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# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

21 October 2016

I can hardly believe that it is already half term! It has been a great start to the academic year and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all the girls and members of staff over the past few weeks. I really do feel very honoured by the warm welcome that has been extended towards me by everyone, including our wonderful parent body.

To say that life here at The Maynard is busy would be a severe understatement and there certainly is never a dull moment. I am full of admiration for how all the girls, across the School, handle their busy timetables and get stuck in to the many offerings with such enthusiasm and humour. Half term will be a well-earned break for us all and I hope everyone has the time to relax and refuel over the coming couple of weeks.

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## **'Fluffy Friday'**

I am not sure know how this name came about but, suffice to say, Ty the dog is back at school again today much to her delight. You may well have seen the photos of her on the Maynard Facebook page looking very content whilst 'helping' the Sixth Formers with their Extension Studies Programme. I have no idea what is in store for her today but she will no doubt enjoy the plentiful opportunities for cuddles from interested passers-by!

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## **Fifi the Hamster**

Don't tell Ty because she might be offended to know that she is not the only animal in the school, as earlier this week we welcomed Fifi the hamster as our new resident in the Pre-Prep Department. She appears to be settling in well to her new home and is becoming more and more confident with each day. It is a really exciting thing for many of the girls to have an animal to care for and I look forward to keeping you all updated with news as to what she has been doing!

### **Trips and enrichment**

The one thing I have discovered about The Maynard is the truly amazing amount of trips and enrichment opportunities that are on offer. As I write, the A-level and GCSE biologists and geographers will have just arrived in Costa Rica for their ten-day adventure; likewise, the Lower 5, Upper 5 and Lower 6 French students have just left the school gates, bound for Nice in Southern France where they will attend a language school and immerse themselves fully in the French culture of this lively city. I wish them all well and very much look forward to hearing about both of these incredible trips on their return – no doubt there will be plenty of stories to tell!

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### **Year 5 trip to SS Great Britain**

Closer to home, the Year 5s enjoyed their outing last Friday to Brunel's steamship, the SS Great Britain, in Bristol. This is a real step back in time and a very sensory experience and even the onboard smells have been painfully recreated which certainly seemed to make an indelible impression on the girls! As Harleigh Fry reports:

“Year 5 went to SS Great Britain to learn about the Victorians, as it is our topic. We went aboard to see the cabins and dining room and to learn about which countries it went to. Some parts were disgusting because there were statues of people being sick and they made the rooms smell horrible too!”

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### **Year 4's head to At-Bristol**

Similarly, the Year 4s spent last Friday at the At-Bristol Science Museum as Darcey Carroll reports: “We had a brilliant day. One of our favourite experiments was making giant bubbles over our bodies, while some of us liked making our shadows disappear. We saw a real brain!”

It certainly sounds like both year groups really enjoyed these trips and I was very impressed to hear how enthusiastic they were in their learning whilst also behaving impeccably throughout.

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### **Lower 4 History trip to Montacute House**

It has been a particularly busy week for trips and last Thursday saw the Lower 4 students head for Montacute House in Somerset to complement their study of the Tudor period.



It was an excellent opportunity for them to learn about Elizabethan Renaissance architecture and how the aristocracy would have lived at that time.

The girls were particularly lucky that the trip coincided with such sunny weather which made all the difference. They could explore the formal gardens and make detailed sketches of the house and its intricate architecture, free from the fear of a good British soaking!

I am also told that they thoroughly enjoyed looking at the magnificent works of art on display, particularly the paintings of Henry VIII and Elizabeth's courtiers which are on loan to the house from the National Portrait Gallery. All in all, this was a thoroughly cultural trip, enriched with a learning opportunity that was much enjoyed by all!

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### **Mini masterchefs in the Pre-Prep**

The learning fun in the Pre-Prep continues and this week saw our Reception class sport their aprons for a spot of rhubarb crumble making! I was touched to hear how enthusiastic they were to take something home to their families whilst insisting they also make three extra crumbles to give to myself, Mrs Cook and Mr Smerdon! We had one crumble and eight spoons in my office and needless to say most of it ended up on the floor! I am also pleased to report that the pumpkin carving passed uneventfully yesterday and, amidst a lot of laughter and excitement, the Reception class has now taken on a distinctly Halloween theme!





