#918
09 OCTOBER 2026

MILLFIELD
PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

As the term continues to hurtle along, and with half term rapidly approaching, it has been great to be around the campus this week to take in all that has been happening. Our Open Mornings, last Friday for the Pre-Prep and Saturday for the Prep, were very positive days and I was delighted by the feedback I received from prospective parents about our Year 8 guides – they can be so proud of the impression they made on our visitors.

It was a busy day yesterday with PEBE hosting some brilliant information sessions for girls and parents about sports bras, and last night we hosted our first in-person parents' evening of the year for our Year 8s. The mood was extremely positive and it was lovely to hear about the excellent start to the term our oldest pupils have made.

A significant focus for the staff and pupils over the past weeks has been preparing for our House Singing competition next Friday which is always a highlight of the school calendar. It is without doubt one of our most popular events, and parents who have been with us for some time will understand some of the challenges we have around capacity and ticketing. This year, following feedback and reflection on last year's approach, we will be trialling a different strategy around ticketing. Please look out for a separate email about this which will be shared shortly.

Finally, thank you for all the kind and thoughtful messages I have received following my news earlier in the week. As I have said to many, it is not a decision I have taken lightly but it feels like the right time for me and my family to explore something new. The school is in superb shape and I have no doubt there will be some outstanding candidates for the role. In the meantime, I am fully committed to giving my all for the pupils, for the staff and for you in this wonderful community until August next year.

I look forward to another action-packed week before we break up for half term and a chance for everyone to catch their breath and recharge!

Have a great weekend when it arrives.

Yours,
Dan

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

This week's Picture of the Week is by **Ichika** in Year 7.



EAL PUPIL OF THE WEEK

Catalina in Year 7 has shown an outstanding work ethic in EAL and is always willing to go the extra mile. Nothing is ever too much for her, and she consistently demonstrates a forward-thinking attitude. Her good communication skills and positive approach have been wonderful to see.



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

House Singing

We are delighted to invite parents and guardians to our annual House Singing competition on Friday 16 October between 11am-12pm.

A separate email will be sent to parents detailing the ticket arrangements.

Car parking

If you are attending House Singing please can you park in the following car parks:

Years 3-6 parents - please use the pavilion car park and then walk up to the Sports Hall. Your child will return to their classroom with their group tutor after the event, please can you collect them from Martins Lane.

Years 7-8 parents - please use the reception car park where possible and the pavilion car park once the reception car park is full. Your child will return to their classroom with their group tutor after the event, please can you collect them from the reception car park.

Pick up arrangements

For those not attending House Singing 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 – 12pm Top car park
Year 3 – 12pm Martins Lane
Year 4 – 12pm Martins Lane
Year 5 – 12.15pm Martins Lane
Year 6 – 12.15pm Martins Lane
Year 7 – 12pm Reception car park
Year 8 – 12.15pm Reception car park
Boarders – 12pm Boarding Houses

The school will shut at 12 noon on Friday 16 October for half term. There will be no clubs, activities, games or late provision.

Attire

Pupils will be required to wear formal school uniform.



Millfield Prep Sponsored Swim Event for Glastonbury and Street Lions – 11 October 2026

Millfield Prep boarders will be taking part in a Sponsored Swim Challenge in support of Glastonbury and Street Lions on Sunday, 11th October 2026, as part of the regular boarding activity programme.

Boarders will compete on behalf of their competitive houses, swimming as many lengths as possible within a set time period to help raise funds for this wonderful local charity. It promises to be a fun, energetic, and community-focused event, with plenty of friendly house rivalry along the way.

To support the fundraising effort, a £5 entry fee will be charged to each participating boarder and deducted directly from their house pocket money account.

We are keen to ensure that every boarder can take part, regardless of swimming ability. Pupils will be grouped accordingly, and those who are less confident in the water will have access to floats and noodles, ensuring the event is inclusive, enjoyable, and accessible to all.

