



EST. 1967

RUNNYMEDE COLLEGE

DECEMBER 2024

Pre-Prep School Newsletter



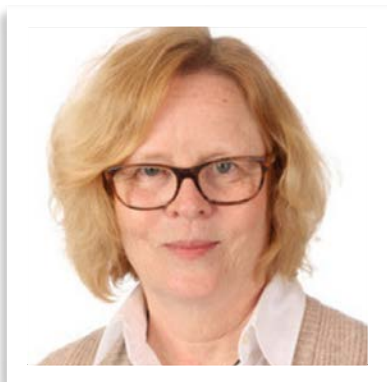
The Autumn term is a transformative time in Pre-Prep. The children have matured and developed so much since they first began their new year groups in September. Within these pages you can see a snapshot of the magic that has been unfolding across the school. This year, we're especially proud of the Fundación Runnymede, whose fundraising efforts have supported the meaningful cause of funding outstanding further education whilst strengthening our school community. We are deeply grateful to our students, parents, and staff for their generosity and commitment, making a difference to spread academic opportunities to students in Alcobendas.

In this Christmas edition, we revisit term highlights, share updates from across the Pre-Prep School, and showcase the incredible contributions of our community. We also take this opportunity to wish all our Runnymede families a restful holiday season.

On behalf of all of us at Runnymede College, we wish you a joyful Christmas, New Year and Reyes Magos.



Head Teacher Welcome



Ms Joanna Barr

Head of the Pre-Prep School

As the first term of this academic year draws to a close it is time to reflect on the last Autumn term of my career. Year 3 have settled in to their new classrooms in the lovely new Prep School building. The first eight children were chosen from Year 3 as the House Captains and they have been responsible role models to the younger children. They have also represented their classes on the newly formed School Council, alongside the elected representatives from Year 1 and Year 2. The School Council gives a voice to our children in decision making at our school. They have already addressed ways of helping the environment and the importance of saying thank you, starting with a thank you letter to Ms Lawrence for organising our Christmas Sing-a-long.

Such an important part of Runnymede's success is the positive relationship between our parents and the school. In the Pre-Prep School every class has invited parents into school to share in Christmas fun with their children. Our Pre-Nursery parents have helped in Christmas crafts, Nursery sang beautifully in Reception's Nativity Plays and Years 1,2 and 3 sang their hearts out at the sing along. Public speaking is another highly valued experience for all of our children. Earlier in the term we enjoyed the Year 2 Show and Year 3 performed their choral poetry with enthusiasm.

Every child in Years 1,2 and 3 is proud to uphold our three core values; now linked to our House Point system. Our teachers are constantly awarding points for Respect, Kindness and Curiosity. Each week the children have worked hard on their class focus target to help everyone progress on their class pet TEAM board. Sport is of equal importance to academic excellence and the Year 1,2 and 3 children enjoyed this year's Spartan race with Locke declared the winners at the end of the day. The points for the sports events will be added to the House Points to see which house is the over all winner at the end of the year.

The children and staff have worked extremely hard this term. Myself and the deputy heads, Ms Mashford and Ms Albery, wish all our Runnymede families a peaceful and happy holiday. We will continue to aspire to excellence on our return.

— School Council —

The Pre-Prep School Council met for the first time this term. In our inaugural meeting the students discussed the qualities that would make them a good representative. They suggested that listening to everyone, being a good friend and wanting to help the school were a good foundation. The School Council is a way for children to see democracy in action and to experience how it feels to advocate for something.

After sharing a number of ideas, the children settled on a 'green' initiative as their first contribution to school life. They all made posters to remind pupils to put their rubbish in the correct bin. During the Christmas week our Year 3 representatives, who double as this term's House Captains, have come to share Christmas stories to Year 1.

Well done to our Autumn term School Councillors. Next term we will elect new volunteers. Who will be brave enough to step forward?



