#894
09 JANUARY 2026

MILLFIELD
PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

I've really enjoyed seeing Millfield Prep come back to life after the Christmas break. I'm sure there are a few slightly tired minds and bodies that are still adjusting to the return (or maybe that's just me!) but no doubt, once we have the first week ticked off, the rhythm of school life will be fully embedded again.

As I mentioned in my letter to you on Monday, it is a joy to welcome many more pupils and parents to the MPS community. If you are new, please do reach out if you need anything to help you settle.

One of the key messages I delivered in our first Whole School Assembly was for all of us to try to notice what is going on 'beneath the surface' of those around us. I reminded everyone of the much-used analogy of an iceberg – often large and impressive on the surface but with so much more that is almost impossible to see under the water-line. I encouraged the children to think of how that might relate to those around them. Their peers might appear fine on the surface but underneath they might be struggling with something. The overriding message was to try to notice and try to support those who need a bit of a boost – their struggles might not be immediately visible but just asking if someone is ok might be exactly what they need.

I am excited for the term ahead and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the coming weeks to catch up and hear how your holidays were.

Finally, please do pay special attention to the notices and reminders in this newsletter as we start the New Year.

Have a lovely weekend when it arrives.

Yours,
Dan

CONTENTS

Page 2
Parent Notices

Page 2-3
Subject Focus

Page 4-5
Boarding Life

Page 6-7
Sporting News

Page 8-11
Pre-Prep Newsletter



PARENT NOTICES

Attendance
Why is school attendance important?
Being in school is important to your child's academic achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. There is evidence to suggest that regular school attendance is a key mechanism to support children and young peoples' educational, economic and social outcomes. Schools can facilitate positive peer relationships, which contributes to better mental health and wellbeing (Gov.UK).

Please ensure that any absence requests are submitted via the Parent Portal in a timely matter, for Heads of Year and the Headmaster to review and approve. We need to ensure that the school fulfils its legal obligations regarding authorised and unauthorised absences.

Smoke free site
Millfield and Millfield Prep are smoke free sites, this includes vapes. Please refrain from smoking when on campus.

Speeding on site
It has been noted that a number of parents have been driving too fast on the campus, particularly on Martins Lane. This is a matter of great concern as it poses a significant risk to the safety of our pupils, staff, and other parents. Speeding poses a significant risk to children and adults on site and will not be tolerated.

We kindly remind everyone to drive with extra caution when on the site, especially during morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups. We want to ensure a safe environment for all, and your cooperation is crucial in achieving this. Thank you for your understanding and support in keeping our school community safe.

Dogs
The campus should not be used to exercise dogs, and dogs are only allowed on site on match day if they are on a lead. They must not be walked on any part of our site at any time and they must not be left anywhere on site unaccompanied or off the lead.

Hairstyles
A note that all pupils' hair should be tidy and presentable at all times - extreme haircuts and styles are not permitted. Tram lines, shaved stripes and harsh dyeing look like they might all be trending again in 2026 but these are all viewed as extreme styles and are therefore not permitted.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

The Year 7 marble mazes are really taking shape, with them being ready to head home over the next few weeks. Pupils have worked really hard over a number of weeks, showing great resilience and should be proud with their results. Well done to all involved.

