#886
03 OCTOBER 2025

MILLFIELD
PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

Opportunity is the word that I probably use more than any other when describing MPS and Millfield to others. I regularly reflect on just what an amazing array of choices there are on offer for the children here. I sometimes forget, though, that these opportunities extend to staff too and last night I was reminded of that as I had the pleasure of listening to legendary Olympian, Kriss Akabusi who was giving a Minerva Lecture at Millfield.

His incredible energy, positivity and passion were tangible and contagious, his message heartfelt and born out of his own life experiences. I feel compelled to summarise the main threads of his message for us all below and I've no doubt I will be referring to them in an Assembly or two in the coming weeks. I hope they may give you some inspiration as they did me last night.

Use your past as a reference but not a residence – everyone has a different back story, and some have significantly more difficult backgrounds than others, but we should not be resigned to reside or wallow in the challenges of the past. Instead, we can use them as a reference point and springboard. To our children who are lucky enough to be at school here, he reminded them that this is a pretty special place from which to launch themselves into the world and have as one of their reference points.

Embrace others who are completely different from you – Kriss encouraged us to open our minds to other ways of thinking and doing things. Some people appear in our lives to bring us a different perspective, to help remove the scales from our eyes. MPS and Millfield are wonderfully diverse places, overflowing with opportunities for our children to meet others with different perspectives.

Listen most closely to those who believe in you – forget the naysayers and latch on to those who believe in you. Our children here are lucky to have so many role models who can help inspire them on their own journeys.

Embrace your lowest moments - lean on those around you to help you through the doldrums that are an inevitable part of life. He reminded us that everyone loses, and that sometimes our lowest point, or biggest loss, is just what we need to catapult us into a change or to grow. The children here are taught that the ebbs and flows of life are vital, and that learning to win and lose are equally important.

Be a team player – realise that being part of a team and really committing to that team above ourselves is a gateway to heights that we simply could not achieve alone. Teamwork is fundamental to life here at MPS and Millfield.

Dream big – give yourself time and permission to imagine what's possible. Don't be afraid of setting audacious goals. You might not achieve them yourself, but you may well be serving others who stand on the shoulders of your achievements to reach theirs.

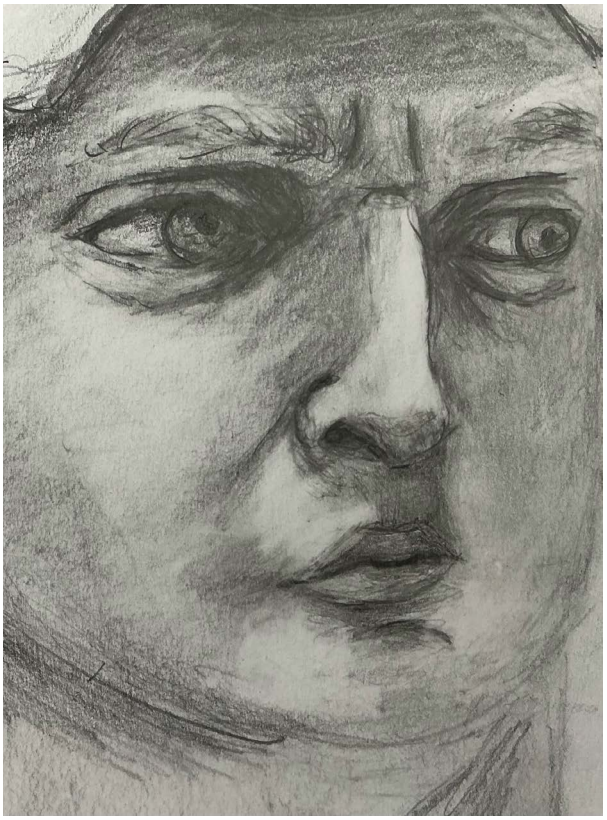
Of course I can't convey those messages with the same passion and unbelievable positivity, energy and humour that Kriss did last night. But I can reflect on the fact that all of his points are things that we embrace fully here at Millfield Prep and beyond at Millfield. As a Head, I will always accept that we can improve our school but sometimes it's refreshing to hear someone remind us of just what a special place this is. Kriss reminded us all that this is a place of unparalleled opportunity where our children really can Dream Big.