We are delighted to be supporting such a superb local charity and hope to see as many boarders involved as possible. In addition to the entry fee, a GoFundMe page has been created for anyone who would like to make an additional donation and help us raise even more money for this worthy cause. Please see the following link:

https://gofund.me/b62599868

We look forward to what promises to be a fantastic afternoon of swimming, teamwork, house spirit, and fundraising.

Saturday Sporting Commitments – Years 4-8

Following half term, we will continue to consider requests for absence from Saturday School to attend external sporting commitments.

Saturday lessons form an important part of a pupil's education and, whilst we recognise the value of external sporting commitments, we aim to balance these opportunities with the benefits of regular participation in the Saturday academic programme. As such, we would not normally expect pupils to miss academic time on a regular basis for lower-level sporting competitions.

As a general principle, absences will only be authorised for pupils competing at academy, regional or national standard. Participation at JPL or county level may be authorised on an occasional basis for significant events, such as major tournaments or finals, but not for regular fixtures.

Requests relating to grassroots sport will not normally be approved and will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Whilst we remain committed to considering each request on its individual merits, our expectation is that pupils attend school each Saturday. Please continue to submit requests via the Parent Portal.

14TH OCTOBER 2026

HALLOWEEN SHOW JUMPING COMPETITION

1pm Start @ The Equestrian Centre
Please sign up: PrepStables@millfieldschool.com

Class 1 : Poles	Class 4 : 65cm
Class 2 : 50cm	Class 5 : 70cm
Class 3 : 60cm	Class 6 : 75cm

All riders on our riding Programmes are welcome





CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION!

Mr Thornburn is looking for a new design for this year's Christmas card!

It must be:

- Portrait or landscape
- Created on A4 paper
- Be Christmassy!



All years welcome

Deadline: Monday 2nd November

Hand entries into Ms Pocock in Art Room 1 by 4pm with your full name, year group & title of artwork.

Sunday Hack Around Campus

11th October 2026

10am or 1pm

Please sign up in the riding office or email PrepStables@millfieldschool.com

For any Riders on one of our riding programmes you are welcome to sign up to the hack this weekend.



CELEBRATING CREATIVE MINDS

Some minds like straight lines, some take the scenic route.
This week, our assembly marked the start of Dyslexia Awareness Week which highlighted **equity** and the importance of recognising that everyone is different. We explored the idea that being different isn't weird, it is simply **unfamiliar**. As part of the assembly, Mrs Jacoby explored neurodiversity including dyslexia and the different ways in which people think, learn, communicate and express themselves. The message was that dyslexia is just one part of a person and does not define who they are or what they can achieve.

