

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

16 November 2018

I am on a complete high today after last night's truly fabulous Autumn Concert and I must say an enormous thank you to Miss Blackwell, Mrs Smith and Mr Nuthall for putting together such a varied programme to showcase the immense talents of so many of our musicians. It is quite incredible when you consider that over 100 of our Junior, Senior School and Sixth Form students went up on the stage at some point to perform at such an extraordinarily high level – concrete evidence of our staggering music provision here at School. I could continue to wax lyrical about the whole evening right into next month, if needs be, but I know also that Miss Blackwell wants to summarise it in her own words so, to avoid repetition, I will hand the reins over to her later on.

As we break down and clear up from last night, I know excitement is building in the Junior School and Pre-Prep for tomorrow's Discovery Morning which has attracted unprecedented interest this year with record numbers totalling nearly 90 children registered. To the outside eye, you might think that such a quick succession of events is an almighty challenge but we really are a well-oiled machine at these things, thanks largely to the Estates Team and the catering staff who never miss a beat! I have no doubt that by tomorrow morning the school will have undergone yet another transformation and will be more akin to an Autumn Wonderland of dazzling activities for our younger guests to enjoy.

It was wonderful to welcome parents and guardians to the 'Embrace' film screening in the Performing Arts Centre on Tuesday night. My thanks to the Head Girl Team who orchestrated the whole event and organised it to such perfection. The film itself has a truly powerful message about body image and acceptance and I can totally see why the Sixth Formers felt it entirely relevant to encourage a much wider audience to watch it. In the words of





one parent, "Watching alongside my fifteen year old daughter, it was a heartfelt exploration of the harsh judgement so many of us place upon ourselves. Hopefully, having watched the film, I am reminded how words spoken, without full thought can sometimes have a damaging, even devastating impact on both ourselves and those dear to us. I thank the girls in the Sixth Form for having taken action from their own experience of seeing the film and to the school for encouraging the girls to set up the screening and making it available to the wider school community. Well done all." Feedback such as this, combined with the impactful nature of the evening, has certainly triggered my desire to host more similar style wellbeing events in the future.

On a separate note, I honestly can't tell you how delighted I am with the new Health and Fitness Suite which has equally doubled up as the perfect reception area for the week's events. As I write, there is a large workforce busily installing all of the gym machinery and I can't wait to have this area fully functional in the coming days. The expression 'healthy body, healthy mind' is very much the reasoning behind this new build and I am truly excited to be offering the option of an on-site gym for our students and staff to use at leisure.

Today we have been supporting the 'Children in Need' fundraising effort and I have seen some quite spectacle costumes gracing the classrooms this morning. None more so than a certain Mr Bowler from the Maths Department who arrived at work dressed as Spiderman much to everyone's complete surprise. Thank heavens that various important meetings today have armed me with the perfect excuse to be more normally attired! Although not a ringleader on the dressing-up front, I am very much looking forward to the staff versus Sixth Form benchball match at lunchtime which always brings out the competitive spirit in us all. May the best team win!

On to the week's news!

### Miss Blackwell's reflections from a stunning musical evening

108 girls - yes, a large proportion of the school - took part in last night's Autumn Concert and whilst we seem to say every year 'it was the best one yet', I think last night's concert might well have been! With pupils from Year 4 upwards involved and music ranging from the popular (Tom Jones, John Legend) to musicals, Requiems, opera and classical the breadth of music on offer was also impressive.





Our talented Upper 6 gave some amazing performances and are great role models for our younger musicians. We know that music-making is in safe hands, particularly with the scene-stealing performance by the Middle School Choir. Well done all!

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### Harleigh wins Performance of the Month

Congratulations to Harleigh Fry (Upper 3) who was awarded Performance of the Month for October at a recent assembly. Harleigh and her trio from the Honiton Gymnastics Club won a bronze medal at the South West Acrogymnastics competition, surpassing all expectations and holding their nerves in a tightly contested competition of a very high calibre.



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### Under 16 Netball team qualifies for County Finals



Our Under 16 Netball team drew their rematch against Exeter School on Wednesday night to secure their place in the County Final on Thursday 29 November. This is an excellent achievement and we wish them well for the next stage.

Good luck also to the Under 14 Netball team who will play their County Tournament next Wednesday – they will be going into this buoyed with confidence following their brilliant performances at the Area Trials when they won all of their games.

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### Competitive hockey against Exeter Cathedral School

The Under 11 A&B Hockey teams enjoyed some great matches against Exeter Cathedral School on Wednesday and both sides came away with one win apiece. Our A team couldn't quite match their level of play and we lost to them but the Bs clocked a strong 5-0 win which was a fabulous result. Our congratulations to them all!



### Mrs Davey completes Forest School training



We are delighted to announce that Mrs Davey in the Junior School has successfully completed her Forest School training – an epic achievement that has involved a large amount of coursework and essay tasks on top of her hugely busy day-to-day job. As the girls in the Pre-Prep and the Junior School will testify, the Forest School is a truly exciting addition to their curriculum and it is such a wonderful accolade for the school to have our own fully-fledged leader in this area of expertise. Our thanks to Mrs Davey for her huge commitment to such a successful enterprise!

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### Fairy Fever is upon us!

The girls in Year One have had a visitor this week! A fairy has moved into their classroom causing great excitement. She scatters fairy dust everywhere and keeps leaving them notes. So, to return her generosity, during their Forest School session on Tuesday they all made her lovely houses to live in.



