

NEWSLETTER









A Message from the Headmistress

Dear Parents,

Looking out through my study window it is a beautiful crisp and sunny morning here at Millfield Prep and the ducks continue to enjoy the grounds and especially the

It was heart-warming to see the children perform in the Tea and Music Concert on Wednesday (all 37 of them!) and I am so pleased that they are continuing to maintain their level of practice. I have been judging the Storytelling Competition this week which was fabulous and I very much enjoyed watching the children recite their pieces with such expression. I have been



discussing inter-house competitions with Heads of Games Houses and Mr Morgan-Hughes, and some academic enrichment activities with Mr Close, which all bodes well for an even better second half to the term.

As you may be aware, the Prime Minister, Mr Johnson, will be making an announcement on Monday 22 February regarding the Government's plans for a return to school and once we have this clarity we will communicate with you regarding any arrangements. It is really very encouraging to see the roll out of the vaccine in the UK and the large number of people who have now had the first dose of the vaccine is extremely positive. In 1796, Edward Jenner said about vaccination "...an inquiry I trust not merely speculative, but of sufficient moment to inspire the pleasing hope of its becoming essentially beneficial to mankind". Who would have known how far we would come scientifically and technologically, in that we would have developed a vaccine and be rolling it out all over the world within a year!

Thank you for all of your support this half-term; it really has been a huge team effort to reach this point and I certainly hope the children will have a restful half term away from their screens.

I hope you continue to stay safe and I wish you an enjoyable half term break.

Best wishes, Mrs Shayler





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CELEBRATING CHINESE NEW YEAR

This Friday 12 February is the start of the Chinese New Year, or Spring Festival. It marks the beginning of the spring season in China.

The Chinese Lantern Festival marks the final day of these celebrations.

The lanterns symbolise people letting go of the past year and welcoming the new year with good fortune.

The **BBC** Bitesize website has some good resources about Chinese New Year.

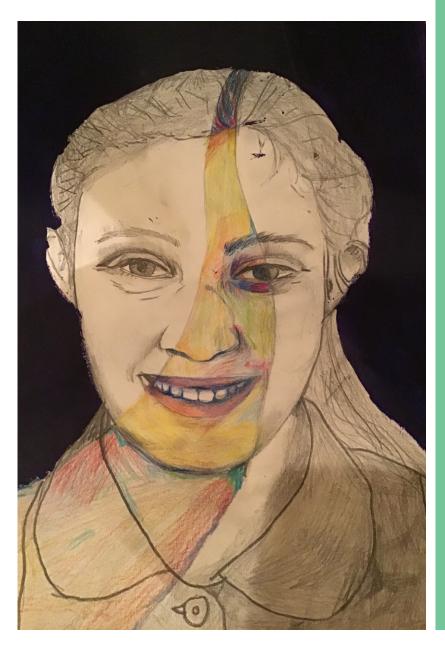
Perhaps you would like you learn some Mandarin phrases at home?

Please remember to wear something red on Friday as a symbol of good luck.

You might celebrate Chinese New Year at home with Chinese/Asian cuisine? Do <u>send</u> us photos!

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

This week's Picture of the Week is this great self portrait by **Bronwyn M** 8BM



STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE

Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online:

Parental controls: Parental controls have been designed to help you manage your child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought. However, nothing is totally fool proof so they shouldn't replace the need for you to support and advise your child using the internet. For more information and step by step instructions on setting up parental controls, visit Parental Controls & Privacy Settings Guides - Internet Matters.

Have an ongoing conversation: Continue to talk about the apps, games and sites they like to use, and what they like and don't like and any concerns about being online. Discuss with them when to unfollow, block or report. For help starting this conversation, read Having a Conversation With Your Child.

Be non-judgemental: Explain that you would never blame them for anything that might happen online, and you will always give them calm, loving support.

Make sure they know where to go for support: Remind your child they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset. For a breakdown of report services, visit Supporting your child with reporting unwanted content online

Make sure they know about NCA CEOP: Young people can report a concern about grooming or sexual abuse to NCA CEOP here and get support from a specialist Child Protection Advisor.

