



MARCH 2025

EST. 1967

RUNNYMEDE COLLEGE

Pre-Prep School Newsletter

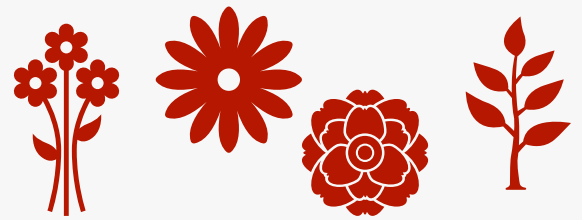


As the Spring Term draws to a close and blossom appears on the trees, the Pre-Prep school is awash with new beginnings. The children returned from the Christmas holidays rested and ready to jump back into learning. Throughout the term we have seen the children go from strength to strength, making strides in their learning, both inside and outside the classroom. Although the end of this term brings significant changes to the Pre-Prep community, the children have approached these with understanding and compassion, embodying our core values of Respect, Kindness and Curiosity.

We would like to thank all our Runnymede families for their ongoing support and engagement within our school community. This newsletter showcases some of the highlights of our Spring Term and we hope you enjoy a snapshot of what we have been up to in the Pre-Prep.



Head Teacher Message —



Ms Joanna Barr

Head of the
Pre-Prep School

A few weeks ago it felt as if it would never stop raining but then, of course, the sun came out and I am sure we have all enjoyed the lovely weather. However we didn't let the rain dampen our spirits; we have worked hard and also had a good time as you will see in this Newsletter! For me one of the highlights was World Book Day. This time the teachers and I had great fun, I hope the children understood that the Head Teacher was dressed as Cruella De Vil and all the teachers were dressed as Dalmatians. Even the kitchen staff joined in with the fun. There were certainly a lot of Dalmatians although maybe not quite one hundred and one!

As firm believers that learning takes place outside the classroom, as well as inside, we have taken the children on a variety of trips. Reception, Year 2 and Year 3 enjoyed their workshops at the MUNCYT Science Museum.. We are so lucky to have this on our doorstep. All of the Early Years classes loved their theatre trip to watch 'Elmer the Elephant' and Y1 also went to the theatre to watch a play called 'Princess Polly and the Dragon'. Pre - Nursery visited a local library and Reception rounded off the term with a visit to a dinosaur exhibition. We look forward to many more trips next term including an overnight stay for the children of Year 3.

Another great event was the annual sponsored run, this year with a Spring or Easter theme. Nicknamed the Bunnymede Run, the children and teachers ran laps to raise money for the school charity, Mr Powell's Fundación. There was a lot of fun and some great team work.

This term we hosted an open morning for parents interested in choosing Runnymede in the future and as we showed them around I couldn't have been prouder. Equally impressed were the inspection team of British schools overseas when they visited Runnymede and declared the school '**Outstanding**'! Congratulations to all the children and staff, who thoroughly deserve the judgment.

As I start my retirement I will most certainly miss Runnymede. It has been a huge part of my life and I wish the Runnymede Community all the best for the future, I take with me so many fond memories.

Happy holidays everyone!

— Looking Forward —

As we close a chapter in the Pre-Prep, we begin to look forward to what the future holds. We thank Ms Barr for all her guidance, support and leadership over her many years of service at Runnymede and wish her all the best for her retirement.

Next term we will be taking over as Acting Co-Heads of the Pre-Prep School. Whilst we will both be leading the school, Ms Albery will take charge of EYFS while Ms Mashford focuses on Years 1, 2 and 3. Ms Barr has left very big shoes to fill, but we are excited to get started after the holidays.

We wish all Runnymede families a rejuvenating holiday and will see you back at school, rested and raring to go next term!



Ms Emily Albery and Ms Penny Mashford

Deputy Heads of the Pre-Prep School

— Goodbye Ms Barr —



As this term draws to a close we say an emotional and very fond farewell to Ms Barr, who has been working at Runnymede for 36 years. Having taken over as Head of the Junior School 10 years ago, Ms Barr finishes her time at Runnymede as the Inaugural Head of Pre-Prep. She has lead the school with kindness, respect and curiosity, always embodying our school values and teaching the children how to do the same. This week we have come together as a school to show our gratitude and respect for Ms Barr's leadership. We held a fantastic farewell assembly on Wednesday with messages from all the students put together in a beautiful video by Ms Lawrence. We sang 'Count On Me' to show Ms Barr how we feel about her, and ended in a whole school flashmob, dancing and singing to a special version of 'Dancing Queen' which Ms Shirley re-wrote to be all about Ms Barr.

Thank you for everything you have done for us Ms Barr.
We will miss you!



— Wow Work —



Reception G did some wonderful writing about the characteristics of a dinosaur.



Victoria wrote about her own flying dinosaur.



Man Yue in Reception MA taught her friends some Chinese characters.



Goldilocks size ordering in Nursery M.



Amazing space pictures in Nursery F.



Nursery S acting out the gingerbread man.



Pre-Nursery H building numberblocks.



Amazing artwork from Pre-Nursery W.

— Trips —

Science Museum Trips

Children from Reception, Year 2 and Year 3 went on trips to the MUNCYT Science Museum in Alcobendas.