Have a great weekend and cross your fingers please that the weather doesn't dampen our Open Days and 80th Anniversary event too much!

Yours,
Dan

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

This week's Picture of the Week is this wonderfully expressive drawing by **Mary B.**



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CHARITY NOTICE

Tomorrow at 11am. Paul Lyons, (**Jac L** Dad) will abseil the height of 10 Giraffes from the top of King Alfred's Tower for The SOS Africa Children's Charity and Stourhead National Trust. SOS Africa invests 100% of all donations in the education and care of disadvantaged South African children with regular feedback to sponsors. Since 2003 the grassroots charity has provided children from the ages of 5-18 with education, care and learning support programmes tailored to their needs.

If you would like to donate, please do so by this link.

HOUSE SINGING COMPETITION

We are delighted to invite parents and guardians to our annual House Singing competition on Friday 17 October between 11.00-12.00 in the Prep Sports Hall. This is a hugely popular event, one of the true highlights of the year, and information about tickets will be sent out next week.

Please be aware that due to Health and Safety regulations, the Sports Hall has a fixed capacity. To ensure fairness, priority will be given to parents with children in Year 8 for whom this will be their last opportunity to watch a House Singing competition. Additionally, families with children who are soloists will automatically receive tickets. Thereafter, tickets will be on a first come, first served basis. We understand the demand for this event is extremely high, so we will be limiting tickets to two per family.

For those who cannot secure tickets for the Sports Hall, we will be live streaming the event in real time, in the Assembly Hall, and you are more than welcome to join us there to enjoy the performances.

Thank you for your understanding – I know you will appreciate that we must adhere to our Fire Risk Assessment which clearly specifies the legal capacity of the Sports Hall. The approach we have adopted above gives us the safest and fairest way to ensure the event can happen and as many families can watch it as possible.

NHS ADVICE ON EYE HEALTH

Click this link to access the full PDF on keeping children's eyes healthy.

Children's eye health

Your child's sight is precious. Good vision helps them learn, play and communicate with the world around them.



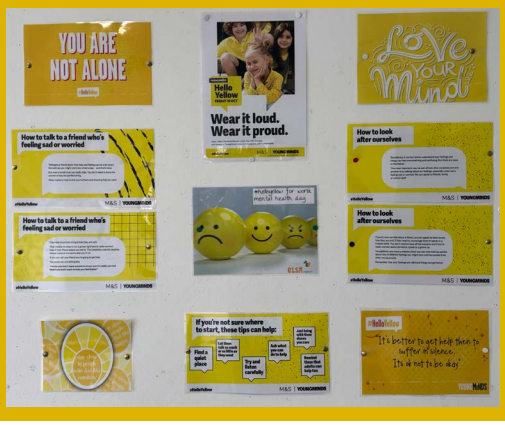
Yet, there are more than a million children in the UK with undetected vision problems (source: Eye health UK)

Children's vision continues to develop until they reach the age of eight, so caring for a child's eyes in the early years can help lay the foundations for good vision that lasts a lifetime.

There are lots of simple things that you can do to help keep children's eyes healthy.

HELLO YELLOW

On Friday 10 October, we will be celebrating World Mental Health Day. Our school is taking part in the Young Minds #HelloYellow campaign which aims to raise awareness and show young people that they are not alone when dealing with mental health. The children are being invited to wear something yellow on the day to celebrate looking after our mental health and well-being. Pupils wear their school uniform and an item of yellow clothing or a small yellow accessory. To continue to support this charity please bring £1 to donate.



LINGUISTS OF THE WEEK

The following pupils have shown great enthusiasm and effort in languages since the start of the term and have all been awarded a Good News for being Linguists of the week!

