#897
30 JANUARY 2026

MILLFIELD
PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

As we work our way towards February, it has been great to see such a variety of really diverse events, fixtures, activities and talks for our pupils. Over the past two weeks alone, we have welcomed Millfield students talking to our children about puberty, we had a visit from an expert in Prevent who has delivered workshops to pupils, staff and parents, and we've hosted our first Prep 'Brilliance Lunch'. Alongside this we've had countless practice interviews for those taking scholarships, we are welcoming Elevate to teach study skills to some of our older pupils and we have had huge levels of success in the Somerset County swimming championships and the South West fencing competition, as well as an overflowing fixture list!

But two things particularly stood out for me this week because they are 'firsts' for MPS. In a school such as ours, where the children have so many co-curricular opportunities, it is rare for us to put on something that has never been done before. But this week has seen pupils represent Millfield Prep in the inaugural IAPS eSports competition, and, as part of our enrichment on Wednesday, we launched our first ever mountain biking activity. Both of these were a huge success and reminds me just what a forward thinking and hard-working staff body I am lucky to lead, always looking to provide something else for our children to uncover passions and abilities they didn't know they had. It's energising to work in a school that is so progressive and ambitious for its pupils.

Enjoy this newsletter and see if you can spot any of the amazing things I have mentioned.

Yours,

Dan

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

This Week's Picture of the Week is this excellent charcoal elephant by **Faye M 8PH.**





Millfield Prep and Pre-Prep does not tolerate any harassment in any form towards our pupils/staff

PARENT NOTICES

Signing out trial

Thank you for supporting our signing out trial. For those parents with children in Years 3-5, please ensure that your child has been signed out by a member of staff. Year 6 pupils are encouraged to sign themselves out using their school iPad and QR code on exit from Martins Lane. Year 7 and 8 pupils are also encouraged to sign themselves out using their school iPad and QR code on exit from Reception. The QR code recognises their Microsoft user profile and allows us to ensure staff are not looking for children who have already left for the day.

If you do receive a phone call to ensure that the procedure is working, we thank you in advance for your understanding in helping to safeguard our children even further.

Parent tennis session

The tennis department are excited to be running a parent's tennis session at 10:00am until 11:30am on Wednesday mornings weekly, after February half term. For more information, please contact Julie Sinkins at sinkins.j@millfieldschool.com.

The Good Schools Guide

The Good Schools Guide www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk came to school on 22 January to refresh our review. Part of that process involves speaking to parents anonymously for their views. Our reviewer Charlotte Obolensky would be delighted to speak to anyone willing to share their views with her - it would be an informal chat on the phone, no preparation needed and anonymity guaranteed. Her contact details are follows:
Charlotte.obolensky@goodschoolsguide.co.uk
07712589249

Friday 6 February is NSPCC Number Day

The children will be celebrating the day in their maths lessons. To help support the amazing work of the NSPCC, the children are welcome to wear non-uniform to school that has a clear number on it. This will be in exchange for a £2 donation. Thank you for your support.



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EAL PUPIL OF THE WEEK

Rocio has been a fantastic ambassador for our school, especially through her support with filming this week. She consistently shows a mature and positive attitude towards her learning, particularly in EAL, where she remains steadfast and motivated. Rocio is always eager to improve her language skills and approaches every challenge with determination and confidence. Well done, Rocio!





FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Some tasty results from our Food Technology lessons — spaghetti bolognaise and lemon drizzle loaf, plated like professionals!









