



Newsletter

November 2023

'Busy' such a small little word, and yet it describes November in Prep exactly. Since returning from the mid-term break, there seems to have been a continuous stream of special events, workshops, visitors, charity days and outings – and it has been brilliant! In this edition of our newsletter, you'll be able to get a flavour of the fun and excitement throughout each year group's learning. December is also shaping up to be a busy month, so please take note of the diary dates and reminders mentioned so you are able to join our festive events.

Mrs K Hrabovsky

Planning ahead....



- **1 Dec:** Daily Mile Santa Run – don't forget your Santa hat!
- **w/c 4 Dec:** Last week of swimming lessons and extra-curricular activities
- **5 Dec:** Prep 5-7 watching *Annie* @ 9.30am
- **6 Dec:** **Friends of Prep Movie Night, 6-8pm**
- **8 Dec:** **Prep Open Morning, 9.30am-12noon**
- **13 Dec:** Pre-School Christmas Songs @ 10.30am, Prep Hall
- **14 Dec:** VCB Carol Service, Fisherwick Presbyterian Church @ 7pm
- **19&20 Dec:** Prep Nativity @ 10.30am, Prep Hall
- **21 Dec:** P1-7 attending Lyric theatre for *Hansel & Gretel*
- **22 Dec:** Christmas Jumper Day; School closes at noon for all pupils; No After Hours available

Christmas holidays: Friday 23 December – Thursday 5 January (inclusive)
School Development Day: Friday 6 January 2023 – pupils are not required to attend

- **8 Jan:** Spring term begins for pupils, After Hours and canteen available

Christmas Movie Night



Tickets are on sale now for our Friends of Prep Christmas Movie night planned for **Wednesday 6 December** – get your fluffy blanket and squishmallow ready!

Open Morning



The Pre-School and Preparatory School Open Morning is planned for Friday 8 December from 9.30am-noon

All classrooms will be open for viewing on the morning with parents able to gain an insight of the setting, speak with staff and meet the pupils.

This is an important date in our calendar to ensure that families considering Pre-School or Primary 1 places for their daughter are aware of the excellent opportunities available in Victoria College.

Please be sure to share the date and time with friends and family.



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VCB Carol Service

The College Carol Service will be held on Thursday 14 December in Fisherwick Presbyterian Church. The P5-7 Choir will be participating alongside pupils from the Senior School. Tickets must be requested in advance by returning the reply slip sent home with the choir members. If you need another copy of this letter, please speak to Mrs Sloan.



Operation Christmas Child



Thank you to everyone who so generously participated in our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox appeal. Over 120 carefully filled shoeboxes were collected – so many that there was a worry we might not have enough room in the car that came to collect them! These gifts will be sent to boys and girls in Eastern Europe, spreading love and joy in difficult circumstances, and letting these children know that others care even though they do not know them personally.

Pre-School

The Pre-School girls have had a busy time, both in the classroom and during outside play. In the classroom we have been enjoying learning about our theme, "People Who Help Us". We really like to dress up like doctors and help the babies and the teddies to feel better. We are looking forward to a visit from Dr Shuttleworth. He is going to talk to us all about being a doctor and show us how some of the equipment works. We are trying really hard to say the word stethoscope, but it tends to get stuck on our tongues! During outside play we have been practising our balance on the climbing frame, building a bug hotel in Forest School and collecting lots of Autumn treasures to use in our artwork. We had a fun visit to Inch Marlo for a Forest School Session on Tuesday, and the girls were really friendly and helpful and played so positively. I am very proud of them all. We look forward to the rest of our busy term as we gear up for all the fun of the Festive Season.





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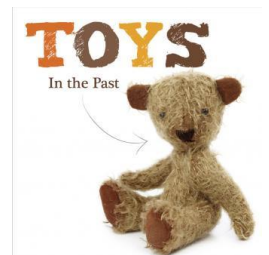
Prep 1

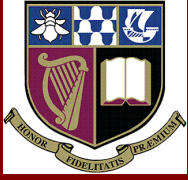


P1 have had a fun Forest School morning over at Inchmarlo, making leaf crowns, climbing trees and playing together with their new friends in the woodland habitat. In our own grounds, we have responded to the stormy weather by finding the VCB fairies new homes! Now we are getting gradually more excited about our school Christmas events especially our role as angels in the nativity performance.

Prep 2

In World Around Us, Prep 2 have been enjoying learning about Toys. They have learnt all about the history of teddy bears, compared old and new toys and written about their favourite toys. On Thursday 23rd November 2022, the girls had a visit from Nanny Johnston at Mount Stewart. She talked about the toys Lady Rose use to play with, which included a hard teddy bear, a porcelain doll, a jack in the box and a magic coin trick. They learnt about the materials used to make toys in the past and compared how toys move differently today than in the past. The girls even got to play with some of Lady Rose's toys from the past. We thoroughly enjoyed our morning with Nanny Johnston.





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Prep 3

This month the girls in Prep. 3 have been learning about plants and animals as part of their new topic 'Animal Magic'. We have been looking at the foods we eat, and the girls were making decisions on where they come from, a plant or an animal. We have looked closely at the different parts of a flower and were able to tell our peers what each part does. During Activity Based Learning we have been very creative to make an animal home using Lego and have also made some colourful 2D models of an animal using moulding clay.