Talk about how their online actions can affect others: If your child is engaging with peers online, remind them to consider how someone else might feel before they post or share something. If they are considering sharing a photo/video of somebody else, they should always ask permission first.

Tell them about Thinkuknow: Our websites provide open and honest guidance for young people on friends, relationships and the internet, covering topics like dealing with pressure, consent, and getting support when you're worried. Visit our website for 11-13's or our website for 14+ for age-appropriate information.

Direct your child to age-appropriate information about relationships and sex: It's natural for young people to start exploring their sexual feelings online and adolescents are more inclined to take risks. It's important to understand this and to talk to your child in a positive, encouraging and safe way. Thinkuknow, Brook, The Mix and Childline all provide age-appropriate information about relationships and sex that you can signpost your child to.

PANCAKE COMPETITION

Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter. On Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians would go to confession and be "shriven" (absolved of their sins). Shrove Tuesday will fall on February 16 this year.

The challenge – design and make a creative sweet or savoury pancake that uses at least two fruits or vegetables in the design.

The recipe – 100g plain flour, 2 large eggs, 300ml milk, 1 tablespoon of sunflower oil, plus a little more for frying.

- 1. Sieve the flour into a bowl, add the oil, a pinch of salt and eggs, whisk together.
- 2. Gradually whisk in the milk until you have a smooth batter
- 3. Heat a medium frying pan (lightly oiled) over a medium heat.
- 4. When hot pour in just enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan, cook for one minute then flip over and cook for a further minute until golden.

When you have finished your pancake creation upload to the Pancake Day challenge folder on Showbie: 6APUR.

Closing date for submissions Friday 19 February 5pm.



Congratulations to **Tilly** and **Eva** for completing the Winter 10km Run for Cancer Research last weekend! In rather cold, windy and snowy conditions, the girls managed to complete the race in a fantastic 53 minutes. Well done!





EAL PUPIL OF THE WEEK

The EAL Pupil of the Week award goes to **Olivia S** for showing a good level of independence with her work this week. She has been fully prepared for her EAL lessons and one step ahead with the work. Olivia has made the most of some extra support with her subject classes and has caught up well, showing good understanding. Well done, Olivia!



TEA AND MUSIC CONCERT

On Wednesday 10 February, a staggering 37 pupils from Year 3 through to Year 8 presented recorded performances for the first remote Tea and Music Concert of the spring term. With the colder weather and shorter days, this lockdown has felt more challenging in many ways, and therefore I am delighted that we have been able to keep remote instrumental and vocal lessons running as successfully as we did during the first lockdown of summer 2020. Having the opportunity to play your instrument or sing can instil an enormous sense of wellbeing and the way in which our pupils have adapted yet again to online learning has been absolutely fantastic. Engaging in remote music lessons requires a commitment and a willingness to think outside the box from both teacher and pupil, and clearly this has been working extremely effectively.

The hour-long concert showcased a huge variety of instruments, including piano, keyboard, violin, double bass, harp, flute, oboe, clarinet, voice, guitar, drums, trombone, French horn, trumpet and glockenspiel, and the standard was nothing short of exceptional. It takes a tremendous amount of courage to press record and play or sing in front of a camera, knowing that your performance will be shared with many others and all the pupils should be incredibly proud of their efforts!

If you missed the concert and would like to watch, you will be pleased to know that it will remain in our school YouTube channel for you to enjoy at a convenient time (the running order and link has been included below). As was mentioned in last week's newsletter, for any who would like the opportunity to perform in a future concert, we will be holding another Tea and Music event in March and would be delighted to involve as many as possible. Details of how to sign up for this will follow shortly after half term.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to all those family members at home who have helped our pupils with recording and uploading videos for the concert. Without your continued encouragement and support, events like these simply would not be possible.

Well done again to all those pupils who performed so beautifully yesterday - it was lovely to see you all enjoying music at home and you created a truly uplifting and memorable concert – bravo!

