



Newsletter

January 2024

We seem to have experiences four seasons in one month with high winds, sunny crisp days and snow, but life in Prep has maintained its usual busyness. In this edition of our newsletter, you will read about snowball fights, classroom visitors from ECO Schools, trips to the Post Office (no, not for the staff's Amazon parcels), and incredible recycling shows from the team at Belfast City Council. Prep 7 have also started preparations for their performance of Mary Poppins in March supported by the other Prep girls – that's definitely a date for the diary! **K Hrabovsky**

Dates for your diary...

- **Monday 5 Feb:** Stranmillis students Miss Jupp (P4), Miss McVeigh (P7) & Miss Bobner (P1) begin their school-based placements in VCB Prep
- **Tuesday 6 Feb:** Safer Internet Day (*in-school activities*)
- **Wed 7 & Thurs 8 Feb:** Parent-Teacher Consultations from 12.30pm in the Prep Hall
- **Friday 9 Feb:** Chinese New Year celebrations (*in-school activities*)

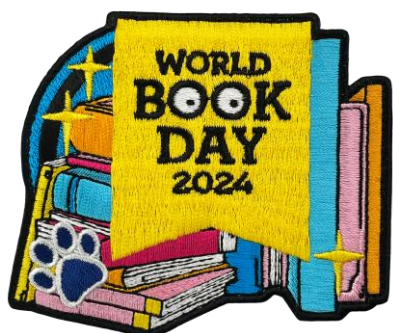
Monday 13 – Friday 17 February: HALF TERM HOLIDAY

- **w/c 26 Feb:** Scholastic Book Fair in School
- **Thursday 29 Feb: Friends of Prep 'Entrepreneurial Me' Fair, 6.30pm**
- **Friday 1 Mar:** Author Clair Quigg visiting to lead story reading workshops
- **Friday 8 Mar:** World Book Day character dress-up day



World Book Day

Thursday 7 March is World Book Day. To celebrate we will be hosting a local author as she leads some reading workshops with the pupils in Prep and Inchmarlo. Our Scholastic Book Fair will be in school from 26 February, and there's the infamous dress-up day planned for 8 March (take this as your hint to get on to Amazon!).



Thank you to Mr Lowry for donating some gardening tools for our Action Group School Garden project. During the Autumn term, the girls have been building planters, sourcing bulbs and compost, and developing a planting calendar to ensure we have growth all year. The Action Group ladies will be starting to plant for spring next month when the frost goes and then we hope to twin our Garden with one in South Africa.



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Pre- School



Pre-school have had such a busy start to the new term. Between snowy days and stormy days and even some mild days we have had many different experiences and made many observations about the world around us. We have welcomed Mrs McClean back to pre-school and we have three lovely new friends in our class too. Sadly, we have said goodbye to Miss Foster, but we have made her promise to come and visit us.

The classroom has been busy too. We have been working on developing our motor skills and our independence for P1. The girls are putting on their own coats and taking care of their belongings. Many of our girls are walking in by themselves and unpacking their bags. They also remember to post their name in the post box to register that they have arrived in the classroom. We are very proud of them and all the progress they are making. Well done Pre-School girls!

Prep 1

P1 have really enjoyed the first snowy weather of the year, playing outside and enjoying cosy activities indoors, finding out about how animals adapt and learning how we can keep ourselves warm.





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Prep 2

This term, Prep 2 have been exploring their local area and learning about the journey of a letter. As part of this, they learnt how to write an informal letter and wrote a Thank You letter for a Christmas present they received. Once they wrote their letter, the girls put it in an envelope and wrote the recipient's address on it. On Tuesday 23rd January, the girls walked to the Lisburn Road Post Office. They each bought a 1st class stamp and placed it on their envelope. They then posted their letter in the post box. The girls are now waiting patiently to receive replies to their letters. On this trip, the girls also explored the Lisburn Road. Whilst taking a picture of the Fire Station, they were invited inside and got to see all the cool gear stored in the fire engine. A fun, unexpected experience!

