



Newsletter

11+ and the Power of Consistency

This half term has shown just how far consistent effort can take our 11+ students.

From the beginning, many students began establishing strong study routines, and it has been inspiring to watch these habits grow. Daily revision slots, organised folders, and a more thoughtful approach to homework have helped our children take real ownership of their learning. Many have told us they feel more in control and confident as a result.

We have also seen persistent engagement and sustained focus. Lessons are always calm, purposeful, and full of students ready to challenge themselves. Whether tackling difficult comprehension questions or approaching tricky maths problems with determination, their positive attitude has made a clear difference to their progress.

Teachers have been particularly impressed by the increased maturity and independence students have shown. Small but meaningful changes such as arriving prepared, asking thoughtful questions and managing their own time have helped create a productive atmosphere in every lesson. These steps forward may seem subtle day to day, but together they show just how committed our students and parents are.

This half term has proved that consistency isn't just a habit, it's a powerful tool for growth, and our students are using it brilliantly.

Top Tip: Dual Coding

Take information (in the form of words) that you are trying to learn and draw pictures or diagrams to explain it.



Spotlight - Alternative Provision

Recently, three of our students have taken their learning beyond the classroom in inspiring ways.

Two pupils set up their own stall at a Christmas market, showcasing not only creativity but impressive business sense. From calculating prices and giving change to writing signs and speaking confidently to customers, they put key maths and English skills into real-world practice. Their experience demonstrated how budgeting, communication and teamwork can turn an idea into a successful venture and both students came away with a wonderful boost in self-confidence.



Well done Max and thank you to Jane and Mike

Meanwhile, another student spent an afternoon at a bike maintenance and repair shop, learning hands-on skills that required patience, problem-solving and focused attention. Understanding how each part works, using tools safely, and completing practical tasks gave him a sense of independence and achievement that can't be learned from a worksheet.

Across both experiences, one theme is clear: each student has discovered new strengths, developed a genuine respect for learning, and grown in confidence.

Story Writing Competition Success

We're delighted to share the results of our very first story writing competition!

Lucy Sandell takes first place with her story 'The Lost World', Barnaby Sandell is our worthy runner-up with 'Axolotl's Dream', and Austin Haward receives a Highly Commended award for 'Samurai Cat and the Lava Monster' along with a special mention for the wonderful illustrations submitted with his entry.

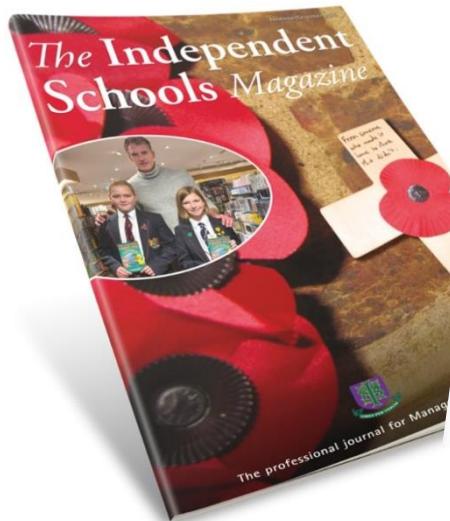
Our judges were the young authors of *The Guinea Pig Saga* and children's book editor Beth Cox. Beth has worked in children's book publishing for 20 years and is passionate about ensuring that all children are included in books and can find stories where they feel they can belong.

We were truly amazed by the imagination, creativity and impressive writing skills shown by all of our young story tellers. Well done to you all!



Lucy and Barnaby

In the News



In this issue...



Launch of dyslexia-friendly book

Two pupils from King Edward VI Preparatory School (KES Pepl, Hampshire) have played a key role in helping to write a new children's book titled 'Fur and Feathers Fight for the World', a dyslexia-friendly book in both font and page colour, and one of the first of its kind to involve dyslexic children in its creation.

The official book launch took place at Waterstones in Romsey, where historian and broadcaster Dan Snow cut the ribbon to celebrate the publication. Orla and Penelope, who both have dyslexia, contributed their ideas and writing to the project with the support of teacher Nicola Collings, King Edward VI Preparatory School's visiting dyslexia tutor. The pupils developed each character's themes and generated all the ideas for the story. Using AI technology, they shared and refined their ideas orally before editing them together to form a complete narrative.

