#921
13 NOVEMBER 2026

MILLFIELD
PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

As I write this, I am not quite sure when you will receive this week's newsletter, given the global Microsoft Outlook outage! I hope this edition finds you well and that, in the meantime, this disruption hasn't caused too much inconvenience to your usual routines. It did remind me, briefly, of how wonderful life used to be before email!

This week we came together for our annual Remembrance Service. It was an important opportunity for us all to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by so many, and the freedoms we enjoy today as a result. I was very proud of the respect and thoughtfulness shown by our pupils as the community marked this significant occasion and, in particular, by the special place our Forces children had in the service.

Last weekend, we enjoyed a spectacular fireworks display, and it was wonderful to see so many families joining us for the event. The atmosphere was fantastic, and I think we all appreciated the opportunity to gather as a community, enjoy the display, and make the most of the warmth from the bonfire!

Today our pupils and staff wore their own clothes in support of Children in Need. It has been lovely to see lots of yellow and a few pairs of Pudsey ears around school! Thank you to everyone who has supported this important cause.

Looking ahead, we are very much looking forward to this evening's Musart event. This exciting collaboration between our Music and Art departments promises to be a wonderful evening of creativity and I'm sure plenty of paint! I have no doubt it will be a thoroughly enjoyable occasion for everyone involved – thank you in advance to the staff and pupils for their efforts.

As we move towards the end of term, we have an exciting programme of events and activities ahead. Please do take a moment to read through the Parent Notices to ensure you are up to date with everything happening over the coming weeks.

I look forward to hearing how well the Musart goes this evening and to seeing many of you around school in the weeks ahead.

Yours,
Dan

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EAL

Marta in Year 8 is our Pupil of the Week for writing with such flair in her balanced argument about Bonfire Night. She used wonderfully engaging language and expressed her ideas with confidence, creating a thoughtful and persuasive piece of writing. Well done, **Marta**!

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

This week's Picture of the week is by **Jack T** 6MCJ.





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

PARENT NOTICES

Odd Socks Day and Anti-Bullying Week

We will be supporting Anti-Bullying Week (16-20 November) by having an Odd Socks Day on Monday 16 November. Prep and Pre-Prep pupils are asked to wear normal school uniform, with the addition of odd socks, or tights and socks etc. Families are not expected to make a charitable donation, but if you so wish to then we will ensure that all donations go to the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

As in previous years, the children will be signposted to support in and outside of school, how to look after themselves and others and to be respectful of all individuals in our community. We will also look at what bullying is and the difference between unkindness and bullying. We will also emphasise the use of our anonymous reporting and worries tool, Tootoot.

More information about the Anti-Bullying Alliance can be found here.



Exeat Weekend Friday 20 November – Sunday 22 November

The school will shut at 15.45pm on Friday 21 November for Exeat Weekend. There will be no clubs, activities, games, late stay etc.

Traffic is likely to be high on campus so please try to arrive at your allocated time slots for year groups or it will block the campus. Siblings are able to be picked up together at earlier time slots. Please make sure your children are aware of times and venues to avoid any confusion.

Pre-Prep - 3.15pm top car park
Year 3 - 3.45pm Martins Lane
Year 4 - 3.45pm Martins Lane
Year 5 - 3.45pm Martins Lane
Year 6 - 4.00pm Martins Lane
Year 7 - 3.45pm Reception car park
Year 8 – Collection from the senior school following the Year 8 Discovery Day

The return for boarders following the Exeat Weekend is from 5pm onwards, boarding houses will not be open before then. If your child is due to return earlier, please ensure that they are supervised by a guardian.

Carol Service - Millfield Prep parents only

We are delighted to invite parents, grandparents and carers to our Carol Service on Friday 11 December from 14.00 at Wells Cathedral. Pupils will need to be in formal uniform and are expected to attend (unless an absence request via the parent portal has been granted).

The term ends after the Carol Service, which should finish at approx. 15.00. Children will need to be collected from their group tutors at the end of the service. Any children not collected at the Cathedral will be brought back to school and should be collected from Reception or their boarding house by 16.30.

Pre-Prep will finish at 15.00 and children will need to be collected from school.







Saturday 14 November – Craig Boyne and Richard Shorter talk

We are delighted to invite parents to a talk with Craig Boyne, Millfield Prep's Director of Sport, and Richard Shorter.

