

Pre-Prep Report

Pre-Prep have had another exciting year discovering what good fun it is to learn new things. We have had one Reception class, one Year 1 class and two Year 2 classes.

The Courtyard, the outdoor classroom for the Reception class, is showing signs of developing into a super area of adventure and exploration with many new brightly coloured resources. Work is also taking place to refurbish the long Pre-Prep corridor.

The Summer Term has as always flown by for us all; so much to do! The weather was dreadful to start with, thunder, flash floods, hailstones and torrential rain. Sandwiched between all of these was the Pre-Prep Sports Day, this year, for a number of reasons outside our control, taking place on a Thursday. 'Sun', 'shine' and 'righteous' are the three words which spring to mind and we had a glorious afternoon enjoying the races (including the cake race!) followed by the usual excellent Brandeston tea on the terrace. Joined by the Nursery, we took two coaches to Colchester Zoo with a mountain of sandwiches and water bottles.

BELOW: PRE-PREP SPORTS DAY



Reception Report

In Reception this year there have been many activities developing play-based learning involving all the senses. Slimy, slippery spaghetti and sour lemons were amongst the chosen objects. The children have been for walks, searching for signs of change and interesting things like acorns and toadstools. Later on, the children had a visit from Little Miss Muffet and they were able to question her about her life in Nursery Rhyme Land. The children were also concerned for the safety of Humpty and designed a safety net for his fall from the wall. There was a Teddy Bears' Picnic, a Christmas party, The Sleepy Shepherd, learning how to be healthy, learning about Shanghai and other parts of the world and a 'We've been at school for 100 days' party.

The children shared a Chinese day and a Dragon Dance with the Nursery, and an Apple Day too. Not surprisingly, the children also learnt about letters and numbers; letters make sounds, sounds make words, counting, sorting, adding, taking away, and measuring in all sorts of ways! A trip to The Sea Life Centre and another to Foxburrow Farm were also fantastic learning experiences for the children and great fun to boot!

Mrs Margaret Graystone

Witches' Spell

Thrice the mouldy chips
from lunch
Thrice the chewing gum
half munched
Ghostly shrieks:
'tis time, 'tis time!

Round about the cauldron go
In the fresh cut snails we throw
Popped pus on human face
Days and nights it has been on
One dead rat from the attic
Two cat hairs all ecstatic

Double, double toil and trouble
Fire burn and cauldron bubble
In go headlice, one, two, three
In the cheese, Dairylea

A rhino's horn from the zoo
A spider's leg and one bird poo
Spreaded bogeys on the wall
One dead fish from the pool

Double, double toil and trouble
Fire burn and cauldron bubble
One dead cat and one squished
worm
Two chewed pencils from
last term

One shark tooth, straight from
the mouth
Two fluffy seals, straight from
the south
One finger that we cut off you
We got it from you just
last week
Good thing this pot does
not leak

Twist of a lock and we're there
Just a few more lines to spare
Add there too a lion's chaudron
For th'ingredients of our
cauldron

Double, double toil and trouble
Fire burn and cauldron bubble
Finish with a monkey heart
There it is, finished to start!

Sarah Legg, Year 6



Year 1 Report

In Year One, the children have continued learning through many carefully structured activities. Work with numbers and words has continued apace, with lots of games for the children to enjoy and many different learning experiences.

Geography was much enjoyed, with a lot of route-finding and thinking about places far away which had been visited by our collection of bears. Science was All About Me, and the children joined Year 2 in a visit to Minsmere to explore using their senses. Mrs Russell also brought in a tiny, good natured Olivia, and the children loved looking at her and asking questions about her care. The History work was based on toys and some beautiful drawings of old and new treasured toys were created by all the children. Collages, cards with moving parts, Christmas and The Sleepy Shepherd concluded the Autumn Term.

...LOTS OF GAMES FOR THE CHILDREN TO ENJOY AND MANY DIFFERENT LEARNING EXPERIENCES.

In the Spring Term, the children loved going to Hollytrees Museum in Colchester, exploring this old house and learning about the way the people who lived there had enjoyed themselves (or not!). They made houses as well as learning about their construction. Teddies were lost and found and then India was the focus, with much work on this sub-continent and the lifestyle and food of some of the people who live there. Mrs Aylward cooked Indian food for everyone and tasting was (for most) a fantastic experience. Science involved looking at materials and changes. Hug boxes were made for Mother's Day and gifts for Easter too.

LEFT, CENTRE, TOP AND RIGHT: YEAR 1 PUPILS ENJOYING VARIED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Year 2 Report

Year 2 have also had a very happy year, with lots taking place in a slightly more formal way. For Year 2, Minsmere was the focus for exciting scientific learning about habitats, animals and plants. The weather was beautiful, though the sting in the tail was the nest of wasps discovered while poking the undergrowth with a stick in search of mini-beasts. This resulted in stings for 3 members of Year 2. They were very brave and all was dealt with quickly and quietly but it was a shock for us all. Minibeasts aplenty!

History was a big part of the work during the Autumn Term. The children had a fairly grisly time learning about Guy Fawkes, Horatio Nelson and Armistice Day. The more gruesome aspects of life long ago were enjoyed by everyone. We were especially lucky to have a visit from a retired Royal Naval Captain who brought in his uniform and sword for the children to look at and wield. Fortunately the sword was for ceremonial purposes only! Puppets were designed and made and 3D pictures constructed having learnt about fore-, mid- and backgrounds. The term ended with The Sleepy Shepherd and other Christmas celebrations.





...FOR YEARS 1 AND 2 MINSMERE WAS THE FOCUS FOR EXCITING SCIENTIFIC LEARNING ABOUT HABITATS, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.



Year 6 English Trip to Aldeburgh

In February, the pupils in Year 6 set off for Aldeburgh as part of an English project. Their brief was to produce an information leaflet about the town, to include details about tourism, local industry, historical buildings in the seafront area, and the seafront. They visited the seafront to make sketches of the Moot Hall, the Boating Pond and the War Memorial, before having an excellent fish & chip lunch. Afterwards, following a trip to the Tourist Information Centre, they were lucky enough to have a guided tour of the Lifeboat Station. The pupils produced some excellent leaflets back at school and these were displayed in the Dining Room.

Mr Chris Parker and Mrs Jan Norton

RIGHT: THE ALDEBURGH LIFEBOAT STATION
AND (BELOW) THE CONTROVERSIAL
SCULPTURE BY MAGGI HAMBLING