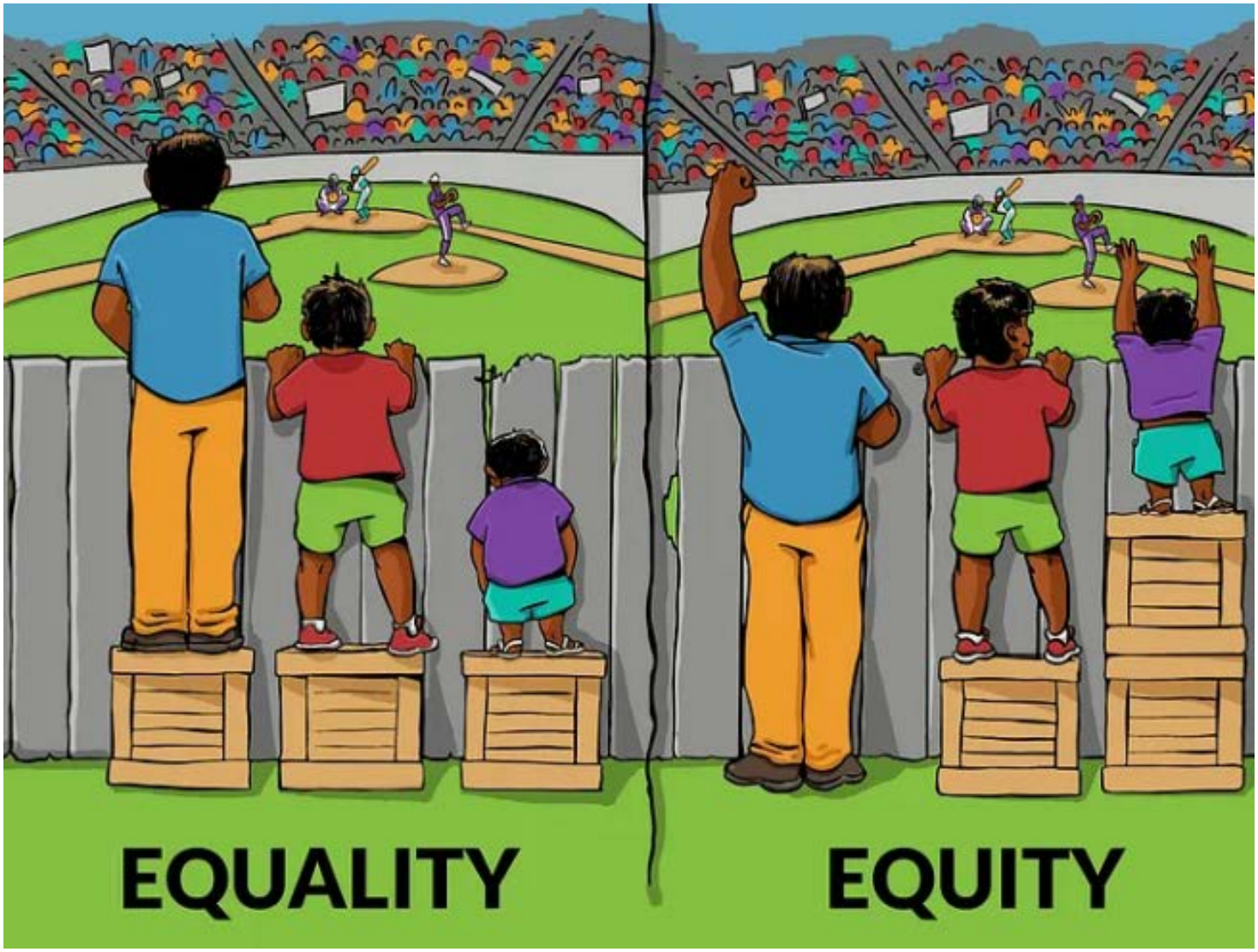
We talked about how some people may need more time, different tools or a different approach to learning. This is equity in action: being fair does not always mean giving everyone the same; it means **giving everyone what they need to have an opportunity to succeed.**

We celebrated the strengths that can come from thinking differently. Creativity, imagination, curiosity, problem-solving and the ability to make connections that others may not see. Our hope is that the children leave with an important message: **there is more than one way to learn, more than one way to think, and more than one way to fly.** Let's continue to celebrate our differences, be curious about what we don't yet understand, and make sure that every child feels that they belong. So here's to every creative mind; sometimes the biggest ideas come from seeing the world in a different view.

If you would like to learn more about dyslexia and how you can support your child at home, the British Dyslexia Association (BDA) has a wealth of trusted, practical information for parents and carers, which is a useful starting point for families. It explains dyslexia, the process of identifying and supporting dyslexia, ideas for supporting your child at home, and how parents and schools can work together. It also celebrates the individual strengths and abilities of children with dyslexia.
The BDA website British Dyslexia Association has helpful information about reading, spelling, homework, school support and ways to encourage your child's confidence and independence. Another useful resource to check out is Education - Parents - Made By Dyslexia

Suggested reading

Parenting a Dyslexic Child – by Gillian Ashley, with a foreword by Gavin Reid
A useful book for parents who would like to develop their understanding of dyslexia and explore practical ways to support their child.
The Gift of Dyslexia – Ronald D. Davis
Explores dyslexia from a strengths-based perspective and encourages readers to think about the creative and visual strengths that can accompany a dyslexic way of thinking.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

This week, the Year 8 Heads of School and Games Houses took the food that we had received for the Harvest Festival to the Love Glastonbury Food Bank. **Quynn** wrote that it was a good experience to meet Jane, who coordinates the donations and runs the food bank as well as the attached shop. The food bank was really grateful to receive the donations, especially as it is starting to get cold and there are a lot of people who need food packages in the colder months. Jane explained how the volunteers put together packs of food for individuals and families who are referred to them, and rely on people delivering them. She explained that it wasn't only groceries that are important for people, but also other toiletries or household items etc. She also explained how the shop works for people who have low income as well as the packages that they put together.

