#916
25 SEPTEMBER 2026

MILLFIELD
PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

I am regularly amazed at how quickly time passes – it only feels like a few days ago that I was writing my welcome letter at the start of term and we are now at our first Exeat! I have been delighted by the smooth start and hopefully everyone is now acclimatised to the pace of life here at MPS.

I have spent the last two days in Birmingham at the IAPS Heads' Conference. It's always enjoyable to catch up with fellow Heads from the sector, while listening to inspirational speakers mixed in with some practical guidance. This year I was particularly struck by one of the keynote speakers. Omar Sharif's story is one that, on the surface at least, might not seem relevant to many at MPS. Growing up in central London he found school challenging and was soon swept up into a gang lifestyle and culture which was violent and ended up with him homeless and fighting for his life. Fast forward a few years and he found himself having tea with King Charles having been chosen to help guide the King's Trust on their support programmes for young people.

Strangely I was not most struck by the obvious messages of resilience, reinvention and courage, inspiring as they were. Instead Omar reminded us as educational leaders about where things had gone wrong for him. He said he felt invisible while at school – unseen, unheard and unknown, with few opportunities to discover who he really was or what his passions were. It reminded me how lucky our pupils are here to have such immense choice and limitless opportunity in academic and co-curricular life. But it also reinforced in me the key message that each child at MPS needs to feel like they have an adult they can trust at school.

So this weekend, while everyone is catching their breath, please do check in with your children and ask them who they feel most comfortable to talk to here and encourage them to do so if ever they need anything. If they genuinely don't feel there is anyone they can talk to, please do let us know so we can help with that. I will be reinforcing with our staff during inset training this afternoon the importance of connection, engagement and belonging for every one of our pupils. Thank you for entrusting your children with us – we will never underestimate just what a responsibility that is.

Have a lovely weekend and do encourage a lie in or two if possible!

Yours,
Dan

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EAL PUPIL OF THE WEEK

Jaime has made a fantastic start to the year. He is engaged in EAL lessons and showing real effort, especially with his creative 'All About Me' art profile picture. Wonderful to see him settling in so well.







PARENT NOTICES

Danes Non-Unifrom Day

There will be a non-uniform day on Thursday 1 October for Danes, the House that earned the most points during the last academic year.

PCC Coffee Morning: Let's Talk 'Thrive'

All parents are warmly invited to join us in the Pavilion on Saturday 10 October from 8.30–9.30am.

Meet our external support team, Craig (Occupational Therapist) and Heather (Speech and Language Therapist). We hope you can join us for coffee and a chance to connect again and discuss supporting phonics and maths at home. Do let us know if there is anything you would like us to focus on this year in our future coffee mornings.

Please let us know if you'll be joining us by completing this form.

Hello Yellow

Join us this Hello Yellow Friday, 9 October 2026.

Wear something yellow with your uniform and say hello as we celebrate 10 years of standing out, starting conversations and raising funds – so no young person feels alone with their mental health. Suggested donation of £2 to your Group Tutor.

Medical Centre

If your child suffers with travel sickness and requires medication, please can we ask that you bring this into the medical centre in a named box so that we can administer when needed.

BOOK FAIR

24th Sept - 6th Oct

Your child will have the opportunity to browse the fair and, if they see anything they like, they can create a wish list.

If you would like to purchase the books on their wish list, please visit www.travellingbooks.co.uk/pay or use the QR code below

Please make sure the wish list is returned to Mrs Caulfield in the library, so we can see what your child has chosen.





EQUESTRIAN EVENTS

If you are a Prep rider, these events are coming up soon:

Sunday 27 September – BS 'Just for Schools Competition' at Chard (home riders only).

Sunday 4 October – NSEA SJ at Bicton (home riders only)

Sunday 11 October - Escorted hacks at 10am and 1pm*

*Please email **fraser.s@millfieldschool.com** to be added to the SOCS register for these sessions.

