and the response from the pupils has been great. Thank you for your support on that front - it's really helpful.

This week has been busy for a number of reasons, the primary one being that our ISI inspection took place. The inspection provided us with a chance to show off what a fantastic school we are and we were pleased that the inspectors enjoyed their time with us and, remarkably, had a week without much rain! I will share the report with you as soon as it is published which we expect to be in six or seven weeks.

During the week, I was delighted to find out that Millfield was declared the best sporting school in the country, for the ninth time in 10 years. School Sport magazine commended the fantastic all-round performances across a number of sports at MPS and Millfield. Although this title is a welcomed recognition of the great work our staff and pupils do, it is also a credit to the wider Millfield community and for the contribution parents have made in the past year, ferrying children to all sorts of additional training sessions, fixtures and tournaments so thank you for that. With the recent Prep School of the Year award, this is another fantastic accolade and I'm hugely proud of the whole MPS community.

The rehearsals for Matilda have picked up pace and it is exciting to hear that the performance is starting to take shape. I heard some beautiful singing on my walk past the Assembly Hall earlier this week, so I am very much looking forward to watching the show in February. On the topic of singing, I do hope the Young Voices group enjoy their evening in Birmingham. It is always a brilliant spectacle and a great thing to be part of.

It has again been a busy week for a number of pupils who are going through scholarship assessments at the Senior School. I would like to wish good luck to all those who have applied.

Have a very good weekend when it arrives.

Yours,
Dan

CONTENTS

Page 2

Winter Campus

Page 3-4

Academic Update

Page 4

Nature Reserve

Page 6

Scholars' Concert

Page 7

100 Word Stories

Page 8-10

Boarding Update

Page 11-14

Sporting News

Page 15-21

Pre-Prep Newsletter

Page 22

Minis Update

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

This week's Picture of the Week is this excellent chalk and charcoal drawing by **Katie M.**



PARENT NOTICES

Year 9 Walkabout - 4 February

For those who missed the Year 9 Walkabout in November, there is another taking place on 4 February!

For all Year 7 and 8 pupils and families, join us for a tour of Millfield School.

If you would like to attend, please find the link to the MS form [here](#). On completion of the form, Admissions will be in touch with further details about the day. Please note if you are bringing your child, you must complete a leave request form on the parent portal.

Year 9 Boarding Change

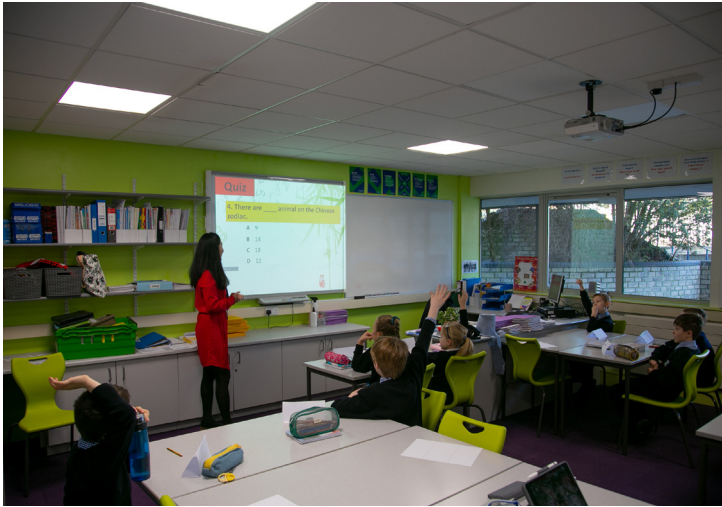
If any parents would like to request a September 2023 Year 9 change from day to boarding (or from boarding to day), the Senior School Admissions team would be grateful to receive these. A reminder that any changes now are subject to there being spaces available. Please email admissions@millfieldschool.com



LANGUAGES

3

We have been busy in languages over the last week learning some Chinese. On Friday 20 January, in order to celebrate the Chinese New Year, we were lucky to be joined by Mrs Keeler, Head of Mandarin at the Senior School, and her team of wonderful teachers. Pupils from Year 1 to Year 8 enjoyed a themed assembly and Chinese workshops. There was a real buzz in the corridor!



