

# PREP BULLETIN

News from Nursery to Year 6

October 8th, 2021

## ANOTHER BUSY WEEK!

By MR HENRY  
MATTHEWS

Head of Prep School

With the school year now in full swing we have had another busy and very enjoyable week in the Prep School.

I have been hugely impressed with the attitude and commitment to both academic lessons, and also our wider curriculum, for our children this term.

This was demonstrated when I popped into after-school care at 5.30pm to see a host of children enthusiastically working at their various homework tasks after a day of lessons, fixtures and clubs. The work ethic shown by all has been truly fantastic.

As part of preparing for Senior School, our Year 6s joined the Year 7 pupils on an exciting Science trip to explore rock pools in Torquay earlier in the week (*picture, above, and more on page three*).

This was a great experience for all and a chance for the



Year 6s to learn a bit more about life in the Senior School.

The trip has also inspired our children to learn more about the local environment and how they can help protect our shoreline for the future.

Thank you to Mr Clark and all the staff involved in organising this.

Thank you also to all those who took the time to complete the

Communication Survey. As Mr Noad stated in his letter, we will take time to review and improve communications throughout this year.

As always, we welcome feedback so please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any further suggestions. One such suggestion from the survey was for a weekly Q&A taken from questions raised by the parent body

which address whole college matters. So here is the first of these:

**Q:** What is being done to increase the numbers in currently low year groups at Queen's?

**A:** We have increased our targeted marketing strategies, in particular our digital activity, and we are already

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seeing the benefits with increased attendance at events such as Open Morning and enquiries to the School. A large part of this is more effectively getting the right messages out to the right audiences. While Queen's is fundamentally modest, we are getting better at sharing our pride and many successes.

Tomorrow (Saturday), a number of the Year 4 children will attend the first session of our new Outdoor Adventure weekend programme.

These sessions will run at different times for varying age groups throughout the year.

The Year 4s will be taking part in a Bushcraft Activity Morning and I can't wait to hear about the adventures and challenges they will face.

We look forward to another exciting week ahead with further fixtures and events, including hosting the South West IAPS Hockey Qualifier next Friday.

A big thank you to Mrs Gardner for organising this prestigious event and I know the girls are keen to show the improvements being made in training. I am sure it will be a fantastic event for all involved.

Have a great weekend!

### HALF TERM OFFERS

Taunton's Brewhouse is offering some special offers for Half Term (running from October 17th to 29th). For more details, visit the theatre's website by [CLICKING HERE](#).

## Year 5 talking about Pandora's Box

Children in 5OS have been interviewing characters from the myth of Pandora's Box.



## Nursery call

Calling all Nursery practitioners! Pop in for a confidential, informal chat with Nursery Manager, Donna Kershaw, and look around our wonderful Nursery.

Thursday, October 14th, from 6pm to 7.30pm.

Opportunities available to join us and benefits include:

- Three days off per week (full-time hours over four days).
  - Six-seven children per key worker.
  - Weekly CPD.
  - Friendly, supportive team in a lovely working environment.
- Watch our Queen's College Nursery Film by [CLICKING HERE](#).



### SCHOOL CALENDAR

October 9th to 15th

#### Saturday, October 9th

09:00 Year 4 Bushcraft Morning until 13:00

14:15 Hockey U11B v Millfield Prep (A)  
14:30 Rugby U11 v Sherborne Prep (H)  
15:15 Hockey U10 v Millfield Prep (A)

#### Monday, October 11th

14:30 Hockey U9 v Wellington Prep (H)  
14:30 Hockey U8 v Wellington Prep (H)  
14:45 Rugby U9 v Wellington Prep (H)  
14:45 Rugby U8 v Wellington Prep (H)

#### Thursday, October 14th

09:00 Nursery School Forest School Session  
09:00 Forest School Reception and Year 1  
12:30 Lunchtime Concert (Years 3-6)  
13:30 Years 3 and 4 Parents' Tour of Prep School

#### Wednesday, October 13th

13:00 Rugby U10 @ King's Bruton Festival (A)  
14:15 Hockey U11A v Millfield Prep (A)

#### Friday, October 15th

10:00 Hockey U11 IAPS Hockey Qualifier (H)

# Years 6 and 7 (rock) pool their resources in Torquay

Prep and Senior pupils worked together on Monday as Years 6 and 7 travelled to Torquay for a Science trip. It was led by Dr Ceri Lewis, Professor in Marine Biology at the University of Exeter.

The children learned about rocky shore eco-systems and the importance of our oceans, particularly how they help reduce the effect of human activity on climate change.

Everyone had a great time exploring the rock pools - finding a wide variety of species, including crabs, shrimp,



fish, starfish and sea anemones. The trip concluded with the pupils completing a beach litter pick.



# Animal investigations as Year 3 look at bone structures

Year 3 have been fascinated to learn about the differing structures of the jaw and teeth of animals which are either herbivores, carnivores or omnivores. The children made careful observations and showed some really good understanding.



