



#821  
29 SEPTEMBER 2023



MILLFIELD  
PREP SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

I hope that everyone enjoyed the Exeat last weekend and returned raring to go for the second quarter of the term. Many thanks to the Enterprises team who looked after those boarders who stayed in school for the weekend and ensured they had a relaxing and enjoyable time.

I was in Liverpool for the IAPS Heads' Conference at the start of this week and, as ever, it was good to spend a bit of time away from the coalface to reflect on some wider issues affecting the schools in our sector. It was great to talk to other Heads and be reminded that the pupils here at MPS have a staggering range of opportunities to try. This newsletter again gives a real sense of the diverse nature of the things that go on here, but it was clear

from my conversations in Liverpool that not every school is as blessed with such breadth of opportunity – I feel very lucky to be leading MPS.

I have been pleased to learn that our young musicians enjoyed their first Cushion Concert of the year and that both the Community Outreach and Shapwick Wednesday Multis proved popular again this week. I also enjoyed hearing from some senior MPS pupils yesterday who are excited about the Lion King which is already starting to gather momentum now that the casts have been chosen – I can't wait to pop in and listen to a rehearsal soon.

I hope the rest of this busy week goes well for everyone.

Yours,  
Dan

## CONTENTS

**Page 2**  
New Campus Videos

**Page 3**  
Community Outreach

**Page 4**  
Nature Reserve

**Page 5**  
P&FA - AGM

**Page 6-10**  
Academic Update

**Page 11-13**  
Boarding Update

**Page 14-20**  
Sporting News

**Page 21-28**  
Pre-Prep Newsletter

**Page 29**  
Minis News

## PICTURE OF THE WEEK

This week's Picture of the Week is this amazing portrait painting by **Isabella M-P**.



## WHATSAPP GROUPS - A MESSAGE FOR MILLFIELD, MPS AND MPPS PARENTS

Most parents belong to school related WhatsApp groups and join them because it's an alternative source of information, to meet new people, it's easier and less bothersome than emailing school, it allows us to feel connected especially when we live far away.

Occasionally, something happens that allows people to lose sight of the purpose of such groups. Wild assertions are made and not checked. Negative comments, made by a few, develop a disproportionate weight. Adults expect children to be held accountable for poor digital behaviour whilst themselves modelling the same poor behaviour.

Please do remember why WhatsApp groups are good and remember how many people are affected by comments posted. Please also remember that Millfield is in no way responsible for such groups and should not be expected to be. If something is not right at school then please raise it at school – we want to hear from you so that we can improve.

# VAT ON SCHOOL FEES

I would like to bring to your attention, if you are not already aware, the Labour Party's pledge to introduce VAT on independent school fees, should they be elected to Government at the next UK General Election. Indications now are that we will likely see an election between May and October 2024. We began planning and modelling the impacts on Millfield of levying 20% VAT on school fees throughout last year and now do so with greater certainty. Millfield is in a strong position, stronger than many other schools, where we are able to recover VAT on costs we will share those savings with you but our capacity to do so as a school is limited. It won't be easy, which is why we are already planning now, but we are much further ahead with our strategy than other schools and that should be reassuring to you. As the details of the policy become clear and as our plans are developed then we will share more details with you.

As the majority of you are the fee payers of your children's education, I want to make sure that you are aware of this change so that you can plan ahead. There are things that you can do, paying fees in advance of any announcement of VAT on fees is one, viewing your financial commitment in academic cycles is another, Year 9 to 11 for GCSE courses, Sixth Form is two years. This change will affect all independent schools, and therefore it is important that you are aware of it. For more information on paying fees in advance please contact Jane Lloyd: [fees@millfieldsd.school.com](mailto:fees@millfieldsd.school.com)

Yours,  
Dan

# YOUNG WRITERS POETRY COMPETITION

Open to any pupil aged 11-18 years and offers an opportunity for your work to be published in a real book!

The theme is 'This is Me'.

See Miss Pattison or your English Teacher for more details and an entry form. Entries to Miss Pattison or your English teacher by Thursday 12 October.



# CAMPUS TOUR VIDEOS

We are delighted to share with you Millfield Prep School's new campus videos! Click any of the four photos below to get an authentic view of life at Millfield Prep.

