#882
05 SEPTEMBER 2025

MILLFIELD
PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

It's a real pleasure to begin another academic year with such a vibrant and enthusiastic community. Whether you're joining us for the first time or returning after the summer break, I hope you have already felt the warmth and energy that makes MPS so special.

The school has sprung back to life with remarkable speed. From the buzz in classrooms to the laughter on the playing fields, it's clear that the children are already embracing the opportunities ahead. Our co-curricular programme is now fully underway, and the campus is alive with activity and excitement.

Although a slightly damp affair, it was fantastic to be able to hold our Fun Run on Wednesday with so many parents watching – well done to all involved. I was also delighted by the turnout to the online safety talk for parents on Tuesday evening. Thank you to all those who were able to attend and I look forward to further engagement with all parents on this topic over the course of the year.

We've welcomed over 100 new pupils this term, and I've already begun the joyful challenge of learning many new names! For those whose children are still finding their feet, please know that it's perfectly normal to feel a little overwhelmed in the first couple of weeks – I know I certainly did! Our Group Tutors are here to support every child and family. Don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything.

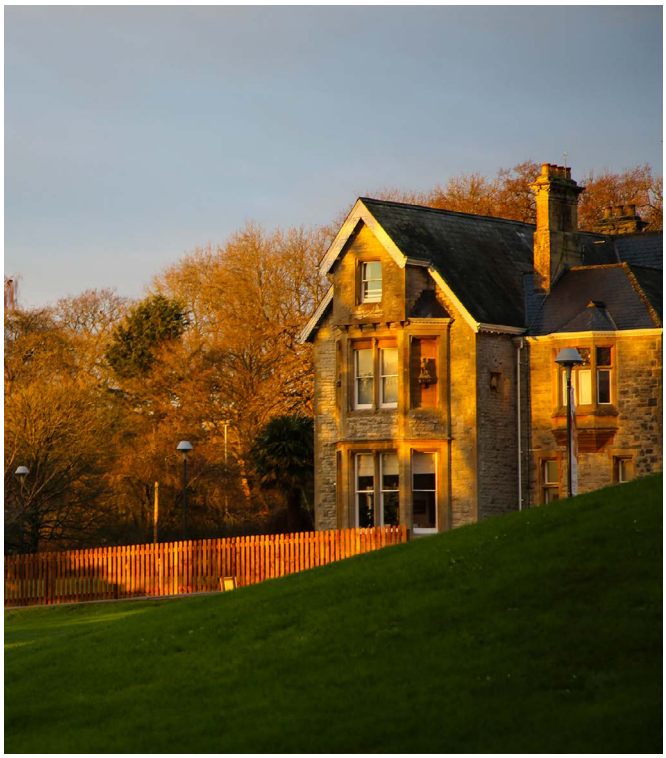
I'm looking forward to reconnecting with familiar faces and meeting many new ones over the coming weeks – whether at coffee mornings, on the touchlines, or during school events. For our boarding families who live further afield, we'll be planning opportunities to connect at key collection times throughout the year.

Some very quick notes for you all. In my start of the year welcome email I mentioned the works to improve the main reception car park. Please can I ask drivers to only park in designated spaces and not to just pull in, hover or stop, even for the briefest moment, in the thoroughfare or near the main entrance – otherwise, as we have already seen once or twice this term, there will be blockages that then clog up the whole area and extend to the main road. This is frustrating for everyone so please do not do it.

Finally, the PFA and I have been discussing the School's subscription to Classlist. While we feel some things have worked really well, the engagement data clearly shows that although there are some helpful and well-used elements, there is not enough overall engagement on the platform for it to be worth the cost. We therefore plan to end our subscription to Classlist shortly and the PFA will work with the School to develop alternative options for this type of communication.

Thanks again for the positivity as we have returned. It's wonderful to be back. Here's to a fantastic start and a fulfilling year ahead for everyone at Millfield Prep.

Yours,
Dan



PARENT NOTICES

Medical Notice

The SAINT team will be onsite on Monday 6 October 2025 to deliver the Flu Vaccinations. Information and consent will be sent out at the end of next week

The Nursing team

Non Uniform Day Angles - Thursday 11 September

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YEAR 6 TEAM BUILDING

6MCJ and 6CJJ got fully involved with a parachute to help us learn a bit more about each other and begin to work as a team. Plenty was learned and, as you can see, great fun was had!