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### Bluebird Care returns to the Pre-Prep



The Pre-Prep once again gave a very warm welcome to four ladies from Bluebird Care on Tuesday and a great afternoon was had by all! The girls gave a sterling performance of some of the songs they have been learning with Mrs Smith, including those for the Christmas Show, which had our elderly guests tapping their toes and beaming with joy. The Year 1 girls were then meant to read their school story books to the ladies although one or two were having such a good time that they managed to reverse this and were seen perched on their guests' laps contentedly being read to!

The session ended with a blast from the past when Mrs Meaton pulled out some 'old' household items lent to us by the Tiverton Museum which provided the perfect opportunity for the Bluebird ladies to revisit a bygone era and share some of their own memories with the Pre-Prep.

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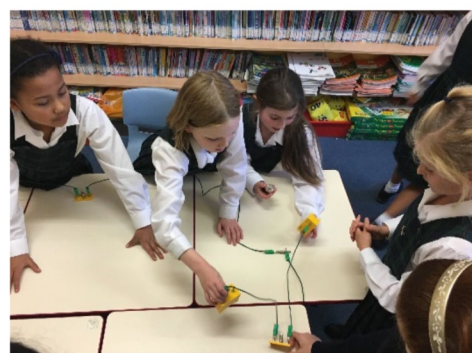
### A happy time playing vets in the Reception Class

Reception have been very excited by the new Vet Centre that was set up in their role play area this week. The children have really enjoyed playing out experiences and acting as vets together and it's not just the animals that have been getting their care and attention as you can see by the photo!

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### Circuit learning in Year 4

The girls in Year 4 have been studying electricity in Science this week. They started the session working in pairs but then combined their equipment to make a small group and discover how, with a bit of team work, they could make the bulbs shine brighter. This culminated in all groups joining together as one class and making an enormous electrical circuit. There was a lot of trouble shooting but they got there in the end!



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### Chocolate and Chat proves a popular addition

Chocolate and Chat is a new initiative this year and we couldn't be more pleased by how well received it has been by the girls. This is a club that is run for our Upper 3 by our highly caring and enthusiastic Sixth Form mentors. It is an opportunity for the girls - young and older - to play games, chat and, of course, eat a little treat. Each of our Upper 3s has also been given their own special buddy and, last week, they enjoyed having lunch together and getting to know each other. We look forward to watching some special relationships develop over the coming weeks - hopefully this will not only be another support for our Upper 3 as they continue to make their transition into senior school, but a wonderful opportunity for our Sixth Formers who are such excellent role models.

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### Story Explorers Competition



Year 6 and Mrs Reynolds have been having great fun working on entries for the Story Explorers Competition run by the National Literary Trust and ALCS. The aim was to create a map or a visitors' guide for one of their favourite books, exploring ideas about why they might want to go there, who they would meet and what they could do while they were there. The main prize is an author visit from an amazing author like Katherine Rundell, and their work being turned into an audio experience by Now>Press>Play! Let's hope one of their wonderful entries is successful!

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### Geography trip to the Eden Project

The Lower 4 year group visited the Eden Project on Tuesday as part of their Geography studies on Ecosystems and the Tropical Rainforest Biome. Girls took part in the 'Going to Extremes' workshop where they examined adaptation of plants to the Tropical climate. They also took a tour of the Biome, identifying features of the plants and their specific adaptations. Back in the workshop we finished the day by talking a bit about evolution and natural selection. This trip follows on from some of the fantastic 'Biome in the Box' homeworks that the girls have completed in the last few weeks.



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### An upcoming feast of Drama

Rehearsals for the Middle School Evening of Drama performed by the Upper 3 and Lower 4 Drama Clubs are in full flow. The Upper 3 girls will be performing an array of Christmas themed drama pieces in the first half and the Lower 4 will take the second half with their production of 'A Christmas Carol'. The show takes place on Wednesday 5 December at 6pm in the Performing Arts Centre and tickets are on sale now from reception. We are all looking forward to what promises to be a fun packed festive evening!

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### Part-Time Mini Bus Driver required

We are looking to recruit a part-time mini bus driver to take on the new Tiverton route before and after school. This is a Monday to Friday, term time only position involving a morning (0630-0830) and evening (1545-1745) shift at £9.09 per hour. Please contact Zoe Cunningham ([zoecunningham@maynard.co.uk](mailto:zoecunningham@maynard.co.uk)) for further information.

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### Reflections from our roving correspondent, Lilly Mazer (Lower 4)



Sometimes, I wish I was a living book. I wish that something incredible could happen; I could be the hero of a story packed full of adventures. I wish someone could turn the pages of my life to reveal magic, adventure, action. I wish that my life could be so extraordinary that a whole book could be written and millions of people would read it. I wish that I could wake up in a magical place and meet people unlike any I know. And there would be sequels; innumerable continuations of the adventure that would be my life, a life of a hero, a life of anything I want.

Then I realise; we are living the story. We can go anywhere, do anything on this planet of ours that is most certainly a miracle. We are all heroes; or we all could be. We can do anything. We can be anything. And if we can't? We'll design it so that we can. Doesn't exist? We can make it. We can do everything.



We can go anywhere. We can be anything. We can. You can go to space, you can save lives, you can design extraordinary things, you can meet incredible people, not enough, you can be an incredible person. There is a whole world in front of us, and we can fill it with amazing things, beautiful things, anything. It's all out there, waiting for us. We just need to go get it. You don't have to read a book to live something amazing. You can make something amazing. You can design your world to be your fairy tale. It's just up to you.

All you need to do is try. You and I, we have everything we need to do anything we want. You don't need to read the story; you can write it. We have every opportunity we need; an amazing school, people who support us, potential. We have everything we need. So let's write the story. We can be the authors to our lives, lives that are truly incredible.

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Have a lovely weekend!

Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

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