Year 3	Year 7
Micah W	Elis D
	Caty R
Year 4	Mimi W
Georgina F	Mila B
Millie E	Katriel C
Tilly B	Asta M
Florence C	Henry O
Polly W	Seth C
_	Bertie W
Year 5	

John A Year 8 Helena C Lottie B Ed R

Year 6 Pierre I Hunter K Rosie S Freddie G Wills H Frederick H Iulian T Amelia B Daniel C Amber J Will M-H Tom B Sylvie B Enid M Jack L Max E Daniel B Dorian L











SUPER SWIMMER

Congratulations to **Keeleigh C**, who has just received her six gold, one silver and two bronze medals for wins in the Level X National Swimming Competition that she entered at home during the holidays in December last year!



YEAR 3'S CHINESE LANTERNS

To welcome in Chinese New Year, Year 3 pupils had an afternoon of activities which included making lanterns, masks and drawing dragons. Here are some of their brilliant efforts:



SAFER INTERNET DAY

On Tuesday 9 February we joined other schools and youth organisations across the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day 2021. Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, which calls on young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers, and more to join together in helping to create a better internet

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in school, and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year.

We started the day with Mr James delivering a live assembly to pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 and Mr Ford delivering one to pupils in Years 6, 7 and 8. It was great to see the pupils interacting remotely throughout the assembly, with our younger pupils using emojis in the Teams chat function and the older ones using the Mentimeter real time voting platform.

The theme of Safer Internet Day this year was 'An internet we trust' - exploring reliability in the online world and focused on how we can decide what to trust online, how to support young people to question, challenge and change the online world for the better. It explored how influence, persuasion and manipulation can impact young people's decisions, opinions and what they share online.

Pupils were also encouraged to complete the Let's Create #AnInternetWeTrust activity, which encourages them to think about reliability and trust online and what they and others can do to create an internet we can totally trust.

STAR HISTORIAN

Connor P has worked so hard during remote learning and produced this excellent poster last week! He really went over and above expectations to create this!



Chaplain's Thought of the Week

This half term starts with Valentine's Day on Sunday 14 February. What a great excuse to devote some time in the week before and after to finding yourself again and, in doing so, to show yourself some kindness and love.

We have Shrove Tuesday during half term, which tells us Lent is near. I do hope you have some fun making pancakes with your families and perhaps trying out some new and adventurous toppings.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and many of us cannot be in church so will be Zooming in to mark this significant day in the church calendar. I have attached some Lent at home reflections here that you might like to use as a family through the period of lent.

We are engaging as a school with 'Fairtrade Fortnight' which commences the day we return after half term, with an exciting making session planned for pupils on Friday 26 February. Perhaps you can find out what swaps you can make as a family and do ask your children to tell you what they learnt in our assembly. They will need to collect some ingredients for the making.

As you show yourself kindness and love, who or what will help you re-centre, refresh and regain yourself? Have a wonderful break when you get to it.

Deep peace of the running wave to you Deep peace of the flowing air to you Deep peace of the quiet earth to you Deep peace of the shining stars to you Deep peace of the Son of peace to you

Wellbeing tip for the week: Sleep more. Find ways and times that might enable you to enjoy more sleep, from napping to setting the alarm later in the morning (half term may be good for this rather than the school days this week!). Exposure to daylight can boost sleep at night, so if you are able then enjoy some exercise in the fresh air and better sleep as a result, three wins!

- Reverend Kitto

YEAR 6 SCIENCE

Year 6 pupils have been investigating the topic 'Sound' during their remote Science lessons this week. Year 6 completed a number of experiments for their Sound topic, using items found around the house.

These included investigating sound vibrations by using a glass filled with different amounts of liquids and running a wet finger around the rim and changing the pitch of a wind instrument by cutting straws into different lengths to make a straw kazoo. They also looked at changing the pitch of a bottle flute, by adding different amounts of water to a glass milk bottle.





COMMUNITY SUPERSTAR

Well done to **Steffi B D L O**, who has been helping to distribute food on the High Street in Glastonbury every Monday from 4pm until the food and drink are all consumed. Steffi bakes all cakes and cookies, as well as preparing hot tea. It is very important at the moment as, due to the lockdown and people staying at home, there are less people to offer meals to the homeless.