Well done to **Alejandra P, Hugo W** and **Milo M** from Year 8, **Isla S** and **Elodie B** from Year 7, **Emily W** and **Jessica H** from Year 6.

THE NON-PERFECT DAD

Dear Parents,

If your child holds or aspires to gain a sports scholarship, participates in a specialist sports area or is targeting participation in potential First team sport at Millfield Senior we would very strongly recommend you attend the Richard Shorter, parent talk at 10.30am on Saturday 11 October in the sports pavilion.

https://non-perfectdad.co.uk/

Richard has some brilliant messages about how we parents can best support our children during their sporting journeys. Richard has previously worked with parents associated with groups such as England Hockey, England Rugby, Somerset CC, Manchester United FC and Saracens Rugby.

Refreshments will be served from 10.15am with soup and sandwiches available. Please reserve your attendance by using THIS FORM. Please park at the bottom car park.

ACTIVE RECOVERY LAB

Attached below is an Active Recovery Lab Tutorial which has been created by one of our sports interns. At MPS we are keen to not only achieve excellence in sport but to help the longevity of your childrens' sporting careers as they develop and progress, to manage the load on their bodies of all the sport they do, as well as try and prevent sporting injuries. With this in mind the active recovery lab has been created to help improve the mobility and flexibility of every student. It takes no more than 15 minutes to complete and is ideally done three times a week. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mr Roberts who will be happy to answer them.

Click this link to download the Powerpoint.

DONATIONS TO THE GLASTONBURY FOOD BANK

On Thursday morning, our heads of house and head pupils took all the donations of food to the Glastonbury Food Bank. We met with one of the volunteers who helps to coordinate contributions and she showed us where all the food was stored. The pupils helped to stack the food into the correct places on the shelves and saw how their donations will go to create weekly boxes for individuals and families who have been referred to the service. The pupils were really engaged with learning about the planning that goes into the food boxes, as well as the hours of volunteer work that is needed to support people in the community. The food bank was thrilled with the large donation, which is important as winter approaches.

We would like to thank all of you who kindly donated food and products for the Harvest Festival that will go to serving and helping the local community.



VR HISTORY CLASS

It was the first opportunity for Year 7 pupils studying the histories of their Houses to experience ClassVR in History. The Viking environment that has been created by ClassVR was a brilliant introduction to the lesson and pupils could explore in pairs what proved to be a truly immersive experience. This directly links to their current study of King Alfred and the Viking Danes. The History department have been working to develop more VR into lessons to support our pupils' understanding of the Early Middle Ages. With so much opportunity to bring history into the classroom through VR, this lesson began with a discussion which continued for much of the lesson.

It was a real pleasure to see 7SP working collaboratively and communicating their discoveries to one another. They said what they saw and answered questions about the Vikings. This also challenged the class to consider how Vikings are interpreted in history books and here in the VR world. Well done to the class for their enthusiasm and ability to communicate their thoughts to one another. It was impressive to see how quickly they were able to navigate through the VR-rendered environment and then apply their new understanding back to their work at the end of the lesson. Thank you to Mr Ford who helped to set up the lesson and we look forward to developing even more VR experiences over the course of the year.