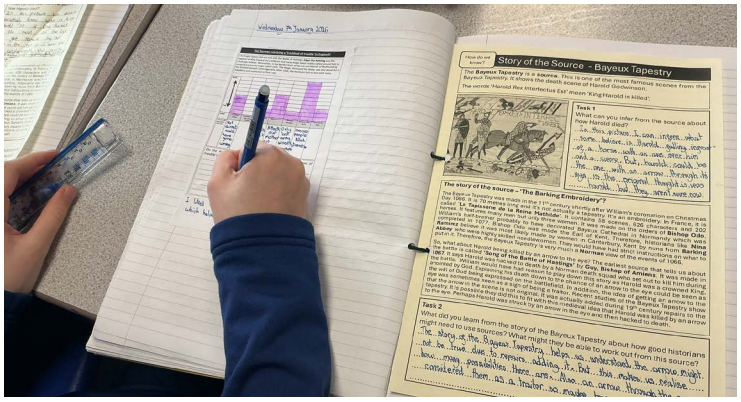




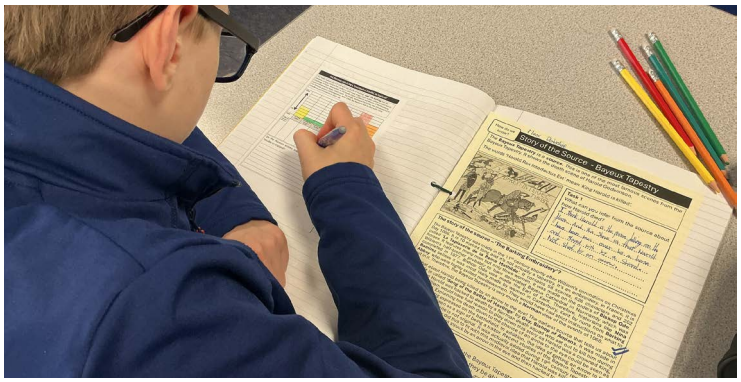
HISTORY - BRINGING THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY TO LIFE

This week, the History Department have begun the new year with a very topical subject that has been widely covered in the national news. As part of their enquiry into the Norman Conquest, pupils in 7SP have been using the story of the Bayeux Tapestry as a source and really been showing one of the school values, curiosity in their study of the Tapestry which they found out was in fact an embroidery. This led to a good discussion of how the tapestry is useful to historians studying the period and what to look for when examining sources like the Bayeux Tapestry.

The Tapestry was also the subject of our first Horrible History Club on Tuesday after school where a much smaller copy of the Tapestry was rolled out along the Humanities Corridor and the story explained as a walk through. The club intends to encourage pupils to draw, read, and watch Horrible Histories as well as learn the history behind each episode and in this case, find out what really happened in 1066. The group will begin their Horrible History mini books next week as we move on to a brand new topic, the Space Race. If any pupils would like to know more about Horrible History Club, please come and speak to Mr Sweet in the History Department.







MATHS

Well done to the all of the children below who have been working hard over the Christmas holidays and far beyond to reach their latest Doodle milestone. A special mention to **Cosimo** who has smashed the year barrier – a brilliant achievement!

Year 3
Hugo 100 days Maths and Spell
Arthur 50 days Maths
Alex 100 days Maths and Spell

Year 4
Isaac 50 days Maths and Spell
Freya 100 days Maths and Spell
Ophelia 300 days Maths
Cosimo 1 Year Spell and Maths

Year 5
Miles 50 days Maths and Spell



BOARDING LIFE

HOLLIES

It has been hug-central around here as the Hollies Sisters reunite after a month apart for the Christmas break. It is wonderful to see the girls back and so pumped to be with their second family again. We are just now awaiting the arrival of **Tabby** who is busy carving it up in some serious snow in Norway as part of her ski race camp. The family groups are in hot competition with each other already as we work through the Twister tournament and the Hook a Duck Balloon game was hilarious. Get your daughter to teach you that one at half term!











CHESTNUT

It has been lovely having all the Chestnut girls back for the Spring Term and hearing their amazing stories and adventures from the festive season. We've already had our first birthdays of the term; the house came together to celebrate **Sophie** and **Amelie's** birthdays on Wednesday evening with a feast of McDonald's, cake, and Krispy Kreme donuts. Happy Birthday Sophie and Amelie! Congratulations to Amelie who has been appointed as Head of House for the Spring Term. We wish Amelie all the best as she steps into this exciting role - she inspires those around her with ambition, dedication, and teamwork.





