



#765
25 NOVEMBER 2021



MILLFIELD
PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

The campus has been busy this week with a plethora of academic successes, music concerts and sporting events.

Year 7 pupils have been taking part in the national Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge within their Computing and ICT lessons. Good luck to those receiving their results next week.

It has been a successful week for sport with county and national accolades in judo, hockey, horse riding and tennis. My congratulations to everyone.

The music calendar is always busy at this time of year and the past couple of weeks have been no different. We welcomed parents to the first live Cushion Concert since March 2020 and it was wonderful to see pupils performing in front of loved ones again.

Pupils and staff alike have been working hard rehearsing for their Christmas production of *Mr Humbug Sees the Light*, I hope to see many of you there next Wednesday.

We are looking forward to hosting the U11 Girls IAPS Hockey tournament tomorrow.

Best wishes,

Gavin Horgan

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

This week's Picture of the Week is this excellent painting by Maya C 6BVG.



CONTENTS

PAGE 2

Parent Notices

PAGE 3

ICT

PAGE 4

Thought of the Week

PAGE 5

Art

PAGE 6

Live Cushion Concert

PAGE 7

Tea and Music
Concert

PAGE 8-9

Boarding Life

PAGE 10-13

Sporting News

PAGE 14-17

Pre-Prep Newsletter

PAGE 18

Minis News

Carol Service

Parents are invited to the Carol Service on the 10 December from 12.30pm-1.30pm. 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 approximately 1.30pm. Children need to be collected from their group tutors at the end of the service. Any children not collected will be brought back to school and should be collected from Reception or their boarding house by 2.00pm.

Uniform

Pupils will be expected to be wearing normal uniform for the Spring Term 2022.

Masks

Please ensure that your child has a mask in school for use in the dining room and school transport (unless exempt).

Spring Term

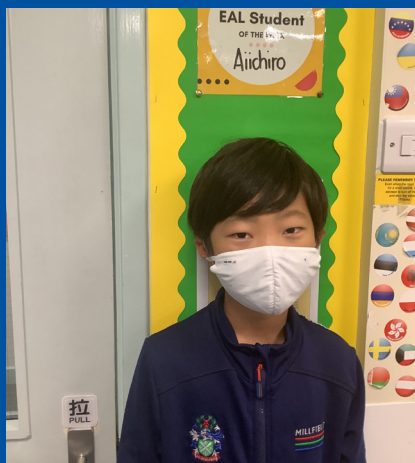
Spring Term will start on Wednesday 5 January, with boarders returning on Tuesday 4 January.

ROLE MODELS OF THE WEEK

This week, Miffy has been awarded to **Oscar M** for looking after his classmates and being kind to others. Chota has been awarded to **Maddie O** for looking after a Year 3 boy who had fallen in the playground. She calmed the boy down and escorted him to the surgery. Oreo has been awarded to **Zofia H** for some brilliant independent inquiry work on the Egyptians. Well done to all.



EAL STUDENT OF THE WEEK



This week's EAL student of the week is **Aiichiro**, who has a newly-found confidence and we have been able to hear his voice more often. He impressed Mrs Eveson with this use of superlative and comparative adjectives and has practised his EAL Speak Out Talk ready to be recorded. If you see him around, ask him about Queen Elizabeth II, his chosen topic; he might share some interesting facts about corgis with you!

ICT

During their Computing & ICT lessons, over the last two weeks our Year 7 pupils have been taking part in the national Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge.

What is the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge?

Bebras is an international initiative aiming to promote Informatics (Computer Science) and computational thinking among school pupils of all ages. The challenges are made up of a set of short problems called Bebras tasks and are delivered online. The tasks are fun, engaging and based on problems that Computer Scientists often meet and enjoy solving. The tasks are solved without prior knowledge, but instead require logical thinking.

What is Computational Thinking?

Computational thinking allows us to take a complex problem, understand what the problem is and develop possible solutions. We can then present these solutions in a way that a computer, a human, or both, can understand.

