#898
06 FEBRUARY 2026

MILLFIELD
PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

The term continues to rattle along and this past week has been full to the brim with interesting and exciting moments. Yesterday we had our first Celebration Assembly of the term. These always remind me of just what a broad range of achievements the children attain. The first thing that struck me yesterday was the outstanding number of Good News certificates that I handed out. These are earnt for achieving ten Good News awards in one of our five values of being 'Brilliant, Challengers, Curious, Kind and You', which can be earned either in or out of the classroom. Yesterday I presented close to 200 certificates to children from across all the year groups for being 'Brilliant' – it was fantastic to see pupils' hard work rewarded. To top things off, we then had our first Grand Slam of the year (aptly timed to coincide with the start of the Six Nations!) which is for achieving five Good News awards in each of the five values – a truly outstanding achievement.

The thing is, what everyone comes to see as 'normal' here at MPS, is genuinely not normal in most Prep Schools. Because interspersed with the Good News awards, which took about 20 minutes to get through as there were so many, I also handed out countless medals, trophies, certificates and rosettes for a wonderfully diverse range of co-curricular achievements. We celebrated our U12 national hockey champions, county hockey champions across various age groups for girls and boys, and success in fencing, equestrian, ballet, netball, Art and trampolining. And then, as if to reinforce the breadth on show, I had to release the cast of High School Musical to go to a rehearsal and it was wonderful to see just how many pupils are involved in this.

In short, it was a moment where I was once again reminded that this place really does give the children a chance to shine in so many areas. We can't wait to see the musical next week and I want to wish everyone involved the very best of luck as they reach show week after months of dedication and hard work. Then, remarkably, it will be Half Term and everyone will be able to take a breather – it feels like we will need it by then!

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours,

Dan and Parsnip

BRUFTS 2026

Parsnip has once again outdone herself as Headteacher - this time starring in her very own BSA Brufts video! She's proudly representing our school in the BSA Bruft Awards, going head-to-head with dogs from boarding schools across the country. To watch Parsnip's official entry, just click here and enjoy her charm, talent, and natural headteacher energy in action. Please like and share the video to give her the very best chance of winning - every paw-print of support counts!



CONTENTS

Page 2
Parent Notices

Page 3-6
Subject Focus

Page 7-8
Boarding Life

Page 9-10
Sporting News

Page 11-13
Pre-Prep Newsletter

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

PARENT NOTICES

Friday 13 February – Start of Half Term

The school will shut at 12.00pm on Friday 14 February for Half Term. There will be no clubs, activities, games, late stay, or school buses (please make alternative pick up arrangements).

Please can you arrive at your allocated time slots for year groups and not before, otherwise the campus will become blocked. Please drive carefully as traffic is likely to be high on campus. Siblings are able to be picked up together at the earlier time slot. Please make sure your children are aware of times and venues to avoid any confusion.

Pre-Prep – 12.00pm Top car park
Year 3 – 12.00pm Martins Lane
Year 4 – 12.00pm Martins Lane
Year 5 – 12.15pm Martins Lane
Year 6 – 12.15pm Martins Lane
Year 7 – 12.00pm Reception car park
Year 8 – 12.15pm Reception car park
Boarders – 12.00pm Boarding Houses

Coffee morning

Parents and Friends Association will be holding a coffee morning on Friday 13 February in the Pavilion from 10.30-12.00. This is a great opportunity to meet PFA members, other parents, and members of the Senior Management Team, as well as find out about any initiatives. We hope to see lots of you there!

If you are able to attend please complete the form below, to help with catering numbers.

Coffee morning form



EAL PUPIL OF THE WEEK

Alejandra in Year 8 has shown excellent motivation and focus since the start of term. She is keen to get on and is clearly determined to make progress, particularly with her pronunciation, using voice notes thoughtfully to support this. In writing, Alejandra has produced a well-balanced argument, carefully reflecting on her targets and acting on feedback. Her work is well organised, with great use of adverbial phrases. A fantastic attitude to learning and progress—well done!





INTERNATIONAL DINNER









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BOARDING

The boarders enjoyed an absolutely fantastic Sunday activity trip to the Cardiff International White Water Centre, where excitement, teamwork, and adventure were in full flow from start to finish. The buzz began the moment they arrived and saw the impressive, purpose built rafting course stretching out in front of them. Designed with fast flowing channels, rolling waves, and sudden drops, the course offered the perfect blend of challenge and fun.