## OVERVIEW



## BOARDING



## SPORT



## ARTS & ACADEMIC





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT

3

This week the Community Outreach team returned to Sourdawn Farm to support the owners Lucy and Dave. They kicked-off with collecting in the eggs for the day. **Zachariah** and **Rose**, accompanied by Dave, braved the chicken shed, filled with 2,000 chickens! Their job was to push the eggs from the laying boxes onto the conveyor belt where **Martha** and **Lisa** were eagerly waiting ready to quality check and sort the eggs into trays. These trays go into the farm shop, to local health food stores in Glastonbury as well as to local catering businesses. A total of 1,680 eggs were collected by our four fabulous volunteers this week.

We then moved back down to the garden area of the farm and potted some hyacinth bulbs into wicker baskets ready to sell as Christmas gifts in the farm shops. Over the coming weeks, we will be potting up more plants, tending to those we have already planted and decorating the baskets to make them look festive. We finished off our afternoon with pumpkin harvesting in the rain! A number of the pumpkins are ready for decorating for Halloween so we picked them ready to store in the barn out of the way of hungry birds and bugs! The pupils had a quick check on the turkeys, geese and ducks before a well-deserved quad bike ride.

We will be back at the farm next week on Wednesday afternoon during Multis, so if you are in Year 6, 7 or 8 and think you would enjoy helping out the farm, bring along your wellies and a coat!



Do you like helping others? Are you interested in giving back to the community?

Come and join our MPS Community Outreach Project.

When: Wednesday Multi-Activities 1-3pm

Where: Meet on the courtyard

This half term we will be supporting a local farm.

Activities include:

- Sorting eggs and other produce for the farm shop
- Tending to the animals
- Preparing and planting winter vegetable beds
- Harvesting pumpkins ready for Halloween
- Harvesting home grown flowers and vegetables from the polytunnel

If you are interested in coming along, please let Mrs Seymour know and come prepared with your tracksuit bottoms, wellies and a coat each Wednesday.



# SHAPWICK MOOR NATURE RESERVE

On a Wednesday afternoon, a group of pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 are selected to visit Shapwick Moor Nature Reserve owned by the Hawk and Owl Trust on the Somerset Levels. The pupils are involved in voluntary work on the reserve as part of the Multi-Activity Programme. The volunteers working on the reserve are always delighted to see a minibus full of enthusiastic Millfield Prep pupils. It is amazing how much of an impact a one-and-a-half hour session of hard work every Wednesday can have on the landscape.

Throughout this academic year, Millfield Prep will be helping out with the rewilding of the land which was once farmland and used for peat extraction. Jobs the pupils get involved in include: wildlife surveys, clearing out ditches, maintaining footpaths, planting hedges and creating new wetland areas. This week the Year 8 girls helped to set up humane traps as part of a mice and vole survey and there was great excitement when they came across a grass snake!

The reserve is open all year round and is a beautiful, peaceful area to go for a walk, with magnificent views of Glastonbury Tor in the distance. For more information about the area, have a look at [the website](#) and select the Shapwick tab at the top.





# PARENTS AND FRIENDS AGM

5

The P&FA AGM will take place on Thursday 12 October. If you would like to sign up, you will need to do so on Classlist to show that you are attending.



The poster is a dark blue rectangular graphic with white and light blue text. At the top left and right corners, there is a small logo for 'MILLFIELD PARK SCHOOL' and a larger circular logo for the 'PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION' which features a heart and stylized figures. The main text is centered and reads 'COME ALONG TO OUR AGM' in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this, the date 'Thursday 12th October' is written in green, and the time '5:00 - 6:30 pm' is in red. The location 'Recital Hall' is in black. Below that, the text 'Refreshments will be provided' is in white. At the bottom, there is an illustration of four people (three women and one man) sitting around a table, engaged in conversation. A potted plant is on the left. In the bottom right corner, the text 'Children can be looked after' is written in white, slanted upwards.

MILLFIELD PARK SCHOOL

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

COME ALONG  
TO OUR AGM

Thursday  
12th October

5:00 - 6:30 pm

Recital Hall

Refreshments will be provided

Children can be  
looked after

# OCTOBER HALF TERM COURSES

6

Our two October half term courses are Millfield Hockey Camps with Susannah Townsend (10 to 17 years old) and Football (Age 5-12). Click the photos below for more information!



## JUNIOR AWARDS

Each week in the Juniors, we award Miffy, Oreo and Chota to the children. Miffy and Chota are awarded for acts of kindness, whilst Oreo is awarded for particularly good demonstrations of the IPC Personal Goals. This week I was flooded with nominations for the awards, which reflects the positive start to the term the children have had. Last week, Miffy was awarded to **Amelie M** and **Aria M** for an act of kindness they showed a fellow pupil in the dining hall. Chota was awarded to **Cole D** for impressing staff and pupils with his politeness, thoughtfulness and consideration of others, particularly in his food technology lesson. Oreo was awarded to **Jose P** for demonstrating superb resilience in trying to adapt into a new school, especially as English is not his first language. Well done to all of the recipients.