The four cornerstones of computational thinking:

- Decomposition - breaking down a complex problem or system into smaller, more manageable parts
- Pattern recognition – looking for similarities among and within problems
- Abstraction – focusing on the important information only, ignoring irrelevant detail
- Algorithms - developing a step-by-step solution to the problem, or the rules to follow to solve the problem

Each cornerstone is as important as the others. They are like legs on a table if one leg is missing, the table will probably collapse. Correctly applying all four techniques will help when programming a computer.

Even though some of the challenges were pretty difficult, our pupils thoroughly enjoyed having a go at solving them and we eagerly await the results, which should be with us next week.



JUNIOR PRODUCTION

On Wednesday 1 December the Juniors will perform Mr Humbug Sees the Light, and they are very excited to invite their families in to watch. There will be two performances: one at 2pm and another at 6pm. Due to Covid restrictions, we ask that you only attend one of these shows and that only two family members attend. We will be filming the production for you to share with family at a later date. Juniors (Y3, Y4 and Y5) will stay in school and will be ready for pick-up at 7.20pm from the reception car park. If you have any further questions, please contact Miss Chatwin (Chatwin.a@millfieldprep.com)

Reminder for Y3 + Y4 – Please bring in your Christmas jumper and hat for Saturday 27 November.

This year we are raising money for Alzheimers Research UK. Our Year 5s have selected this charity and, during our production, they will present more information as to why. We would appreciate any donation that you are able to contribute and you can donate by clicking on the link [here](#).

WEEKLY ECO TIP

Now it's cold and berries are in shorter supply, why not put out some wild bird food? You could make a feeder yourself! Be sure to keep your feeder clean. Why not try keeping a window log of what you see?

CHAPLAIN'S THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

The Christmas adverts have arrived. You may have noticed (it has been quite hard not to) that the adverts on TV have become very Christmas focussed. If you've not noticed on TV, then social media has lit-up with reactions to them, suggesting that one, for a fast-food outlet, is so emotive that it shouldn't be watched and another prompting comment as it shows Father Christmas having to prove he is vaccinated and ok to travel! The purpose of the ads is, of course, to wind us up for celebrating and to encourage us to spend with their particular sponsor. The theme of this year's adverts is largely a focus on making up for last year, on reconnecting.

This Sunday, 28 November, will be Advent Sunday, advent meaning 'coming' or 'arrival'. The period of Advent, four Sundays, is a way of marking the run up to Christmas; it may be through an advent calendar (with or without chocolates, gin for parents, or any other treats!) or advent candles. Advent is often a time, a countdown, when we work through our shopping and other lists in our own preparations for Christmas.

The purpose of Advent in the church calendar is a time for personal preparation, through reflection, contemplation, reading or prayer; to celebrate the coming, the arrival, of Jesus. Here too the theme is about reconnecting. It is an opportunity to reflect, whether we have any faith or none, on our own connection with the Christmas story and our personal relationship with God.

Dear God

As we head towards Advent in this busy season, this challenging year,

Thank you for a time when we are encouraged to reflect on hope, faith, joy, and peace.

Sorry for times when I forget to care for my own wellbeing or that of others.

Please help me to find, to make, time to pause and to reflect.

Please help me to be still and, in doing so, get to know you better.

Amen

WELLBEING TIP FOR THE WEEK

(For Advent, starting on 28 November): Radio 1 recently shared a game linked to Ewan McVicar's song 'Tell Me Something Good'. The game involves everyone taking a turn to share a sentence about something good that has happened to them or that they are aware of. The idea is to pass from one to another really swiftly, sharing stories of good news; a real antidote to the colder days and darker nights. Why not give it a try in the car on the school run, in your boarding house, with friends or family? Or just give yourself a challenge to reflect every day on one, three, five or 10 good news stories. Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James - Tell Me Something Good! - BBC Sounds (17/11 approx. 1h 11mins in...)

