#900
27 FEBRUARY 2026

MILLFIELD
PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

It has been a genuine delight to witness the school coming back to life again after the half term break, and cliché as it may be, to have seen the sun for a couple of days this week has made a huge and tangible difference to everyone's mood!

I hope that you have all enjoyed the week off and that the children have had a little time to refresh and recharge. It is set to be an exciting and busy second half of term. We wish all our academic scholar candidates in Year 8 the best of luck with their exams that took place this week. It is also important to acknowledge any of our younger pupils who took part in internal scholarship assessments before Half Term. It can be a difficult time when results come in, particularly for those who haven't got what they were hoping for but, as I regularly say to the children, the bumps along the way are actually the things that make us the people we are.

Indeed my message in Monday's Assembly was about determination and resilience when things don't go the way you had been hoping or working for. With the winter Olympics having just finished, I used the example of Lindsey Jacobellis, a 5-time winter Olympian snowboarder, whose silver medal at the age of 20 was seen as a huge failure because she pulled a risky trick on the final jump while being nearly 50 metres ahead of the next rider, fell, and then watched her gold medal disappear in a flurry of snow and shocked screams from her supporters in the crowd. It took her another 16 years, and 4 further Olympics full of other 'failures', for her to right her wrong and pick up gold as a 36 year old.

I explained that whatever our struggles or challenges in life, and no matter how disappointed we are with results or the way things are, the only certainty is that if you give up then nothing will ever change. I hope that the message inspired everyone in the room to focus on being resilient and determined when things don't work out the first time. The beauty of being at a school like MPS is that there will always be plenty of opportunities for the children to push themselves outside their comfort zones, to fail and to succeed.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours,
Dan

CONTENTS

Page 2
Parent Notices

Page 3-4
Subject Focus

Page 5-6
World Book Day

Page 7-8
Boarding Life

Page 9-11
Sporting News

Page 12-15
Pre-Prep Newsletter

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

This week's Picture of the week is this amazing pencil drawing by **Georgina W.**





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

PARENT NOTICES

Sports kit

On the days when children wear kit into school, please could you ensure they are wearing tracksuit trousers. If they wish to wear skins/base layers and shorts, these can be worn under trousers or changed into when required.

Absence Reporting Reminder

We would like to kindly remind parents that if your child is absent from school, an absence form **must be** completed via the Parent Portal, even if you have already notified your child's tutor. Due to recent changes in legislation, we are now required to hold a completed absence form for **every day** a child is absent from school.

If you are requesting leave of absence, particularly before the end of term, please ensure that a leave request form (also available on the Parent Portal) is completed as soon as possible.

NON-PERFECT DAD

We are pleased to invite you to a free live parent webinar on Monday 9 March 2026 at 7pm, hosted by Richard Shorter, Non-Perfect Dad.

Joining him will be gold medal-winning athlete Emmanuel Oyinbo-Coker, sharing his experience of pressure, setbacks and performance inside elite sport. The session will cover how pressure is changing in youth sport, what builds lasting confidence in young sportspeople and what parents need to understand about selection and development.

Richard will also share key insights from the sporting world over the last 12 months, and what they mean for parents supporting children in today's sporting environment.
You can register your place here.

We also welcomed renowned sport and performance psychologist Dr Josephine Perry to Millfield in 2025, to deliver workshops within our sport department. Dr Perry is the founder of '12 tools to help you be a brilliant sports parent' by clicking here.



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

SAFER INTERNET DAY 2026

As in previous year's, we celebrated **Safer Internet Day** during the week before we broke up for the half term break. This year's theme was **- Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI** and we had a whole school assembly on this very important topic. Below are some top tips that have been created for parents and carers that I thought might be of interest to some of you.

Top Tips for parents and carers

AI technology is increasingly part of all our lives, so this Safer Internet Day we are starting a conversation about how to use it safely and responsibly. Use these top tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe online.

Enjoy going online together and talk regularly about your family's online lives
The internet is amazing and can help us all to access information and entertainment. Spend time online with your child to understand how they are using technology and talk together about the good and the bad parts of being online. Talk about your own experiences and find other opportunities to get the conversation started, like stories in the news. Make sure your child knows they can talk to you about anything that they see or experience online.

Understand where AI technology is being used and the impact it can have
From summaries on search engines, to voice assistants and photo editing tools, AI powered features are being added to many of the apps and devices we use day-to-day. Look out for information and warnings notifying you where AI technology is in use or where content has been created using AI. Help your child to recognise these too. Remember, AI can make some tasks simpler but may also collect data about you and your family, or share unreliable information, so consider how to use it safely and responsibly.