MILLFIELD PREP SCHOOL

Exeat Fun Session 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Pony rides **£5.00 per Pupil**

Pony Grooming Activity

Hobby Horse Races

Juice & Biscuits

Please register your interest by emailing PrepStables@millfieldschool.com

YEAR 7 RELIGIOUS STUDIES TRIP – THE GLASTONBURY PILGRIMAGE



Friday 2 October: All pupils in Year 7

Depart school at 9am (after registration)
Return to school at 3.45pm in time for clubs

Why are we going on this trip?

The purpose of this trip is to explore the religious history and current religious profile of our local area. Students will visit Glastonbury Abbey with a guided tour, the local Mosque, St. John's Anglican Church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, The Goddess Temple, the almshouses and St. Margaret's chapel. We will be able to ask questions and explore sacred spaces in Glastonbury, and this information will be used in the Religious Studies lessons later this term when looking at religion in the UK today.

What do I need to wear?

School games kit – long trousers please, trainers and school coat. We will be outside all day, in all kinds of weather. Please bring a waterproof jacket as well.

What do I need to bring?

- A small rucksack, (you need your hands free to draw and make notes).
- A water bottle – We are doing a lot of walking and you will get thirsty. Your water bottle should only have water in it.
- If the weather forecast predicts hot weather, you will need sun cream and a cap.
- You will need a pencil or a pen for the day.
- You will pick up a packed lunch in the morning after registration.

Anything else I need to know?

No electronics / iPads / Phones.
If necessary, any hayfever tablets or other medication must be taken before we leave.
If you have an inhaler and / or epipen, you must bring them with you.

If you have any questions, please contactw:
Mrs. L. Brooke (Head of Religious Studies) Brooke.l@millfieldschool.com



Open to anyone from Year 6, 7 and 8

- **All levels welcome:** Beginners to Advanced
- **How do I sign my child up:** Complete the Booking Form Here or email Mrs. Robbins
- robbins.g@millfifledschool.com
- **Closing Date for sign up:** Thursday 1st October 2026

TRIP TO THE WAVE

With wall-to-wall sunshine, blue skies and perfect conditions, our boarders enjoyed an absolutely spectacular trip to The Wave, Bristol on Sunday. From the moment we arrived, there was a real buzz of excitement, and the day quickly developed into one of the highlights of the term so far.

For many pupils, this was their first opportunity to experience surfing, whilst others were keen to build upon skills they had already developed. Regardless of experience, every boarder threw themselves into the challenge with enthusiasm, energy and an infectious sense of fun. It was wonderful to see pupils encouraging one another and showing tremendous resilience when learning new techniques.

The coaches at The Wave were full of praise for our pupils and provided exceptionally positive feedback throughout the day. They commented on the boarders' outstanding manners, willingness to listen, determination to improve and the respect they showed to both staff and each other. Several coaches remarked that the group were an absolute pleasure to work with and represented the school brilliantly.

Once on the water, the excitement reached another level. There were cheers from the shoreline as pupils successfully stood up on their boards, navigated the waves and experienced the thrill of surfing. Confidence grew with every session, and it was fantastic to watch pupils challenge themselves, overcome nerves and leave the water beaming from ear to ear.

The atmosphere throughout the day was incredible. Friendships strengthened, new memories were created and there was a real sense of teamwork as boarders supported one another every step of the way. Whether catching the perfect wave, sharing stories between sessions or simply soaking up the sunshine, there was never a dull moment.

What made the day particularly special was the attitude of the pupils. Their behaviour, positivity and sense of adventure were exemplary from start to finish. They embraced every opportunity on offer and were a genuine credit to the boarding community.

A huge thank you to the staff who accompanied the trip and helped make it such a success. Most importantly, thank you to our fantastic boarders, whose enthusiasm, kindness and willingness to have a go made the day truly unforgettable!