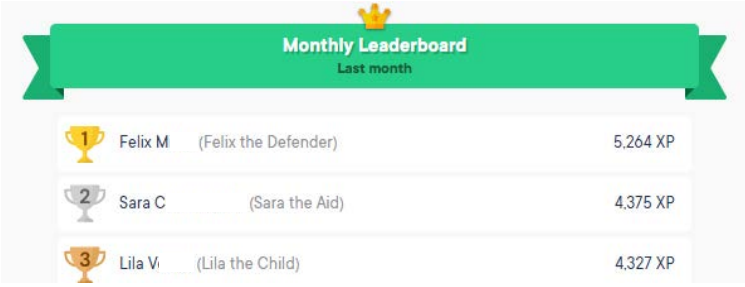




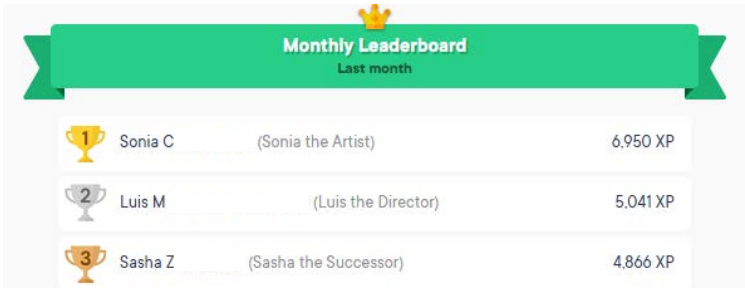
MATHS

Congratulations to the following pupils who all finished in the top three for XP earned on Sparx in September. Pupils in Year 6 to 8 complete their maths prep on Sparx, which uses AI to provide personalised questions with appropriate levels of challenge. Pupils can add to their XP by completing their optional preps called 'XP Boost' and 'Target' as well as looking at 'Independent Learning' topics, of interest to them. Well done to the winners last month who will all receive a Good News for their efforts.

Year 6



Year 7



Year 8



NATIONAL POETRY DAY

Poet, Mark Grist with pupils, **Rollo** and **Dylan.**

Mark visited Millfield Prep as part of our National Poetry Day celebrations.



FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Our Year 7 pupils have been busy in the kitchen making delicious Mac 'n' Cheese — with some secret (well, not so secret anymore!) ingredients and techniques shared by **Tanner**. He even went the extra mile by creating his very own cookery video to guide the year group. A fantastic example of creativity, enthusiasm, and teamwork in action!





CROSS STITCH IN KNIT AND NATTER CLUB











ENRICHMENT - COOKERY

Enrichment Wednesday - cupcakes with Mrs Shaw.











READING WITH SENIOR STUDENTS

This week, students from the Senior School came over to hear pupils in Years 3-5 read. This is something which we plan to do every Tuesday so it was lovely to see how engaged the children and students were, we are excited for next week!



CARDIFF TRIP

In the first week back, all Year 8 pupils visited the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. Pupils had a great time working closely with a comprehensive display of art work.









SHAPWICK HEATH NATURE RESERVE

Visits to Shapwick Heath Nature Reserve for Year 7 and Year 8 pupils, as part of the Wednesday afternoon enrichment programme, got off to an impressive start this week. Pupils met the volunteers and after an introductory talk about the reserve, along with a demonstration about how to use the loppers correctly and safely, they were tasked with clearing overgrown willow. The reason behind clearing the willow was to help more sunlight get through to the water in the drainage ditches. The pupils worked hard and were praised by the volunteers for their enthusiasm, energy and being incredibly polite. Well done, girls!











BOARDING LIFE

HOLLIES

A highlight of last weekend was the Tesco challenge, where each group had to plan and budget for their evening snack while also making a contribution to the local Food Bank basket. We were so impressed by the girls' thoughtful choices, generosity, and teamwork. The boarders threw themselves into a fantastic trip to AirHop trampoline park on Sunday, bouncing their way through the weekend. Our swimmers also deserve a special mention this week for their dedication to training – including some very early mornings – which is already paying off in the pool with excellent performances in competitions at the weekend. Inspired by Mr Dyke's gratitude assembly on Monday, the girls have been spreading kindness and positivity with heartfelt thank you notes across the dorms, office, and campus. A big well done to all – Hollies spirit is shining as brightly as ever!