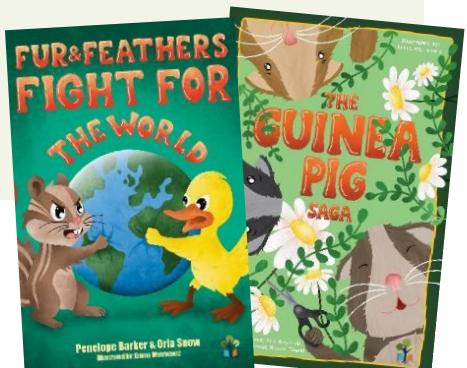
- 04 Social mobility Why independent schools
- 05 Curriculum and A Thoughts from HMC CE
- 06 Women in history The importance of inclusivity
- 08 Pastoral care in a How pastoral support is essential
- 12 Skills-based learning Implementing an essential curriculum
- 16 Navigating the VI One school reflects on t
- 24 Profile In conversation with Ali
- 33 Honouring E... Preserving tra
- 36 The future Rethinking

Plus

- 07 Breaking the Victo
- 10 Focus on endeavour
- 18 Remembrance fea
- 20 Preparing for 2023
- 22 Strength and power
- 26 Promoting diversity:

It's been an exciting term. Following our children's book launch at Waterstones we were invited to BBC Radio Solent for a live interview and this month we feature in *The Independent Schools Magazine*.

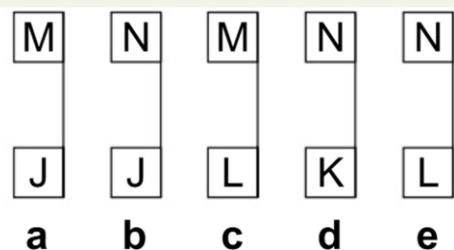
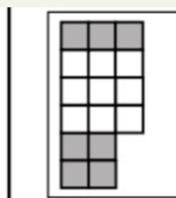
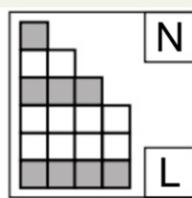
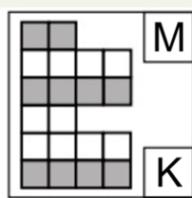
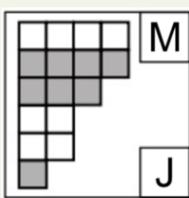
Order your copies for Christmas from our website or scan the QR code below.



NVR Christmas brainteaser!



In the boxes on the left are patterns with code letters. The top letters have a different meaning to the bottom ones. Work out how the letters go with the patterns and find the code for the new pattern from the 5 codes on the right (answer at the bottom of the last page).



Forest 1st Tutoring Ltd. is One Year Old



This month marks a special milestone – our first birthday!

Over the past year, we've supported countless students, celebrated their achievements, and watched their confidence grow in every lesson. What began as a small idea has become a thriving learning community filled with curiosity, progress, and positivity.

Thank you to our dedicated teachers, supportive families, and hardworking students for making this first year such a success. Here's to many more years of learning, growth, and inspiring futures!



A moment to celebrate: some of our exceptional teachers and staff – Happy Christmas!

MATHS: Quick Tips – real world contexts



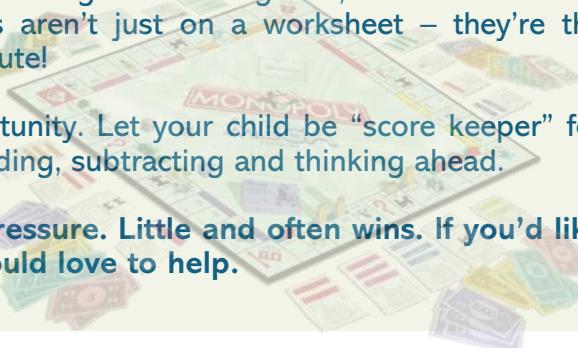
Christmas is a brilliant time to introduce some gentle maths without it feeling like “work”.

Ask your child to help plan a **Christmas party** or family get-together. Let them choose snacks for a budget using an online supermarket: comparing prices, checking how many people each item serves, and working out totals. If there's a “50% off” or “Save 20%” sale, ask them what the new price will be and how much you're saving. It's a simple, real way to build confidence with percentages and multi-step money problems.

In the kitchen, ask them to halve or double a recipe, convert grams to kilograms, or share out treats fairly between guests. Suddenly, fractions and ratios aren't just on a worksheet – they're the difference between enough brownies and a family dispute!

Family games nights are another rich learning opportunity. Let your child be “score keeper” for Monopoly, Yahtzee or cards so that they're the one adding, subtracting and thinking ahead.

Maths skills are about confidence and habits, not pressure. Little and often wins. If you'd like more ideas or support, at Forest 1st Tutoring we would love to help.



Thank you!

We have thoroughly enjoyed working with your children during this first term and we're grateful for your continued support and partnership. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas holiday, and we wish you all a very Happy New Year!

*merry*christmas*
from Forest 1st Tutoring