Recognise what safe and responsible use of technology looks like
To use technology, including AI, safely and responsibly, it's important to reflect on the potential impact it can have on yourself and others. How does your use of technology make you feel? How can you use technology with kindness and respect for others? Does your use of technology benefit you or help you build skills? How might it affect you now, and in the future? Ask these questions of your own internet use, as well as your family's.

Stay informed with free resources
Young people have told us about the incredible ways they're using AI, but also about their worries for what it means for the future. Issues such as the environmental impact of AI, what it means for job prospects, and the threat of deepfakes can seem scary but remember, you don't need to have all the answers. Stay informed using free resources like those produced for Safer Internet Day and talk to your child about their concerns about new technology – you can always work together to find more information.

Know where to go for help if something goes wrong
Like any technology, using AI comes with risks. Some AI tools, like ChatGPT, have built-in reporting features where you can raise issues such as inappropriate or harmful content. Many social media platforms also allow you to report content you suspect has been created with AI. Additionally, AI generated content can break the law. If you see illegal images that show child sexual abuse (including AI generated images), you should report these to the IWF and on the platform where they are being shared. If someone creates an image of you or your child using AI these can also be reported on the platform where they are being shared, and AI generated nude images can be reported to Stop NCII (for images of adults) and Report Remove or Take It Down (for images of under 18s).

KIT CAR TEAM

The Year 6 kit car team have been out for their first test drive in 'The Bomber.' They started building the car in September and have recently finished the final body work designs ready for the first test runs. The first outing was a great success, getting used to the feel of the car and starting to look at ways to improve efficiency. The race is early next term so hopefully there is plenty of time to perfect their driving skills. Click this link to see the car in action!





MATHS

Whilst many of our pupils were working hard on the amazing High School Musical production, the remaining Year 6-8 pupils, during their maths lessons, were busy working in groups to get a taste of running a business. This was launched in collaboration with Number Day and the brief was to design a new wellbeing product. This required choosing a target market, creating a product and a brand and calculating costings (materials and equipment, labour, packaging and transportation costs, as well as advertising costs). Once roles were allocated within each team, the children worked through a guided booklet, over several lessons, before pitching their final product in the form of a presentation. We are really proud of how well the children engaged in the project and we certainly have several budding entrepreneurs.





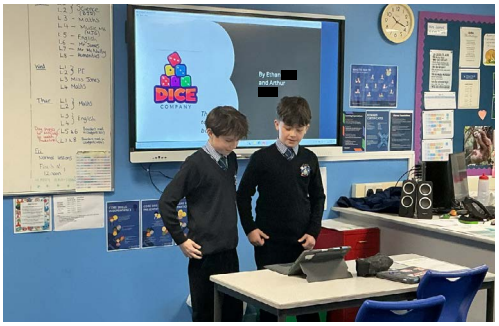










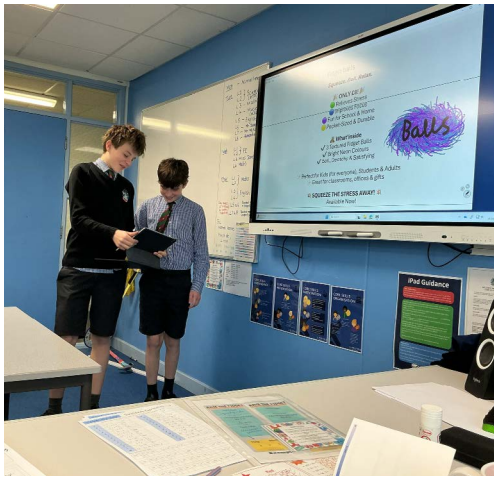




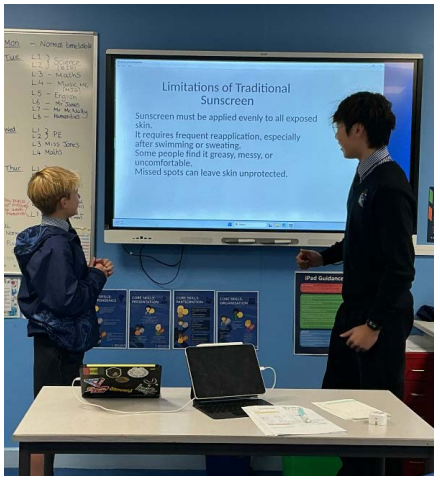




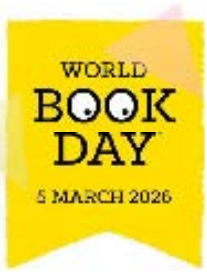








World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March. Make sure you're wearing your best book character costumes… there will be prizes!