YEAR 8 TRIP TO NATIONAL MUSEUM, CARDIFF

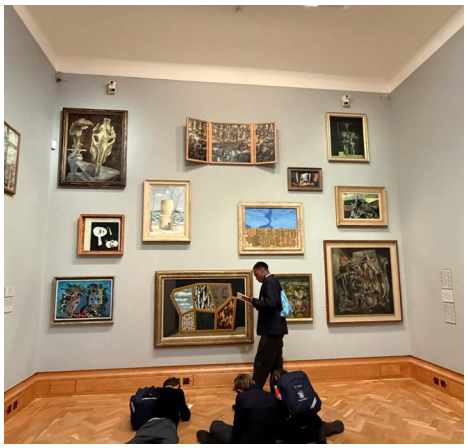
Year 8 pupils had a fantastic trip to the National Museum, Cardiff this week. Armed with a mini sketchbook, materials and missions to complete, they engaged in the Natural History exhibits and the Gallery which boasted work from some of the greats, including Cézanne, Monet and Rodin, which will feed into their project this year.



























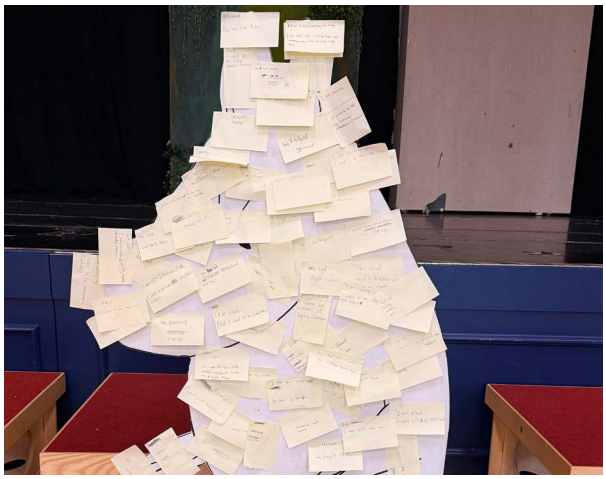


THRIVE ON FRIDAY

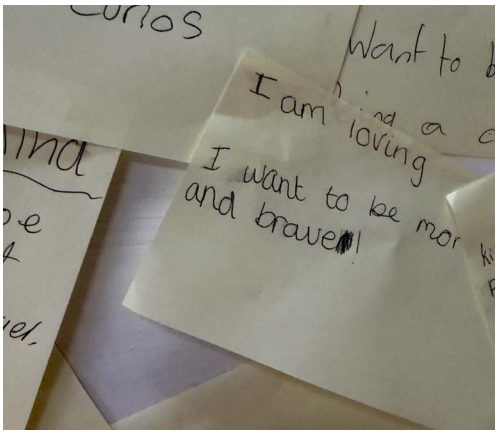
Last week's Thrive session really linked to our school value of be YOU, with a focus on thinking about who we are, being authentic. We reflected on the qualities we already have and thought about something we would like to develop or grow in ourselves, something to be more of.

Thrive is a great opportunity to build self-awareness, strengthen empathy and reflect on the impact we have on others recognising that our IQ and EQ need to work in balance.
Mr Stephenson brought in Moomin and we explored these ideas as a group, which values were focused on being inward and which were outward and ended with some breathing work and meditation. A lovely, calm way to finish Friday afternoon.
Also, a moment to continue the Head's message from our Monday assembly that we shouldn't feel we have to change who we are just to fit in. Finding the people and spaces where we feel comfortable being ourselves is so important.

I'll be sharing more about Thrive at our upcoming PCC coffee morning on Saturday 10 October, where there will be an opportunity to explore some of the ideas behind the sessions and share thoughts about how we can continue to support our young people's wellbeing, confidence and personal growth. It will also be a space for you to add to the conversation. We do hope you'll join us in the pavilion at 8.30am.







DOODLE SUMMER CHALLENGE!