Once kitted out in helmets, wetsuits, and buoyancy aids, the pupils listened carefully to the instructors before heading onto the water, eager, enthusiastic, and ready for action. As the rafts launched, the energy was electric. The pupils worked brilliantly together to paddle through sharp turns, swirling eddies, and powerful surges of water. Every rapid brought a fresh burst of adrenaline, followed by shouts of encouragement, determination, and plenty of laughter.

Whether they were powering through a challenging section, recovering from an unexpected splash, or celebrating a successful run, the boarders supported one another throughout. Staff were hugely impressed with their attitude, enthusiasm, and exemplary behaviour; they represented the school wonderfully in every way.

By the end of the session, the rafts were full of happy faces, soaked wetsuits, and pupils already discussing their favourite moments, and asking when they could go again. It was a day filled with energy, positivity, and unforgettable memories, and a brilliant example of how shared adventure can bring pupils together.

A thoroughly enjoyable trip all round, with huge smiles to prove it.















PUPILS TRY CURLING!

With the Winter Olympics almost upon us, pupils had the perfect chance today to try out one of the Games' most fascinating sports: curling. Using our MPS New Age Curling set, pupils headed into the Junior Hall to slide stones, test their aim and enjoy a sport that was brand new to many of them. It was great to see so many pupils giving it a go, picking up the basics quickly and discovering just how much fun curling can be. There was plenty of laughter, friendly competition and a real sense of pupils challenging themselves to try something different. Opportunities like this help build confidence and curiosity, and with the real Winter Olympics starting soon, we hope today's session has sparked some excitement at home too. Who knows, we may even have inspired a future curling star!





HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL REHEARSAL!











DT

Members of the Laser-Cutting and 3D Printing Club have been enjoying their sessions this term. A bookmark and Noughts and Crosses board have been designed and made so far, with more to come.





This week in Food Technology, Year 8 wowed us with their Victoria Sponge creations, while Year 7 impressed with handmade fresh pasta! Fantastic teamwork, creativity, and enthusiasm from everyone. Well done all – here are some highlights!









BOARDING LIFE

HOLLIES

The Hollies boarders enjoyed an epic treasure hunt on both Friday and Saturday nights, before winding down with cupcake decorating and a cosy movie night. A massive thank you to Mrs Collins, Mrs Morgy and Miss Graham for taking a group of girls to Bath on Friday night to watch some epic netball! On Sunday, the girls were split between some brilliantly creative and energetic activities on site, while another group headed off to Cardiff for an exciting white water rafting adventure with Mr Bingham. On Wednesday, we were delighted to celebrate **Rocio's** birthday, marked with a delicious (and enormous) gluten-free cake baked by our amazing catering team! As is Hollies tradition, instead of our usual pupil shout-outs at Wednesday's house meeting, we focused entirely on the birthday girl. Each Hollies girl shared something they love or appreciate about Rocio. Highlights included her being described as smiley, warm, incredibly kind, a ray of sunshine who lights up the dorms, a wonderful sister and friend who is always there for others, and someone admired for her resilience and confidence in learning English – "starting with a little and now absolutely flying." She was also praised for her great stories, her willingness to help others with homework, and for being the best dorm mate ever.











CHESTNUT

It has been a wonderfully busy and uplifting week for our Chestnut girls, full of celebrations and shared joy. We kicked things off with a double birthday celebration for Hope and Mr Smith, complete with cake, waffles, ice cream, chocolate sauce, sprinkles, and plenty of spirited singing. Later in the week, we marked **Poppy's** birthday with an awesome homemade disco ball red velvet cake, a cheerful toast, and Lego gifts sets for everyone — a lovely touch that made the evening feel extra special. Moments like these really highlight the sense of family our boarders create together. Happy birthday **Hope, Poppy,** and Mr Smith! We were also delighted to take our Autumn Term Star Boarders, **Daphne**, and **Sophie**, out for a celebratory meal in recognition of their leadership, kindness, and positive contributions to our community. It was a lovely opportunity to celebrate their efforts and enjoy time together beyond the school grounds. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and spirit our Chestnut girls bring to each week. Their energy continues to make Chestnut House a vibrant and supportive place to be.