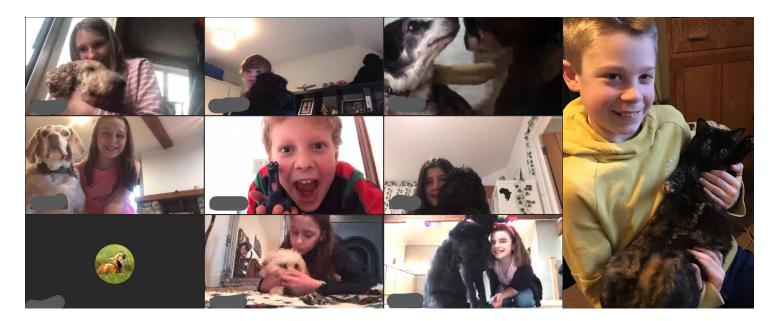
The charity Steffi is working with is called 'Food for All' and provides more than 5,000 free meals a day to community groups and local authorities. Steffi was invited to help by Jamuna Jivana Das who has been there from Monday to Friday for the last 30 years.

Steffi also noticed that there are no day centres or shelters in Glastonbury, and she hopes that maybe in the near future someone will like to start a project like this and she wants to be involved!



PET TUTOR TIME

After another week of excellent online learning, 6BVG's pets decided to join in during Group Tutor time on Friday.



ROCK AND POP CONCERT AUDITIONS

This year, the highly anticipated Rock and Pop Concert will be held in the summer term. In order to allow plenty of time to prepare for the concert, we have decided to hold auditions after half term in the week commencing 8 March. Auditions will be open to pupils in Years 6, 7 and 8 and a sign-up sheet will be circulated to group tutors in the week starting 22 February. Depending on future announcements from the government, auditions will either be held face to face in school or via Teams. Further information will follow, however we thought that pupils would welcome the opportunity to start thinking about song choices and begin practising over the half term break.

What you need to know

Auditions are open to pupils in Years 6, 7 and 8

Pupils may audition as soloists or in groups of up to 4. Groups will need to be part of the same year group bubble.

Please ensure that you choose a song in which the lyrics and message are appropriate for a prep school concert!

You will need to practise and memorise one verse and chorus of your chosen song for the audition.

If auditions are conducted via Teams, pupils signed up as groups may attend the same session, but will need to sing individually as technology does not permit more than one voice to sound at once.

If you choose to use a backing track for your audition, you will need to provide it. Unaccompanied (a cappella) auditions are also very welcome.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mrs Sturges or Mr Haddock.



STORYTELLING COMPETITION

In celebration of National Storytelling Week, the Drama department launched a whole school internal competition.

The fact that we had just over 100 entries during a national lockdown is quite extraordinary and we have been blown away with the standard across all year groups!

Heads of Year are busy shortlisting entries this week before Mrs Shayler, Mrs Hazel and Mr Close judge the 12 finalists. The winners will be announced during the first week after half term.



Tributes to Captain Sir Tom Moore



Collage by Lucy C

A Tribute by **Thomas S**

A fallen soldier
He has fought his whole life
Two seperate battles
A deadly war and a deadly disease
He has lived a century
A perfect model of life
This man's name is
Captain Tom

A Tribute by Scarlett B

During these difficult times,

When some were struggling for motivation and were so lonely they could barely stand,

You brought it upon yourself to inspire a nation and help loads around the world.

Your walk was full of innovation and your heart full of hope, that maybe this 2.5km walk would make a subtle yet needed change in the path to conquering this dreadful virus.

The world is grateful for your time and effort and how you changed the lives of so many you will never have met. For nothing in return and for not expecting much fame - the earth begins to take life-changing steps in the right direction.

And now this virus caught you in a sardonic attempt of revenge but the world looks it straight in the eye and knows fully of its evil doings. Fear not - we remember you and are still incessantly grateful.

Thank you, Captain Sir Tom Moore - for everything, from everyone.

A Tribute by Charlie B

Thank you sir, For all you have done. 33 million pounds raised, And not a penny wasted.

You will be remembered, As a hero, a saint. You walked the impossible, To save a dying nation.

YEAR 5 PE

This week, the Year 5 football group during the warm up had to find something beginning with various letters. This photo is the boys finding something beginning with the letter D! The boys found items ranging from the Death Star to dice to dogs! Later in the session they also had some trouble with gravity as you can see from the picture!