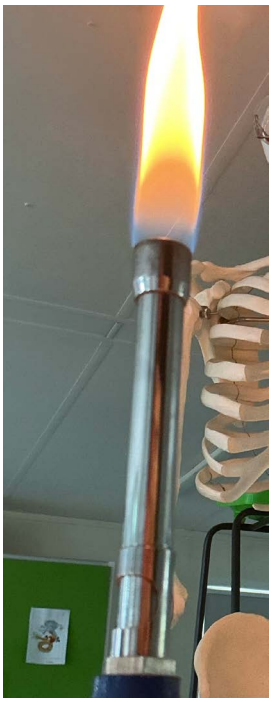




YEAR 8 TEAM BUILDING



SCIENCE



It's fantastic to see the long-quiet Science labs lighting up with the flickering flames of the Bunsen burners, expertly lit by Year 7 and 8 this week (can you guess who lit this Bunsen burner from the photo?). We look forward to getting out on the field, dodging the thunder storms to carry out sampling in Ecology with Year 7, and wrecking some cola cans with Year 8.

Year 6 will be starting their newly introduced topic on science investigations, carrying out an experiment in every lesson to find out how to work like a scientist.

We are focusing on presentation with all year groups, and looking out for opportunities for Year 7 to collaborate with each other. You can find more information on the Year 7 and 8 curriculum, including support materials, on the Pupil Intranet Science area.

ONLINE SAFETY TALKS - TUESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2025

As part of our induction programme during the first two days of term, we were very fortunate to be joined by Simon Lewis from the UK Safer Internet Centre and the South West Grid for Learning, who gave some highly thought provoking and informative Online Safety presentations to all pupils in Years 1 to 8, as well as doing a session for parents at the end of the day.

Online Safety education is vital for anyone who works with or cares for young people and forms a vital aspect of a school's safeguarding strategy. Recognising, responding and dealing with online issues can be challenging, while legislation and inspections highlight a setting's ability to keep children, teachers and other staff safe online.

Simon spoke about both the positive and negative effects of the internet, gaming and social media and how to keep safe in the virtual world and also encouraged the pupils to think about their digital lives and how they interact online. It is hugely important that our pupils know how to keep themselves safe, know how to act as responsible digital citizens and know what to do if they come across something or someone who makes them feel threatened or uncomfortable.

It was very clear from listening to the children that they enjoy playing games and communicating online. This is absolutely fine, but it is important that they are doing this on platforms that are appropriate to them and designed for their age.

Central to your children staying safe online is that you are part of their digital lives, you know what they are doing online and that you have open and constructive conversations with them around online safety. With this in mind, I thought you might find the links below useful when talking to your children about this subject.

Live Streaming and Vlogging

Balancing Screen Time

Instagram Checklist

Snapchat Checklist

Roblox Checklist

TikTok Checklist

Common Sense Media

For those of you who were unable to make the parents session, please see link below to a recording of it and a file with links to the sites Simon mentioned throughout the day.

Parents Online Safety Talk

Millfield Prep Parent Links

Jonathan Ford
Head of Computing & ICT
Online Safety Co-ordinator

YEAR 4 ORCHESTRA

Every year, pupils in Year 4 are lucky enough to learn an instrument in their music lessons as part of our Orchestral Project. This culminates in the formation of the Year 4 Orchestra and special much anticipated performances in the autumn and summer concerts. On Tuesday, we were delighted to hold our orchestral taster day. It was wonderful to see all the pupils together, so engaged with the variety of lessons and throwing themselves wholeheartedly into the experience! The pupils demonstrated some incredible raw talent, and they had a great time trying all the different instruments on offer. This year, these include violin, cello, double bass, harp, oboe, flute, clarinet, trumpet/cornet, trombone/tuba, French horn and percussion. At the end of the day, pupils took home their orchestral booklets and were asked to indicate which instruments they would like to learn on the final page. They will find out what they will be learning for the year at our next music lesson on Tuesday – how exciting! Many thanks to all the staff involved for their wonderful efforts on Tuesday. I know that all the Year 4s are hugely excited about the prospect of learning a new instrument and I am very much looking forward to hearing the children's progress as well as watching their enthusiasm grow throughout the year!








BOARDING LIFE

HOLLIES

We have had a wonderful start to term in Hollies, and we would like to begin by thanking all the parents who took the time to stop and chat with us over drop-off. The girls have launched themselves wholeheartedly into MPS life, and into Hollies life specifically. The first couple of days were all about learning the ropes and settling into routines, with family groups and lead buddies helping those new to the school or to boarding feel supported and at home. It is hard to single out individuals after only a few days, but **Cecily** has stood out for her kindness and readiness to help everyone – staff included! **Olga** has shown wonderful creativity in making bespoke named bracelets for every one of her Hollies sisters, while **Matilda** dazzled us all with her confident runway speech during the much-loved bin bag dress-up competition. The whole house impressed us with their enthusiasm in Wednesday's fun run, with special congratulations to our podium finishers, **Bea, Flossie** and **Tabby**. Finally, it is our great pleasure to announce Ivy as the first Head of House for the academic year. Her warmth and empathy means she is already doing a stellar job. What an excellent beginning to what promises to be a fantastic term together!











