ST BERNARD'S PREP SCHOOL

# GREAT EXPERIENCES TO KICK OFF THE NEW HALF-TERM

04 NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2026

## Welcome Back: Great Experiences to Kick Off the New Half-Term!

Welcome back to an action-packed second half of the autumn term! We hope all our families enjoyed a restful and restorative break.

We are hitting the ground running with a vibrant lineup of new opportunities, enrichment programmes, and community celebrations designed to ignite curiosity, celebrate diverse cultures, and inspire every child to discover their unique strengths.



## A Hoot-tastic Visit from the Team at Feathers and Fur!

On Tuesday, our Year 2 and Year 5 pupils were treated to a truly magical experience as we welcomed Feathers and Fur to St Bernard's Prep!

The children had the incredible opportunity to meet four magnificent owls - a Barn Owl, Tawny Owl, Little Owl, and Snowy Owl - discovering fascinating facts about their distinct characteristics, natural habitats, and unique predatory adaptations.

The visit created rich, imaginative links to our English and reading curriculums:

- **Year 2**: Bringing Storybooks to Life: Pupils made wonderful connections to their core texts, The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark and Owl Babies. Seeing real owls up close sparked wide-eyed curiosity and brought their classroom reading vividly to life.
- **Year 5**: A Touch of Hogwarts Magic: Linking their studies to the world of Harry Potter, Year 5 explored the fictional roles of messenger owls alongside their extraordinary real-world hunting, flight, and sensory adaptations.

From wide-eyed wonder to fascinating discoveries, the visit was a superb example of experiential learning extending beyond the classroom.

A heartfelt thank you to Sadie from Feathers and Fur for delivering such an engaging and memorable session- It certainly was a hoot!








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## Celebrating Diwali: Being a Shining Light for All

This weekend, we join many families across our school and global community in celebrating Diwali, the Festival of Lights. Signifying the triumph of light over darkness, wisdom over ignorance, and good over evil, the festival carries a message that resonates deeply with our core St Bernard's Prep values.

Across our school community, we are reflecting on what it means to be a "shining light" for one another:

**Everyday Acts of Kindness:** Brightening someone else's day through simple courtesy, active listening, and generous service.

**Leading with Integrity:** Standing up for what is right, demonstrating sportsmanship, and fostering inclusive friendships on the playground.

**Sharing Our Gifts:** Using our individual talents, curiosity, and creativity to uplift those around us and illuminate our whole school community.

We wish a joyous and peaceful Diwali to all our families celebrating!





## Exciting New Opportunity: Oddizzi Explorer Club!

We are delighted to announce that St Bernard's Prep has been selected as an official pilot school for the brand-new **Oddizzi Explorer Club!** This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to be among the very first to test, shape, and experience this dynamic geography enrichment programme.

The club is designed to inspire curiosity about our amazing world, deepen geographical knowledge, and encourage pupils to think and act like real-world explorers. Throughout the six-week programme, children will embark on exciting global missions across Namibia, Nepal, Ecuador, and Antarctica.

**Core Explorer Skills Developed:**

- **Get Curious & Look Closer:** Engaging short documentary films and hands-on investigation.
- **Atlas Challenges & Teamwork:** Cracking the Atlas Codebreaker Challenge to solve cross-continental mysteries.
- **Problem-Solving & Resilience:** Embodying the explorer mindset - embracing the unexpected, learning from experts, and devising practical solutions.

Each participant will receive a dedicated Explorer Training Booklet to document discoveries and complete weekly missions. Upon finishing the programme, children will be awarded an official Oddizzi Bronze Explorer Certificate.

## A Great Week of Sport!

It was another busy week of fixtures, with our Under 9A and Under 9B Rugby teams both securing impressive victories against Dair House.

Our Under 10A and Under 10B Girls' Football teams faced Coworth Flexlands and, despite strong performances, narrowly lost their matches.

At the bi-weekly Under 11 Netball League hosted by The Marist School, both our Under 11A and Under 11B teams played superbly, each recording one win and one loss. A fantastic week of sport all round, with great effort, teamwork and sportsmanship on display.

We look forward to many more exciting fixtures this term.