KNITTING CLUB













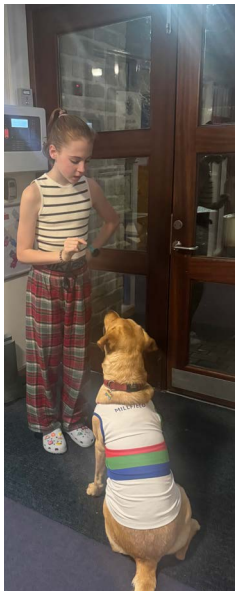


BOARDING LIFE

HOLLIES

We have enjoyed another really great week in Hollies Boarding House. House meeting this week saw us testing our reflexes with the ever-popular stick drop game, which brought plenty of competitive spirit and good-natured cheering. There are some great photos and videos on Instagram so do check there if you are not following us already. We also took time to celebrate two of our wonderful evening helpers who have birthdays this week. A huge thank you to Mrs W and Mrs S for looking after us so brilliantly – we are very lucky to have you both as part of the Hollies team. It has been fantastic to support our art, drama, dance and sport scholars who have been in action this week. The commitment, creativity and confidence shown has been inspiring, and we are incredibly proud of all of you. A real highlight for us came on Wednesday evening, when we overheard an excited group of girls heading off to supper when one suddenly stopped and said, "Hey, we've left someone behind!" She immediately dashed back to her dorm to collect a dorm-mate who was still putting on her shoes. With kindness and integrity at the heart of life in Hollies, it was a wonderful reminder to see these values being lived out so naturally – even when the girls didn't realise that someone was watching.









CHESTNUT

After a refreshing Exeat, the girls returned full of energy, and we absolutely loved hearing all their stories from the weekend. It's always wonderful to see them come back rested, recharged, and eager to share their adventures. This week, we celebrated Burns Night in true Scottish style! The girls prepared delicious haggis puff pastry rolls, which were a huge hit, and we all enjoyed shortbread along with some very popular Irn-Bru mocktails. We kept tradition alive with Mr C reading one of Robert Burns' poems, The Selkirk Grace, adding a lovely reflective moment to the evening. To finish off the celebrations, everyone had great fun designing their own tartan patterns, with several of the girls researching and recreating their clan tartan - a creative and colourful highlight of the night. Lots of laughter, creativity, and community spirit made it a Burns Night to remember!










BEREWALL

The Berewall boys returned from Exeat, well rested and ready to start the new week. We have had a big push on organisation, especially the boys that are up for their early clubs. The dark mornings make it difficult to get out of a warm bed, but they are soon into their groove. We had a joint, belated Exeat birthday on Monday. **Jaime** and **Alfonso** were serenaded by the Berewall choir in Spanish to wish them a happy birthday. The cakes were dispatched in the usual manner and in record time. It was great to see **Sirius** learning to improve his bike riding in Wednesday enrichment. As always, he had a beaming smile and fully embraced one of the many activities on offer. We have had some boys feeling unwell this week, so have focused on hand hygiene and looking after ourselves. On Wednesday evening, we had a visit from the catering staff to talk with our boys and get their views on their dining experience. It was lovely to hear them engage with constructive feedback and highlight the many things that they get to enjoy in the dining hall. We were all very grateful to Steve and Daniel for giving up their time. The boys are very lucky to be able to give their view and have an input to their meals. We appreciate it very much. Have a great weekend, everyone!









CHAMPION

The Champion boys came back refreshed after the Exeat weekend. Many of them used the opportunity to rest, while some were still busy with various sporting commitments. However, it certainly helped to break up what has seemed like a long and wet January! We celebrated **Archie's** birthday with some lovely chocolate cake. Happy belated birthday again Archie! The boys had fun playing basketball last night with Mr Thomas in the sports hall. **Max Y** is busy putting a list of names together for a chess competition and I think there could be some close games!











SPORTING NEWS

SWIMMING

A huge congratulations to the 34 MPS swimmers who raced over the exeat weekend at the Somerset County Swimming Championships. There was some incredible progress comparing long course times to this time last year, lots of smiles and great skills on display. We are so proud of everyone who raced in a green Millfield hat!