CHESTNUT

It's been a fun filled week, with lots more birthday celebrations. On Saturday, we had a pre-birthday pamper party for **Daphne** with all the Chestnut girls, with face masks, glitter tattoos, a nail salon, mocktails and games. Which the girls (along with Mr and Mrs C and Mrs S!) absolutely loved. Followed by a slumber party, snuggled up together for a movie and tuck. Sunday the girls enjoyed a slow morning, with breakfast delivered to house, followed by an exciting afternoon at AirHop. The official birthday celebrations continued Tuesday, for both **Daphne** and **Eloise**, with an array of Millies Cookies, chocolate cake and cupcakes. Happy birthday **Daphne** and **Eloise!**













BEREWALL

The Berewall boys enjoyed a well-earned treat on the weekend, with a house takeaway and movie night. It was a great chance to unwind and look forward to the Sunday trip to AirHop. Monday morning soon came around and the boys were back in the groove for school. Tech free Tuesday saw the boys given the challenge of explaining what a selection of objects from Millfield Prep mean to them. In groups of three, Boarders were asked to read, interpret and explain what their chosen object were. This included a water bottle, a postcard, a list of clubs and games. We called it the 'No Tech Challenge', the boys engaged very well and everyone had fun. We celebrated with **Seb** for his birthday, the first one of the year! Happy birthday **Seb**. As always, the Champions League has been a big focus for the boys, we have a vast array of teams this year that we are cheering on…some wins, some losses, and some draws…but we always (try to) keep smiling! The famous Berewall sunsets have captured the imaginations of some, we have some budding photographers, eager to get the dream shot! Have a great weekend everyone.







CHAMPION

We can't quite believe how quickly the weeks are flying by! On Sunday the boys were treated to a 'lazy morning' in the house. A few enjoyed a later lie in bed, whilst others brought their duvets down to the common room to watch some TV. Breakfast was delivered to the house and expertly served by Mr Duke. They enjoyed some fun and games in the sports hall in the morning, followed by AirHop in the afternoon. Some late afternoon/early evening sunshine meant a game of football on the grass outside with Mr McNulty. We celebrated **Rhydian's** birthday this week with chocolate cake! Happy birthday to **Rhydian!**







SPORTING NEWS

SWIMMING

Congratulations to all the swimmers who took part in the Somerset Development Meet last weekend. For many, this was their first experience of competitive racing, and they rose to the occasion brilliantly. Over the course of the two-day event, we witnessed impressive displays of skill, technique, and determination. The progress made by each swimmer was clear, with noticeable development throughout the meet. It was wonderful to see so many smiles and such enthusiasm poolside! The coaching team are incredibly proud of the effort and energy shown by everyone. It's fantastic to see such strong progress so early in the season, and we're excited to see what's to come.



EQUESTRIAN

Last weekend, **Coco** went to the Cotswold Cup Championships. **Coco** and her horse Sam did so well to qualify for the Championships and she was one the youngest competitors in the competition.

Coco and Sam had a lively but extremely well managed dressage test and clear show jumping. On Sunday, they had the roads and tracks (long format eventing with phase A,B,C and D) with a steeplechase being phase B. **Coco** rode brilliantly in great rhythm around the steeplechase with a clear round then completed with a fantastic clear XC round. Well done **Coco.**







The riders had a wonderful day out at Moreton Equestrian Centre.

The team of **Sky O, Calla F**, and **Celeste B** came second in the 60cm class with an individual second place for Celeste. The same team won the 70cm class with Sky coming individual second place. The team qualified for the NSEA Championships in both classes.

Great riding well done team and congratulations.