### Junior Musical Showcase

The Junior School Musical Showcase on Tuesday was a real pleasure to watch and well done to all of the Y5 and Y6 girls who took part. The girls volunteer for this informal concert and, as always, it was wonderful to see almost everyone in the year groups stepping forward to either play, sing or recite some poetry. It is a great credit to the girls that they can show such confidence to perform at all their different levels on such a wide a range of instruments, from the harpist to the singers. We even witnessed a 'Junior School first' with Millie Carlill (Year 6) on the baritone horn performing Blackadder. Well done to everyone involved for such an entertaining afternoon – quite the highlight of the week for me!

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### Sporting news

After last week's hectic schedule things have calmed down a little to consolidate what has been a hugely successful first half of term on the sporting field. It was great to hear that the U14 Basketball team took such a convincing victory in the first round of the National Schools Basketball Cup, winning 53-18 against St John's International School on Tuesday.

The Upper 3s were also brilliant that afternoon with both the U12 A and B teams playing superbly against St Peter's Church of England Aided School. The A's won by a margin of 8-2 and the B's came out on top with a 4-0 victory which are great results and a huge boost for team morale. I gather there were a few new Maynard girls on the team, showing off some impressive talent, so congratulations to you all!

Finally, the U15 Hockey team walked away with a stunning victory, winning 5-0 against Plymouth College on Thursday evening.

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### The Wind in the Willows

I am really looking forward to the Years 7 and 8 production of The Wind in the Willows on Friday 25 November. It is an absolute favourite of mine and I truly look forward to the prospect of being a member of the audience at my first formal Maynard production. I know the girls are working really

hard in rehearsals so please put the date in your diaries and we will send out more information soon.

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**Breaking news .... the staff play has been resurrected!**

After an eight-year absence the staff play is back (much to the delight of the students)! I know some of my colleagues view this as an opportunity to shine but, I have to say, there are others of us who are feeling somewhat nervous at the prospect! That aside, this year's offering will be a comedy version of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens and performances will take place on Wednesday 30 November and Friday 2 December at 7pm. Please put the dates in your diaries and we will send out more information after half term.

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**The Maynard School Autumn Concert**

Just a quick reminder to say the Autumn Concert will take place in the School Gymnasium on Thursday 17 November at 7.30pm. The event always promises to be a thoroughly enjoyable and uplifting evening with something to suit all tastes! Tickets are priced at £5 each for adults and £3 for students - we did send out a booking form earlier this month but if you require another one, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office.

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**Urgently seeking Santa -The MPA Christmas Fair Committee needs your help!**

In their efforts to make the Christmas Fair on Saturday 26 November the best yet, the MPA are seeking some outside assistance from our wonderful Maynard community.

In the first instance, they require a Santa to host the wonderful grotto they will be creating - are there any fathers, grandfathers or uncles etc who would be happy to spread a little Christmas joy for the day?

Likewise, would anybody be able to donate a raffle prize to the Xmas raffle? We've had some truly generous prizes in years gone by from Flybe flights and nights away in hotels. All offerings would be greatly appreciated so please contact [louiseslimming@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:louiseslimming@yahoo.co.uk) if you can help.

The MPA also require any unwanted Christmas decorations to make the Fair that little bit more festive. There will be boxes in the Junior School Hall and the Main School Reception for any donations that you would like to drop off.

And finally, if you would like to book a stall at the fair please contact Suzi Taylor at [craftysooz@gmail.com](mailto:craftysooz@gmail.com). The cost for a table is £25.



My grateful thanks to you in advance for any help that you can offer!

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In the meantime, may I wish you all a happy and restful half term!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

<p><b>Sixth Form Open Evening</b></p> <p>Thursday 10 November, 6pm - 8pm</p> <p>Contact admissions@maynard.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Pre-Prep &amp; Junior Discovery Morning</b></p> <p>Saturday 19 November, 9.30am - 12pm</p> <p>For all girls aged 3-11</p> <p>To book a place contact admissions@maynard.co.uk</p>	<p><b>MPA Christmas Fair</b></p> <p>Saturday 26 November 10am</p> <p>More info to follow</p>
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