Thank you to all our community who donated to the food bank, and thank you to the school leaders who helped to deliver the food and learned about the difference that volunteers in our community make to peoples' lives.







BEATS @ BREAKFAST

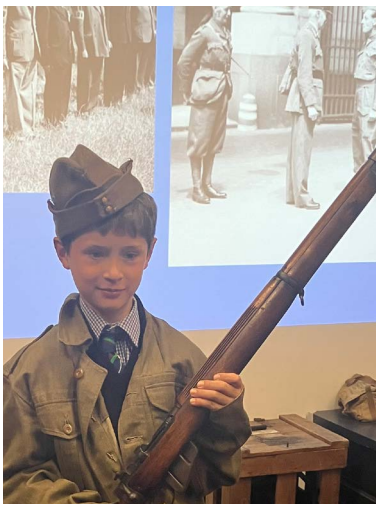
It was a pleasure to host our 'Beats@Breakfast' concert on Saturday morning, which featured a wonderful variety of instrumental performances from across the school. Our pupils performed with great confidence and enthusiasm, showcasing not only their musical talents but also the dedication and hard work they have put into their lessons and practice.
The audience enjoyed a fantastic selection of performances, and it was particularly rewarding to share the morning with prospective parents and families. We are incredibly proud of all the pupils who took part and represented the Music Department so brilliantly. I am sure our visitors left feeling inspired and very impressed by the talent and commitment on display.



YEAR 5 TRIP TO THE TANK MUSEUM

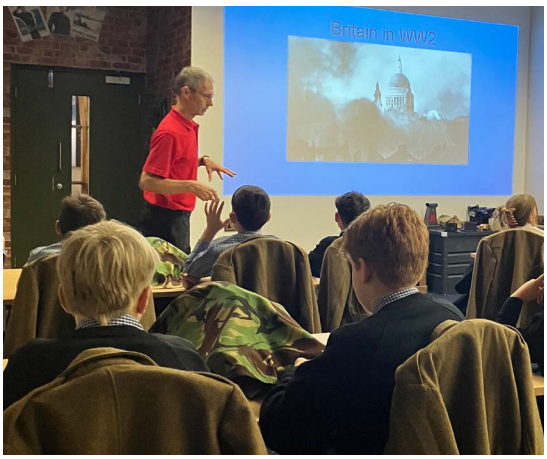






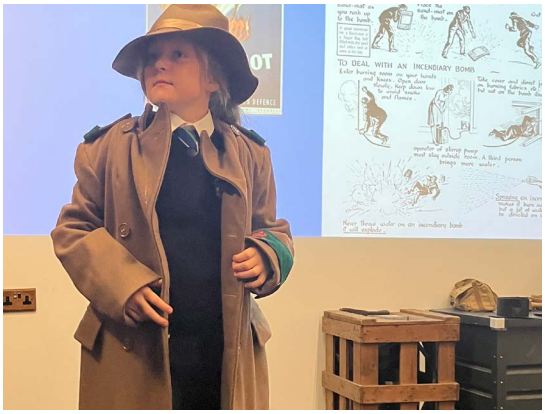












SCIENCE

Year 8 have been lighting fires this week in Science, learning about the fire triangle, the combustion equation, and what happens if we try to put out a chip pan fire with water (it's not good!).

End of topic tests will be coming up soon for both Year 7 (Cells) and Year 8 (Chemical Reactions), so we are looking forward to seeing some wonderful revision resources being made by pupils next week to help them.

For tips on how to revise, check out BBC Bitesize, the Pupil Intranet, and the Showbie revision folder.











ICT

It has been a busy and productive start to the term in Computing and ICT, with a strong focus on helping pupils develop the knowledge and skills needed to stay safe and responsible online.