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BEREWALL

The Berewall boys have had their usual busy, fun filled week. The weather has continued to be awful, but the boys are putting their best foot forward and staying positive. On Friday evening, we had Mr Dyke firmly in our thoughts when we watched his beloved Bristol City. There were plenty of goals to enjoy, sadly not in the right goal…keep smiling Mr Dyke! Saturday evening was a chance to take the boys out, so we headed to Tesco for some shopping. They were given a small amount of money and in groups of three, they hunted for bargains and aimed to budget their way to have a mixed bag of confectionery and savoury snacks. They did very well, the mountain of pizza boxes was evidence of happy boys! A Saturday night movie topped off the day very nicely. The days are slowly starting to get longer, and we had a first Berewall sunset of the year, so a perfect photo opportunity. Sunday was a chance for a few of our boys to go white water rafting. They had a great time and returned home with big smiles. We will now think about half term and our packing. The next week will whizz by and with High School Musical to look forward to, we will finish the half term in great style.









CHAMPION

It has been another busy week. There has been lots of action in the sports hall most evenings. At the weekend, Mr McNulty set up a football tournament with three teams, playing over hours of football, with a league table to show who came out top. Four Champion boys did brilliantly at the South West Regional Sabre and Epee Championships at the weekend. Lots of the boys went white water rafting on Sunday and came back full of enthusiasm and stories.











SPORTING NEWS

HOCKEY

The U12 boys' hockey team travelled to Oxford on Friday 30 January to compete in the IAPS National Hockey Finals, producing a superb performance to be crowned champions after an outstanding day of hockey. Drawn in a challenging group alongside Seaford College, Bilton Grange and Abingdon Prep School, the boys made a perfect start to the tournament by winning all three group matches. Across those games they scored an impressive 11 goals without conceding, with the goals shared among six different scorers. At the other end of the pitch, the defence was resolute, and goalkeeper **Bernie S-H** produced two fantastic saves across the group stage to maintain the team's perfect record. The team's excellent preparation and attitude throughout the season were clear to see as they moved into the knockout stages. In the quarter-final against Bishop Stortford College, Millfield raced into a commanding 4–0 lead in the first half. They then showed maturity and control to see out the remainder of the game without conceding, securing a place in the semi-final. The semi-final brought a tough test against a strong Repton side. Once again, the boys played some excellent hockey, building a 4–1 lead. Despite facing real adversity and some tricky moments towards the end of the match, they held their nerve and finished as 5–2 winners to book their place in the final. The final saw Millfield face Seaford College once more, having edged them 1–0 earlier in the day in a very tight contest. Seaford played some excellent hockey, successfully nullifying the Millfield attack, and the match remained goalless at full time. Extra time and golden goal followed, with Millfield applying continuous pressure. Eventually, this pressure earned a short corner, which proved decisive. A powerful strike from **Barney G** was expertly deflected into the roof of the net by **Cooper L** to secure a dramatic and deserved victory. Well done to everyone in the U12 hockey group, who have been pushing each other to improve throughout the season, and especially to those who represented the school at this tournament. It was an excellent day of hockey, and the boys conducted themselves superbly as ambassadors for the school.



NETBALL

Despite the rain, our netball tournament went ahead. There was a strong field of entries, with all the girls playing well throughout. The Millfield team won their group and progressed through to a semi-final against Blundells, to set up a final against Kingswood; they had a narrow 3-2 win in the group, so this was going to be tough match. Unfortunately, it didn't quite go to plan, but a great day of learning and improving was capped off with some runners-up medals. A big thank you to Miss Maun for running the table in awful conditions. The Year 6 girls competed in the annual U11 MPS Netball Tournament. Both our teams displayed fantastic progression throughout the day, transferring their skills from the training court to match play situations. Both teams grew in terms of their skill repetition, tactical and game awareness, successfully finishing in 'bronze' medal positions..