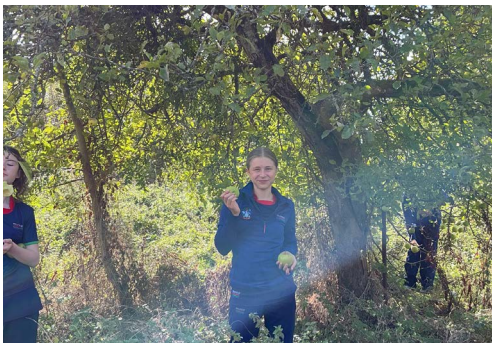
Over the summer, the children were challenged by Doodle Learning to keep their Maths and English skills sharp through their fun and engaging Doodle Maths and Doodle English Summer Challenge. We are incredibly proud of all the children who took part and dedicated time to their learning during the holidays. A huge well done to everyone who participated and worked so hard—we are delighted to celebrate your fantastic commitment and achievements!





YEAR 8 APPLE PICKING

As part of our Wednesday afternoon enrichment programme, we enjoyed an afternoon of apple picking around the school grounds. Pupils were surprised to discover so many apple trees growing in different areas of the school. Although some trees had not fared as well during the summer, many were full of ripe, tasty apples. One tree in particular proved irresistible, and we may have eaten nearly as many apples as we picked! The apples we collected were used as part of our Harvest Festival on Friday.