This week, Oreo is going home with **Hunter B** and Chota is going home with **Jude H**. Hunter has shown amazing resilience in lessons this week, working her socks off independently and pushing her own learning on with her sheer willingness to learn. Jude continuously shows kindness by holding the door open for others, sometimes without thanks or acknowledgment. He continues to do this with a smile on his face. He shows lovely thoughtfulness and this week shared some raspberries from Eco Club. Well done to both.



## WORD OF THE WEEK

Each word will have three potential meanings and the first pupil to email Mrs Crispin ([crispin.g@millfieldschool.com](mailto:crispin.g@millfieldschool.com)) with the correct answer, will win a merit and a small prize.

Latin: **nubes**

- 1) sunshine
- 2) shadow
- 3) cloud





# LINGUISTS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to Year 7 pupils **Florie W**, **Yevhenii H**, **Jasmine P**, **Polly W** and **Sanaa F** for a great start to the year in languages. We have all been very impressed by their knowledge and enthusiasm!



## KNITTING CLUB

The pupils are enjoying knitting club! Here they are showcasing examples of their recent work.



## MATHS

A new school term and a fresh new Sparx leaderboard up and running in the maths corridor. The pupils have got off to a flying start; competing each week to earn the highest number of XP points by completing Boost, Target and Independent Learning above and beyond that obtained in the classroom or for prep. The top four pupils in Years 6, 7 and 8 each week will earn a place on the wall and a HMC for their efforts. Lovely to see such a positive start by so many!





# CUSHION CONCERT

On Monday, the first Cushion Concert of the year took place in front of a friendly and supportive audience in the Recital Hall. Pupils from Years 1-5 gave some outstanding performances, and it was wonderful to see such a vast array of talent, dedication, and enthusiasm on display. Many of the pupils were taking part in a solo concert for the very first time and everyone rose to the occasion beautifully, performing with poise and introducing their pieces with confidence. The concert was rounded-off with a well-deserved cake for all and everyone agreed that it has been a wonderful afternoon of music. We are extremely lucky to have such musical talent in our younger years and I am hugely looking forward to hearing all the performers progress and grow in their love for music as they move through the school.

Well done to the following:

**Isobel A, Louisa C, Sofia D, Baris H, Charlotte J-A, Lulu K, William N, Daniel O-A, Dylan P, Toby R, Margot R, Isobel R, Stanley R, Matilda R-C, Grace S, Lila V and Joy X.**





# CHALKE VALLEY HISTORY FESTIVAL

9

On the final week of the summer term, the History Department provided a group of Year 7 and 8 pupils with the opportunity to attend the Chalke Valley History Festival. We were fortunate to be able to arrange for both Millfield Prep and Millfield pupils to attend the entire day together as part of our continued work on the Brilliance Curriculum. Our pupils were able to take part in a variety of lectures from leading historians as well as get involved in living history workshops throughout a busy day. One of the highlights was meeting Tracy Borman, who delivered an excellent talk on Anne Boleyn and Elizabeth which our pupils really enjoyed. Well done to all those who attended, you were excellent ambassadors for the school and hopefully learnt a lot after a full day of immersive history.



# MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Millfield Prep School hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning on Thursday break time in the staff room. There were two little games to play (tea bag toss and how many Colin the Caterpillars) with prizes for the winners as well as lots of lovely cakes to buy.





Year 4 pupils enjoyed learning more about the role of carbohydrates in the human body and making flapjack.



Year 8 pupils enjoyed making chilli and homemade tortilla chips.



Year 7 pupils enjoyed cooking and plating zingy chicken stir fry in their food tech lesson.





# BOARDING LIFE

## HOLLIES

**Eve's** birthday kicked off the Exeat weekend with a celebration, including a wonderful cake. The girls then enjoyed a well-deserved break over the weekend before returning on Sunday. On Wednesday evening, the girls got into the House Families for a Guess the Song Competition. A good time was had by all with the Brue family winning!



## CHAMPION

After a brief pause for Exeat, the Champion girls have quickly settled back to school. Our Dorm of the Week competition has been closely contested and this week's winners are **Tabby, Masha, Eloise and Sonia**. With the nights drawing in, hot drinks are a welcome treat, especially hot chocolate!