LUNAR LUNCH



WORD OF THE WEEK

The first pupil to email Mrs Crispin (crispin.g@millfieldschool.com) with the correct answer, will win a merit and a small prize.

SPANISH - la pajita

a) fork

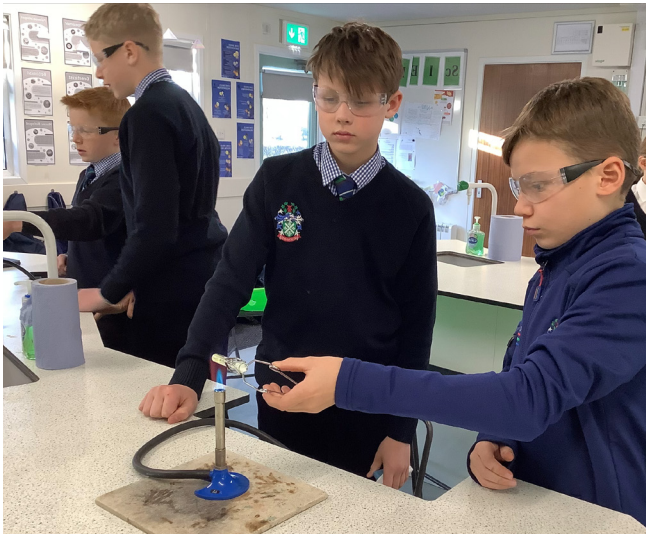
b) drinking straw

c) placemat

Year 6 have been looking at how joints and muscles work in the human body. They dissected a chicken wing to see if they could identify ligaments, tendons, muscles and cartilage, and explored how they work as there are similarities with the human arm. There were a couple of squeals as we came across blood vessels and snapped bones to see what was inside them, however the lesson seemed to be enjoyed by all. Great scalpel work, Year 6!



Year 7 have been learning about the periodic table and making compounds. They also used Bunsen burners to provide energy for a chemical reaction to happen.



ECO CLUB

Eco club have added some bulbs to the new flower garden and have enjoyed making baskets out of milk bottles. Why don't you [have a go too?](#)

Pupils have also been feeding the birds a mixture of protein and fat for energy during the cold weather!



SHAPWICK NATURE RESERVE

5

Since the start of the spring term, a select group of Year 7 pupils have begun visiting the 'Hawk and Owl Trust' nature reserve at Shapwick. The conditions have been freezing and the scenery absolutely stunning! An enthusiastic and interested group of pupils have helped to conduct a water vole survey and clear ditches where too much willow is blocking the sunlight from getting into the water. The pupils have learnt about the life of a water vole, including how they make their homes in the mud along the river bank, the food that they eat and who their main predators are. We have learnt that water voles are a vital part of river ecosystems and they have even featured on the current 'Winterwatch' series on the BBC.



SCHOLARS' CONCERT

6

On Thursday 19 January, the annual Music Scholars' Concert was held in the Recital Hall in front of a supportive audience made up of family and friends. A wonderful array of talent was on display and the audience were treated to a huge variety of different musical styles (everything from classical through to contemporary), as well as performances on eight different instruments including: voice, piano, double bass, flute, cello, violin, drum kit and French horn. Each pupil had the opportunity to perform up to three pieces in a mini-recital and the standard was exceptionally high. All eight pupils really raised the bar and can be exceptionally proud of themselves for persevering with their music and continuing to achieve great things. It has been a privilege helping to prepare such enthusiastic, determined, and talented pupils and we wish them every success in their pursuit of music awards. Good luck and well done to the following:

Tom B, Hugo B, Freddie G, George H, Amber J, Enid M, Jason S and Laurie S.



Year 8 have been set the challenge of telling a story in just 100 words. This is not as easy as you may think! Every word matters – so those words must be chosen with care and precision. Why not try writing your own 100 word story?