CHRISTMAS HAMPER



Last year you collected the most amazing hampers for local Glastonbury families in need. I do hope that you will be able to get involved again this year; it made such a difference to the lives of so many children in Glastonbury, our local town. We do this anonymously, as it is all about the giving and we do not tell the families who they are from; it makes it a real act of Christmas kindness. To the left, there is a photo from last year - you can see that my chaplaincy was very full!! I will deliver these parcels after the end of term, so please do bring them in to me in my office, classroom or just take them to reception or your Group tutor. Boarders, please remember we are still collecting right up until the end of term. Amazon pantry is very helpful for this too.

Dear Parents and Guardians

As we did so successfully last year, we would very much like to support local families in Glastonbury this Christmas who are not able to afford to provide many of the luxuries we take for granted and make Christmas day so special. This year, the important work we do is even more important as many families are struggling more since the pandemic. I know from the feedback that these simple gifts made a huge difference in the lives of the local families and many were moved to tears last year.

Therefore, we are collecting Christmas Hampers, either in a hamper, shoe box or decorated bag, to be delivered to families that have been identified by local schools, food banks and/or local organisations as being in need. Suggested items could include:

- Biscuits/Cakes/Mince pies
- Chocolates/Sweets
- Cordials/drinks
- Cereal
- Snacks/Crisps
- Toiletries
- Vouchers for Tescos/Morrisons
- Stocking fillers for all ages
- A family game that can be played across all age groups

If you would like to take part, please deliver your shoe box or hamper to your Group tutor, boarding house or the Chaplaincy. We will be delivering these after the end of term, so we can receive items right up until the end of the term.

Boarders, please don't worry, you can also take part. You can use Amazon pantry to deliver items of your choice and we will make them into hampers. Please have any Amazon deliveries labelled: FAO - Christmas Hampers c/o Rev'd Kitto, Millfield Prep School, Edgarley Hall, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 8BN

I know this will make a real difference to local families this Christmas, so thank you for your generosity. Best wishes and Christmas Blessings

Rev'd Michèle Kitto
Millfield Prep School Chaplain

Year 6 pupils have been busy learning to mix and apply paint through looking at a range of artists. Here are some great examples where they have studied from Georgia Morandi and Franz Marc. Year 7 pupils have been working hard, preparing a self-portrait etching. Whilst we get ready to print our etchings on the press, pupils have been learning to analyse and structure a standing figure. Year 8 pupils are looking at a range of different artists and catching up on using a range of different materials and techniques. This week we have been looking at the work of the Pop artist Roy Lichtenstein.



LIVE CUSHION CONCERT

6

Finally, after 20 months, 100's of recordings and a rather long outtakes reel, we were able to welcome parents back into the music department to enjoy our first live Cushion Concert since March 2020. It was a wonderful occasion and although lots of pupils performing had never played in front of a live audience before, you'd never have known! We had a wide variety of instruments on display from the largest string instrument (double bass) to the smallest (violin) as well as piano, cello, drum kit, harp, oboe, French horn, flute and voice, performed by pupils from Years 2-5. We also had a Cushion Concert exclusive, and for the first time ever, had a pupil conducting the Year 4 oboe ensemble. It was fantastic to see a number of pupils performing that have been inspired by the Year 4 orchestra project, both this year and last – some of them have only been learning an instrument since September. The pupils can be incredibly proud of everything they have achieved throughout this challenging period and with the amount of talent on display I'm sure they could all go on to achieve great things in music! We'd like to say thank you to parents for attending and for all their support and encouragement of the pupils.



TEA AND MUSIC CONCERT

On Monday, after a wait of over a year and a half, 27 musicians in Years 6, 7 and 8 and a small audience of parents and friends came together in the Recital Hall for the first live Tea and Music concert since March 2020! It was absolutely wonderful to give the pupils an opportunity to perform in front of an audience again and even though there were (understandably) a few nerves floating around, the pupils rose to the occasion beautifully and produced some outstanding performances. Despite the tumultuous year we have endured, the standard was exceptional and several pupils performed more than once, clearly demonstrating that our pupils have been practising hard and continuing to engage with their music lessons. The concert included a huge range of instruments and musical genres (special mentions must go to the French horn ensemble for their debut in a Tea and Music concert and also to **Asta M** who both composed and performed her item) and there really was something for every taste in music. We are very proud of the fact that we continued to hold recorded concerts during the period of lockdown and restrictions, however nothing beats a live event and we are delighted that we are once again in a position to be welcoming back small audiences to enjoy music alongside a cup of tea and piece of cake (or doughnut)! Heartfelt congratulations again to all those who performed - we feel very lucky to have such talented musicians in the school and you can all be very proud of yourselves!