CHESTNUT

The girls have enjoyed a very busy start to the term here at Chestnut. Our evenings have been packed full of enjoying playing outside on the scooters, going for walks, lots of singing and dance routines and appreciating the bursts of sunshine. On Wednesday the Year 6, 7 and 8 girls participated in the annual Fun Run, although it was a little wet, this didn't stop them from giving it their all and supporting and cheering each other on, which was lovely to see and there were smiles all round. Well done to **Eloise** for your amazing effort and achievement! Congratulations to Ajua who has been appointed as Head of House for the autumn term. It has been a real pleasure getting to know the new girls in the house as well as welcoming back the girls from last year and settling into our new house as a 'Chestnut family'. They have quickly settled into the house and school routines, and it's been lovely to see lots of new friendships develop. We are very proud of how they have all started and look forward to an exciting year together.













BEREWALL

The Berewall boys have started the new school year very nicely. It has been great to meet new families, welcome back our boys and their families from last year, and make a start on the new beginnings. We have started the week with learning our routines and the preparation that goes into getting ourselves ready for the school day. We have been very impressed!! The surroundings are always a highlight of Berewall, so it has been great to see the boys playing outside and using their free time to mix and form new friendships. Wednesday evening was our first tuck night of the year and as expected, the boys were ecstatic when the magic cupboard door opened. We look forward to the coming days when things start to take shape, the boys get used to being away from home and they start to thrive in our amazing school. Have a great weekend.









CHAMPION

It has been a fantastic start to the term here at Champion House. It has been lovely meeting lots of new families and our existing MPS boarders have been wonderful at welcoming our new boys. It really has made us proud to see how kind, supportive and helpful they have been towards our new starters. It is great to see friendships forming and everyone exploring their new surroundings. Mr Swan took the Champion boys out to play an ice-breaker game of football on Sunday, which the boys enjoyed. The scooters have been a big hit, as well as lots of table tennis and pool. Mr Beevor took the boys over to the conveniently located tree trail this week too. We have been busy helping the boys with the routines of the house and teaching them how to pack a kit bag! We have no doubt they will pick it all up in no time. We have already celebrated our first birthday of the academic year with some lovely cakes! Wishing **Max** a very happy birthday!













SPORTING NEWS

CROSS COUNTRY















EQUESTRIAN

Toby and **Oliver R** have had a good summer of showjumping. Currently, Toby is third on BS schools 60 and fourth in 70. Oliver is fifth in 60 and 26th in 70, in the Just For Schools Individual League. Great work, well done boys.



ATHLETICS

We took our athletes to the National Prep Schools Finals and also the Finals of the English Schools Cup in the holidays. We had two successful days of competition. **Lowri S** is now national champion in the 100m. **Tabby W** and **Kiki F** both made the podium. We had many finalists and we had the biggest team in the competition with over 40 competitors.

At the prestigious cup final event we scored well and the team can be very proud of their performances against the top athletes in the country. Many of the team were Year 7 so were competing a year up. This bodes well for next summer. Thank you to all the staff and parents who gave up some of their holidays to support these events.

















GOLF

Matilda R has achieved great results over the past few weeks.

She has won; the Harper Rose Bowl for winning the Somerset Girls 18 Hole Championship held at the Mendip Golf Club making her 'the Junior County Champion', the Wedmore Golf Club Junior Open Girls Competition last weekend and a Ping Junior Tour Competition at Minchinhampton Golf Club in Gloucestershire last month beating some of the best girls in Europe.

She is currently second in the Mendip Golf Club Junior Order of Merit with only the Junior Championship to play in 10 days time. Highest placed Junior Girl in the Burnham & Berrow Junior Championship where she played some of her best golf on their Open Championship qualifying course.

She is having a great time, enjoying playing new courses and meeting new people from all over the country and beyond.