Christmas in Prep

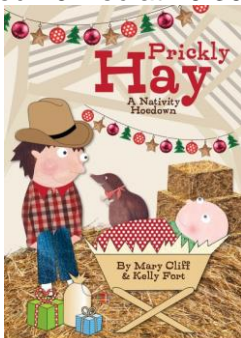
Pre-School Nativity: Christmas Songs

Wednesday 13 December at 10am, Prep Hall



Prep School Nativity: Prickly Hay

Tues 19 & Wed 20 Dec at 10.30am, Prep Hall



End of Term Arrangements

The Preparatory School closes on Friday 22 December for the Christmas break. All pupils will be dismissed at 12 noon. Please note: Canteen and After Hours are not available on this day.

Pupils are encouraged to wear their Christmas Jumpers on this day with a suggested donation of £2 for the NI Children's Hospice.





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Prep 4

As part of our Houses and Homes topic, Prep 4 enjoyed an exciting trip to the Ulster Folk Park. We had a tour of the old town and explored some old houses and buildings. We compared how houses have changed over the years and couldn't believe that people had to use the toilet outside! We met some characters from the past who shared how life would have been like for children and adults and we got to watch how newspapers were printed years ago. Rebecca from Young Enterprise also joined our class this month to deliver a workshop about our community. We really enjoyed it and got to design our own communities with a cat cafe, McDonald's, clip and climb, Christmas Wonderland and a circus!



Badminton Star

Archisha Trivikram in Prep 6 participated in her first 'away' badminton tournament and was extremely successful. She came second in both the singles and doubles under-11 categories. Well done, Archisha!



Spreading Kindness



Grace Kearley from Prep 5 presented a cheque for £264 to Helping Hand, a charity for the Royal Belfast Victoria Hospital for Sick Children. Grace had raised this money by making and selling top hat buns – such a caring way to support this important facility.



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Prep 5



As an introduction to our new “Stone Age” topic, P5 girls were delighted to take part in an exciting, interactive workshop. The first activity involved identifying stone tools and weapons and matching them to their descriptions. The wide range of activities kept everyone busy and motivated to participate and develop their understanding of this period of time in history. Challenges included weaving with wool, making wattle and daub fences, moulding clay into pots and taking rubbings of stones. A favourite station was dressing up in animal skins and using a bow and arrow for target practice, aiming at a wild boar. In the afternoon, the girls watched an informative video about this time in history, focusing mainly on the Mesolithic period. The day concluded with the girls creating their own Stone Age axes and sharing what they had learned through a final plenary session. This special session has been a fantastic way to embark on our topic and has inspired everyone to find out more in the weeks ahead.

Prep 6

What a month it has been in P6! Our Viking topic continues at pace with the culmination in a fantastic Friday workshop where the girls had a go at making Viking bread and their very own rune necklaces. The general consensus was that the Vikings can keep their bread recipes as all the honey in the world couldn't have made it tasty!

On Wednesday 29th November the class visited W5 to take part in a Micro:bit workshop. The girls learned how to code on the Micro:bit and enjoyed creating love hearts, dancing men and flashing images. They also completed a STEM competition to see who could build the highest tower from paper and straws. The girls were excellent ambassadors for the college.





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Prep 7

On Monday 27th November, Prep 7 enjoyed a treat day to celebrate the end of the Transfer Tests. They came to school in their pyjamas, watched a movie, played games, made crafts and had popcorn, sweets and hot chocolate, (not forgetting their pizza and chips for lunch) Later that week, they had an 'out of this world' day at Armagh Planetarium! They were treated to a special dome show all about the Solar System, designed and launched their very own rockets and had fun exploring the various exhibitions and sensory room. The gift shop was also real highlight! Thank you to Prep 7 for exemplary behaviour throughout the trip.



Living My Best Life
- IT XPRESS -



Christmas Charity Support

Christmas is a time when we are encouraged to think of others, especially those less fortunate than ourselves. We would like to thank you for the support you have shown towards our community endeavours through contributions of festive pyjamas, groceries and toiletries over the past few weeks. These items will be used the Simon Community, Windsor Women's Centre and Footprints Women's Centre to help individuals and families know someone cares this Christmas. Contributions can be left in Reception until **Wednesday 6 December**.





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THANK YOU

Victoria College Prep,
Belfast

for raising a fantastic
£241.70

The money you have raised will be used to help change the lives of children and young people facing disadvantage in communities across the UK.

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

BBC Children in Need has not verified the above fundraising. This is not a receipt.
© BBC 2007 Reg. charity England & Wales no. 802052 and Scotland no. SC039557.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donned their Pudsey and Blush ears for Children in Need on Friday 17 November. The CAG girls did a spot-tacular job running a Pudsey merchandise stall selling hairbands, badges and pens, raising £241.70. Well done ladies!

Friends of Prep Calendars

Don't forget that our Friends of Prep 2024 birthday calendars are on sale at the moment. Stock is going quickly, so make sure you are not disappointed.

Calendars can be bought online through Parent Pay, costing £15 each or two for £25.

**Selling Fast,
Act Quickly!**



Anti-Bullying Week



The Prep girls might have looked a little strange on 13 November because they were wearing mismatched socks, but this was part of our Anti-Bullying Week activities. The focus this year was to *Make a Noise about Bullying* encouraging pupils to speak out if they are experiencing bullying behaviour or if they see someone else experiencing bullying. It was a super week of focused activities with many classes using the new Verbal Wellbeing resource for discussions.