BOARDING LIFE

HOLLIES

The girls enjoyed wearing mufti and decorating the house with Pudsey Bears this week for the Children in Need charity day. This led into a well deserved Exeat weekend for a rest and time to spend with families. **Eleanor's** birthday was loudly celebrated this week with Happy Birthday sung in both English and Spanish before the cake was devoured!



CHESTNUT

Even though we are still in November, Chestnut has started getting ready for Christmas. The tree has arrived but it looked a little bare so the boys solved this by making their own personalised baubles. They each had their own festive photo to place into a clear bauble along with some Christmassy shiny things! They will be on the house tree until the end of term and then they will go on a journey with the boys to decorate their own at home.



EDGARLEY MANOR

The boys were getting creative this week with card making, and some are really getting into the Christmas spirit by wearing their festive jumpers.



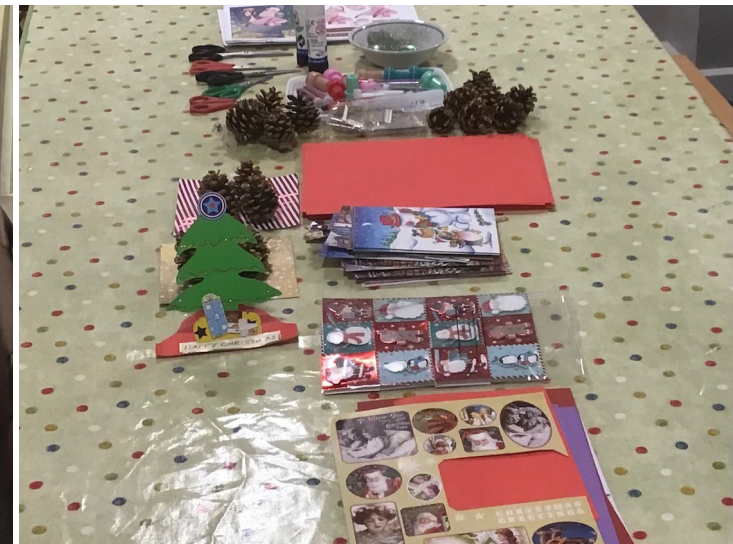
BEREWALL

Firstly the boys celebrated another teenager in the house with Ramon's birthday. After the Exeat weekend, the boys started getting into the Christmas spirit by helping Mr Carruthers make his paper chains for the junior production. Next job is the Christmas tree!



CHAMPION

It's only November but already there is a hint of Christmas at Champion. The Christmas tree has arrived and the juniors will make a start on decorating next week, the older girls will then add more colour until the tree is completely covered. Meanwhile last night we made a start on table decorations for our Christmas dinner. Lots of sticking, stamping and folding and unfortunately quite a lot of mess too! Great fun though.



SPORTING NEWS

HOCKEY

The U12 girls travelled to Repton in Derbyshire to take part in the IAPS National Finals last Friday. They have had a strong season with some great results and have been working hard in recent weeks to fine tune their tournament play to prepare them for the finals. The group phase started with a 1-1 draw against Bromsgrove. A slippery pitch and going 1-0 down in a 12 minute game was a tricky start, but the team showed excellent character to fight back and take a share of the points. The second game against eventual group winners Culford ended 0-0 with chances for both teams. This left the team knowing that for the best chance of progressing, they needed to win the last 2 games which they did, beating both Cranleigh and St Peters 1-0. This set up a ¼ final against a strong Clifton side who the team had beaten earlier in the season, but Clifton had won their group, scoring a lot of goals in the process. Millfield played an excellent game, shutting down and frustrating Clifton before growing into the game and pushing for the win. The game went into extra time and golden goal. Millfield had the territory and were creating openings without being able to find that killer goal. With 2 minutes left, captain for the day **Livi S** worked some space in the D before slotting the ball into the back of the net for a deserved and hard fought victory. With little time to recover, the girls were thrust into the ½ final against Kings College. This game, again, was tightly contested, going to extra time and then to penalty strokes. Unfortunately on this occasion, Millfield came off second best in the shootout which left them to contest the 3rd and 4th place play-off game against Seaford which they lost 1-0. To finish 4th overall was a massive achievement, only losing one game in normal time all day and finishing the highest place team out of all the other teams in the South West. Well done girls for an excellent trip with brilliant effort throughout.