Drawing on his experiences growing up in Australia, representing the world-leading Australian Kookaburras hockey team, and working with young athletes throughout his career, Craig will share the sporting philosophy that will help shape the future of sport at Millfield Prep. The talk will explore Craig's vision for developing confident, resilient and well-rounded young people through sport, the importance of balancing performance with enjoyment, and why long-term development matters more than short-term success. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to hear about the values and principles that will underpin sport at Millfield Prep, and how school, coaches and parents can work together to support every child's journey.

Richard has worked with England Rugby, England Cricket, and some of the UK's leading schools, helping families and coaches create environments where young people thrive—not through perfection, but through connection. In a world where the pressures of sport, school, and life seem greater than ever, Richard offers a refreshing, honest, and often humorous take on how parents can:

- Support their child's development both on and off the field
- Balance encouragement with realistic expectations
- Build character and resilience through calm, constructive conversations

Whether your child dreams of winning trophies or simply enjoys being active, this session will provide valuable tools to help you support them with confidence.

There will be refreshments and time for informal questions at the end.

To confirm your attendance, please click here.

We look forward to seeing you there

11:30 –11:40 – Craig Boyne talk to parents
11:40- 12:15- Richard Shorter talk to parents
12:30 - 13:00 – Richard shorter talk to parents with children



LOWER STRINGS DAY

On Tuesday afternoon, 19 pupils from Years 3–8 enjoyed a fantastic day of music-making at the Senior School, taking part in a variety of workshops alongside Senior School students and staff. Led by our very own Mrs Whitson and Mrs Lewis, the day was a wonderful celebration of all things bass clef!

Throughout the day, pupils thoroughly enjoyed learning new pieces, both as part of a large ensemble and in smaller groups, before coming together for a sharing concert showcasing everything they had achieved.

Special congratulations must go to **Sage O** and **Ozzy V,** who both gave impressive solo performances for the audience at the end of the day. Huge thanks also to Mrs Whitson and Mrs Lewis for organising such a brilliant musical experience!

We look forward to seeing our wonderful young cellists and bassists continue to flourish on their musical journeys and perform in many more concerts and events! Well done to all!













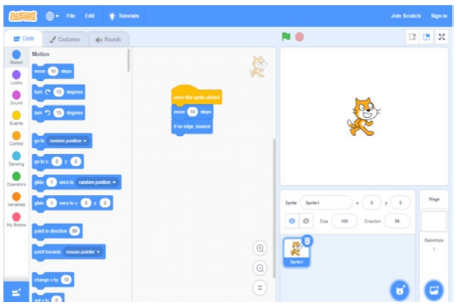


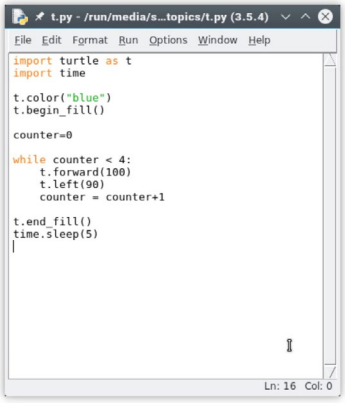


ICT

This half of term, pupils in Years 6, 7 and 8 have all begun studying programming and coding as part of their Computing and ICT lessons. Coding helps pupils develop problem-solving, logical thinking, creativity and resilience as they learn how to design, test and improve computer programs.







Year 6 pupils are learning to program the Sphero Bolt robots. Using a tablet-based coding environment, pupils create instructions that control the robot's movements, lights and sensors. This hands-on approach makes coding fun and engaging, whilst helping pupils understand key programming concepts such as sequences, loops and events.

In Year 7, pupils are using Scratch, a block-based programming language. As part of their learning, pupils are designing and creating their own Maze Game, using coding blocks to control characters, detect collisions and create challenges for players to complete. Through this project, pupils are developing their understanding of algorithms, debugging and logical thinking whilst creating an engaging, interactive game.

Year 8 pupils have started learning Python, one of the world's most popular programming languages. Python is widely used in areas such as software development, data science, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. Pupils are learning how to write text-based code to create simple programs, developing a deeper understanding of programming principles and preparing them for more advanced Computer Science studies in the future.

We look forward to seeing the creative projects and programming skills our pupils develop throughout the term as they take their first steps on an exciting coding journey.