Aura - by **Amelia B**

Aurora had been warned of the risk, told her not to go but somethings must be done and and she couldn't spend her numbered days naïve of the Earth's wonders. She mustered her strength but process toppled her slight form off balance and she observed as the world rotated. It was so refreshing to lie enveloped by chilling crystals looking at the world from a new perspective allowing the gentle flakes settle on her frail lashes. They fluttered open, and for the first time gazed upon the purest star spangled night, woven of intertwined, diamond studded silks of untainted green, pink and life.



The Great Battle - by **Frederick H**

The hail hammered against the clear roof of my greenhouse. But this was nothing compared to the ghastly beast I was fighting! The hail got harder as I drew my lucky trowel, the fowl brown, slimy monster took a bite at my petunias, but I swiped it with my trowel, and it backed off. Even with all of my efforts I couldn't possibly continue like this! I had to finish this monster. I drew the ultimate weapon: the slug repellent. I sprayed the beast with it and it started to dissolve into a pile of murky water.

COVID 19 - by **Harry S**

Cough I cough as I get tested. Lockdown wasn't as bad as I thought! We are going down to Level 2 so no strict lockdown rules, but since I got tested I will have to stay another two weeks imprisoned. The next day I see everyone leaving their houses and coming back with takeaway food. I sit at home watching TV and doing school work while my mum makes cookies. She challenges me to use my imagination to make lockdown better. I make a fort and pretend I am a pilot flying in the air. Two weeks fly past. I get the results back...I have the virus.



A Cold Night - by **Megan B**

"The grass grey, clouds black and there I stood, lost, I didn't know where to go. Looking around endlessly waiting for house or a light through the nettles and thorns around me. Something suddenly caught my attention. A ruffling? A noise? A scream? I peeked my head through the trees to have a quick look, but nothing, I saw nothing. The noise grew louder and I knew it was close, it was like a roar in my ear! I started to run through the fields. And I'm not really sure what happened next."
"Was that all you can remember?"
"Yes." I said.

Returned - by **Enid M**

He sprinted down the twisting corridor with the tarnished walking boots. They were borrowed. Soon, he was pedalling a swan boat across the ocean, fighting sea monsters and battling waves from giant storms. Finally back on land, swinging through rainforests and climbing over tall bridges. Finally, he reached his cousin's derelict house with the now drenched boots. Approaching the house following the long driveway. He pressed the rusted doorbell which screeched loudly. There was no reply. So, he decided to smash a window to get in. He returned the boots after all these years. Though, nobody needed them for the funeral.



St Marie's Mystery - by **Elizabeth M**

St. Marie's church located in the Hawaii a warm summers evening, her prime time, a huge plain of grass with the odd palm tree every mile or two. Bats and bees swarm the area, only a faint buzz. As well as the cemetery, Marie's grave was lifted up. She was gone. A mosaic of her tucked behind the doors, why were the doors open? Not to mention the chain threw on the floor. Spiders' webs, bats, rotten trees, and brown dry grass. But look I needed to work out the mystery of St. Marie, before she gets too impatient. The clocks ticking. She's back...

Black Blade - by **Alex T**

Creakkkkkkk! I turned the knob and the door flew open. There he was, the mysterious black figure, standing there. Our eyes met and I quickly glanced down at his right hand in which he carried a bloody machete. The wallpaper was torn and scratches appeared all over the walls. The man was now coming towards me like a hungry tiger about to cut me into a million shreds of flesh and bone. Swoosh! His blade cut through the air like butter; fortunately it missed me and the blade was jammed in the wall. This was my time to run. FAST!

BOARDING LIFE

CHAMPION

It's been a week of celebrations in Champion! On Thursday, **Yuna** turned 13 and enjoyed pizza and cake and some loud singing of Happy Birthday! We paused for the Exeat weekend and the girls had some much needed rest. They were welcomed back on Sunday with some delicious hot chocolate which our Evening Helper Mrs W prepared, ably helped by **Masha** and **Tabby**. This week's highlight was our celebration of the Chinese New Year. The common room was completely transformed and the girls enjoyed some delicious snacks while at the same time learning a lot about this traditional celebration. A huge thank you to **Joy**, her parents and Mrs S for organising.