The girls were in high spirits, ready to play in their first tournament of the season. In the group games, we beat, Queens, Hazlegrove and Collegiate. In the semi finals, we came across a strong Taunton team, playing with strategies, we had to overcome a different style of play, but MPS won 7-2. As always, we met the powerful Redmaids in the finals. Excellent display from both sides and with great tactical play, saw a close game, but Millfield coming out on top to win 6-3. Well done to the following girls: **Rosie T - Captain, Meilin, Elodie, Flossie Aiyanna, Denia, Cecily -Captain, Sammy, Grace and Arabella.**



CRICKET

Congratulations to the senior development girls' indoor team who by beating Kings and Wells Cathedral, go through to the next door of the national indoor competition.



EQUESTRIAN

Elizabeth C had a great day on Sunday with George arena eventing she won both classes the 80 and 95 and qualified for the National Arena Eventing Championships Final.



TENNIS

The tennis department would like to congratulate **Finn S** for his win in an U11 G5 tournament at Winscombe and **Reggie** on his third place result at the same event.

Also, a big congratulations to **Zara E** for her runner up result at a 9U G3 in Taunton.

Millfield came third in the National school's padel championship. A great result from **Oscar F, Noah F, Alfonso F, and Gruff H.**

If anybody would like to sign up for padel club on Tuesday's at 3:45pm - 5pm, please contact Henry Park at park.h@millfieldschool.com

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PRE-PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM MR JORY



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

There has been a bit of a theme in Pre-Prep over the last few weeks, with bird watching and cafés popping up across many classes. Adding to the learning this week, our own bird box has become home to a pair of blue tits who are busy building a nest. We look forward to watching this wonderful real-life learning opportunity with the hope that they will lay their eggs over the next few weeks.

This week our Tadpoles learning has taken a super-powered turn as the children explored the exciting world of superheroes. They have enjoyed listening to superhero stories, making their own masks and putting their strength and agility to the test on a superhero assault course during PE. Frogs have combined art, nature and baking in a wonderfully hands-on week. The children have been identifying different birds and painting them. Alongside this, they have been busy making delicious jam tarts for their café. Reception welcomed all families into school for a fantastic Penguin Exhibition, where children proudly shared their learning. The topic ended with a perfect penguin party!

Year 1 have been busy experimenting as they explored the properties of materials. Through practical investigations, they have been asking questions, making observations and discovering how different materials behave. Year 2 have continued the bird-watching theme by collecting data based on their observations. They have used this information to create pie charts, developing their understanding of data handling while engaging closely with the world around them.

Year 1 and Year 2 families were invited in for an open afternoon on Thursday, where they shared their learning and provided an opportunity to complete some challenges together.

Another busy week flies by full of fun filled learning. Ask your child what has been their favourite learning experience this week?

Best wishes,
Mike

KEY DATES

Wednesday 11 February

Year 2 to watch High School Musical

2-3.30pm

Friday 13 February

Half term holiday

School finishes at 12.00pm.

PRE-PREP

HOUSE TOTALS

HOUSE	ANGLES	DANES	JUTES	SAXONS
OVERALL	685	597	595	657

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TADPOLES

FOREST SCHOOL

This week the Tadpoles enjoyed a very sunny visit to Forest school...We searched for bugs and worms and some of us were brave enough to hold them! Afterwards we cooked sausages and chips in the mud kitchen, spotted some lovely snow drops, and just before it was time to leave, we climbed a really tall tree.









FROGS

BIRDS!

The Frogs are continuing to enjoy learning about birds; how to identify birds, what they like to eat and where they live. We had a glorious morning in Forest School where we looked at a real bird's nest, observing what birds use and how they weave pieces together to make their nest. During our Forest School session we made nests for our toy birds. We started with a soil base and then collected sticks to place around the outside; we also learned to snap our sticks in two if they were too long; leaves and moss were also added to the nests. Our toy birds were very happy with their nests! The Frogs have also been painting a picture of their favourite garden bird. We focused on clues to help us identify the name of the bird, observing the different colours and size. Our paintings will form part of a new display, watch this space!











YEAR 1

TESTING MATERIALS

This week we have been testing different materials' properties. We used the terms: absorbent, waterproof, opaque, transparent, bendy and not bendy. The children had a lot of fun! We have had a busy few weeks building things out of different materials. We have made wire sculptures, following our trip to the Senior School and junk models, which we designed and reviewed.