Fundación Runnymede College

Two years ago Mr Powell set up a Fundación to fund the provision of first class, British Further Education to pupils from Spanish state schools with outstanding academic records

Fundación Runnymede College is a non-profit organisation dedicated to facilitating access to elite Anglo-Saxon university education in the United Kingdom or the United States for the best students of public high school institutes in the municipality of Alcobendas. The mission is to transform lives through knowledge and academic excellence.

The first winner of our scholarships is María Nuñez, a 2º high school student at I.E.S. Severo Ochoa Alcobendas. After a selection process with several candidates, this first scholarship was obtained by María due to her excellent curriculum and personal and academic potential. As a school this year our chosen charity is Fundación Runnymede College. As a community we are committed to raising funds for this incredibly important cause.

Recently Mr Powell was honoured with an award by the Ayuntamiento de Alcobendas in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Values, Excellence, and Innovation in Education through Fundación Runnymede College. We are extremely proud of Mr Powell's achievement and to be part of the Fundación's journey.



— British Ambassador to Spain —



Runnymede College was honoured to welcome the British Ambassador to Spain, Sir Alex Ellis, to campus in November. Greeted by Mr Powell, the ambassador was given a tour led by our Head Pupils. His visit included a look at Phonics sessions in the Pre-Prep, a Year 5 Science class, and Drama workshops in our new Prep School. He also observed a rehearsal of *The Sound of Music*, visited the Senior School's Science labs and Art Department, and concluded with a stop at the Julia Powell Sports Hall and the Frank Murphy Memorial Library. We are grateful for the ambassador's visit and the chance to showcase our vibrant school community.



— Valencia Collection —

In November, Runnymede students and staff organised a collection for the victims of the DANA in Valencia, which devastated the southern area of the city. Runnymede College's donations were so substantial that they filled not only a truck but also two additional four-by-fours.

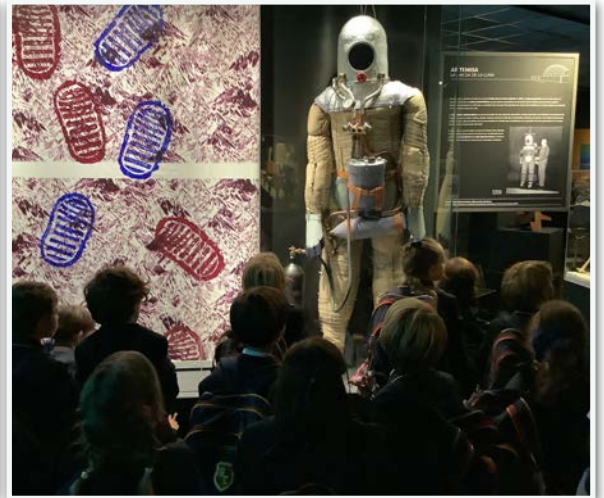
The supplies, furniture, and IT equipment were successfully delivered to Colegio San Blas, one of the schools hit by the floods. Carles, a local teacher, expressed deep gratitude, explaining that their entire stock of materials and furniture had been damaged. Thanks to our collective effort, their school is closer to resuming lessons.

Our sixth-form volunteer team did an outstanding job organising, packing, and labelling the donations, which allowed for efficient delivery to other affected schools in the region, including Escuela Infantil Be You, Escoleta Guardería Infantil Xicalla, Colegio San Carlos, Colegio San Blas, and CEI Garabatos.

Thank you to all of those who supported and for the families who kindly donated.



— Trips —



Year 1 visit to the Planetarium

Year 1 enjoyed an interesting trip to the Planetarium as part of their topic learning about the Night Sky. They were able to visualise space and the night sky from a number of perspectives. Children also explored objects that have been used over time to study astronomy and space.



Year 2 Trip to the Farm

On Tuesday 22nd October, Year 2 had a lovely time at the farm. Despite the grey clouds, we were very lucky and the rain held off. Year 2 got to partake in a great range of activities including: canoeing, toboggan slides, taking a nature walk, visiting the animals, crushing grapes and making grape juice. We can't wait for our next visit!