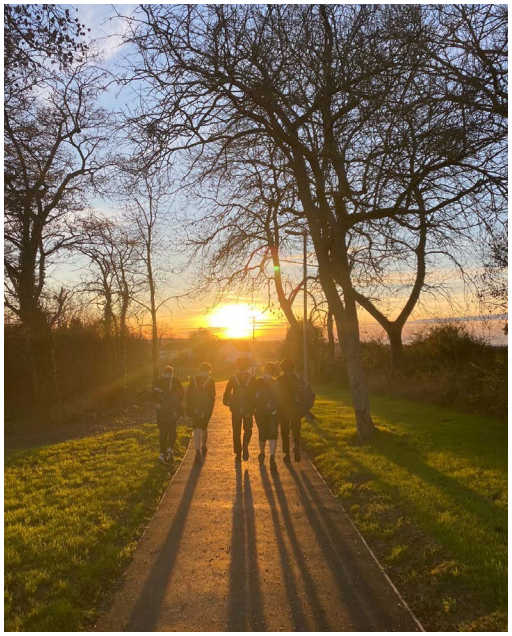






BEREWALL

The Berewall boys have returned and quickly settled into the routines and busy days that winter brings. The cold weather has been a challenge for some, although the beautiful sunsets have been worth it. We had a very quick birthday as we celebrated with **Charlie** on his 13th on Tuesday. The donuts were ready to devour until **Jack** arrived with copious amounts of slim chicken for the boys (big thanks to Jack and Mr C). The donuts were put on hold for Wednesday. Perfect with the tuck after a busy day of fixtures. The quiet room has been a great space for music practice, **Tomas** has serenaded us with some incredible piano along with **Toby** on the guitar, absolutely brilliant! We are not quite all back to school, we await **Alberto** and **Jose** on the weekend, after our three Spanish boys from last term, **Luis, Roque**, and **Alfonso** arrived on Wednesday after the three kings back home. Finally, we say a huge welcome to **Teddy, Jaime, Monty,** and **Alfonso**. It has been great to meet you and see you settle in so nicely. Have a great weekend all.







CHAMPION

It has been great to welcome the boys back to Champion after the holidays. It is lovely to see them catching up with their friends and sharing what they have been up to over the holiday. The boys have really impressed us with how they have settled back into routines so quickly. We would like to introduce **Ralph** as our new head of house! We have no doubt he will be a great role model and leader.
Mr Thomas took some of the boys for a basket ball game in the sports hall on Tuesday evening, which they enjoyed and are already keen for another game. We also had our first birthday of the year and celebrated with pizza! Wishing **Ralph** a very happy birthday!








SPORTING NEWS

EQUESTRIAN

Last week, **Isla** won two first-place rosettes with Scribbles in both dressage classes. Congratulations!





Sam and her pony Coco won the arena eventing at Kings Sedgemore on Sunday. Congratulations!









TENNIS

Over the Christmas break, **Almendra** won the U18 G4 Singles tournament in Portsmouth. Well done Almendra!



TRAMPOLINING

On Sunday 7 December, Millfield Prep School trampoline squad travelled to Weston-super-Mare for the annual South West Regionals competition. We had an entry of 20 competitors. In the Years 1-6 Novice category were **Freya W, Layla S** and **Ida S** making up one team with **Hayden B, Ava T** and **Isabeau D** making up the second. **Freya, Ida** and **Layla** finished in team 2nd qualify a team place at the next round - the Southern Zonals. **Isabeau** finished in a brilliant 3rd position with Freya in 13th, both also qualifying individually to compete at the Southern.

Our only competitors in the Years 1-6 Advanced groups were **Emily W** and **Alfred W**. Both competed very well and finished 1st and 2nd respectively, making two more qualifiers to represent Millfield at the Southern.

Years 7-9 Novice competitors were **Georgina W** 16th, **Rosie K** 19th, **Elizabeth C** 21st and **Joy X** 32nd. This group had a total of 53 competitors, so all girls finished very respectively. The team finished in 5th position.

In the Year 7-9 intermediate group was **Bel C**. Bel finished in 8th position and again qualified herself an individual place. Together with her team of **Poppy C, Flossie W, Quynn C** and **Mia W** the team finished in 3rd position narrowly missing qualification.

Margot M (8th) and **Jess H** (7th) complete the squad in the Year 7-9 advanced group. Together with two Millfield School students, the team finished in second position and therefore take the total number of Millfield Prep School qualifiers to 10.

Big congratulations to all involved and here's to the next round.

Photo back row L-R: **Bel C, Georgina W, Elizabeth C, Poppy C** and **Flossie W.**