DT



Year 3 have been working hard this year picking up new skills in the DT workshop. They have measured, cut and drilled over the last six weeks to produce these fantastic pirate ships. This week we ended the project evaluating our work thinking about determining criteria to judge their work against and looking for things that went well and areas to improve for next time. Well done, 3DSY!

This term, Year 5 have been in the DT workshop making these excellent mini cricket bats. They have read a technical drawing to determine measurements, cut and shaped their wood using hand tools and then produced a vinyl sticker on the computer to add the professional look. Well done, and lovely to see them being used in the playground.



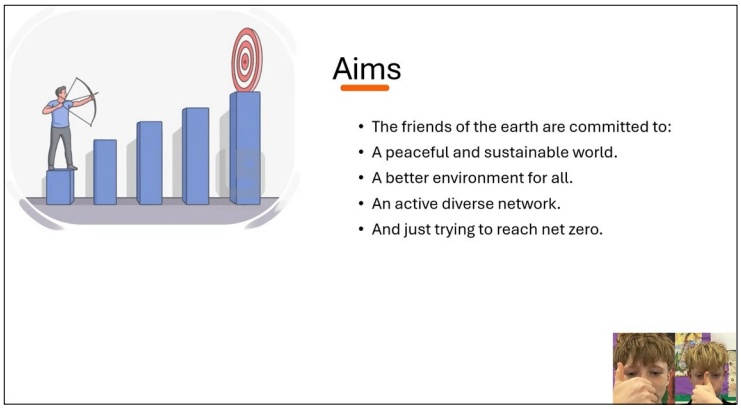




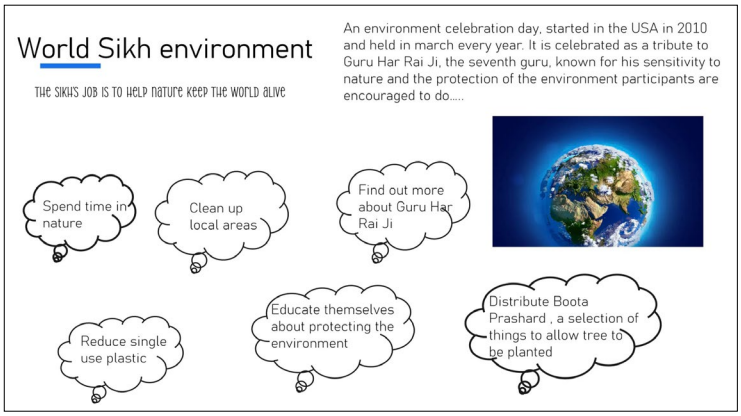
RELIGIOUS STUDIES

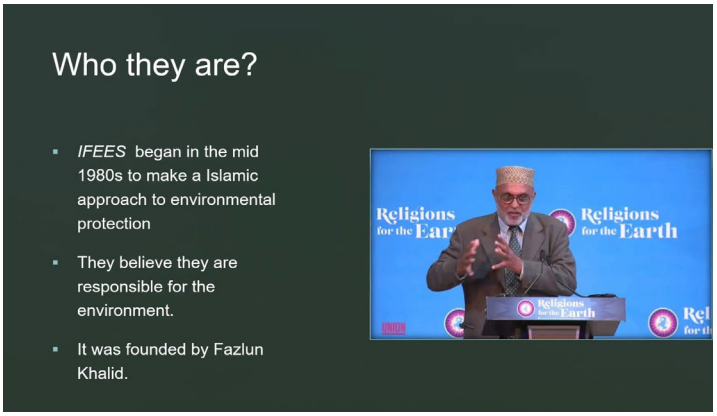
This week, to coincide with COP 31 in Turkey, Year 8 pupils have been learning about what different faiths believe about climate change and the environment. They have been learning about the Sikhi faith, Islam and Judaism by reading texts from their holy books and thinking about what that might mean for people of that faith and their actions towards the environment. They have learned about Islamic teaching about people being Khalifah and guardians for the natural world and how it links with the concept of Stewardship in Judaism and Christianity. They have learned about the Sikh concept of Ik Onkar and the understanding that everything is connected. This has led the classes to research different environmental charities, the concepts on which they were founded and what they do to support the climate. The pupils created presentations for their classes to explain them and then they will compare them to each other. There are a few examples below.