Tribute - A Haiku by Freddie B

World War Two Captain
'You will never walk alone'
National hero
World Record Holder
'Always be optimistic'
National Hero
Role model to children
Always, he will be remembered
National hero
Charity raiser
'Things will always get better'
National Hero

The Tribute by Matilda W

A word that means countless,
A colour with many shades.
A word that describes few,
Like 'royal' or 'role model'.
A word for a noble man,
A loyal, selfless man, who's done endless good.

He spread hope like a wild fire, In dark uncertain times. He brought hearts of all kinds together, When they had all drifted afar. He inspired minds, To help with a solution.

He went above and beyond, Not only serving his country once in World War II, But then again. This inspirational veteran, a wonder to the world, Raised over £32.8 million for the NHS. He gave his life to his country.

Saturday Enrichment Clubs

HELICOPTER HISTORY

Every Saturday morning, the History department have been running a masterclass designed to learn more about history we do not cover in lessons. The idea of Helicopter Histories came from a History podcast that has been adapted to allow our pupils to hover over a given topic and see the big picture.

So far, we have moved back and forth through time beginning with the American West in our first week, where we designed a thinking quilt, tracking the key events that shaped westward migration.

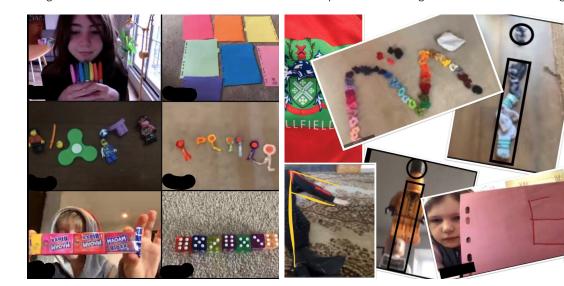
In week two, we studied the Vikings, their traditions, religion, discoveries and traditions. On our third Saturday, the focus was the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD and last Saturday, one of our group wanted to study the big picture of the Second World War, a tall order in under 60 minutes but was really well received.

Helicopter History has encouraged lots of our pupils to learn about brand new periods, places and people in the past from Cowboys to Vikings to Romans. Where we go next will be up to the group!



HOT CHOCOLATE AND CHAT CLUB

In Hot Chocolate and Chat Club, the pupils all talked, shared jokes and riddles and took part in lots of fun challenges. Everyone had to make a rainbow using seven items in the seven colours of the rainbow and each person was challenged to make one letter and together we wrote - Millfield!



GYMNASTICS & YOGA CLUB

The very dedicated set of girls in the Gymnastics & Yoga group worked on balance this week and finished off with some dinosaur-themed yoga.







HOLLIES

It was a delightful and entertaining evening with the Hollies' Girls during the House Meeting earlier in the week. Not only did this give us all the opportunity to catch up as a house, but to celebrate the birthdays which have occurred during the half term. The girls sang to mark the birthdays of Natalia, Rosie, Jasmine, Maia, Ari and Eva. Happy Birthday, girls and we all look forward to celebrating with you in person at some point soon! The Pastoral 1-1s, Hollies' Group Meetings and Parent Check Ins are continuing to go tremendously well. As always, it has been brilliant catching up with all the Hollies girls and their parents. All continue to be in good spirits and enjoying the online lessons. Many of the girls are keeping in regular contact with each other and it's pleasing to hear that friendships are flourishing even during this period of isolation. Overall, the girls are doing really well. We wish them and their families a restful and enjoyable half term and look forward to seeing them in the House Meeting on the first Monday next half term.



CHAMPION

Many happy returns to Sasha, Noelle, Keeleigh, Myla, Yashika and Katriel who have all had birthdays this term. The Champion girls were challenged to take pictures of unusual outside activities. Chloe took part in Mud Olympics outside her home!







CHESTNUT

The Chestnut boys meet up during two lunchtimes every week, as this suits the various time differences. It is great to hear them laugh and joke with each other. We have a ten minute meeting and then leave the boys to chat. We do then bounce them back to their lessons at 1pm or they would talk all afternoon! This week, two boys were set the challenge of having crazy hair for the meeting and they excelled themselves! As you can see from the screenshot, the traditional 'Chestnut salute sign off' is evolving into 'grab an object as quickly as you can!'. Top marks to Mr French and Mr Maxwell for their quick grabs this week!