CHESTNUT

There are many weird and wonderful Somerset traditions that the local community do every year. With this in mind, the Chestnut boys spent Wednesday evening Wassailing. It is believed that by shouting at and hitting the apple trees, the following year's harvest will be improved. The boys shouted really loudly and hit the trees with sticks, until their sticks broke, so we are expecting a bumper crop next year for the Millfield Prep apple juice. Whilst we were down in the orchard, the boys enjoyed some mulled 'cider' (aka warm spicy apple juice!) and chocolate dipped apples on sticks. Some of the overseas boarders returned to house afterwards with a very bemused look on their faces!



HOLLIES

The Exeat weekend provided a welcome rest and a chance for friends to visit each others' homes away from school. On Monday evening, the girls enjoyed some delicious hot chocolate and marshmallows; the girls loved it! On Wednesday, a creative game of real life Among Us caused great excitement and made novel use of the ping-pong table, Connect 4 game and pool table. The imposters were eventually voted out! **Morolayo, Eve, Ella, Zoe and Aneli** all helped to organise the activity and bring the game to life, well done girls. Two more birthdays this week have added to our number of teenagers in true Hollies' style. A very Happy Birthday to **Grace** and **Karmele**.



EDGARLEY MANOR

Another busy week at Edgarley Manor. It has been a cold few days and our boys have been enjoying playing some indoor games in the evenings. Some impressive (and precarious) 'Jenga' went on last night. The table tennis table has also been getting a lot of use with some competitive games of around the world.





BEREWALL

The Berewall boys returned from the Exeat refreshed and ready for action. We have been talking about looking after ourselves and focusing, especially on sleep. The early mornings at Berewall are busy with lots of early clubs and lessons for some of our boys, so the need for a good nights sleep is very important. Although, it is never easy to get out of bed on a cold winter's day! Wednesday evening saw the usual routine of no prep, so Mr Sweet kindly organised an Australia day themed quiz. It was great fun and surprisingly competitive...did we expect anything else!



FLEXI-BOARDING

Has your child ever tried flexi-boarding? Or would they like to know what it's like to be a boarder?

From two, three, or four nights per week, or occasional boarding at £67 per night - it can be a convenient option around your schedules, or for early and late sports sessions.

Click [here](#) to find out more.



SPORTING NEWS

NO.1 SPORTS SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY

We are delighted to have been named the best sports school in the country by School Sport magazine. This is the ninth time we have been at the top spot in the last 10 years, since it was first published. The award commends our fantastic all-round performances across a number of sports. Thank you to all of the Millfield community for helping us achieve this title!



NETBALL

After a snowy and cold start to Wednesday morning the skies cleared and the courts thawed so we could host 10 teams at our annual U13 MPS netball tournament. With two groups of five, each school played four group games. Millfield had the following results: 6-1 win v Wellington, 8-1 win v Taunton, 7-3 win v Blundells and 6-1 win v Habadashers Monmouth. This meant the girls won the group and were in the semi-final v a strong Redmaids team. The girls started nervously and did not take their centre to goal so were down 3-0, the three goal gap continued through to the final three minutes. A combination of strong defence and controlled and effective attacks managed a turnover and finished the game 9-9. That resulted in a five-minute extra time period. After a tense start the girls won 12-10 and were through to the final v Wellington. All girls played their part throughout the day and each girl contributed to the 12-3 win in the final to earn their first medal of the term. Thank you to all the parents who supported us and Mrs Morgan-Hughes who umpired. Plus Mr Maxwell who kindly ran our table and Mr Close for presenting the medals and supporting us through the final stages. Also a big thank you to Grounds and Gardens for all your hardwork, Steve for organising a table, catering for a beautiful match teas and the office staff for the programme. A true whole school effort.