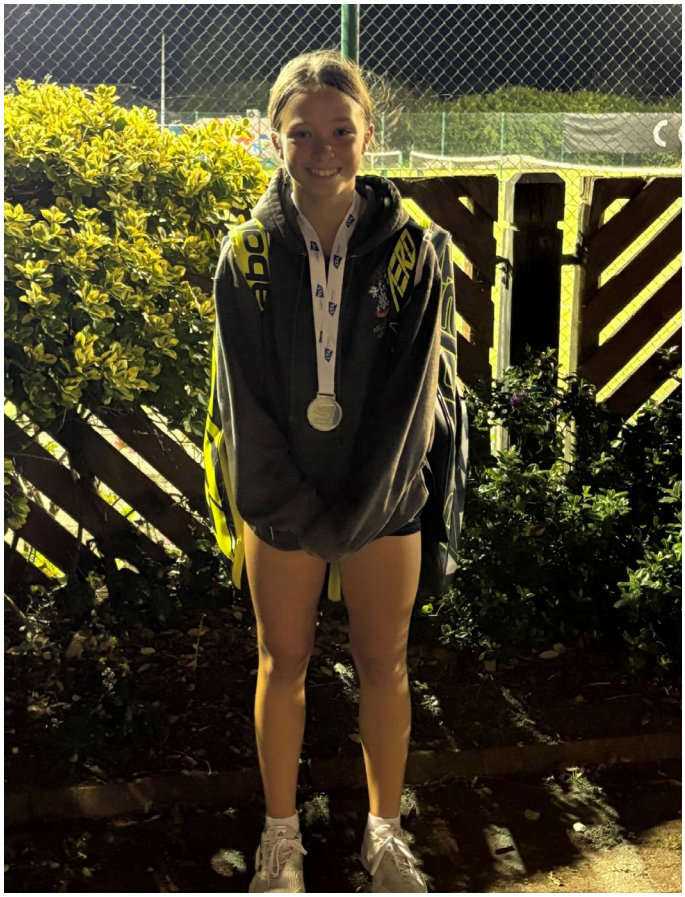
Sophie U with her pony Owen on her birthday. Thanks for the cakes, Sophie!



TENNIS

We would like to congratulate **Izzy M** for her achievement of runner up in an U14s Grade 4.

The tennis department will be running a girls only tennis session every Thursday at 6-7pm. There are limited spaces so please email **park.h@millfieldschool.com** to sign up.



SAILING

On Wednesday, **Joshua W** and **Gethin H** took part in the U11 Autumn Regatta at the Andrew Simpson Sailing Centre in Portland. It was a gorgeous day for sailing with light warm winds and plenty of sunshine. The boys raced hard, achieving a second place in one of the four races and overall coming in just outside the medals in fourth place. Well done boys!



CROSS COUNTRY

The cross country season is picking up speed (like our runners!) The inter house cross country races seem a long time ago where every pupil, and a few staff ran around the fields. It is the first inter house event of the year. The seniors have completed their mini series and the big competitions start from next week with the first round of the English Schools Cup. On Tuesday we had over 400 local primary school runners taking part in the first of the Mendip League races. **Morgan C** and **Sage O** both won their races. **Grace S** and **Jonah B** both finished in second place in their races. With over 100 runners per race it is a great spectacle to watch the start as they all charge off. All the runners now have a target position for the next race. Thank you to all the staff and parents who have helped with all the events and to the amazing grounds team who prepare perfect courses.













SPORT COLOURS

Congratulations to **Everley S**, international equestrian competitor. She is the first pupil in Year 8 to receive sports colours this year.



SCUBA DIVING

Dive into Adventure with our Discover Scuba Taster Session for Years 6, 7 and 8!
Are you ready to explore the underwater world and experience something truly unique?
We're offering an exciting Discover Scuba taster lesson on Sunday 9 November, for pupils in Years 6, 7, and 8. This 1.5-hour session will give you a chance to dive into the basics of scuba diving.
No prior experience is needed—just a sense of adventure!

Why Join?
- Hands-On Experience: Get a feel for what scuba diving is like!
- Step Towards Certification: This taster session is a perfect introduction to our full course, which can lead to a PADI certification.
- Limited Spaces: With only a few spots available, be sure to secure your place early!

Session Details:
- Date: Sunday 9 November
- Time: 1.5-hour session
- Cost: £77 (charged via the fees office)

Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind opportunity to dive into something new!
Reserve your spot by completing the form on the Parent Portal.

Scuba Diving Adventure for Years 4 and 5!
Does your child dream of underwater exploration? We're excited to offer a special Bubble Maker Scuba taster lesson this term.