BEREWALL

The Berewall Six Nations Rugby Predictions League continues, with some controversial scores keeping the Scottish and the Welsh fans happy last weekend! Will the English and Irish come back stronger or is this a show of current form?! Predictions in by 12 o'clock on Saturday please, boys!





NEWSLETTER









A Message from the Head of Pre-Prep

With the end of the first half of the spring term fast approaching, I want to say how proud we all are of the children's commitment, creativity and continued hard work. They have shown great determination to overcome challenges, persevered through problems with enthusiasm and much appreciated encouragement. Thank you from all of us in Pre-Prep for your continued support and understanding, whether at home or in school.

As the days are becoming slightly longer, with lighter mornings and longer evenings, I am filled with joy as I feel spring is coming. I also feel we are getting closer to all being back together in Pre-Prep. We continue to follow government guidance and will keep you updated on any changes but I am hopeful that we will soon all be back in Pre-Prep, together again. Thank you for all the positive comments to the teaching staff, who are in school and at home; they are much appreciated.

Enjoy the half term break with your family. Keep safe, keep smiling and keep looking after each other. - Mr Jory



STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to this week's Pre-Prep Stars of the Week, who will receive a certificate from Mr Jory.

Pre-School All of Pre-school for fantastic Muddy Puddle Fundraising!

Reception Marilin P Jack T

Amelie M Emily and Freya W Year 2 Fizzy O Max W

PRE-SCHOOL

IUMPING IN PUDDLES CHALLENGE

Every year Millfield Pre-Prep embarks on various tasks to raise money for charity. This week, the Frogs, Tadpoles and Tiddlers have been jumping in muddy puddles to raise money for Cancer Research UK and what an amazing job they have done. The children have had a whale of a time trying to make the biggest puddle splash, and there were quite a few soggy socks at the end of it all! They even jumped in the snow! What superstars! At the time of writing they have raised more than £900 and we have been bowled over by the generosity of our parents and their families and friends. Click here to see a video of the children jumping in puddles! The Catering team even joined in, making a delicious 'Muddy Puddle Cake'!





YEAR 2 12

PRACTISING POSITIVITY

Matilda inspired us this week with her 'grateful' and 'missing' jars. As part of our PHSEE lesson, we have been thinking about positivity and gratitude, and how we can show our family that we are grateful for the little things they are doing to support us. Year 2 were given the challenge to make 'grateful' and 'missing' jars, to focus their minds to all the things they are lucky to have and the things they will try not to take for granted in the future.







TADPOLES

FABULOUS FACES

It great to see the children's learning being carried on at home and supported by the parents. **Matilda** and her family were inspired by the Tadpoles' recent funny faces activity and created their own superb, funny faces. The activity linked into learning about the different parts of our bodies and what they do. Great fun and learning all combined into one!







BRILLIANT BANANA PUDDING

MISSING YOU

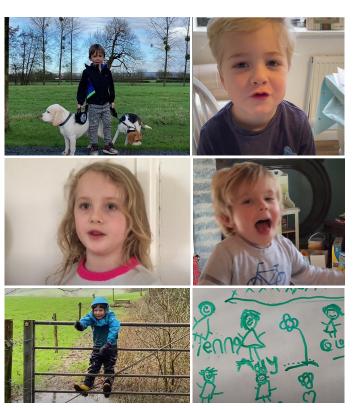
RECEPTION

The Frogs created a delicious banana pudding for their snack this week. It was linked to learning the sound 'B'. They carefully sliced their banana and added some cream and sprinkles - delicious! We welcome **Raffy** and **Rufus** to Pre-School.

Reception class have been really missing one another, so they decided to send one another messages. Check out what they have to say in the lovely video here's to hopefully being back together safely soon.







YEAR 1 BEAUTIFUL BIRDS

The children in Year 1 have been finding out about different garden birds. Some of them took part in the RSPB Great Big Bird Watch. They were set a challenge to design and make a bird feeder and there were lots of amazing designs. They also made some bird seed cakes to hang in their gardens. Great work. Year 1!