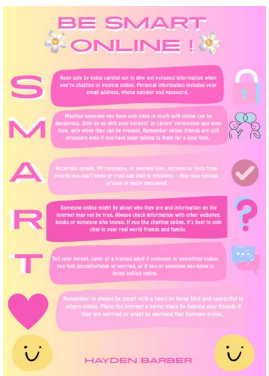
Following the excellent online safety presentations delivered by SWGfL (South West Grid for Learning) at the beginning of term, each year group has explored a different aspect of digital citizenship and online safety.

Year 6 have been learning how to Be SMART Online, focusing on the key messages of Safe, Meeting, Accepting, Reliable and Tell. Through class discussions and activities, pupils considered how to protect themselves online and make sensible choices when using digital technology.

In Year 7 we have been exploring the importance of thinking carefully before sharing content online through the THINK before you Post framework. We have discussed whether online posts are True, Helpful, Inspiring or Improving, Necessary and Kind, and reflected on the impact that their digital footprint can have on themselves and others. Year 8 pupils have focused on Digital Resilience, learning how to Understand, Know, Learn and Recover when faced with challenges online. Lessons have encouraged the pupils to develop confidence in managing online experiences and responding positively when things do not go to plan.

Following these discussions, pupils put their learning into practice by using Canva to design informative and creative posters based on their chosen themes. The resulting work showcased not only their understanding of online safety, but also their growing digital design skills. We look forward to building on these important topics throughout the year as we continue to help our pupils become safe, responsible and confident users of technology. Here are some examples of the pupils' work.







BOARDING LIFE

HOLLIES

Week Five began with another fantastic weekend, including plenty of bouncing, flipping and giggling on the trampolines at AirHop, followed by an essential trip to Tesco to top up the Hollies tuck boxes! Huge well done to our skiiers, **Cata, Sammy and Indi** who represented the school in Hemel Hempstead this week.
Each week during our house meeting, the boarders have an opportunity to give a "Student Shout-Out" to someone who has impressed, encouraged or supported them. As we also celebrate World Mental Health Day this week, we thought it would be the perfect time to share their lovely words. After all, what better way to promote wellbeing than by noticing the good in others and hearing some kindness from our Hollies sisters?

- **Monroe** shouts out **Tilly** for being so great at hockey.
- **Olga** shouts out **Cecily** for being so supportive.
- **Cecily** shouts out **Michelle** for helping her learn her lines.
- **Anna** shouts out **Marta** for being such a kind person.
- **Marta** shouts out **Anna** for her kindness and **Ellie** for being a wonderful Year 7.
- **Cata** shouts out **Ellie** for making their dorm even better.
- **Savannah** shouts out **Monroe** for scoring a great goal in the match.
- **Michelle** shouts out **Indi** for settling in so well, getting to know everyone and helping others.
- **Ayianna** shouts out **Bea** for helping with hair braiding.
- **Tilly** shouts out **Isa** for being kind and resilient.
- **Olga** shouts out **Savannah** for her kindness.
- **Savannah** shouts out **Tilly** for cleaning up the kitchen without being asked.
- **Monroe** shouts out **Ale** for being a great friend.








CHESTNUT

We had a lovely week in Chestnut, filled with fun, laughter, and special moments shared together.
A highlight of the weekend was our pizza party, where the girls enjoyed creating their own pizzas before cooking them in the pizza oven. It was wonderful to see everyone getting involved, choosing their favourite toppings, and proudly enjoying the finished results together.
The girls also had great fun during an evening of homemade milkshakes and a biscuit decorating competition. There was plenty of creativity on display, as well as lots of laughter and friendly competition as everyone showed off their decorating skills.
Over the weekend, the girls fully embraced The Traitors, enjoying both watching the programme and taking part in their own themed activities. Collecting shields, working together, and trying to solve the mystery created plenty of excitement and kept everyone engaged throughout.
We were also delighted to celebrate two very special birthdays this week. A huge happy birthday to **Iris and Viola**, who both enjoyed celebrating with their friends in the house. The celebrations included plenty of delicious cake, treats, and happy memories, making their birthdays extra special.
It's been lovely to see the girls enjoying time together, sharing lots of laughter, and making special memories. Their kindness and friendship help make Chestnut such a happy and welcoming home.