TRAMPOLINING

The Southern regional trampoline competition was held in Weston-super-Mare on Sunday 25 January. **Alfred W** competed well and finished in eighth position in a strong boys group. **Emily W** finished in fifth position and has qualified herself a place at the National finals in Derby. Well done Emily! The Year 7-9 advanced team placed in fourth position, with the Year 1-6 novice team in sixth.





WEDNESDAY SPORT







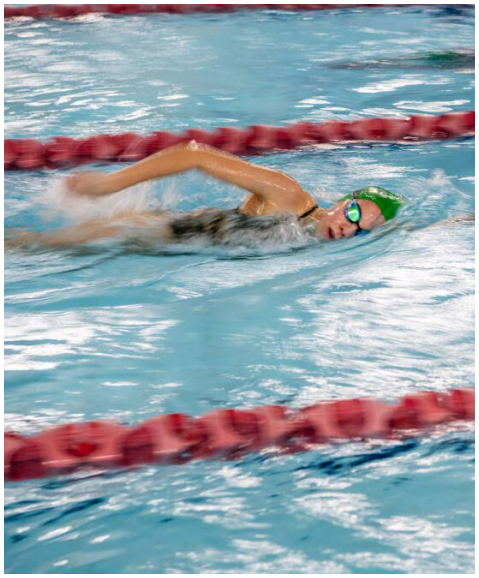










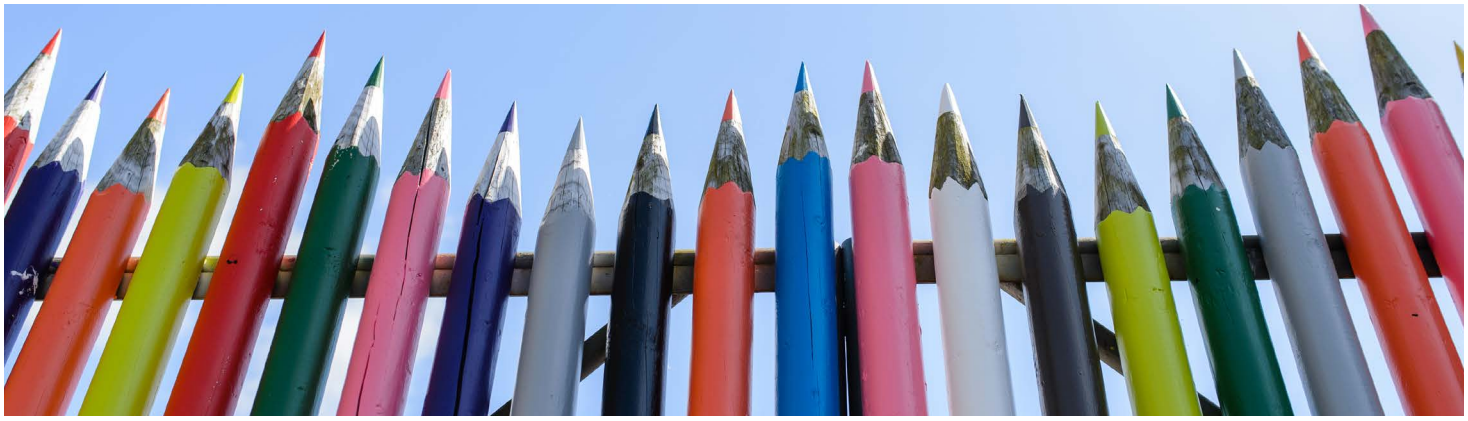


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MESSAGE FROM MR JORY



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

We began the week with a whole school assembly, continuing our theme of teamwork. The children were challenged to think about how different animals might solve a problem by working together. Ask your child which animal team was their favourite, penguins, crabs, or ants?

Tadpoles have been busy making pizzas and proudly brought home a slice of their learning. Frogs gardening has been the highlight of the week as they planted daffodil bulbs. If you look closely, you will see daffodils starting to appear around the school grounds. They have also taken part in some enthusiastic bird watching. Ask them what birds they have spotted this week?