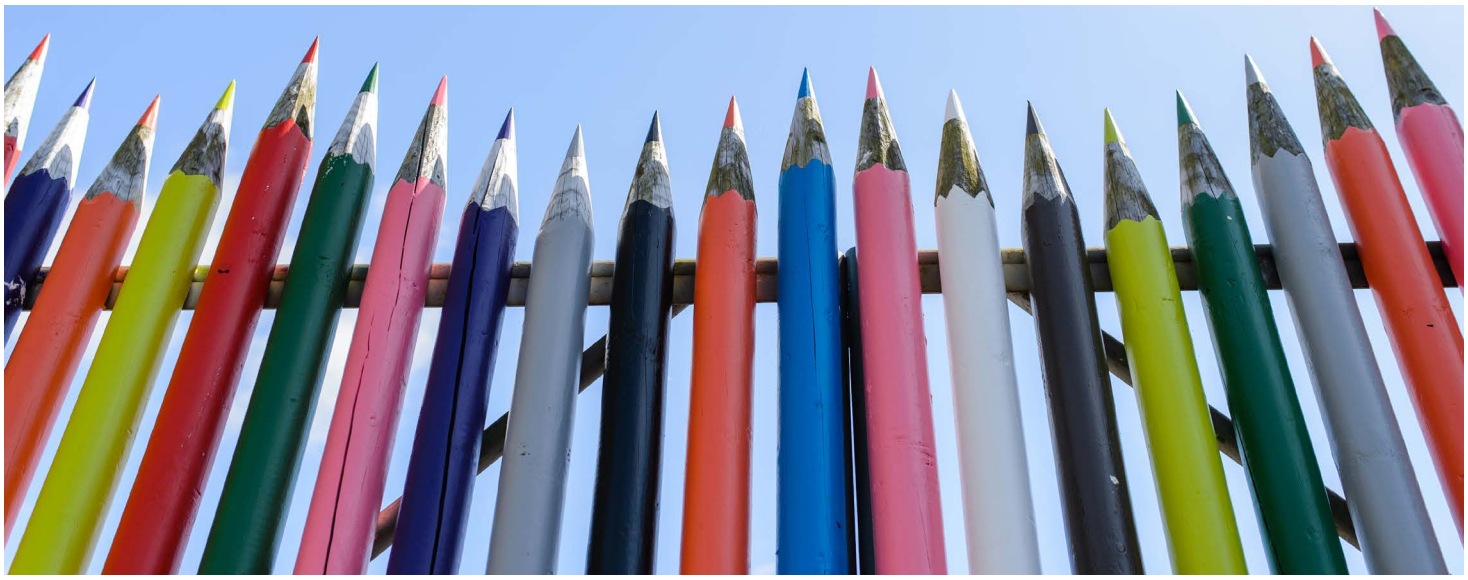




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MESSAGE FROM MR JORY



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

We are so pleased to welcome everyone back after the long summer holiday, and an especially warm welcome to the new families joining our Pre-Prep this year. It has been such a joy to see the children arrive with big smiles, full of energy and ready to embrace all that the new term has to offer.

The first few days have already shown us how quickly the children slip back into the routines of school life, showing us how independent they are walking in by themselves. They have been settling beautifully into their classrooms, reconnecting with friends, and approaching new activities with real enthusiasm and curiosity. The atmosphere around Pre-Prep has been full of excitement, and it is wonderful to see the children's eagerness to learn shining through in everything they do. It's like we've never been away!

As we embark on another busy and exciting academic year, we kindly remind parents to keep a close eye on Showbie, emails and the noticeboard, where you will find important information, updates, and notices about upcoming events.

We know this year will be full of new challenges, discoveries, and achievements, and we are excited to share this learning journey with you. Together, we will celebrate successes, support one another through new experiences, and continue to nurture the children's confidence, independence and love of learning.

Best wishes,
Mike

KEY DATES

Friday 19 September

Exeat weekend

School finishes at 12pm

PRE-PREP

HOUSE TOTALS

HOUSE	ANGLES	DANES	JUTES	SAXONS
OVERALL	58	44	51	55

TADPOLES

SETTLING IN

We've just a great first week back and have loved welcoming in all our new Tadpoles. We are so proud at how everyone has settled in and have had fun singing, listening to stories and making new friends.









FROGS

MAKING ROCK POOLS

Our new Frogs have been busy exploring their new classroom environment. They have enjoyed discovering all the different activities on offer and even had a visit to Forest School where lots of conkers were found! Inspired by their holiday adventures, we made a rock pool where the children recreated catching crabs and other sea creatures. What a great start for our new Frogs!















PARACHUTE AND PICKING BLACKBERRIES

What a wonderful start to Year 1. The children have settled in brilliantly and have got used to our classroom routines well. They particularly enjoyed using the parachute and picking blackberries in the orchard.



