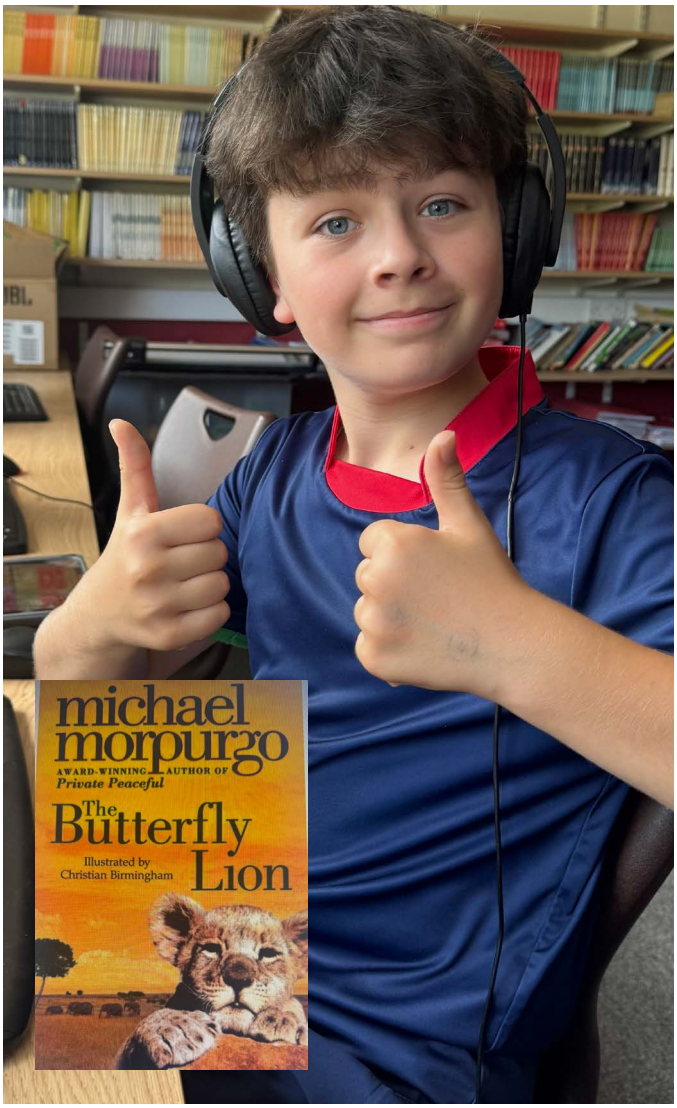
MUSIC

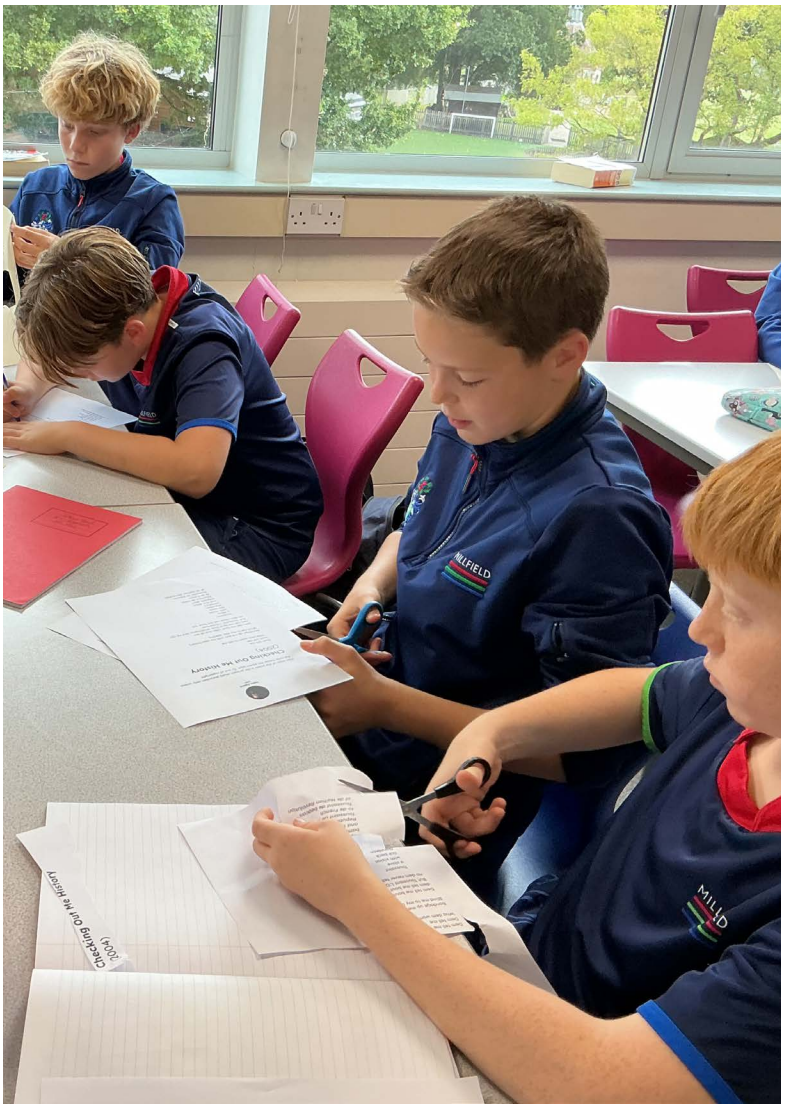
Huge congratulations to **Ozzy V** in Year 8 who has been accepted into the National Children's Orchestra on their national programme following a rigorous audition process. This is a tremendous achievement, especially as **Ozzy** has only been learning the double bass for one year, and participating in the NCO will allow **Ozzy** to play with other talented musicians in various concerts and events. We are very much looking forward to hearing more about his experiences with the orchestra over the coming year. Well done, **Ozzy**!



ENGLISH

It has been a fantastic start to the year in English, with the Year 7 and 8 pupils showing great enthusiasm and engagement across our poetry units and novel studies.
We have already seen some thoughtful discussion, creative responses and a real willingness to challenge themselves in their learning.
Pupils have also worked hard to complete some initial start of year assessments, while developing positive routines around homework, organisation and independent study.
It has been a hugely positive beginning of term, and we are delighted with the effort and attitude shown across the department.





YEAR 4 DANTASTIC

Year 4 had a super Explorers and Adventurers workshop this week with Dantastic. He spoke to us all about his adventures across all seven continents and shared some of the items he has picked up from his travels along the way. We held an Artic Fox tail, felt a reindeer skin, smelt spices and lava, held a polar bear's claw and tried on some of his special clothes to name just a few. It was a very engaging morning and the children came away inspired to be explorers themselves and curious about the world we live in. Thank you Dan!

