This course will build confidence and introduce the fundamentals of scuba diving through exciting games and activities. It's perfect for young adventurers looking to dive into something new!

Taster Session Details:
- Date: Sunday 9 November
- Time: 1.5-hour session
- Who Can Join: Pupils in Years 4 and 5
- Cost: £77

Why Join?
- Boost Confidence: Students will gain new skills while building their self-assurance underwater.
- Fun Learning: Games and activities will make learning scuba diving enjoyable.

Spaces are limited, so secure your spot today by completing the form on the Parent Portal.

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PRE-PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM MR JORY



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

We had a colourful start in PrePrep this week, as we explored the magic of rainbows! The children had a wonderful time creating their own rainbows using a variety of fruits and vegetables, learning about colours and healthy foods along the way. Later in the week, we were amazed by a magical science activity using Skittles and water to form a beautiful rainbow circle — the excitement and wonder on the children's faces said it all!



Our Tadpoles have continued their magical journey into the world of castles. The children have been hard at work using junk modelling to design and build their own impressive castle creations! They also visited our very own PrePrep playground castle.

The Frogs had a wonderful time at Forest School this week, where they explored the autumnal woodland and created beautiful leaf butterflies. Surrounded by nature, they used fallen leaves in all shapes and colours to craft their delicate creatures.

In Reception, the classic tale of Goldilocks and the Three Bears came to life. The children loved retelling and acting out the story, even "breaking" some furniture along the way! Their week ended with a delicious porridge tasting session — thankfully, this time it was just right.



Year 1 have been busy writing detailed recounts of their recent trip to Weymouth. They reflected on their seaside adventure, recalling all the excitement of beach exploration.

Year 2 have been threading their way through a creative sewing project, crafting colourful fish as part of their seaside topic. Both Year 1 and Year 2 really enjoyed going to the library to listen to Mark Grist, poet, where he shared his poems.

We're so proud of all our learners this week and can't wait to see what next week brings!

Best wishes,
Mike

KEY DATES

Monday 6 October
Flu Vaccines Reception to Year 2

Tuesday 7 October
Year 1 and Year 2 visit Weston-super-Mare

Friday 10 October
Hello Yellow Day – Children's Mental Health Awareness
Wear something Yellow

PRE-PREP

HOUSE TOTALS

HOUSE	ANGLES	DANES	JUTES	SAXONS
OVERALL	628	461	514	595

TADPOLES

CASTLE BISCUITS!

This week in the Tadpole room, we have been exploring our interest in castles. We have used junk modeling to design and create our own castles. We climbed the big castle on the playground and even baked some tasty castle biscuits!





FROGS

MAKING LEAF BUTTERFLIES

We had a lovely morning at Forest School this week. We enjoyed looking for signs of Autumn and ticked the ones we saw on our checklist. We also made leaf butterflies inspired by a red admiral butterfly Kennedy found at playtime. We chose some pretty autumnal leaves that we found on the forest floor. Whilst we were making our butterflies two butterflies came fluttering by! Finally, we collected as many conkers as we could fit inside our bag which was very heavy by the end of the session! We look forward to using these in our learning.













RECEPTION

DREAM JARS

This week the children wanted to make dream jars just like the BFG. We started by adding water, glitter, then food colouring and glycerine, then finally we whispered our dreams and sealed them tight. They looked amazing and the children could see their dreams swirling around. We have decided to read BFG during our quiet time, throughout the week.









YEAR 1

AUTUMN LEAF CROWNS

Year 1 had a super time in the Pre-Prep Forest School. We made Autumn crowns using leaves. The children had to sort them into colours and stick them on their crowns. They did a brilliant job!











YEAR 2

READING IN THE SUN

The children spent a joyful afternoon on the playground, basking in the warm sunshine. They sat in small groups, reading their library books and eagerly sharing their favourite parts with one another. Laughter and chatter filled the air as stories came to life through their voices. It was a perfect blend of learning and play.