Front row L-R: **Hayden B, Ida S, Layla S, Freya W** and **Quynn C.**





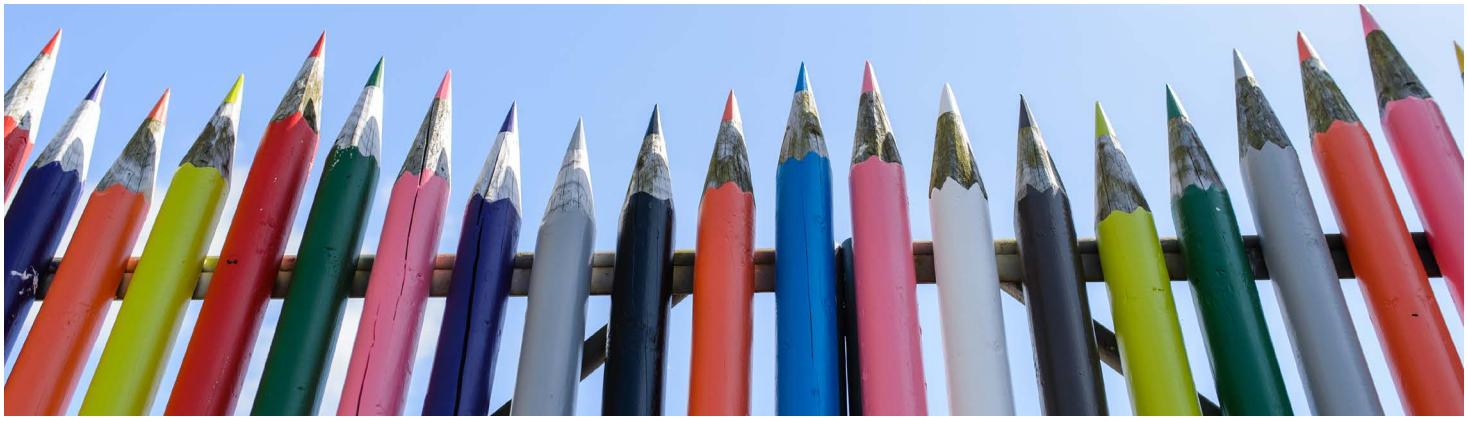
Back L-R
Emily W
Ida S
Margot M
Joy X

Front L-R
Ava T
Alfred W
Isabeau D

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MESSAGE FROM MR JORY



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

Welcome back to everyone for the start of the New Year 2026. Although it has been a very cold start to the term, it has been wonderful to see all the children arriving well prepared in their school coats, hats, gloves and scarves. Being wrapped up warmly has allowed us to continue enjoying outdoor play, which the children have embraced with great enthusiasm.

We began the week with a whole school assembly, welcoming everyone back and setting a positive tone for the term ahead. We are keen to hear ideas from pupils and families on how we can make Pre-Prep even better. If you have any suggestions, please pop them into our suggestion box located in the reception area — we would love to hear from you and to share your ideas with others.

Our Pre-School children have had a fantastic time exploring ice this week. Activities included freeing Arctic animals trapped in ice using hammers, as well as creating colourful ice. In Reception, the children have created their own winter wonderland in preparation to learn about animals, weather and winter.

Year 1 and Year 2 have started their new topic, "What is it made of?" They are looking forward to learning about different materials and exploring their properties.

We were also delighted to welcome a visiting dentist this week, who taught the children all about their teeth. The children learned how to look after their teeth, how often to visit the dentist, and the correct way to brush, reinforcing important healthy habits.

It has certainly been a busy and exciting start to the term. Please keep an eye on the notice board for key dates and upcoming events this term. We look forward to another happy and productive term ahead.

Best wishes,
Mike

KEY DATES

Friday 16 January
Non-uniform for winning house last term - Jutes

PRE-PREP

HOUSE TOTALS

HOUSE	ANGLES	DANES	JUTES	SAXONS
OVERALL	97	69	81	78

TADPOLES

SENSORY EXPLORATION

This week, the Tadpoles have being exploring ice. They freed the animals from the frozen water using pipettes of warm water and hammers. Painting the ice and decorating it with glitter added a lovely sparkle. We talked about the ice describing the different textures: slippery, hard, wet, melting. Helping to build sensory awareness, early scientific thinking, motor skills, language and curiosity.







FROGS

EXPLORING ICE AND FROST

What a chilly start to the new year! This week, the Frogs embraced the cold and ventured outside to observe the frost and ice. They discovered they could mark make on some of the frosted surfaces and observe the ice on their hands. As they explored, they discovered different objects that had ice frozen inside them; this was very exciting! This inspired us to make our own ice catchers by placing some water in a pot and adding objects. We also learnt what ice was, why the ice was dripping, what the process is called when it starts to turn back to water and why the ice melted?








FROGS AND RECEPTION

DENTIST VISIT

A dental nurse came to visit the Reception and Frogs children this week. She taught us how to clean our teeth correctly and that is should be for two minutes. We talked about food that are good for our teeth and food that isn't very good and she showed us how she dresses up before she checked people's teeth. We learnt lots and the Reception class have now set up their own dentist surgery in the classroom.











KS1

DENTIST VISIT

Year 1 and 2 enjoyed a visit from a local dentist who spoke to the children about what happens during a trip to the dentist and why regular check-ups are important. The children loved exploring a large model of teeth, practising how to brush them correctly, and even trying on some of the equipment that dentists wear. They also learned about making healthy food choices and how sugar can affect their teeth. It was a fun and informative session that helped the children understand how to take care of their smiles!











YEAR 2

UNDERSTANDING MATERIALS

Year 2 learned about different materials and their uses. The children shared information books about materials with their friends and explored how these books are organised. They used the contents page to navigate around the book, finding and moving between different chapters to locate information. This helped them build their understanding of materials while developing important reading and research skills.