On Tuesday the U12's also took part in the Somerset county tournament against Wells Cathedral, Taunton and Queens College. Following on from their successful 4th place finish at the IAPS finals, hopes were high for a good performance. The team recorded three victories from the three games to top the table and win the competition. Well done to all for an excellent afternoon of hockey.



The U13 Girls Hockey Team certainly brought their 'A' games to Cheltenham College last Thursday for the U13 National Finals of the IAPS. After a long journey from the depths of Somerset, we speedily made our way and arrived in adequate time thanks to Mr Morgie's expert driving skills. Our first game was quite significant, as we were not only up against a strong Edgeborough, but the girls were also keen to impress their new forthcoming headmaster. After some initial nervous play, the girls found their groove and began their day with a 1-0 win after some outstanding play by **Dinobi**. On to St Andrew's and the girls' performance kept improving, creating endless chances until eventually **Georgie** and **Amelia** fantastically slotted two home. Up next was Winchester House, the defence of **Caty**, **Frankie** and **Yasmin** remained strong. Our attacking flow looked fast and dangerous, with outstanding athleticism from **Dinobi**, **Asta**, **Lily**, **Rene**, **Georgie** and **Amelia**. After numerous chances, Asta deservedly bagged herself two goals, truly well rewarded for her superb tenacity all over the pitch. We were through to our final match and had already qualified for the cup competition. We were up against a strong Repton team. The girls fought hard, losing out 0-2 to Repton, who identified our right hand side threat of **Lily** and **Dinobi**, negating our flow. After a lengthy lunch break, the girls were into the quarter final v Greshams. Another strong battle and I was impressed with their ability to keep creating goal scoring opportunities. Tiredness had begun to show and our discipline in terms of shape was not as tight as previous matches. Greshams took advantage of this and managed to pop a goal in from a short corner. Greshams went on to win the Nationals. Overall, we could not be prouder of the girls and their sparkling performances. Every girl gave their utmost to the team, never failed to support one another and displayed an abundance of talent. Fantastic ambassadors for the school and a pleasure to be with. Thank you to Miss Workman and Mr Morgie for their help on the day.



SWIMMING

Whilst most were relaxing on their exeat weekend; **Jack**, **Billy**, **Leo**, **Charles**, **Caleb**, **Mila**, **Asta**, **Keeleigh**, **Caty** and **Tumi** all travelled up to the London Aquatics Centre to race in the ESSA Relay National Finals. The boys fought hard in their heat swims to make it into the finals, the Medley team secured a top 10 result. The girls managed to step it up from heats to finals, they went on to become Freestyle and Medley relay champions after a nail-biting finish! It isn't often that our swimmers come together to swim as a team, but when they do, they really know how to perform! An excellent day of racing by all who attended, well done!



Bertie W took part in the Judo National Championships in Kettering and was runner up, winning the silver medal in his age group. Well done Bertie!



TENNIS



On Sunday we were delighted to see that so many Prep Tennis players had entered the Grade 5 Tennis Tournament in Sherborne. **Ben B** won the U11 boys singles and **Toby W** and **Fredi D H** reached the semi-finals. **Thomas K** also reached the semi-finals in the U14 singles. **Ned L**, **Jamie G**, **Luke** and **Chloe d J** also played and competed well. Huge thank you to Mr Chapman who gave up his Sunday to support all our players. **Luke S** also played in his first LTA Tournament in Newport and really enjoyed the experience. **Lowri S** played in the U9 Grade 4 at Cardiff Met and won three out of her five matches.