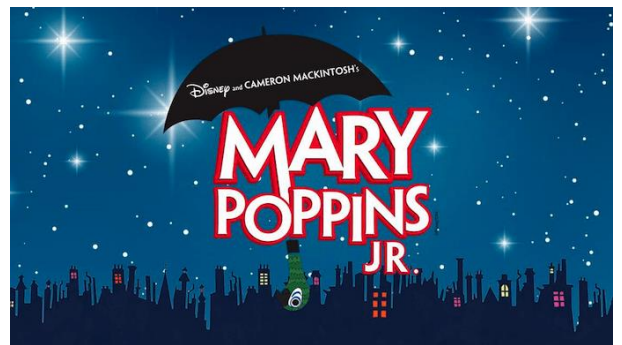


Goodbye & Good Luck

Miss Foster has been a valued member of the Prep Staff for over 9 years, so it was with a heavy heart that we said goodbye on Friday 26 January. Miss Foster is going to Lloyds Bank but has promised to return for *Mary Poppins* and to see her Pre-School girls graduate in June.



Save the Date!



The Prep School will be performing Mary Poppins on:

Tuesday 26 March @ 1pm
Wednesday 27 March @ 7pm

Tickets will be on sale through Parent Pay for both dates from Monday 4th March.



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Prep 3



Prep 3 began the New Year thinking about waste. We had a visit from Anna Green from 'Eco Schools NI' who helped us think about what we put in our general waste bins. The girls helped Anna sort through some rubbish, and we found out that a lot of the waste could have been recycled if put into correct bins.

Prep 3 have also had an exciting month as they have just started their swimming lessons in Olympia Leisure Centre. They have really enjoyed their first couple of lessons and Monday has now become their favourite day of the week - no Monday Blues in sight!

Prep 4

Prep 4 have started their World War Two topic and they have had great fun learning about why the war started, food rationing, and finding out if they had any family members who were in the war. Some girls were lucky enough to have some WW2 memorabilia in their house and photographs of family members who were alive during the War. This term in numeracy, we have been learning about graphs and different ways of displaying data and information. We created some Carroll diagrams and Venn diagrams to sort and display information about food rationing. Prep 4 were joined by Anna from Eco-Schools this term. We looked at recycling, why it is important for the environment and where our waste goes when we throw it out. We had a look through our classroom bins at our rubbish from snack time and discussed what bin it should go into. Thankfully we didn't find anything too disgusting!





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Prep 5



Through our World Around Us topic, we have been learning about how the Stone Age people lived in groups and travelled around as they followed and hunted the herds of wild boar. This nomadic lifestyle meant that their homes had to be transported with them. In our Art and Craft sessions, we have been creating Mesolithic style tents from a range of materials. The girls have thoroughly enjoyed discussing the pros and cons of this way of life as they have constructed their individual homes.

In our Big Write sessions this month, we have also taken on the roles of Stone Age children and written diary accounts of a typical day. We look forward to completing our topic by creating menus based on the food available in these early times.

Prep 6

Prep 6 started the new year in style with a rugby tournament at Instonians to help promote the sport for girls. The whole class took part and enjoyed the fresh air, exercise and the delicious hot dogs for lunch! Work on our Northern Ireland topic has started, with lessons about the six counties and the girls are enjoying their project work on a county of choice. Numeracy work has been on special types of number and the class have explored prime, square, cube and triangular numbers.





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Prep 7 SEAG Results will be issued on Saturday 27 January.

Pre-School – Prep 6 Parent Consultations are being held on Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 February. Appointment can be conducted in person or by telephone. Bookings should be made through School Cloud.

The **Prep 6 Parents' Transfer Meeting** is taking place in the Prep Hall on Tuesday 30 January at 3.15pm.

Entrepreneurial Me

The next exciting event organised by Friends of Prep, is a craft fair on Thursday 29 February. Pupils are being encouraged to 'rent' a table for £5, then plan their own business deciding what to sell and preparing their merchandise. All sales made on the night will be profit for the sellers. There's even an Alan Sugar prize to compete for!

had a special assembly this morning about FoP event - further details on the next slide

Entrepreneurial me.
Children's business fair.

Friends of Prep
VICTORIA COLLEGE BELFAST

29TH FEBRUARY
6.30-8.00PM.



Prep 7



P7 have started 2024 imagining what life would have been like on board the 'unsinkable' Titanic. We have explored the journey the vessel made, starting from its construction in Belfast, leading up to the fateful crash. In Literacy, the girls have taken on the role of either a first-, second- or third-class passenger and written a diary entry of their experience onboard the Titanic with various 'Editing Stations' to edit, improve and up-level their work. The girls did a fantastic job of getting into the genre as well as using appropriate language from Edwardian times. Bincedibles was a serious message presented to us in an entertaining way by Belfast City Council. We were encouraged to look after nature in the world around us by following a recycling mantra of 'sorting, rinsing, crushing and binning' all our rubbish. We even received gifts of pencils that were recycled from newspaper!