The Year 7 pupils are continuing their work based around goddess worship. This week, they have been discovering about the Lady of Avalon, one of the names for the Goddess of Glastonbury. They have learned about different creation stories that are linked with modern goddess worship and some rituals and celebrations that are practised in Glastonbury such as Samhain, Beltane and Lammas.











BOARDING LIFE

HOLLIES

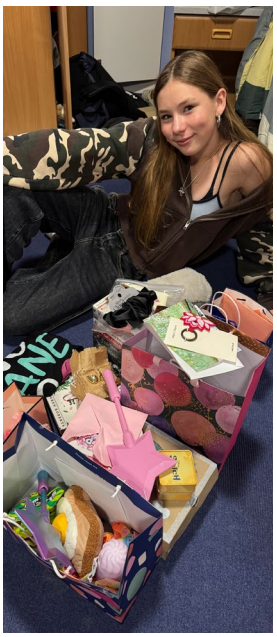
What a wonderful week it has been in Hollies! Saturday's Fireworks Evening was a real highlight, and we would like to thank all the parents who were able to join us for a warming bowl of chilli and rice before heading out to enjoy the bangs and whistles. We have also had the joy of celebrating three birthdays this week. A very happy birthday to **Isa, Olga and Anna** and thank you for the delicious birthday treats shared with the house!

Finally, we were incredibly proud of how smartly turned out and wonderfully respectful the girls were at both the Remembrance Parade in Glastonbury on Sunday and our school Remembrance Service on Wednesday. They represented Hollies and Millfield beautifully on both occasions, showing great maturity and understanding as we came together to remember those who served and sacrificed.









CHESTNUT

This week has offered plenty of opportunities for both reflection and creativity in Chestnut House. On Saturday, the girls enjoyed the annual fireworks display, and it was lovely to welcome so many families to join us for food, drinks, and a wonderful evening together. On Sunday, several girls proudly represented the school at the Glastonbury Remembrance Parade, wearing their formal uniform and poppies with pride. Our whole school Remembrance Service on Wednesday provided another important moment to pause, reflect, and remember those who have served. Back in the house, the girls have been busy with a variety of creative activities, including Diwali crafts and house art projects, bringing lots of colour and creativity to Chestnut throughout the week. A particular highlight was seeing our Brilliant Boarder, **Phoebe**, enjoy a special celebration meal with Mr Bingham and the other Brilliant Boarders, recognising their excellent contributions to boarding and school life. It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm, kindness, and community spirit on display throughout the week.











BEREWALL

This weekend was choc full of celebration, as we had two birthdays, with **Juan** and **Cameron** both completing another lap around the sun! To add to that, the fireworks spectacular and the boys were simultaneously hoarse from 'Happy Birthdays', 'Ooohs' and 'Aaahs' and stuffed full of donuts, pizza, hotdogs and tuck! Relaxing in front of a film was then in order for the rest of the evening, to let voices heal and tummies digest. Not a bad start to the second half of term!









CHAMPION

We've had a busy and exciting second week of term! We celebrated **Ajay's** belated birthday with a bumper delivery of delicious cookies. Happy birthday, **Ajay**! Saturday was particularly busy with the MPS Fireworks Night. It was lovely to welcome some parents beforehand and enjoy a catch-up before heading over to the event together. As always, there was a fantastic display, a roaring bonfire and plenty of treats for the children to spend their pocket money on! On Sunday, some of the boys headed off on an exciting white-water rafting trip, while others looked very smart as they attended the Remembrance Parade in Glastonbury. A lovely week filled with plenty of fun.











SPORTING NEWS

TRAMPOLINING

Congratulations to **Emily W**, who had an outstanding weekend at her trampolining club competition. She performed some fantastic routines, demonstrating great skill, confidence and precision. Her hard work and dedication certainly paid off, as she came away with an impressive three medals: individual gold, team gold and bronze in the synchro event.