SQUASH

National Schools Squash Success

Millfield's junior squash team have returned to competition with true determination after qualifying for the national school's semi-finals taking place after Christmas. The team had a mix of students from Millfield Prep and Senior, including **Rayaan V** (Year 7), **Shunsaku K** (Year 8), **Kai K** (Year 9), **Cai L** (Year 9) and **Jake S-S** (Year 9). Shunsaku has been a part of the Squash Programme at Millfield since Year 5 and has competed in numerous National Schools competitions as part of the KS3, KS4 and KS5 teams. Kai and Cai have previously played in IAPS during their time at Prep, which has been a great steppingstone in their journey to National Schools. This is Jake and Rayaan's first national selection and they did not disappoint. Jake began squash three years ago after discovering his fondness of the sport during PE lessons at Prep, Rayaan was one of the youngest competitors in the event. Rayaan and Shunsaku are accessing the programme on offer at Prep, as well as travelling across to join the Senior squad for training sessions. There is a clear pathway from Prep to Senior and a synergy in the training programmes. Director of Squash, Ian Thomas, said "We felt very proud of the whole team, it is fantastic that all players involved have been part of the Squash Program from Prep to Senior school." Squash is available to all year groups and can be enjoyed both competitively and recreationally. Training sessions are held during lunchtimes and after school with the opportunity to select it as part of the Millfield Activity Programme which happens once a week. Learn more about squash [here](#).

FOOTBALL

The U12 Girls are through to the next round of the County Cup. Keep up the good work!



Another fabulous weekend for our Riders! **Myla C** and **Elsie C** both winning and being placed in classes in the British Show jumping for schools at Chard. **Olivia S** also had a good outing at the British Show jumping for schools at Chard being placed 4th and 5th in her classes. **Emily G** also had a fabulous time British Show Jumping at Chard winning and being placed over the weekend! The photograph below to the left of Emily Gulliver was recently taken at The Horse of the Year Show. Meanwhile **Agatha S** enjoyed a fourth place at KSEC in the Arena Eventing on Sunday on her new horse Duncan. **Mimi W** and her horse Natty were in the Arena Eventing at Bicton last weekend. Congratulations for qualifying for the National RC Championships in March at Aston Le Walls.



CROSS COUNTRY

The English Schools Cup is an event that all schools in the country can enter. Our team won the county round and started the regional round with confidence. Our team has a mixture of Year 7 and Year 8 runners in it. It was a fast course with no real hills to trouble them. The start was very quick and the team settled into the race. They slowly worked their way through the pack and ran very well-paced races. The results showed that they narrowly missed out on victory, but that they had qualified for the national final. Great runs from the team and fantastic support from the parents who made the trip over to Taunton to cheer them on. We have a couple of weeks to get ready for the finals and then set for an adventure in Cornwall.





#765
25 NOVEMBER 2021



MILLFIELD
PRE-PREP SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

It has really felt like winter this week, with the cold wind, frost, later sunrises and earlier sunsets. Luckily, this doesn't stop Pre-Prep taking the learning outside, we just need to remember coats, hats, scarfs, gloves, all named please!

The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the Danceathon last week for Children in Need, raising an incredible £1,591. A huge thankyou from everyone for your generosity for such an amazing cause. We are so proud of all the children and staff, who just kept on dancing!

Assembly this week has involved us finding out what makes us happy and how to fill everyone with happiness by being kind, thoughtful, caring and respectful. We asked the children what makes them happy? Families, pets, parties, hobbies, jokes, hugs, friends and presents, to name a few. Christmas was mentioned a few times too . . .

We enjoyed opening a present from last year's Year 2 parents, who gave Pre-Prep an outdoor motion sensing camera. We will put it in different areas of the School to see what happens when we are tucked up in our beds at home. I wonder what action the camera will record? Watch this space!

The children are already getting into the Christmas spirit, by singing, learning about advent, creating and completing festive activities and decorating the school. This year we will be sending home a wooden peg for your child to turn into a decoration to be pegged onto our Christmas tree. We can't wait to see your Christmas creations . . .