After assembly on **Thursday 5th March**, there will be an opportunity for costumes to be showcased to the judges.

Every pupil in the school will receive a free WBD book!

Comic writer and artist Kev Sutherland is visiting on **Friday 6th March**. He will be doing 2-hour workshops with **Year 6** throughout the day. Times tbc.



Have a look at your teacher's doors to see what they're reading – ask them some questions about their books!

Cardboard tube competition! Turn a cardboard tube into the best book character! Take them to the library by **Friday 6th March**. Names MUST be on them.

Extreme reading **Friday 27th February**. Prizes for best individual photo and GT prize for best whole tutor group effort.

Golden tickets – There will be **10 Golden Tickets** hidden around school. If pupils find one, they take it to Mrs Caulfield in the library, who will ask them a bookish question. If they get it correct, they can exchange their ticket for a book! **5th-6th March.**

Heroes & Villains Match Challenge. Walk around the school to find heroes and villains. Each hero has a number code, and each villain has a letter code. When you find a matching pair, write down the letter and number on your entry form. Return completed forms to Mrs Caulfield or your English teacher. **5th-6th March.**

WORLD BOOK DAY COMPETITION

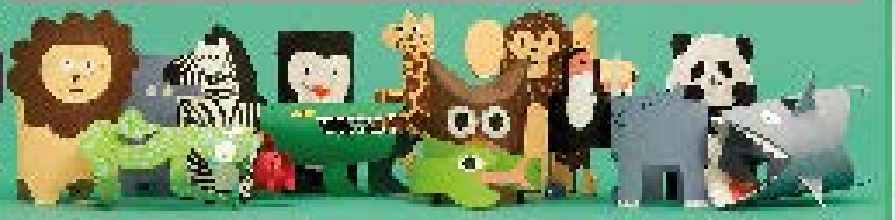
REMEMBER TO NAME YOUR ENTRY

CLOSING DATE FRIDAY MARCH 6TH

CREATE A BOOK CHARACTER USING A CARDBOARD TUBE

LOVELY PRIZES FOR THE WINNERS!

USE ANY SIZE TUBE OR MAKE ONE OUT OF ROLLED UP CARD



















PLEASE DELIVER YOUR CHARACTERS TO THE LIBRARY







OPEN TO ALL YEAR GROUPS

BOARDING LIFE

HOLLIES

It has been a short but wonderfully positive week seven in Hollies Boarding House, with the girls returning from half term looking refreshed, re-energised and ready for the second half of term. There has been a great sense of purpose around the house as everyone has thrown themselves back into academic work and a busy round of matches. Our house meeting this week began in style with the Whitney Houston challenge — do check out our Instagram page for the hilarious footage! It certainly set the tone for lots of laughter and team spirit. There has also been plenty of staff vs boarders table tennis taking place this week and that is all we are saying about the results! **Izzy** has been super busy over half term playing tennis including in a women's league tournament. We would also like to wish **Tabby** the very best of luck as she heads off to Bormio this week to experience top-level ski racing on the Winter Olympic courses. What an incredible opportunity — we are so proud of them both.









CHESTNUT

We were delighted to welcome all our boarders back after the half-term break. The house was filled once again with chatter, laughter, and that brilliant sense of togetherness we always miss when everyone's away. Even the sunshine decided to join in, giving the girls the perfect opportunity to spend time outdoors, reconnecting with friends and enjoying some fresh air and play. To keep the post-holiday spirits high, we held our belated Shrove Tuesday celebration — and it was worth every moment of the wait! The girls had a fantastic time flipping pancakes, experimenting with toppings, and creating plenty of giggles along the way. A joyful (and slightly messy!) tradition that never fails to bring everyone together. We also celebrated our Brilliant Boarder and Fabulous Flexi, **Ichika** and **Sara**, with a special meal out. The girls enjoyed a lovely evening with Mr Bingham, and their fellow Brilliant Boarders, sharing good food, great conversation, and a well-deserved moment to celebrate all their hard work and positive contributions to house life. It's been a bright and busy start to the second half of term, and we can't wait for all the moments still to come!