Year 2 explored the properties of different liquids through some fantastic chemical experiments.

Reception made bubble mixture and explored how a 2D shape can become a 3D shape.

Year 3 learnt about different types of optical illusions and even made two of their own!



Pre-Nursery Library Trip

To encourage the children's passion for reading, Pre-Nursery enjoyed a special visit to the Espacio Miguel Delibes library in Alcobendas. The librarian shared a fantastic animated storytelling session with the children and afterwards encouraged the children to explore an array of delightful books. A wonderful experience shared by all!



— Trips —

EYFS Theatre Trip

Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Reception had an incredible time on their special trip to see Elmer in the theatre! There were smiles and laughter as we accompanied Elmer on his adventure to find 'elephant colour'... only for him to return and discover that elephants can be any colour! What a lovely story to teach us that being unique makes each and every one of us special in our own ways!



Year 1 Theatre Trip

To conclude our topic of 'Fairytales and Castles' we took a trip to the theatre. We saw 'Princess Polly and the Dragon'. Polly was not a delicate princess but instead loved adventures, mischief and making unusual friends. One such friend included the Dragon who we learned to realise was not a scary dragon but instead playful and friendly!



Reception Dinosaur Museum Trip

Reception took a trip to the Caixa Forum to have a guided tour of their amazing exhibition about dinosaurs that lived in Patagonia.



We 'wowed' the guides with how much we have learnt about dinosaurs this term, categorising herbivores and carnivores throughout the museum!



— Shows —

Year 3 -The Rainforest Book

In the Year 3 play, The Rainforest Book, we showed how animals and humans can work together to save the rainforest. We had lots of fun performing and we learned a lot of dance moves and catchy songs! Thank you to our teachers for all their hard work and to Ms Cook for the backdrop.

Alice (3D)



Year 1 - Choral Poetry

Year 1 wowed in assembly with their amazing choral poetry. All 3 classes showed excellent English oral skills, learning tricky poems and reciting them with confidence and clarity. A highlight was 1L's fantastic poem entitled 'The Runnymede Values', written by their TA Miss Shirley.



The Runnymede Values by Miss Shirley

At Runnymede College one thing is true
This school was made for me and you
Built on pillars plain to see:
Kindness, respect and curiosity.

A friend in need that's feeling down
Would love someone like you around
To give them a smile or invite them to play
Or simply ask, "Are you ok?"

My feelings matter, and yours do too
Along with different points of view
Listening to others and not shouting out
That's what respect is all about.

When we're in class, it's time to work
Both children and teachers love to learn
Curious questions and trying our best
And when home time comes, a well-deserved
rest.

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— Sporting Events —



Bunnymede Fun Run

On the last Thursday of term, Years 1, 2 and 3 participated in an Easter themed charity fun run lovingly entitled “Bunnymede”! The children were sponsored to run a class race around the Julia Powell. Emma in 3D raised some extra money by selling pom poms which children waved whilst they cheered on their friends and houses. The total amount raised for Fundación Runnymede was an amazing €1,262. Well done everyone!



Year 1, 2 and 3 Flags Competition

Head of History and Geography, Miss Forbes, organised a fantastic quiz to test the children’s knowledge of flags. Everyone was keen to be involved and Miss Forbes was amazed with how many flags they recognised!



— Topic Highlights —



Year 1 Medieval Day saw the Julia Powell transformed into a medieval court. The children tried a number of Medieval games including shooting a target using a bow and arrow. We had a wonderful time and ended the event with a traditional Medieval dance!



Chinese New Year was celebrated across Pre-Prep. Children in Pre-Nursery made snake crafts while Reception practiced their dragon dances, performing them at assembly. Year 2 learnt how to make Chinese lanterns as part of their Amazing Asia topic. We all enjoyed a Chinese feast at lunch, and even shared some fortune cookies!



— Topic Highlights —



“We went to the lab to do experiments with Year Seven. We did three experiments. The first one was called the ‘squeaky pop’ test and the second was an experiment with an onion to see the cells. The third experiment was separating colours on paper and was my favourite. Year Seven were very kind to us.” Clara (3D)

A very scientific term!



Nursery explored Space and light.



Y2 learnt all about the properties of materials.



Pre-Nursery conducted melting ice experiments.



Year 3 looked at light and shadows.