BEREWALL

The Berewall boys have had yet another full on, busy week. The weekend arrived in time for us to relax and enjoy and Saturday night movie with a mountain of Pot noodles and ice lollies. The boys dispatched them in record time and settled down in front of the big screen. Sunday morning was a chance for a welcome lie in and a lazy morning. There was a mix of outside play and chilling inside, and then it was on to Airhop. The boys had a great time and can't wait to go back again. The evening saw the boys make their very own pizzas. They were worth the effort and enjoyed very much. We gave a warm welcome to **Matvei** , who has joined us and settled in very nicely. We have had two birthdays this week. On Monday, **Jaime** celebrated in style with a pile of donuts and a serenade from the Berewall choir. The following day, we had another new teenager in the house, as **James** enjoyed a great day for his 13th. The singing was extra loud too! Maybe just in time for house singing! Happy birthday boys, so glad we all got to celebrate with you. As we near the first half term, we are making a big effort on using our time efficiently. Prep is a big focus and making sure our jobs are done on time to be prepared for school. A big well done to all of our boys. Have a great weekend.









CHAMPION

Another week has flown by in a whirlwind! We re-launched "Boarders of the Week" and selected four boys who have been making a fantastic effort to keep their dorms tidy and make their beds each morning. We treated them to some well-deserved pizza. Well done to **Alejandro, Oliver, Louis and Shawn**! Keep up the great work!
We also celebrated **Tommy's** birthday this week with a delicious red velvet cake (great choice, Tommy!) and some pizza. Happy birthday, **Tommy**!
On Saturday, some of the boys enjoyed a game of football as the sun went down. However, we discovered that some were so tired after a busy week that they opted for a Saturday afternoon nap instead!
We also had some fantastic success from our Champion fencers, who returned after a long day on Sunday with a brilliant haul of medals. Well done to everyone involved!
Air Hop on Sunday was a great way to round off the week, and the boys had a brilliant time.









SPORTING NEWS

CROSS COUNTRY

It has been another busy week for the runners. Monday was the first round of the English Schools Cup competition. Both teams have made it through to the regional final and fingers are crossed that they will make it through to the national finals. It will all be about how well they can pack together as a team, as every position counts towards their final total. The following day, whilst most of the cup team rested, we hosted Wells, All Hallows and Hugh Sexey's schools for a senior race. It was the longest distance we have raced so far this term and our runners showed that their endurance has already improved, as they still looked strong at the end. **Jonah** had another strong run, supported by **Massimo**. The girls were racing with the boys, with **Gracie** and **Florence** finishing in the top ten. Another busy week next week, and it looks like we might be getting some proper cross country weather to run in!















RUGBY

Well done to the Year 3 boys who have made a great start to the season. On Saturday, we hosted the Millfield Prep Festival and it was an opportunity for them all to learn more about the game, whilst scoring lots of tries and making countless tags!



TENNIS

The Prep tennis players had a strong weekend of competition with **Finn S** winning a 11U Grade 4 in Abingdon, **Monty G** winning a 16U Grade 4 in Taunton, and **Reggie O** finishing second in an 11U Grade 4 at East Dorset.
A big congratulations to all three boys. It is great to see the work they put in, both on and off of the court, being taken into matches.



HOCKEY

On Saturday the U11 girls teams headed over to Queens Taunton for some tournament action.
We had teams in both sections of the event. Our B team played games that were eight minutes long. This is a tough format as it is hard to recover from any errors in such a short time. They played a shape that protected their goal and didn't concede any goals throughout the matches. They found their scoring stride in the last two matches and they showed great determination as they became tired in the final game. Overall, they finished third. They had beaten the team that won, but the 0-0 draws had hurt their points score.
The A team played on the other pitches and played some very expansive attacking hockey. This bodes well for their upcoming tournaments. They entered into the first and second place play-off match against a team that they had drawn against in the round robin part of the event. At full time, it was 1-1, and they entered into the dreaded penalty shoot-out. The supporters found this very stressful, but they should not have worried, as the girls came out on top. The whole event was a great experience for them to take into their upcoming tournaments. Thank you to the parents who were able to support the girls on the sidelines throughout the morning.