Years 1,2 and 3 Trip to Xanadu

A popular part of the Pre-Prep Winter calendar is the school trip to Xanadu indoor ski centre, kindly organised by the PE teaching staff. This is a great chance for children to get learning outside the classroom and- in many cases- show their teachers a thing or two about skiing!

— Trips —



Reception Autumn Trips

Reception went to Monjarama Pumpkin Farm to pick their own pumpkins to spark their learning around pumpkins which included making delicious pumpkin soup!

They visited a local forest to develop their Forest School provision.

Children particularly enjoyed crossing a small stream using a log bridge and creating artwork inspired by the artist Andy Goldsworthy.



Year 3 Trip to Parque Archaológico

This term, Year 3 enjoyed an amazing trip to Arqueopinto. During the visit, we explored how Homo sapiens evolved across the Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age. We learned about how they hunted, their fire-making techniques, and the transition from being nomadic hunter-gatherers to living in organised communities.

— Shows —

Year 2 - Panto Pandemonium

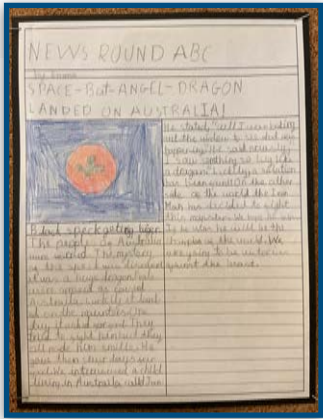
Year Two wowed their families with a fantastic performance of 'Panto Pandemonium'. This was the perfect performance ahead of Christmas time, since it got us all thinking about fairytale characters and pantomimes! Ingeniously, the show was, in fact, a show within a show, where a pantomime went wrong because the baddies decided to steal the magic so that the beans in 'Jack and the Beanstalk' couldn't grow, the shoe in 'Cinderella' wouldn't fit and the lamp in 'Aladdin' didn't work! A group of brave children decide to venture into Pantoland to defeat the baddies and retrieve the magic. So began Year Two's fabulous showcase of super singing, amazing acting and delightful dancing, including dances to the songs, 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough', 'What Makes You Beautiful' and 'A Dream is a Wish'. Of course, in the end, the baddies realise the error of their ways and accept the importance of being good, kind and helpful friends.



Reception and Nursery - Nativity Hoedown

Our Reception and Nursery classes transported us to a barn dance in Bethlehem, where Sam the stable boy was working hard to look after the animals and keep the stable clean. Feeling a bit fed up that nothing exciting ever happened in his barn, Sam was surprised and full of joy when the baby Jesus was laid on some prickly hay in a manger in his barn. With fantastic songs, dances and impressive acting skills we really were wowed by every child's performance.

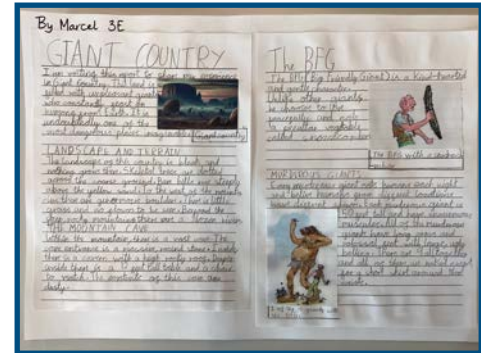
— Wow Work —



Emma in 3D's article about the Iron Man's battle with the Space-Bat-Angel-Dragon



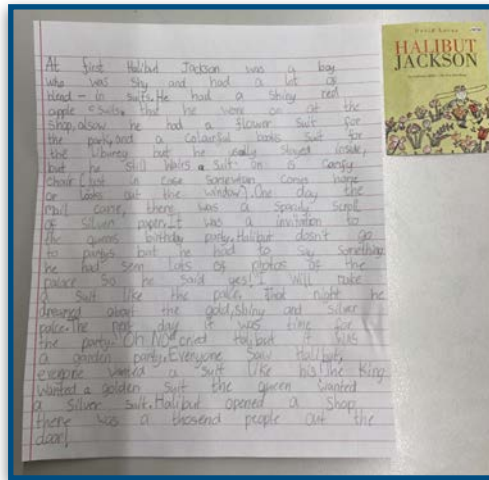
Carla in 3F created a wonderful pop-art triptych of landscapes for their Climate Zones topic