TENNIS

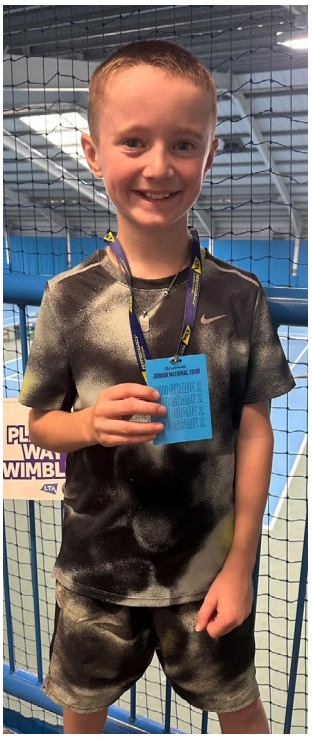
Congratulations to our players on a fantastic run of recent tournament results! A huge well done to **Maxi H** for securing the U11 National Doubles title, and for reaching the quarter finals in the singles; an outstanding achievement at national level and a testament his hard work and teamwork. **Finn S** competed at the 10U National event in Sunderland. It was a great achievement to get into the event and have the opportunity to compete at the top level in his age group. Congratulations also to **Hope L**, who claimed an U12 Grade 3 title, producing a series of excellent performances to take home the trophy. **Zara E**, won the 10U Grade 4 Singles title and finished as Doubles Runner-Up. Finally, well done to **Joshua G** for becoming 12U Grade 5 Champion, earning another excellent title and continuing their strong development on court. Congratulations to everyone involved, and we look forward to seeing more success in the months ahead!











EQUESTRIAN

Congratulations to **Alba** who won the 90cm British Show Jumping Discovery with her pony Buckley over half term at Chard.



HOCKEY

The B Team girls produced a superb performance at their recent tournament, remaining unbeaten across six matches and demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination and hockey throughout the day. The team recorded five wins and one draw, scoring an impressive 13 goals while conceding just once. Strong attacking play was matched by a disciplined defensive effort, with the girls showing resilience, commitment and great support for one another in every game.

The squad should be incredibly proud of their achievements and the positive way they represented the school. Well done, girls, on a fantastic tournament performance!



A huge well done to the U13A hockey girls, who finished joint top in the MPS tournament. The girls played some superb hockey, displaying their fantastic development. They only lost one game and conceded just one goal, and were beaten by a goal difference of one, placing second overall. They should be proud of the hockey they played against some strong oppositions. Well done **Evie, Grace, Hope, Immy, Meilin, Bea, Arabella, Deina and Flossie.**

RUGBY

The U10A boys' rugby team continued their impressive season with a confident win against Port Regis School on Saturday. They have produced some excellent team performances this term. Well done boys.





TABLE TENNIS

The U11A and U13A Table Tennis teams became Somerset Table Tennis England School Competitions champions in Taunton. Well done to all the boys for a fantastic effort. Team photo below. **Maximillian D** left before the picture was taken, but was still a big part of the team!





FOOTBALL

The U13 girls' football team bowed out of the ESFA Cup after two late goals from Downed School cancelled out **Harpers'** opening solo goal. A spirited performance from our team saw them just short. The girls now look forward to a busy next week with cup matches vs Whitstone School and Twyford School.

A special congratulations to **Harper** and **Immy** who have been selected for the Somerset Emerging Talent Centre and will represent the school as part of the county team. A well done to all other players who represented the school at county trials; **Louisa, Evelyn, Flossie and Hettie.**



The U13 and U12B Girls travelled to King's Taunton on Saturday, where both teams performed superbly. The girls showed great enthusiasm, teamwork and a real willingness to learn throughout the matches. It was fantastic to see every player taking to the pitch with a smile on their face and enjoying the experience.







Even with treacherous conditions in the pouring rain, the U12 Girls won 3-0 away to Worle Community School on Tuesday. Despite playing two thirds of the game with a player down due to injury, two goals from player of the match **Fola L** meant the girls progressed to the next round of the ESFA Cup!





Year 5 took part in competitive matches against Brookside Academy on Tuesday evening. Everyone played with a smile on their faces despite the weather and plenty of great goals were scored!

Well done to all the Year 6 boys who played some competitive fixtures against Hugh Sexey school. All games were played in good spirits and it was great to see so many boys playing a fixture and representing the school.

Well done to our Year 7 boys team. Another dramatic game finishing 4-4 and progression on penalties (again!). Huge credit to their team spirit, resilience and character. Special mention to **Teddy Q** for more penalty save heroics, **Massimo** for a fantastic solo goal and **Jaime** for a last gasp headed equaliser.