The Berewall boys returned from the Exeat full of energy and ready for another full week. We celebrated two birthdays this week, with **Chase** and **Juan** sharing cakes and pizza with their friends. It was great to see the whole house come together. Happy Birthday boys! We have been focusing and working on looking after ourselves. Making the most of sleep is high on the list of priorities and looking after each other has been equally important. On Wednesday, the boys took part in a fun activity of designing a rugby shirt about what makes Berewall special to them and the results were very good! With winter uniform now in full swing, it has been very pleasing to see the older members of house helping with ties in the mornings, it won't be long until they all become experts.



## CHESTNUT

Despite the questionable weather, the boys had an evening of outside games on Wednesday. They played a game of Capture The Flag around the campus. We then played football where they had to swap ends every minute, which caused some own goal disasters! To finish they played a rope jump game for prizes. Team orange defeated team yellow to claim the goodies. It was then back to house for some freshly cooked sausage rolls. We were lucky that the face paint was all gone by the morning!







## EDGARLEY MANOR

The boys have had a busy start to term and were ready for the Exeat weekend. It was lovely seeing them coming back full of smiles and chatter about what they had been up to on their return. They have been enjoying football outside, as well some story time in the house! On Wednesday, we celebrated **Josh's** birthday! Happy Birthday to Josh!





# SPORTING NEWS

## FOOTBALL

On Sunday 24 September, we welcomed Cardiff City, Plymouth Argyle and Oxford United to the Kingweston pitches. This was a great day, exposing our U11s and U13s to academy football. On Wednesday, the U13 boys travelled to Backwell School for round one of the County Cup. The boys were 2-1 down with five minutes to play, but they did not give in! They scored two in the dying minutes, leaving with a 3-2 win. On to round two!



The Year 3 and 4 girls enjoyed playing an Inter House Football Tournament, Saxons house secured first place with an exceptional performance from their team.





The U13 girls are through to the next round of the School Sport Magazine National Competition, following a fantastic win. A great effort girls, well done!



## SPORT PARENT WEBINAR

BEST PREP SCHOOL  
SEASON YET  
PARENT SERIES



MILLFIELD

Let's help our children have their best season yet. Parents are key and vital partners in ensuring that children gain the most from this coming school year.

Parents, join us for **four FREE** practical, insightful, and impactful sessions that will support you in helping your child get the most out of what our school offers.

The sessions will be led by Richard Shorter, who has worked with parents of top UK sporting organisations.

Richard will also be joined by four guests from the sports world. Emily Scarratt, England Rugby star, will be the first guest.

Sign up using the supplied link to ensure you don't miss out.



Millfield Prep hosted a Somerset Coach Network event on Friday and Chris Chapman and Mike Aust delivered a session on U10 performance standards, following on from their LTA U10 Performance Standards course. We are very grateful to **Noah F** who helped them with the on court delivery and gave the coaches some good visual insights.

On Thursday, we had the county play-offs for the National Schools Year 7 and 8 Boys and Girls. The boys team included **Ollie W, Toby W, Zach K** and **Tommy W** who played Bournemouth school away. The girls team included **Valentina B, Arabella G, Wylda T-J** and **Lucia G** who played Stanwell School, Penarth also away.

This Saturday we are hosting an LTA Grade 4 U11 Boys and Girls Singles and a Grade 5 U8, U10 and U14 singles at Prep. Good luck to all the Millfield players who have entered.

Also a good luck to **Noah F** and **Isabella W** who are both competing in the U9 Winter Regional Tour this weekend at Bath University and the National Tennis Centre respectively.



**Tommy W** had the privilege of representing Avon at the Babolat Cup 2023 last weekend, a really fun weekend of tennis at the Edgbaston Priory Club.



The Year 7 and 8 Nat Schools Tennis beat Stanwell School 5-1 in the area play-offs!







# DISCOVER BRILLIANCE

**11+ SCHOLARSHIPS  
APPLY BY  
1 DECEMBER 2023**

Academic, Art, Music, Sport Scholarships are available for entry into Years 6, 7 and 8.

Scholarships can be supplemented with bursaries.

We also offer the Millfield Prep Award recognising talented all-rounders.

**NEXT  
OPEN DAYS**

**OCTOBER 7  
MARCH 2  
MAY 11**

## **WHY MILLFIELD PREP?**

- Independent Prep School of the Year 2022/2023
- Double excellent ISI Inspection
- Named best sports school by 'School Sports Magazine'

## **BOARDING OPTIONS**

Full and flexi boarding is available and provides an excellent introduction to boarding before the transition to Millfield School.