BEREWALL

The Berewall boys have quickly settled into their stride after a lovely half term break. We were all back by Monday evening and straight into a birthday celebration on Tuesday when **Roy** turned 13. He was very generous and treated his friends to a KFC, and in turn they repaid him with a birthday song. A couple of dry days were a chance to play outside for lots of our boys, hopefully a sign of things to come. Our Spanish boys were all set for the Champions League on Wednesday evening, shirts at the ready, they enjoyed watching their beloved Real Madrid (not all of them!) and were very happy to find out that they had won on Thursday morning. We look forward to a busy weekend with sports fixtures, white water rafting, and the Sunday programme to come.









CHAMPION

It was lovely welcoming our boys back after the half term break. It was nice to see them all catching up and sharing what they have been up to. They have quickly settled back into the swing of boarding life. We have had our own Chinese New Year celebration in the house, where Mr McNulty, Mrs H and Mrs Wren put on a feast of egg fried rice, prawn crackers, spring rolls and fortune cookies! The food went down a treat with some boys having numerous helpings! We also had a belated Pancake Day on Monday and the boys thoroughly enjoyed pancakes with a variety of tasty toppings.











SPORTING NEWS

TENNIS

This is **Meilin K**, who won the U16 Sherborne doubles trophy with her partner. She was also runner up in the U14 and U16 singles at the same tournament. **Isabelle M** and **Deina G** also competed at this tournament.



EQUESTRIAN

This is **Sienna A** having a lovely time riding and enjoying the sunshine at last.



SWIMMING

Well done to all our swimmers who took part in the IAPS Swimming Regional Heats on Thursday! The afternoon was filled with fun, smiles, and plenty of fast racing. For some, it was their very first-time representing Millfield in a team event, and we were incredibly proud of everyone's performances. We now have a nervous wait to see if our results will secure qualification for the IAPS National Finals in June. A special mention goes to Mrs Gouldby, who did a fantastic job running the entire event, which saw 17 schools take part!



FOOTBALL

A special mention to the Year 8 boys football team who competed well in the quarter finals of the County Cup this week. Although they exit the competition at this stage they take pride in having represented the school in ESFA, ISFA and IAPS tournaments throughout this season.

Additionally, we congratulate **Micah**, **Archie**, and **Cooper** on their selection for the ISFA U13 South West regional side. Having successfully trialled amongst the best players in the region, we wish them the best for the upcoming ISFA camp. Well done!



We are delighted to share some fantastic news about **Jess H** and **Amelia D**. Both girls are members of the Somerset Emerging Talent Centre and have successfully trialled for the ISFA U14 Nationals Representative Team. They will attend an Easter camp in Birmingham, with potential selection for an international fixture against Welsh Schools, and have also been invited to the ISFA Regional Representative Festival this August; a three-day national camp for top players from across the country. Amelia has also been selected for the England Talent Pathway - a superb achievement. Jess has been invited to attend a trial for the pathway, an excellent opportunity to showcase her ability. Congratulations to both girls on their outstanding progress.



HOCKEY

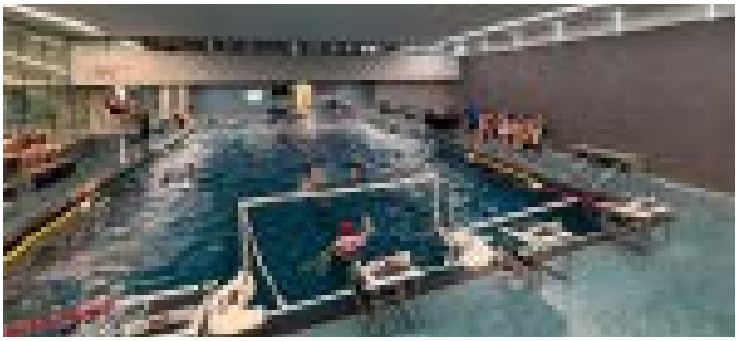
Just before half term, the U13A attended their first ever indoor tournament, or to be more precise, their first ever indoor match! The team travelled to Crawley to play some of the best indoor hockey schools in the country. It was a fantastic experience for all the team, winning four matches and losing one match by a single goal and one other to the eventual worthy winners of the day. This proved superb development for all the team and they were an absolute pleasure to coach all day.



WATER POLO

Congratulations to **Alex** and the U15 Water Polo team for coming away winners at the ESSA Semi Finals that were held in Brighton earlier this week. They are now through to the ESSA Finals being held in Northhampton March 17.





MEETING WINTER OLYMPICS MEDALISTS







GOLF

The PFA cordially invite you to the Adult & Child Golf Day on Sunday 7 June at Wells Golf Course.

Join us for a fantastic day on the course, including:

- Friendly Adult–Child Competition
- Raffle
- Auction
- Prizes

More details will follow in due course.