BOARDING LIFE

HOLLIES

Week three brought another action-packed weekend in Hollies! Mrs Morgy and Miss Tym kept everyone busy with pizza making, while Saturday evening saw the girls throwing some impressive shapes during a lively Just Dance session. Movies and talent shows added to the fun too.
A trip to The Wave was a definite highlight for our budding surfers, while those who opted for a slower Sunday at school enjoyed baking, swimming with the inflatables and plenty of time to relax together.
It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of the first quarter! We wish all our boarders—whether staying in for the Exeat programme or travelling home for the weekend—a wonderfully fun and refreshing Exeat.







CHESTNUT

We've had a wonderful week in Chestnut, filled with laughter, new experiences, and lots of special moments shared together. Saturday evening brought plenty of excitement with our onsite go-karting activity. The girls enjoyed some friendly competition, cheered one another on, and had lots of fun testing their skills. There has also been plenty of energy and laughter during our Just Dance sessions, with everyone joining in, encouraging each other, and showing off some impressive moves. Alongside the more active events, the girls enjoyed a relaxing picnic with their Jellycats, spending time outdoors and watching a beautiful sunset together. On another evening, everyone enjoyed a cosy hot chocolate treat, providing a chance to unwind and enjoy each other's company. As always, Jupiter was a firm favourite throughout the week, bringing comfort, joy, and companionship to Chestnut. We wish all of our girls and their families a wonderful and relaxing Exeat, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another fun-filled week.

We are incredibly proud of how well everyone has settled in and look forward to all the opportunities, adventures, and memories that this year will bring. Here's to a fantastic term ahead!





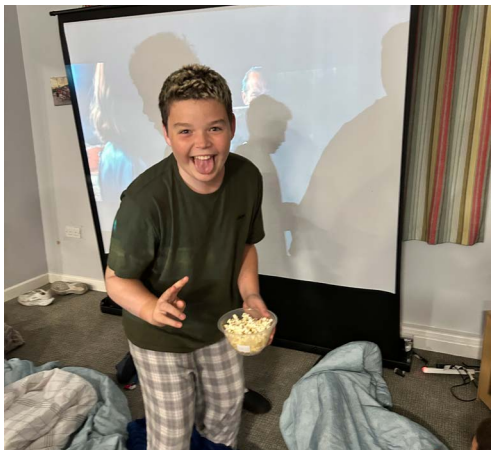


BEREWALL

What a weekend, as summer returned and we were graced with balmy temperatures and sunny skies. Following their exertions on the pitches on Saturday afternoon, the boys settled down to relax in front of a film as the silver screen of the Berewall Roxy flickered into life for the first time this year. Popcorn at the intermission ensured bellies were full and energy levels were replenished. Sunday morning saw more energy being filled, with a cooked breakfast in the house before the boys headed out for the day. After supper, we retired to the woods for a couple of games of manhunt and s'mores around the campfire. On our return to the house, it was great to see Mo and Kyoya, who had popped in from the senior school to say hello. A cracking weekend all round!








CHAMPION

Another busy week here for the Champion boys! It has been great to have some dry weather, which has allowed the boys to make the most of the outdoor space right up until bedtime! We celebrated Amari's birthday with a lovely chocolate cake. Happy birthday, Amari! The weekend was an exciting one, with some boys heading off to The Wave, while others enjoyed a range of on-site activities, including a fun swim with inflatables and some cookery. There was also some cricket in the sports hall with Mr Duke, as well as some cosy den-building on Sunday. In the evening, some of the boys took the go-karts for a spin with Mr Price. The boys have made a brilliant start to the term and are now ready for a well-deserved exeat weekend!







SPORTING NEWS

GOLF

Three of the golfers headed to Drayton Park in Abingdon to play in the first competition of the academic year, the Independent Schools Golf Association Junior Schools Cup. **Juan MA** was playing in his first competition for the school, alongside **Ben T** and **Cole D**, who had both played at this course in June in a separate event. The format saw the top two scores from the three pupils count towards the team score. All three started well, playing some steady golf, and as the boys entered the back nine, **Juan** was in strong contention for the individual prize. **Juan** finished with a score of 79 to secure an excellent third-place finish individually. Ben was undone by one hole but responded well to finish with an 84 and secure a solid top-10 finish. **Cole** played well but couldn't quite improve on **Juan MA's** and **Ben T's** scores, leaving a very close leaderboard, with Millfield finishing fourth overall in the team competition. A great start to the year.