U13 boys dealt with a variety of challenges and adversity during IAPS Nationals. After a rocky start, their close team spirit and character was tested. They managed to galvanise themselves and put two fantastic team performances to advance through the quarters and semis with every player contributing. Special mention to **Cooper L**, it was fantastic to see him back on the pitch after a long injury lay off and even stepping up with a long range spectacular goal in golden goal to win the tight semi final. Unfortunately it wasn't to be after falling just short to an unfortunate goal line scramble in the final. Placing second overall nationally is an incredible achievement and very exciting to see these boys' progress into Senior School teams. The boys can each be proud of their commitment, dedication and performances. Well done to all involved.

U13 girls **Hettie** and **Alba** enjoyed a fantastic opportunity to represent the Senior School U14 team at Kingweston on Wednesday. Both girls impressed as they helped the U14s progress to the next round of the County Cup.

Elsewhere, we welcomed the Senior School U14 coach down to prep school who managed the U13 boys in preparation for next year, with the team recording an excellent 4-0 victory over St Michael's School in ESFA cup on Monday.

These experiences highlight exciting development in strengthening the pathway between Prep and Senior School football, providing exciting opportunities for our young players and demonstrating the strength of the programme across the school.



Our Under 13 B team perform valiantly on Tuesday afternoon, as they braved the horrible weather against Papplewick school in the ISFA Trophy. Despite the result not going their way, the boys displayed heart, desire, and some fantastic football against a very skilled side. They did themselves proud. A special mention goes to **Teddy G** for a superb long-range effort, and **Rohan D** for an industrious performance!

CROSS COUNTRY

The Taunton race course was chosen for the Regional Round of the English School's Cup. The course was very flat with no hills for our runners to utilise their power. Sadly for the boys, we had some injury and illness in the team and this meant that they were not able to compete to their full potential and at this level, it meant they missed out on qualification. The girl's team also had a bit of injury and jet lag, but they still managed to dominate the event and they have qualified for the National Final at the beginning of December.











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NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM MR JORY



As another busy week comes to a close, there has been plenty happening across Pre-Prep. Our Tadpoles and Frogs have been captivated by the theme of fireworks this week, building on the excitement of our fantastic school firework display. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 came together for a special Remembrance Assembly. The children learned about the importance of remembering those who have helped and served others and showed tremendous respect during a two-minute silence. We were incredibly proud of how the children reflected on the significance of Remembrance.

I was very fortunate to join Year 1 and Year 2 on their visit to Haynes Motor Museum. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the impressive collection of vehicles and were fascinated by the stories behind them. Throughout the day they demonstrated excellent curiosity, asking fantastic questions and representing the school wonderfully.

On Friday, the whole school came together to support Children in Need. It was fantastic to see everyone getting involved and helping to raise money for such an important cause. Thank you to all families for their generosity and support. The day was filled with fun, spirit and a shared commitment to helping children and young people across the country.

As we head into the weekend, thank you once again for your continued support. We look forward to another exciting week, starting with wearing odd socks in support of Anti-Bullying.

Yours,
Mike

PRE-PREP

HOUSE TOTALS

HOUSE	ANGLES	DANES	JUTES	SAXONS
OVERALL	439	451	440	439

TADPOLES

CREATIVITY

This week the Tadpoles have been getting creative with paints, crayons and chalk! We made wonderful firework pictures with chalks and enjoyed looking at photos of ourselves at the school display. Later on in the week, we decided to paint a variety of different things including a ladybird, a tractor and a rainbow and chose which colour paints we needed to create our pictures.






FROGS

FIREWORKS

Last week, the children were very excited at the thought of seeing fireworks over the weekend. This week, they enjoyed splatter painting, which was a really good activity for building strength in their wrists, although it was a little messy! Our splatters looked like fireworks zooming into the sky and exploding, and we used our pinchy fingers to sprinkle glitter for that extra sparkle! The children then used a variety of shapes to make rockets. We thought about which shapes would be best for different parts of the rockets. Our finished pictures looked zoom-tastic!










RECEPTION

DIWALI

This week in Reception, we learned about Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Light. The children explored a variety of traditional Rangoli patterns, including dotted designs, peacocks, and geometric stars. They then carefully created their own Rangoli hand designs, taking great pride in their work. The finished pieces were so beautiful and impressive that we decided to display them in our classroom for everyone to enjoy.