# Nursery supports local Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Nursery's Food Bank collection.



# Archery is popular



Prep School Archery Club is definitely hitting the target on Friday evenings, with the pupils having a great time at the weekly sessions.



## Pupils are now printed authors!

During the holidays, 19 children from a wide area took part in a week-long Creative Writing and Illustration Master Class as part of our Summer@Queen's programme.

Each morning, the young participants tackled a different genre - from poetry to storytelling - and, in the afternoons, they teamed up with our brilliant Art teachers to illustrate their wonderful stories.

All their amazing hard work paid off as each pupil is now a published author and the children from our Prep School this week received their first-edition books!



## Lift-off for 5OS



Pupils in 5OS have been creating rockets and decorating the roof of the Science room with Mr Clark.

## Chess mates



It has been really satisfying to watch the children using the Prep chess quad again, and they are enjoying games of both draughts and chess.

A vibrant green poster for the musical 'SHREK THE MUSICAL'. The title 'SHREK' is written in large, stylized, glowing letters, with 'THE MUSICAL' in smaller letters below it. The Queen's College Taunton logo is at the top. Silhouettes of Shrek, Fiona, and Donkey are shown against a background of glowing stars. At the bottom, the dates '24 - 29 NOV 2021' and the venue 'QUEEN'S THEATRE, QUEEN'S COLLEGE, TAUNTON' are listed. Ticket information is provided at the very bottom: 'TICKETS: bookings.queenscollege.org.uk'.

# What a day for Year 1 ... lighthouses *and* rescue boats!

Year 1 had a fantastic time in Burnham-on-Sea on Tuesday, finding out about the history of the three lighthouses.

They also enjoyed a

surprise visit to the BARB Rescue Hovercraft Station where AJ kindly answered the children's questions and let them get up close to the rescue hovercrafts.



# Forest School adventures for Reception and Year 1



Reception and Year 1 had a fantastic time in the woods yesterday (Thursday), using their senses to explore

their surroundings. Ms Milby also made a fire and the children enjoyed baking apples.



# Learning is full of fun for youngest Nursery children



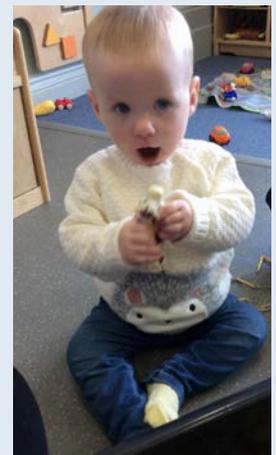
Another busy and exciting week for our youngest Nursery children. Puddleducks have been building on their fine and gross motor skills through drawing on sheets under the table – manipulating the box so the ball fell down the hole – and using tweezers and pincer grips to collect 'worms' out of the flour and put them into cups.



Puddleducks have also been busy with the vegetables using them for mark-making.

Tiggywinkles went on an autumn walk, looking for frogs in the pond and having fun with the hoops and balls. They have also been busy sticking. Meanwhile, Cottontails have had an animal-theme day, hiding and finding animals in the straw sensory tray and practising their animal sounds.

They've also had fun in the slime – along with the dinosaurs!



# Nursery School go collecting conkers for examination

Nursery School went on an autumn walk down to the Lower as part of their Forest School session yesterday (Thursday). They found a large collection of conkers, the properties of which they investigated, using some wooden scales, when back in school in the afternoon.



# Year 2 are living in a material world

Year 2 have been investigating the absorbency of different fabrics and were excited to discover that they could waterproof most of them using a wax crayon.





■ Perrott Hill were our visitors for rugby on Wednesday and the U10s enjoyed a thrilling match with end-to-end play.

The boys played some exciting, attacking rugby, supporting each other and offloading well in the tackle.

The U11s had a tougher game and, although they started the game slowly, they showed enormous heart and improvement in the second half.

Last Friday saw our boys in action against Exeter School.

The U10s' rugby is starting to get a little more physical and it was good to see



the boys responding both in attack and defence.

The U11s struggled early on against a strong Exeter team but, towards the end of the match, they stepped up and started to tackle on the front foot.

■ In hockey, the U11s played Sherborne on Wednesday and learned the importance of not sitting back on one's laurels.

Having scored early, they then allowed the opposition to strike back more or less immediately with two quick goals.

Nevertheless, the girls played very much as a team and had some great



passages of play.

■ Unfortunately, the Queen's College U11 Hockey Tournament, scheduled for last Saturday, was cancelled due to inclement weather.

■ We are welcoming 13 schools to the IAPS Hockey Qualifier next Friday, October 15th, from 10am.

Parents of girls involved are welcome to park on the Prep School ring road that day.

Please buzz the gate when you arrive, and the office will let you in, and then walk down to the astro. Team lists will be published next week.





QUEEN'S  
COLLEGE  
TAUNTON

# ANIMAL FARM

**ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL,  
BUT SOME ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS**



**19- 21 OCT 2021**

**QUEEN'S THEATRE  
QUEEN'S COLLEGE, TAUNTON**

**TICKETS: [bookings.queenscollege.org.uk](https://bookings.queenscollege.org.uk)**