**MILLFIELD  
PREP SCHOOL**





The surfers have improved tremendously this week - they are more confident in the water and their pop-up is improving all the time. This week was very windy so it was far harder for the surfers to get back out after each wave. Despite the weather, they had a great time. You can view and purchase the pupils photos from this week's session on [The Wave's website](#).



## CROSS COUNTRY

On Tuesday we held the second race in the Mendip Senior League Series. It was a tough course around the golf course that had long punishing slopes to test our runners. **Bea S** tried a new start technique where she fell over as the gun went. You can spot her in the photo. This seemed to be a good system and she went on to have a dominant victory. (We are not going to try it again though!) The English Schools Cup starts soon and we hope to get a good run in this national competition.





# CLIMBING

19

There is an opportunity for all pupils to try out climbing – no experience necessary, come and have a go!

Entries are now open! Please reply to this email [denbee.a@millfieldschool.com](mailto:denbee.a@millfieldschool.com) with your FULL NAME to register your interest!

The dates for the 2024 competition for Millfield Climbers will be during Wednesday sport sessions:

- **Round 1 Wednesday 11 October 2023 12.30-5.30pm**
- **Round 2 Wednesday 6 December 2023 12.30-5.30pm**
- **Round 3 Wednesday 7 February 2024 12.30-5.30pm**
- **Round 4 Wednesday 20 March 2024 12.30-5.30pm**



# EQUESTRIAN

**Ari F G** jumping her own Colmena.



**Freya M** jumping school pony, Fred.





# HALLOWEEN SHOW JUMPING COMPETITION

20

If anyone would like to come along and support the riders' Halloween Show Jumping Competition, it starts at 1pm on Wednesday 8 November! It is open to all riders. All riders wanting to enter, please sign up at the stable office. To make our Halloween competition as spooky as possible, we are asking for spare Halloween decorations /costumes. If you have any you can lend, please drop them off at the stables.

## HALLOWEEN SHOW JUMPING COMPETITION

**8th November 2023**

SPECIAL PRIZES TO BE WON



FANCY DRESS

£10 per Class

### Top Arena

Class 1 : Fancy Dress

Class 5 : 50cm

Class 6 : 60cm

Class 7 : 70cm

Class 8 : 80cm

### Bottom Arena

Class 2 : Between the Wings

Class 3 : Poles

Class 4 : X Poles







# NEWSLETTER



## MESSAGE FROM MR JORY



We hope you enjoyed our Harvest Service last week and a huge thank you for all of your kind donations, which we know the food bank will greatly appreciate. The children were amazing and we know the more they perform, the more confident they become, really well done children! In assembly this week, we created our own harvest rainbow. Ask your child if they can name any fruits that match the rainbow colours or if they can put the colours in order?

Pre-Prep continues to be full of enthusiasm, laughter and learning in and out of the classroom. The children are all settled into their routines and enjoying all the extra-curricular activities, before and after school. I'm sure you agree the opportunities and experiences continue to be exceptional! We share all their weekly highlights in our celebration assembly, as well as the weekly team points. Well done to Angles, who are currently in the lead.

You will have noticed that with an increase in numbers in Pre-Prep the car park is becoming more and more busy. Please can families leave the car park promptly after drop-off and collection time, ensuring children are supervised at all times. If the car park is at capacity, please park by main Reception and walk up to the pencil gate.

Please note key dates for the diary and keep a close eye on the notice board for upcoming events, dates and times.

Yours,  
Mr Jory

## KEY DATES

**Tuesday 10 October**

Reception – Year 2

Flu Vaccine

Vision Screening

**Friday 13 October**

End of half term

School finishes at 12 midday

## PRE-PREP

## HOUSE TOTALS

HOUSE	ANGLES	DANES	JUTES	SAXONS
CURRENT TOTAL	185	162	139	177
THIS WEEK'S TOTAL	58	57	82	60
OVERALL	243	219	221	237



# FAIRY CAKES

The Tadpoles have been baking this week and made yummy fairy cakes. They helped to weigh the ingredients, mixed them together and decorated their cakes with toppings. A timer was set so they knew when to take them out of the oven. Everyone was excited to take their cakes home to taste!





