



Newsletter

October 2023

The leaves are a glorious sea of orange, gold and red in the School grounds, and the heating has been switched on – it's definitely feeling like autumn in Prep! October has been a busy month with sporting events restarting, action group projects moving ahead and ECO workshops. We hope you enjoy reading about the busy classes, the fun activities and the engaging learning that has been taking place. Have a wonderful half-term break.

K Hrabovsky

Planning ahead.....



- ✚ **Mon 6 Nov:** Autumn term B begins, School is open from 8am, extra-curricular activities and After Hours will be operating as usual
- ✚ **Fri 10 Nov:** Remembrance Day observation; Prep 7 morning yoga session in Prep Hall
- ✚ **Sat 11 Nov:** SEAG Assessment 1
- ✚ **w/c 13 Nov:** Anti-Bullying Week: *Make A Noise About Bullying*
- ✚ **Fri 17 Nov:** Children in Need Day; Operation Christmas Child showbox collection date
- ✚ **w/c 20 Nov:** Scholastic Book Fair in Prep all week
- ✚ **Wed 22 Nov:** Simon Community Christmas Collection begins (*details to follow*)
- ✚ **Thurs 23 Nov:** Nanny from Mount Stewart visiting Prep 2
- ✚ **Fri 24 Nov:** P7 morning yoga session in Prep Hall
- ✚ **Sat 25 Nov:** SEAG Assessment 2
- ✚ **Mon 27 Nov:** Prep 7 DVD & Devices Day
- ✚ **Wed 29 Nov:** P5 Young Enterprise workshop; P6 visit to W5 for STEM workshop
- ✚ **Fri 1 Dec:** Hockey team attending tournament at Campbell College

Slip Into Your Slippers

On Friday 26 October, the Community Action Group encouraged all the Prep pupils to wear their cosy slippers to School in support of Age NI who support elderly community members to access the support and help they need. Thank you to all who contributed, an amazing £283.50 was raised!



School Calendars



Our 2024 Friends of Prep birthday calendar will be going on sale from **Monday 6 November**. Purchases should be made through Parent Pay. Priced at £15 each, two for £25 or three for £30, they are the perfect stocking filler.



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Pre-School



What a busy time we have had in Pre-School this month! We have been enjoying looking for signs of the changing season during outside time and have painted some beautiful Autumn trees.

During our P.E. lessons we have been working on our balance, mid-line crossing and co-ordination. We have even enjoyed some Yoga. It has been super having the space in the PE hall to really stretch ourselves out.

We are getting really good at listening as a group and we all like to participate at News Time and All Together Time. We thoroughly enjoy sensory play and experimenting with new textures. Shaving foam is a firm favourite!

We will be finishing off our busy term with a special Grandparents Day with family visitors coming to class – how exciting! We wish all our families a happy half term break and look forward to the next part of this busy term.

Prep 1 and Prep 5

P1 have continued to enjoy their visits to the College Library, enjoying another special story during Book Week NI with Ms Farrelly. The girls have also been exploring how we are all 'the same yet different' as part of Black History month and enjoying some amazing artwork in the style of artist Alma Thomas.

Prep 1 have joined in a fun session with their P5 Guardian Angels. Prep 5, were so excited as they prepared to meet their P1 charges in their important role as their Guardian Angels which involves being a mentor and friend for the younger pupils in school and promotes a sense of responsibility for the Prep 5 girls.

P5 created beautiful cards for their P1 counterparts and presented them to them when the two classes met together for introductions and activities. After a few circle games and songs, the P5 girls took their new P1 friend back to class and promised to act as their buddy in school.





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Prep 2

Prep 2 have been very busy building a scarecrow for the Montalto Estate School Scarecrow competition. We started by planning our scarecrow and decided to make Mr McGregor from Peter Rabbit. Then we thought about the items we would need for our scarecrow. Thank you to the mummies and daddies for donating clothing and other items. After we accumulated all we needed, we started building our scarecrow with a little help from Rab (the VCB Building Supervisor) and Mrs Nixon (Miss Nixon's mummy!). We were really happy with the final result, and we look forward to seeing it on display at Montalto Estate over half term. Make sure to visit Montalto Estate to see all the scarecrows entered into the scarecrow competition.



Prep 3



In Prep 3 we have been busy learning about Autumn. We have been thinking about all the changes that occur during the season within our World Around Us and Outdoor Learning lessons. In Art, the girls have been learning about a famous artist Gustav Klimt and his famous painting 'Silver Birch'. In class we have been having lots of fun layering autumnal coloured paint to re-create his famous work.

Also this month, we took part in an environmental games workshop with George from Belfast City Council. We were learning about litter, waste and how it can impact our surroundings and the local wildlife. We also learnt about importance of recycling our waste and its many benefits.