The U11A girls finally got to dust off their trainers and take to the court against Hazlegrove. The girls displayed their fantastic athleticism and sharp shooting skills, dominating the game and successfully beginning a very exciting season ahead. 12



SWIMMING

Last week saw the first weekend of the Somerset County Championships 2023. Swimmers from clubs across Somerset come together and race against each other to be crowned County Champions.

Well done to all swimmers who raced in the 100m IM; there was an excellent display of skills and use of new turns in a race environment. Congratulations to **Tommy K**, **James P** (1st), **Kruze F** (2nd), **Freddie M** (4th), **Lois M** (5th), **Letizia C G** (8th), **Kaden F** (2nd), **Maisie F** (1st), **Iona M** (3rd), **Vivienne L** (4th), **Keeleigh C** (8th), **Billy C** (3rd), **Sam J** (4th), **Jack M** (8th) and **Emily H** (5th) who all made it to their age group finals.

Millfield Prep Swimming also made a huge impact in the relay events. Congratulations to all those who took part; this was a great opportunity to race in a team event where there was some awesome sportsmanship alongside lots of happy swimmers. The final results were:

Girls 10 - 12 medley relay 2nd, Girls 13 - 14 medley relay 1st, Boys 10 - 12 medley relay 1st, Boys 13 -14 medley relay 1st, Girls 10 - 12 freestyle relay 1st, Girls 13 - 14 freestyle relay 1st, Boys 10 - 12 freestyle relay 1st, Boys 13 - 14 freestyle relay 1st, Mixed 14 & under medley relay 1st, Mixed 14 & under freestyle relay 1st.



Early morning riders!



Vaasvi, Jack and Zoe rode brilliantly on Thursday and not one grumble out in the cold, I am sure Indie would feel the same!

A lovely photo of **Soha** training on Fred early in the morning.



PARENTS HOCKEY

In the time before Covid, there was a parents hockey session on Tuesday mornings at the Prep School from 9:00-10:15am. We are looking to start the sessions back up again next week!

The sessions are a great opportunity to have a catch up with other parents and a bit of a run around. You will be able to see what your son or daughter has to do on the Astro when they are playing! All abilities are very welcome. We have some sticks but please wear a gumshield.

Please park in the bottom car park and I will meet you at the pavilion. If you have any questions please email me, Adam Duke, at duke.a@millfieldschool.com

Hope to see you on Tuesday morning.



Having qualified to represent the Mendip area, some of our runners in Years 7 and 8 were in action at the County Schools' Championships on the Saturday of Exeat. **Bea S** had a dominant victory and our other runners ran well in very cold conditions. The ground was still frozen but it was a crisp and clear day. The aim was to finish high enough up the field to be selected to represent Somerset at the upcoming South West Championships.

Somerset Team - **Bea S, Connor P, Vienna T, Emily H, Hope L**, Reserves - **Eva D** and **Lois M**.



TRAMPOLINING

Following on from a successful competition in December, we had 14 children qualify to compete at the Southern Schools trampolining competition held in Kent on 15 January. Starting the day were the Year 1-6 girls. We had two teams entered, one at novice level with **Emily W, Sofia C, Jessica H** and **Posy L**. The second team with **Hester J, Elsie S-H, India E** and **Tammy R** competed at intermediate level. All girls performed really well, with both teams earning a third place finish and qualifying to compete in the National finals. Next up in the Year 7-9 girls intermediate category were **Ava C, Isabella M-P, Isabelle P** and **Maddie M**. Again, we had good performances all around, with the girls holding their nerve, earning themselves a team place of sixth in a very large and competitive group. After waiting and watching all day **Elliot W** and **Lucas C** both successfully completed both of their routines, with Elliot finishing third and Lucas fourth – both earning an individual place in the National finals. Finishing off a very long day was **Barnaby D** and **Harry S**. Together with **Brychan** and **Noah** from the Senior School, they finished the day on a high, winning the Year 7-9 boys intermediate team trophy and bringing the total number of National qualifiers to three teams and two individuals.