EQUESTRIAN

NSEA Addington Q

This weekend, a team of three riders, **Oliver, Toby** and Zosia from Millfield, joined forces to compete in the 85cm class, resulting in a win with three well-ridden rounds of showjumping! **Oliver** was also third individually across the 75cm and 85cm classes, which is a super achievement and earns him further qualifications for the Champs!

We are delighted with the result for our riders. They have shown real determination and consistency with their training, which is paying off.



FOOTBALL

This week we celebrated double success as our U13 boys matched the U13 girls, winning the Regional IAPS Tournament and qualifying for the National Tournament. The boys played an exciting brand of football. It was great to see that the school is not just associated with sporting success, but starting to be associated with an eye-catching style. All players were terrific in a fantastic team display in the final.
Well Done to **Freddie, Fin, Barney, Zac, Anthony**, **Toby, Ted, Maverick, and Raffy**.



U8s and U9s

Wow! What a brilliant afternoon for all our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils. They played some superb football and are clearly developing game by game. A special mention to our U8 team, who played against three older teams and more than held their own. A very good afternoon! Thank you to Mr Sweet and Mr Lovell for their support.





The U13 boys won an eight goal thriller away at Pilgrims school. Special mention goes to **Toby W** for his long range spectacular goal!



The U9 boys had lots of fun at football this week playing Brookside School. Special mention to **Harry** who played football on his birthday!





It was great to see both our Year 6 boys and girls playing at the Milton Abbey Festival. They all represented the school brilliantly, showing great determination throughout the day. They should all be very proud of their efforts. Well done to Mr Price and Mr Beeson for their enthusiasm all day.

#918
09 OCTOBER 2026

MILLFIELD
PRE-PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



KEY DATES

Wednesday 14 October

Frog parents visit classroom and Reception class.

Friday 16 October -Half Term

School finishes at 12 midday.
Angles non-uniform day.

MESSAGE FROM MR JORY



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

It has been lovely to welcome my dog, Poppy, into school for a few days this week. The children have been incredibly kind, gentle and respectful towards her, and it has been wonderful to see how warmly they have embraced having a four-legged visitor around. Poppy has certainly enjoyed all the attention and smiles she has received!

This week Tadpoles have been exploring the fascinating world of spiders. They have created their own spider webs and enjoyed searching for spiders during their Forest School sessions.
Frogs have been using their creativity outdoors, gathering autumn treasures and transforming them into beautiful clay faces during Forest School.
The children in Reception have been reaching for the stars this week, designing and making their own rockets to launch into outer space. They thoroughly enjoyed testing their creations and thinking about what might be waiting for them on their space adventures!
Meanwhile, Year 1 and Year 2 have been busy developing their enquiry skills by carrying out a traffic survey. They collected and analysed data about the vehicles passing by. Ask them what they discovered! And how many hoots they had from passing trucks!

We finished the week in a sea of yellow as we took part in Hello Yellow Day. This special day encourages us to think about the importance of mental health and wellbeing, and reminds us that a simple act of kindness or a friendly conversation can make a big difference to someone's day.

A huge congratulations to Angles, our winning Pre-Prep house team! As a special reward, children in Angles can enjoy a non-uniform day on Friday 16th October.