EQUESTRIAN

Elle and **Mary** enjoying their riding session.



CROSS COUNTRY

On Tuesday, our Year 7 cross-country runners welcomed a team from All Hallows School. The weather was pleasant, so this was not yet the traditional muddy cross-country race. **Jonah B** dominated the race and is looking strong as the season gets underway. Charlie C had a close battle through the forest with the leading All Hallows runner. We ran the boys' and girls' races together. Ignacio was our first runner back, with **Gracie** and **Bella** just behind him.







FOOTBALL

The U13 girls played their first game of the season, a highly competitive match against Matravers School. The girls showed great fighting spirit to come back from two goals down and win 5–4 in dramatic fashion with the last kick of the game.



It was also a highly competitive game for the Year 7/8 mixed-year girls' team, who again came from behind to win! It was lovely to see both teams coming together and enjoying some food after the match, all in the spirit of the game.



On Wednesday, the U13 boys competed in the Bryanston School seven-a-side tournament. They played against some of the best schools in the area in several highly competitive games. Unfortunately, after a tight final finished 0–0, the boys ended up as runners-up following an agonising penalty shootout. Throughout the day, despite facing some adversity, the boys represented themselves and the school superbly. They can be proud of their efforts. Da iawn boys!



HOCKEY

A huge well done to the U12C team for an excellent MPS tournament.
The girls showed great teamwork and enormous enthusiasm throughout the day.





The U12B girls hockey team came in 1st place in the MPS hockey tournament on Saturday! The girls are constantly improving their skills and teamwork! Everyone played well and they should be proud of themselves.



SAILING

It was brilliant to be back out on the water at Portland with the MPS Sailors! They've been getting to grips with their tacks and learning how to rescue themselves in the event of a capsize. It wsa a lovely day for a swim in the sea!







RUGBY

Our Year 3 and 4 boys enjoyed a fun and competitive match against All Hallows. It was fantastic to see all the boys playing with intent, enthusiasm and a real determination to put their skills into practice.
Throughout the match, the boys demonstrated excellent teamwork and sportsmanship, while working hard to apply the skills and techniques they have been developing in training. There were some fantastic examples of individual skill, alongside some impressive passages of teamwork and communication.
Most importantly, the boys showed a positive attitude from start to finish, supporting one another and thoroughly enjoying the experience. It was great to see their confidence growing as the match progressed, and they should be very proud of their efforts.





SWIMMING

On Saturday morning, 22 swimmers competed in the Somerset County 100m IM. As this was their first race of the season, excitement levels were high. The swimmers' hard work, focus on technique, and commitment to developing their skills throughout pre-season and the start of term paid off, with 91% of swimmers achieving a personal best time. The afternoon was filled with fun and team spirit during the annual Somerset County Relays, with an impressive 44 swimmers taking part. It was fantastic to see so many involved and supporting one another. What a fantastic start to the swimming season!



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MILLFIELD
PRE-PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



KEY DATES

Thursday 1 October - Individual and Sibling Photos

School uniform to be worn.

Friday 9 October - Hello Yellow Day

Fundraising and raising awareness to support young people's mental health. Children to wear something Yellow- donation £1.

MESSAGE FROM MR JORY



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

This week in Pre-Prep has been all about Harvest, and our children have enjoyed a wonderful range of seasonal learning experiences. From welly walks and Forest School adventures to visits to our orchard. We continued our Harvest learning with an assembly all about apples, to celebrate Apple Day. The children discovered fascinating apple facts, enjoyed some fun activities and even experienced a little bit of apple magic! In the classrooms, learning continued through a variety of apple-themed activities, including counting, printing, painting, stacking, rolling and, of course, making delicious apple crumble. Be sure to ask your child what they enjoyed most.