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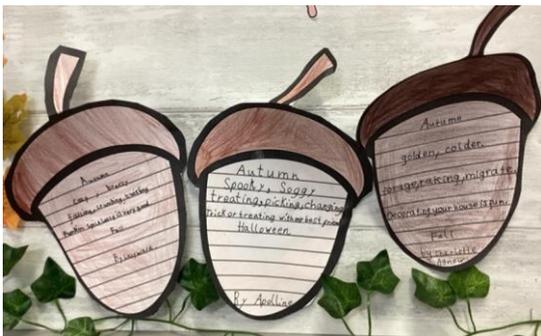
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Prep 4

Prep 4 took part in their own 'Ancient Greek Olympics' during P.E. The girls researched and presented interesting facts about the Ancient Greek Olympics and during Art, we made medals, torches, and olive crowns. It was a lot of fun and we used super teamwork.



We have been enjoying the change of season this month, and have been outside investigating how our environment looks, smells and feels different. We used our findings to help write some beautiful Autumn Cinquain poems using amazing adjectives and verbs.



Belfast Giant's Visit

During October, Preps 6 and 7 had an assembly visit from a Belfast Giant. No, Finn Maccool wasn't in Prep, but Mark Garside from the Stena Line Belfast Giants hockey team led a special assembly about the importance of a healthy diet and lifestyle. As a defence player entering his thirteenth season with the Giants, Mark certainly knows the importance of looking after his body and how to keep fit.



The girls listened inventively and learnt how to develop healthy habits that can last a lifetime. As well as hearing about the positive impact of regular exercise and healthy food choices, they also learnt about how important sleep is to maintaining a healthy mindset and body, so there shouldn't be any problems getting them to go to bed early tonight!





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Accelerated Reader Success!



We had lots of reasons to celebrate during our final assembly in October.

This month we had 5 'word millionaires' – Elma (P4), Charlotte, Zoe M & Fatima (P5), and Amaya (P7), almost **10 MILLION** words have been read by P3-7 since the start of September, and over **200** names in the 100% Club class boxes representing pupils who had answered all quiz questions linked to their book correctly.

Well done everyone!

Operation Christmas Child

The Prep School will be collecting filled shoeboxes in participation with Operation Christmas Child to help bring joy and to children living in difficult circumstances. Boxes and information leaflets were sent home this week, but please do not feel limited to only using the box provided – if you have other shoeboxes and would like to provide more than one from your family, we would be delighted to receive it! Shoeboxes should be returned by Wednesday 15 November for collection. Thank you to Mrs Marshall who spoke in Assembly and provided the girls with lots of gift ideas. It's amazing how much can fit in one small box!



Hockey Blitz

Storm Babet did not deter Mrs Henderson and her P6/7 hockey team, who bravely battled the elements and teams from Methodist College, Penrhyn, Strandtown and Dundonald Primary Schools in their first hockey event of the academic year. The girls started the season strong, winning every one of their matches! Very well done to all the girls who took part and thank you to Mrs Henderson, Mrs Baker and Mr Simpson who braved the wind and rain to support and encourage them.





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Prep 6

Prep 6 have been working their socks off this month. Maths tasks on long multiplication and division with decimal remainders has ensured we have been kept busy. Literacy skills have focused on plural noun rules and we are over half way through our class novel of the BFG. Viking learning continues with a focus on longships and longhouses and the class have enjoyed making their Viking longships for display. Miss Nixon has introduced the class to an exciting new instrument; the ukulele – a first for Prep! We look forward to hearing their tunes soon.



Prep 7



Aside from working extremely hard and continuing with their transfer test preparations, P7 have been introduced to some new sports as part of Mental Health Awareness week. They are enjoying tag rugby sessions and even tried their hand at boxing with the Olympic medallist, Paddy Barnes. Some new talents are emerging!

Focusing on Pupil Mental Health & Wellbeing



The Prep staff have been using a new resource in the classroom this month following training during the SDD in September. *Verbal Wellbeing* is a unique PDMU resource promoting discussion and reflection using stories and questions created by childhood psychologists and educational leaders from DE, the EA and Stranmillis University. The focused conversations have already been useful in promoting debate and inner reflection, and we look forward to monitoring the programme's impact on our pupils' wellbeing and emotional regulation.

Getting in to Action!

The Action Groups have been busy working on a shared sustainability project this half-term. You may have noticed a new compost bin on the grounds. We also have had delivery of 1,000+ baby worms for our new wormery! The SNAG team have been collecting food waste from classroom caddies to add to the composter, and staff have been saving their coffee granules and teabags for the worms. We hope this will lead to nutritious compost and leachate that we can use in the newly built planters and coronation rose garden area. The ECO and Welcome teams have been creating a planting calendar to help us decide when to plant chosen flowers and vegetables so there is always something growing. The IAG girls are now aiming to 'twin' our garden with an overseas School to learn more about their growing cycle.