Yours,
Mike

PRE-PREP

HOUSE TOTALS

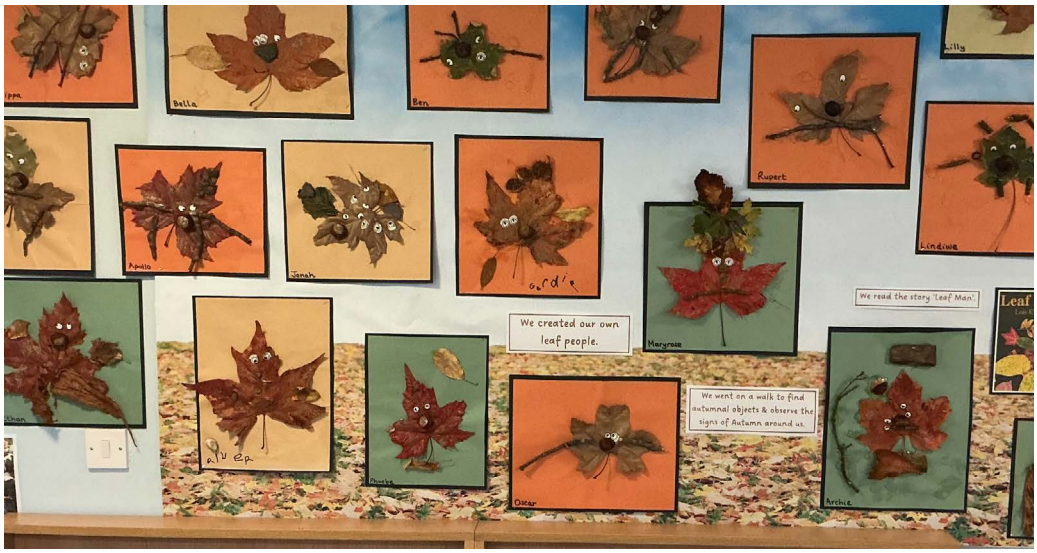
HOUSE	ANGLES	DANES	JUTES	SAXONS
OVERALL	958	863	950	905

FROGS

FOREST SCHOOL

We had a very creative morning at Forest School this week. Continuing with our Autumn and leaf/conker person theme we made blobsters! Blobsters are clay faces, created using a blob of clay and natural objects found on the forest floor. Our blobsters look blob-tastic! We also had our first fire at Forest School. Miss Childs explained how to be safe around the fire. We talked about the different foods we can cook on a fire. We couldn't decide between toasting marshmallows or popping corn, so we took a vote….. toasting marshmallows was the winner. We can't wait to toast marshmallows during our next Forest School session!

See below a photo of the Frogs fabulous leaf person display inspired by the 'Leaf Man' story.





















TADPOLES

HAIR AND NAIL SALON

We had a hairdressers and nail salon in the Tadpole room this week. We have been very busy painting nails and styling our friends hair.





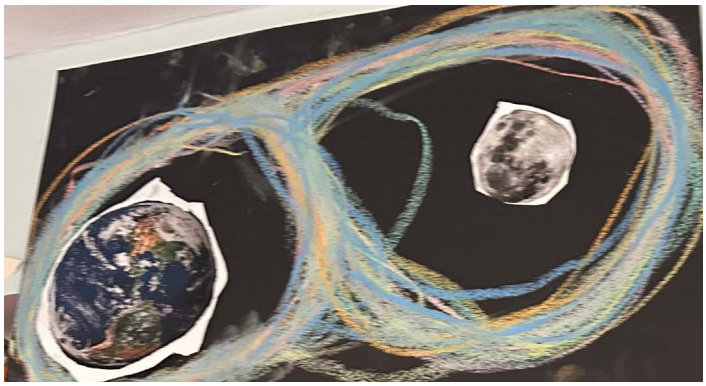



RECEPTION

FINE MOTOR SKILLS

This week, the children took part in a creative art and fine motor control activity. They carefully cut out and stuck the Moon and Earth before drawing a repeating "lazy eight" pattern with a chalk flying saucer.
This activity helped to develop their fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and crossing the midline, which supports important early writing and physical development skills. The children showed great focus, creativity, and enthusiasm throughout the activity!



YEAR 1

TRANSPORT

Following our topic on travelling from A to B and different modes of transport, we conducted a traffic survey to identify the types of vehicles passing by our school. During the 20 minutes we were collecting our data, we spotted lots of cars, lorries, vans and motorhomes. The children did a fantastic job counting and recording their tally marks. Tomorrow, we will use our results to create a bar chart and compare the different types of vehicles we observed.