Marcel in 3E wrote a fantastic report on reports based on Giant Country from The BFG



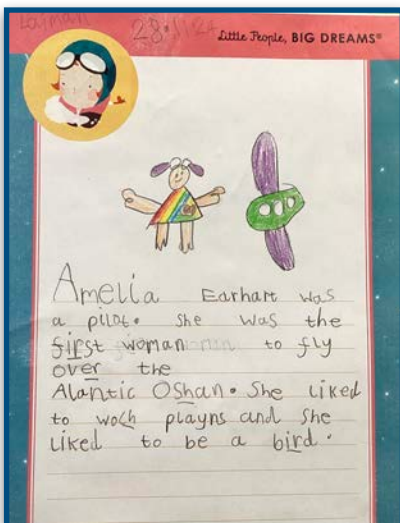
Rose in 2D's wonderful self portrait in the style of Roy Lichtenstein.



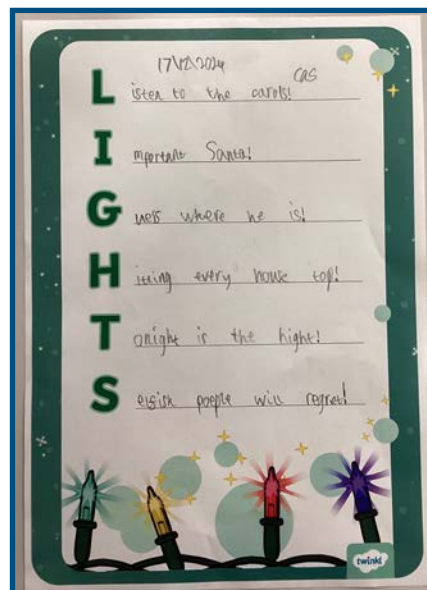
Olivia in 2K's excellent retelling of the book Halibut Jackson



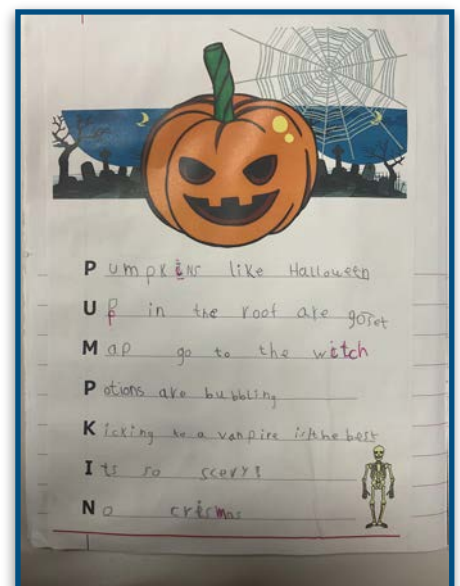
Antonio in 2S's beautiful portrait of Frida Kahlo