Please show your interest by completing the form linked below.
PFA Adult & Child Golf Day Sunday 7 June 2026 – Fill out form



#900
27 FEBRUARY 2026

MILLFIELD
PRE-PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM MR JORY



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

It has been lovely to welcome the children back after half term to brighter, spring-filled days.

We began the week with a teamwork assembly, where we congratulated Team GB for their achievements at the Winter Olympics. To help illustrate the power of teamwork, we carried out a simple but powerful demonstration using sticks, one stick alone can easily be broken, but when bound together as a team, they are strong and unbreakable. It reminded us all of the importance of supporting one another and being a Pre-Prep Team.

This week Tadpoles have been exploring the theme of the beach. Through sand and water play, they have been developing their creativity, communication and understanding of the world around them. Frogs have transformed into firefighters, embracing their role-play with great excitement while learning about people who help us in our community.

Reception have been busy completing their hot air balloon stories in preparation for World Book Day. The children have worked hard on their storytelling and are looking forward to reading them to others in Pre-Prep.

Year 1 have enjoyed their time in Forest School, where they had the unique experience of melting pewter. Year 2 have been working hard writing letters and building their understanding of division in maths.

We look forward to the next few weeks, fingers crossed for some more sunshine as we welcome in Spring.

Yours,
Mike

KEY DATES

Thursday 5 March

World Book Day

Children dress up as a book character

Friday 13 March, 2pm

Mother's Day Assembly

Friday 13 March

Exeat School finishes at 3.15pm

PRE-PREP

HOUSE TOTALS

HOUSE	ANGLES	DANES	JUTES	SAXONS
OVERALL	88	91	104	100

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

TADPOLES

PANCAKE FUN!

This week the Tadpoles have been talking about pancakes...We made our own using playdough and then Mrs Cocks visited us and made real pancakes for us to eat! We loved choosing the toppings and had a great mix of sweet and savoury. Later on, we had such fun running pancake races in the garden and flipping the pancakes in the frying pan.









FROGS

PANCAKE RACE!

The Frogs enjoyed celebrating pancake day by choosing their favourite toppings to go on their pancake, there were some unusual combinations, and joining in with the annual whole school pancake race.











FROGS

FOREST CAFE

The Frogs decided to take the cafe experience to Forest School. We lit a fire and enjoyed drinking hot chocolate and toasting s'mores in our Forest School cafe. As well as our cafe experience, some children wove wool around hearts and collected natural objects to thread through and they thought about who they loved and who they would give their heart to. What a way to end the first half of term!



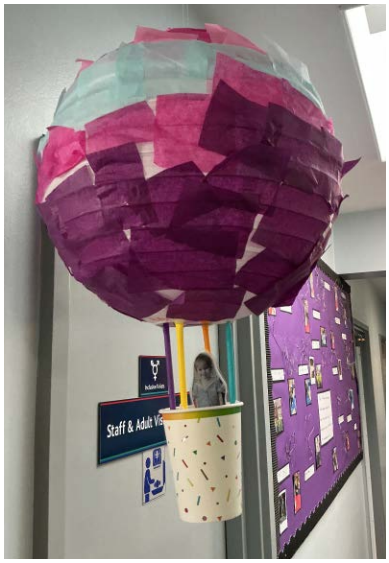




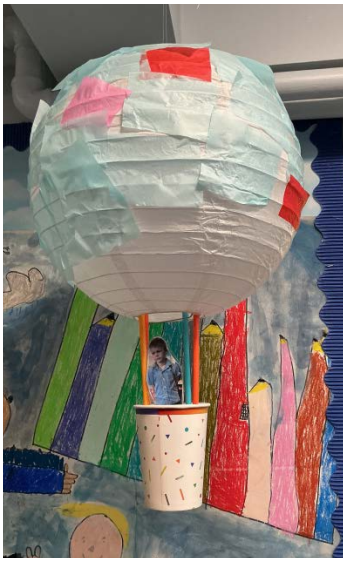
RECEPTION

MAKING HOT AIR BALLOONS

Continuing our hot air balloon topic, the children have made their own hot air balloons. Their mini me's have climbed inside and are ready to fly high on a new adventure...Where will they end up? Where will they go? All will be revealed next week for World Book Day.









YEAR 1

MAKING PEWTER SHELLS

As part of our topic, 'What's it made of?' we have been casting pewter in the forest. The children used shells to make an imprint in a clay ball and then poured the molten pewter into the mould to make a pewter treasure. They loved watching the pewter melt and then change back into a solid again.