Another busy week for me, as I was welcomed into Reception's Kindness Café, where I was served a delicious piece of toast. I also joined Year 1 to create a friendship web. It sparked some lovely conversations about kindness and what it means to be a good friend. Ask them what they added to the web?

Year 2 have also had a productive week, crafting bird feeders and taking their turn bird watching in the Year 1 and Year 2 garden areas. I know Year 1 and Year 2 are looking forward to sharing all their learning with their families next Thursday at 2pm.

Best wishes,
Mike

KEY DATES

Thursday 5 February 2– 3pm

Year 1/2 Open Afternoon

Friday 13 February

Half term holiday

School finishes at 12.00pm.

PRE-PREP

HOUSE TOTALS

HOUSE	ANGLES	DANES	JUTES	SAXONS
OVERALL	537	467	446	517

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TADPOLES

PIZZA'S

Inspired by free play last week, when some of our friends were making pizzas with the playdough, this week we carried on our pizza theme. We turned our home corner into a pizzeria, cut out toppings to design a pizza and made our own pizzas to take home in pizza boxes. The Tadpoles helped to cut up the peppers and tomato's to practice their cutting skills and loaded their pizza up with lots of yummy toppings.








FROGS

GARDEN CENTRE

Over the past couple of weeks we have been looking at daffodils. We were given some daffodil bulbs to plant, but we needed soil from the garden centre, however lots of the children were unsure what a garden centre was; we needed to visit one! We thought about what a garden centre might be and what it might sell. We were very excited about our trip and what we might find and we had a wonderful time. We saw lots of beautifully coloured flowers and pots in all shapes and sizes, food for birds and dogs and lots of bags of soil! We also had an extra treat of seeing lots of fish. We brought some lovely flowers: primroses, snowdrops, crocuses and cyclamens, bird seed and soil so a successful trip! On our return we created a mind map about all the things we saw at the garden centre; now we know a lot more about garden centres!

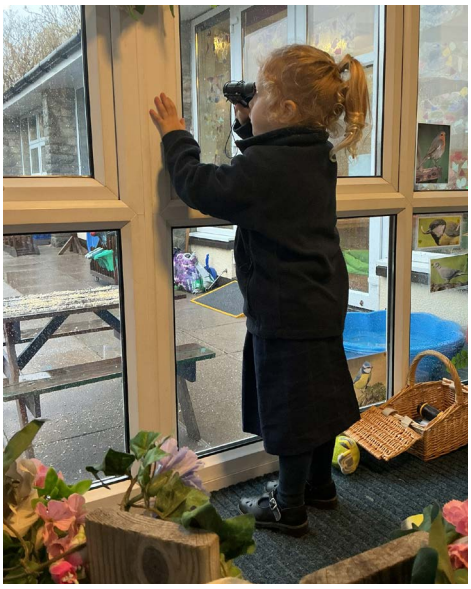









The Frogs have created a bird hide where they can sit quietly and use the binoculars to spot the birds using the bird feeders they made in Forest School last week; they also have some clipboards so they can draw the birds. We are taking part in the RSPB big garden bird watch and the Frogs have marked the birds they have seen on a tally sheet. We have a lot of robins, blue tits, great tits and crows visiting our garden. The Frogs have heard seagulls but could not see them so we are going on a walk around the school with our binoculars to spot other birds - watch this space!







RECEPTION

PENGUINS

For our penguin topic, we have been fact finding all about the different species of penguins. This has led to the children picking their favourite penguin to draw and paint in life size. The children used all their concentration and focus to look very closely at the shape and all the markings of their chosen penguin. They are looking fabulous.







YEAR 1

MAKING WANDS!

We have had a great time making wands as part of our Forest School sessions. We collected hazel from the orchard and then the children peeled off the bark, coloured them in and decorated them with feathers and wire. They had a blast! This was a lovely activity linked to our topic, 'What's it made of?'.