Laiman in 1J wrote a great biography of Amelia Earhart



A great acrostic poem about Christmas by Casimir in 1L



Felipe in 1S wrote a fantastic acrostic poem about Halloween

— Wow Work —



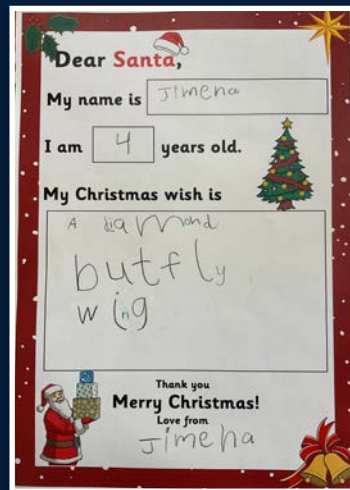
Reception G - Mariana's Leaf collage



Reception MA



Nursery M



Reception T -
Jimena's letter
to Santa



Nursery F - Jorge's colour
mixing



Nursery S

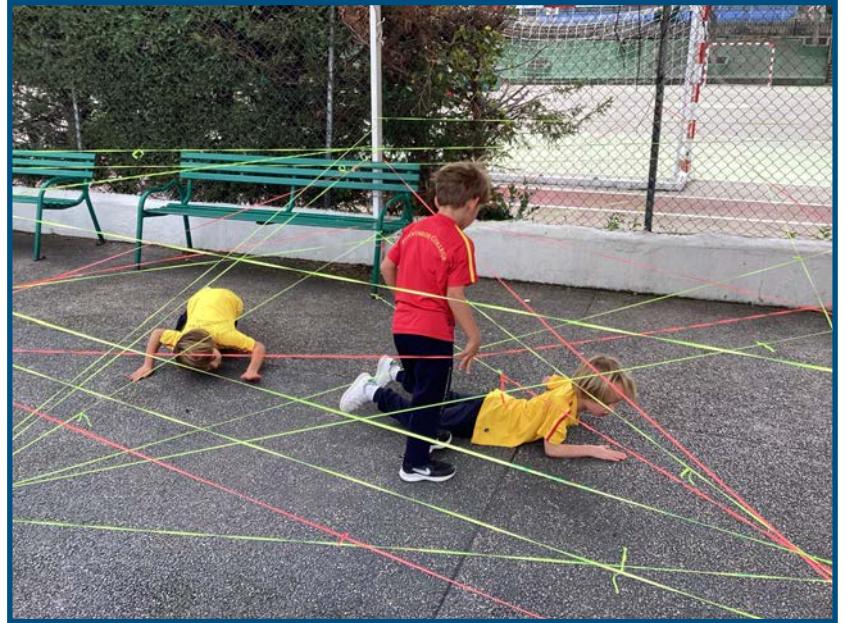


Pre-Nursery H



Pre-Nursery W

— Sporting Events —



Spartan Race

Years 1,2 and 3 love participating in our annual Spartan Race! All children showed fantastic effort in completing a challenging course, with Locke house winning overall this year.



— Topic Highlights —

Year 2 History Day

History Day was a really exciting opportunity for Year 2 to go back in time through a time travelling door that appeared in the classroom... As they stepped through it they found themselves in the shoes of historical people from Cleopatra to David Attenborough! The children enjoyed talking about what they had discovered about their chosen person and enjoying a History Day parade with the rest of Year 2.



Matthew and Ronnie
as Neil Armstrong



Lucas as Johannes Kepler



Celia as Isabel I



Carlotta as Florence
Nightingale

EYFS Diwali

Across EYFS children learnt about Diwali through a range of engaging activities



Reception had a fantastic visit from Jia's mum. She showed us how Diwali is celebrated and we all made a Rangoli pattern to decorate the classroom windows.



Pre-Nursery W made a Rangoli pattern on the playground using chalk.



— Topic Highlights —

We have loved learning about and celebrating Christmas across the Pre-Prep School!



Posting letters to Santa and the Reyes Magos!



Nursery M decorating Christmas trees!



Pre-Nursery W dressing their Christmas tree!



Reception MA painting robins for their door!



1J and their beautiful Christmas cards!



2S and their Christmas seals!

— Forest School —



Children in EYFS have loved visiting the enchanted forest this term! We have used all our senses to explore the natural world and learn from experiences too big for the classroom.



— Important Dates Term 2 —

Please see below important dates for your diaries for the beginning of 2025...

Wednesday 8th January: Start of Term (08.50am)

Tuesday 14th January: World Cultures and Religions Fair (families welcome from 4pm)

Thursday 30th January: EYFS Open Morning

Friday 31st January: EYFS trip to Theatre production of Elmer

Friday 21st March: Year 3 show

Saturday 29th March: Symphonic Orchestra for Fundación Runnymede

We hope you have a wonderful and
restful break.

We look forward to welcoming students
back to school in 2025.



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