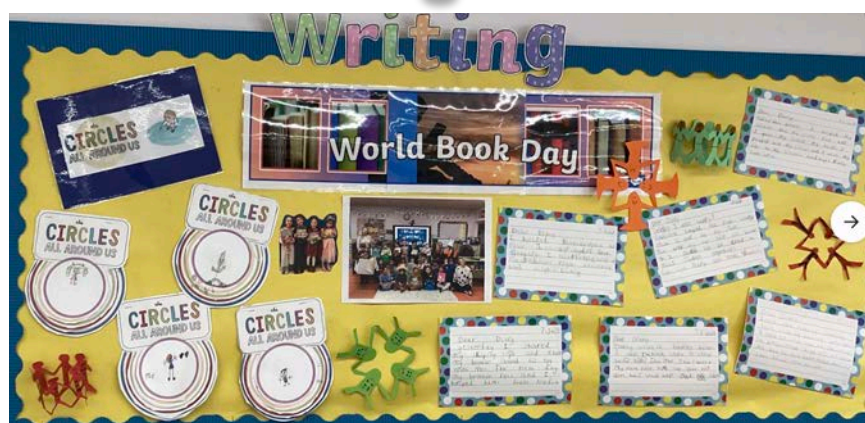


Literacy Week

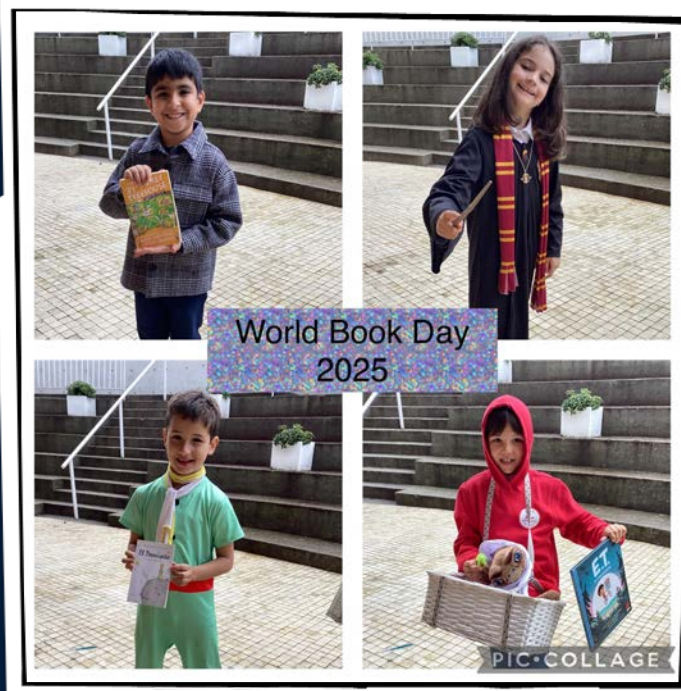


We had a fantastic Literacy Week with lots of fun activities to get us reading! This year we focused on the book "The Circles All Around Us" by Brad Montague, learning about the importance of community in helping us feel safe, loved and connected to those around us.

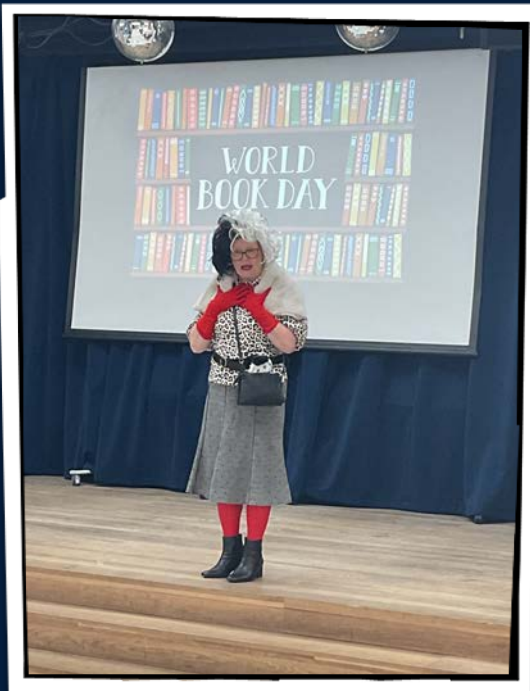
Every Pre-Prep class was visited by a class from the Prep school for paired reading. We shared our favourite stories and celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as our favourite book characters. Children in Years 1, 2 and 3 submitted book reviews for a competition and we loved the amazing mixture of posters, videos, presentations and written book reviews.



World Book Day



World Book Day



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

6 MARCH 2025

— Forest School —



EYFS have had so much fun in the forest this term! The children have explored the impact of the changing weather on the natural world and have loved playing in mud and puddles on the rainy days.





**HAPPY
EASTER**

— Important Dates Term 2 —

Please see below important dates for your diaries for next term...

Monday 21st April: Start of Term (08.50am)

Wednesday 30th April: Nursery Forest Trip

Thursday 1st May and Friday 2nd May: Labour Day Puente Holiday

Thursday 8th May: Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Day

Wednesday 14th May: Year 2 to Jardines del Campo del Moro, Year 3 Trip to Segobriga

Thursday 15th and Friday 16th May: San Isidro Puente Holiday

Friday 23rd May: EYFS Minibeast Dress-up Day

Friday 30th May: Year 3 Sports Day

Tuesday 3rd June: EYFS Farm Trip

Thursday 5th and Friday 6th June: Year 3 Residential trip to Layos

Tuesday 10th June: Pre-Nursery Sports Day

Wednesday 11th June: Reception Sports Day

Thursday 12th June: Nursery Sports Day, Year 1 and Year 2 Farm Trip

Wednesday 18th June: Year 3 Graduation

Friday 20th June: Ballet Show

Tuesday 24th June: End of Term (4pm)

We hope you have a wonderful and
restful break.

We look forward to welcoming students
back for our final term of the academic
year!



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