



Pre-Prep News - Friday 5 November

From Mrs Ross

I would like to wish you a warm welcome back to school (despite the cooler temperatures this week!). The boys have returned with their wonderfully infectious enthusiasm and energy. It has been an exciting week of learning in all areas of the curriculum, including a firework safety focus as we approach Bonfire Night. I am delighted to welcome *Miss Rebecca Warren* to our Pre-Prep staff team, as the full-time Teaching Assistant in Reception Class, to cover Miss Whitmore's maternity leave.

This half term of the School year is one that becomes particularly special for Pre-Prep children, staff and parents. We learn about many celebrations and festivals, and our Nativity Performance will become a highlight of the term!

Year 2

Year 2 have enjoyed a historical week continuing in their learning about the history of London. This week the focus has been on *The Gunpowder Plot* and the boys have been enraptured to learn of the twists and turns in the tale and the gory end that the plotters met!

In Maths lessons, the Year 2 boys have impressed me with their work on adding and subtracting multiples of ten. Their hard work over the previous terms is shining through in their calculation work and many have been excited to begin applying their knowledge to column addition and subtraction.

Year 1

Year 1 have been very busy aliens this week! Mrs Ross and Mr Gale have both enjoyed teaching the class. Their alien head dresses were designed and created on Monday. The boys then participated in imaginative role-play with their alien friends to consider such questions as "How does an alien clean his teeth?" and "What would you do if you met a human being?". Alien diaries have been carefully written and then read aloud with infectious enthusiasm and confidence.

Dr Essex has also enjoyed working with one of our Read, Write Inc groups this week.

EYFS

Read, Write, Inc. was the main focus for our curricular learning during the last few days of this half term: from flag making and shape sorting to hunting and robot building. The boys worked hard taking their interests further and developing their communicative skills through sharing their creations. They also learnt to ask for help when needed and to answer questions, too. Thank you to Mr Price who returned to Zoom to read us a wonderful story, *The Little House by the Sea*. The boys listened intently and enjoyed finding the many creatures that featured in this delightful story.



This week, the boys in Reception are refreshed and eager to learn again. We have started with Festivals of Light, the first being Diwali. We have made some great Rangoli patterns using the Numicon tiles, a wonderful example of cross curricular work with the boys talking numbers while making and creating patterns.

Ahead of tonight's fireworks display, the boys had great fun splatter-painting their own firework displays.

Mrs Kent



Forest School

Don't we just love conkers! Reception had great fun this week creating conker animals and even mini conker people. The boys learned how to drill a hole in their conkers using a clamp and a small hand drill called a gimlet.

Year 1 focused on our wonderful autumn leaves and learned why the leaves change at this time of year. After sorting the leaves by size and colour, the boys created a piece of artwork showing how the leaves changed colours; we even had a few leaf rainbows!

This week Year 2 investigated the difference between natural and man-made objects. Several different zones were visited, and the boys recorded their findings, and made some interesting observations.

As the weather is changing, boys should bring in a warm coat, wellington boots and waterproof trousers for our Forest School sessions, as well as a pair of gloves, a hat and an extra warm top if they wish.

Mrs Walker



Pre-Prep Notices

Swimming Notice - for Year 1 and 2 parents

We would like to confirm that swimming in the Puddle has finished for this calendar year. We hope to return to using the Puddle for the Summer Term's swimming lessons.

We are currently working hard to organise an alternative indoor venue for weekly swimming lessons in the Lent Term. As soon as this is finalised, I will inform you of the arrangements. In the meantime, the boys will continue to have two PE lessons and one Games session per week at school.

Key dates:

Friday 12 November	09:00-12:00	Pre-Prep Open Morning for prospective parents Flu vaccination day
Tuesday 30 November	09:00	Pre-Prep Nativity dress rehearsal
Wednesday 1 December	09:00-09:30	Pre-Prep Nativity performance