We finished the week with our annual Harvest Celebration in the Prep Assembly Hall. The children performed with great confidence, singing their songs and reciting poems beautifully. We were delighted to welcome so many parents and relatives to share in this special occasion and are incredibly proud of all the children for their enthusiasm and bravery on stage.
A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us and for your generous food donations. Your contributions will be shared with our local food bank and will help support members of our wider community. Thank you for your kindness and support.

Yours,
Mike

PRE-PREP

HOUSE TOTALS

HOUSE	ANGLES	DANES	JUTES	SAXONS
OVERALL	507	454	520	456

TADPOLES

HORSES

The Tadpoles had a trip to the stables this week. We took the horses some apples for a snack and all got a rosette to take home. Thank you to Mrs Fraser and the stables team for a lovely visit.





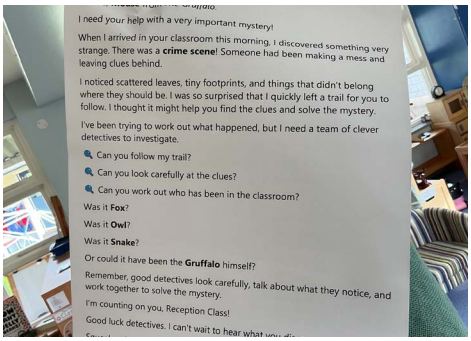




RECEPTION

CRIME SCENE

On Monday, the children arrived at school to discover a letter from a mouse alongside a mysterious crime scene. The mouse was asking for our help, and it soon became apparent that he was the mouse from The Gruffalo. The children eagerly investigated the scene using their magnifying glasses and engaged in some fantastic discussions about what they thought might have happened. Their ideas and observations were thoughtful, imaginative, and full of curiosity.



I need your help with a very important mystery!

When I arrived in your classroom this morning, I discovered something very strange. There was a **crime scene**! Someone had been making a mess and leaving clues behind.

I noticed scattered leaves, tiny footprints, and things that didn't belong where they should be. I was so surprised that I quickly left a trail for you to follow. I thought it might help you find the clues and solve the mystery.

I've been trying to work out what happened, but I need a team of clever detectives to investigate.

- Can you follow my trail?
- Can you look carefully at the clues?
- Can you work out who has been in the classroom?

Was it **Fox**?

Was it **Owl**?

Was it **Snake**?

Or could it have been the **Gruffalo** himself?

Remember, good detectives look carefully, talk about what they notice, and work together to solve the mystery.

I'm counting on you, Reception Class!

Good luck detectives. I can't wait to hear what you











FROGS AND RECEPTION

APPLES

On Tuesday, the Frogs and Reception children visited the orchard to collect apples ready to celebrate Apple Day, a harvest celebration all about apples. On Wednesday Mr Jory shared the story 'Ten Apples Up On Top!' by Dr Seuss and we enjoyed some apple themed activities throughout the morning. We baked a delicious apple crumble, created apple faces using a variety of different mediums and focused on number recognition by dotting apples on a tree. An apple-tastic time was had by all!









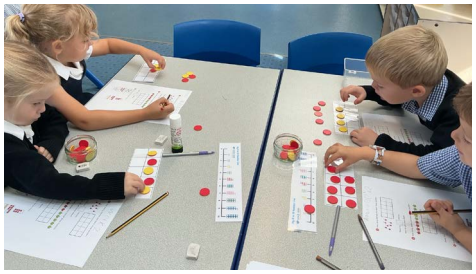





YEAR 1

WORKING HARD

This week, Year 1 have been working hard in their maths and handwriting lessons. It has been lovely to see the children becoming increasingly independent in their learning and taking pride in their work.







YEAR 2

APPLE DAY

We had a lovely day celebrating Apple Day with the rest of Pre-Prep. We picked apples, made bird feeders and decorated apples. We also made some delicious bread.