## FOREST SCHOOL

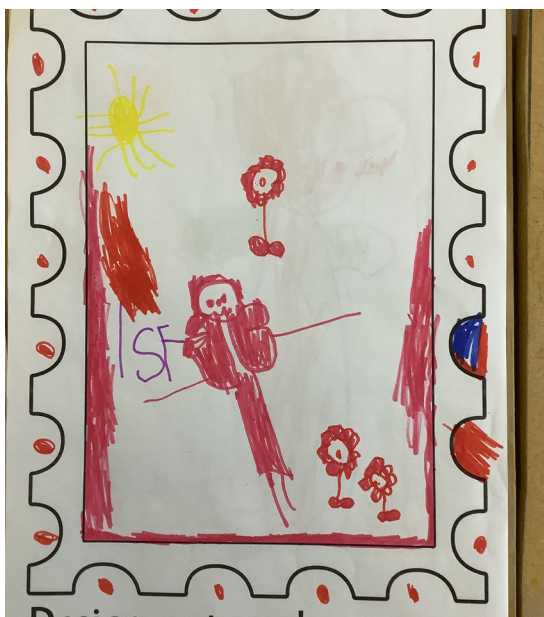
The Frogs had the most wonderful time at Forest School this week. They went exploring in the woods, hunting for bugs, climbing trees, collecting conkers, sticks and leaves, and making bark rubbings. They found woodlice, worms, snails and slugs and had a fantastic time viewing them in the bug catchers. The pupils can't wait to go again and maybe have hot chocolate next time!





## FAIRY STAMPS

This week, the Reception class have been designing their own fairy stamps, so they can post letters to fairyland. The pupils soon realised that the stamps were way too large for the envelopes. So on Wednesday afternoon, the Year 7s and Year 8s came to help the Reception class make their own magic fairy wands. They then used these magic fairy wands to cast a spell over their large stamps and it shrunk them down into miniature fairy size stamps. The following day, pupils wrote letters, asking questions to the fairies, put them in an envelope addressed to fairyland and stuck their stamp on. They then posted their envelopes and now they are waiting for replies. Will they write back? Watch this space...



This week Mrs Salt taught the children all about part-part whole model. The pupils all had great fun creating their own models using teddies and the compare bears!





# HARVESTING AND APPLES

Over the past four weeks the children have been discovering various areas in the classroom and developing their independent learning through choosing. While small groups are working with the adults in the classroom, the other children are expected to complete a range of challenges which are set up around the room. These might be a writing, science, phonics, art, play dough, topic or maths activity. The children then gain different coloured lollipop sticks for the different challenges they complete. They have really embraced this new system and it has been wonderful to see them working so confidently on their own.





## WESTON PIER

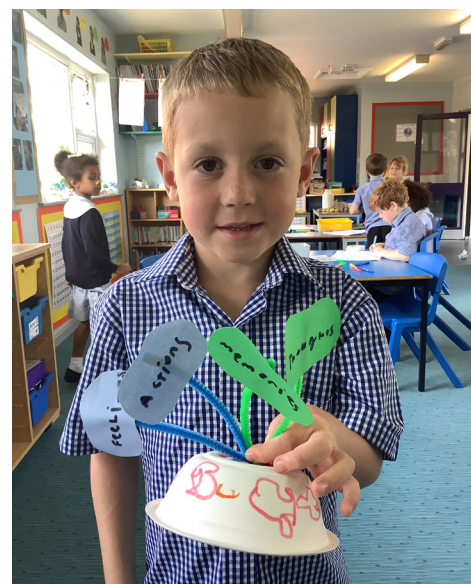
The Year 1 and 2 pupils had a fantastic time at Weston Pier on Thursday. They had a fascinating talk on the history of holidays at Weston - the pupils were really surprised to find out what the children had to wear! After the talk, they all had ice creams and lunch on the pier. They then went onto the beach and took photos for their postcards and made sandcastles. They were only given 20 minutes to make them so they had to work quickly, communicate their ideas with their partner and find natural resources to decorate their castles.





## HEALTHY BRAINS

The first topic in Year 2 was exploring all about the brain. Pupils learned about neurons and pathways and looked at what a brain needs to stay healthy. They made 3D glasses which tricked their brain and made models to show the different actions of someone's brain.





## BRAIN WORKSHOP

Year 2 finished their learning this week with a trip to Millfield to experience a brain workshop. They explored their five senses and even watched a sheep brain be dissected!







# MINIS NEWS

## HUNGRY CATERPILLAR

Minis were back at Forest School this week to help *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* look for food in the woods! We then all gathered round the sing-a-long circle to watch him emerge from his cocoon as a beautiful butterfly! We used string and paints to make our own colourful butterflies to fly home!