#801
27 JANUARY 2023



MILLFIELD
PRE-PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM MR JORY



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

This week, the children have been celebrating the Lunar New Year and learning about physics at the Senior School. As always, they thrown themselves into every opportunity and it has been exciting to see.

In Pre-School, the Frogs have been busy opening their new café. The food and drink on offer looked lovely, but I was not sure with the price of coffee being £40! They will not be short on noodles however, with Reception participating in a Chinese tradition of tossing noodles in the air and having lots to share.

Pre-School has been filled with colour this week, with the Tadpole's lantern decorations and rabbit stencils brightening up the classrooms. Year 1 have been working together to find forces in the playground and Year 2 have been

to the Forest for some fun activities with a push and pull theme. A special thank you to Mr Hudson at the Senior School for the fun workshop looking at forces and even showing the children a demonstration on a hovercraft.

Well done everyone on another fantastic and eventful week.

Best wishes,
Mr Jory

CELEBRATING LUNAR NEW YEAR!



LUNAR NEW YEAR

The Frogs and Tadpoles have been celebrating Lunar New Year this week. The pupils have made paper lanterns, which helped them practice their cutting skills, and read stories about Chinese New Year. Everyone enjoyed using chopsticks to eat noodles at snack time and learnt a fan dance to Chinese music. They also created paintings using rabbit stencils to celebrate the year of the rabbit!



CAFÉ LE FROG

After the fun of last week's tasting unusual food combinations, the Frogs voted on whether they would like to change the role-play area into a supermarket or a café. They voted for the latter! The Frog room now has a lovely café serving hot chocolates, cappuccinos, lattes, cakes and doughnuts. There is waiter/waitress service and you are always greeted with a smile. However, make sure you have your purse, prices are quite high - coffees are £40 each!



CHINESE TRADITIONS

This week, the Reception class were very lucky to have **Joy's** Mum and Dad join the class to help celebrate the Lunar New Year. Joy's mum made lots of noodles and the children were very excited to participate in the tradition of tossing the noodles as high as they can, to bring them good fortune. The children then practiced rolling rice balls to eat as their snack. What a fun morning!



The children arrived at Reception and a mysterious big rainbow egg had been left in a nest, with giant footprints going our the door. The children used their great detective skills to try and work out what could be inside and where had it come from. We had lots of ideas, such as a snow or rainbow dragon, a dinosaur and a snake. The egg has begun to crack today, so watch this space to find out what it is...

19



YEAR 1 PUSHES AND PULLS

As part of our Pushes and Pulls topic, the Year 1 pupils have been finding forces on the playground. We then shared some international playground games with the pupils and asked them to find the forces within the games. They had a fantastic time playing, Duck, Duck, Goose (a chasing game played in the UK), Cat and Mouse (a chasing game from China), Catch the Dragon's tail (a playground game from China) and Freeze Tag. The children loved learning some new games and worked well together.



PHYSICS WORKSHOP AT MILLFIELD

The Pre-Prep pupils were treated to a Special forces Physics workshop at the Senior School by Mr Hudson and Lower Sixth students. The pupils had great fun learning about pushes, pulls, gravity and other forces.



FOREST FUN

On Wednesday afternoon, Year 1 and Year 2 joined together in the Forest for some fun activities with a push and pull theme to complement our topic work. The children eagerly took part in activities including tying knots, dominoes challenge, making a pendulum and whittling. We finished the session off with some popcorn - great work KS1!





MINIS NEWS

CELEBRATING WINNIE THE POOH

The Minis were busy bees last week, pushing their nectar into our giant bee hive in order to make Pooh some honey! There was much scooping at Tigger's sensory tray and we listened carefully to the different sounds made when pouring into metal and plastic. We painted Winnie the Pooh faces and chose to make Winnie, Tigger or Piglet headbands. We were very excited to taste honey at snack time - yum!