Mike Jory

PRE-PREP DANCEATHON

The Pre-Prep strictly-inspired Danceathon raised an amazing £1,591 for Children In Need. Well done to everyone involved and thank you for all of your donations. Watch the highlights from the day [here](#).



KEY DATES

Monday 6 December – 2pm
Pre-Prep Crib Service in St John's Church, Glastonbury

Wednesday 8 December – 10:30am
Thursday 9 December – 10am
Pre-school and Reception Nativity

Wednesday 8 December – 9am
Thursday 9 December – 2pm
Year 1 and Year 2 Production

Wednesday 8 December
Christmas Lunch

Friday 10 December
Christmas parties
End of term. School finishes at 12pm.

Tuesday 4th January – INSET day
School closed for pupils

Wednesday 5th January – Spring Term starts

This week the Frogs and Tadpoles had a really exciting trip to forest school. Not only was there lots of playing and exploring, but we also started making our first Christmas crafts. Our great day was topped off with cooking popcorn over the fire with yummy hot chocolate!





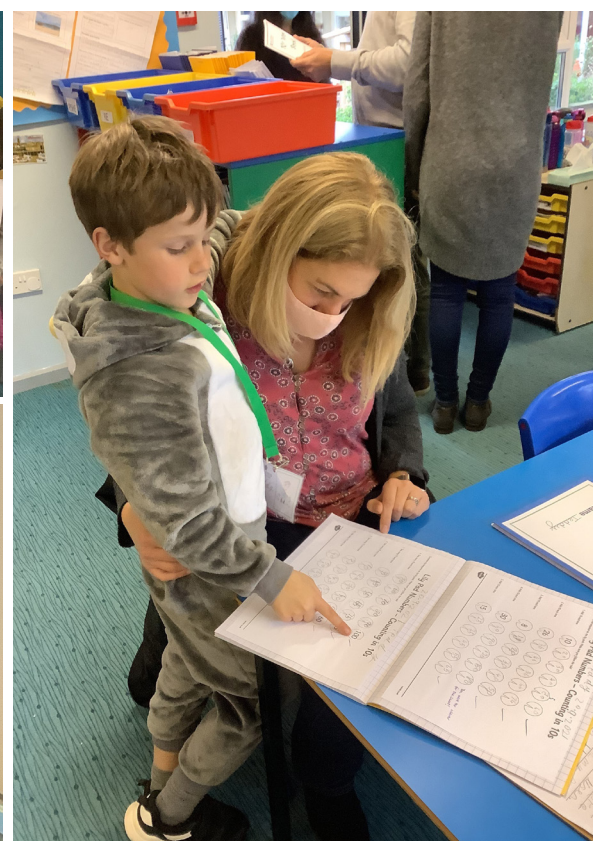
FOREST SCHOOL

Year 1 had a lovely time in forest school this week. The children absolutely loved the crunchy carpet of beautiful leaves on the ground. We used some of our maths skills and knowledge of length to collect sticks of varying sizes in preparation for some Christmas crafts next week!



OPEN AFTERNOON

Year 2 invited their parents into our classrooms and showed them all the wonderful things we have been up to so far this term. The children collected their parents from the front entrance and followed their own tour they had written around Pre Prep, making sure to stop off and get their parents a hot drink and a biscuit on the way. It was wonderful to see the children proudly showing their families around their space and thank you to all the parents for taking the time to come in. A lovely celebratory event which we hope to have many more of!



MINIS NEWS



NURSERY RHYME WEEK

The Minis had heaps of fun celebrating national Nursery Rhyme Week. They made pots of tea in their little teapots, helped Miss Polly's dolly who was sick, sick, sick, and enjoyed building Humpty Dumpty's wall. They used handprints to make flower pictures, just like in Mary, Mary Quite Contrary's garden and even organised shells and flowers in their little shop. All of the Minis enjoyed getting messy with our Old MacDonald's farm, as well as rowing our boat gently down the stream. What a busy session exploring nursery rhymes!

