

HT Message

My apology for the lengthy update, but we have lots of essential information to share. Please note that the information below reflects our current understanding of Government guidance and is subject to change at short notice:

Track and trace during the Christmas holiday

We continue to see very few reported positive cases of COVID 19 within our school community. To date, less than 2% of the school community have had a confirmed case. Notwithstanding this, we are required by the Government to keep tracking and tracing 'close contacts' of positive cases within our school until midnight on 24th December. This is because, if your child tests positive for COVID 19 between Saturday 19th December and Thursday 24th December, it is likely that they will have been infectious in school for the final days of term and therefore we will need to advise all children who are 'close contacts' to self-isolate.

Therefore, it is important that we are informed of any pupils who return a positive test in the first week of the Christmas holidays. This can be reported to the school by:

- emailing the school on General@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk, or
- telephone the school on 02392 693432 and choose extension 236 to leave a message on our absence reporting line.

Staff members will then begin to identify any 'close contacts' and communicate with relevant families.

If your child develops Covid symptoms from midnight on 24th December then please still inform us, however, it is very unlikely that they will have been infectious whilst in school, and therefore we will not undertake a 'track and trace' exercise. In this case, your child should still follow the guidance around quarantine, and they will be able to access work packs from the school's website when we restart in January.

For our system to work well, it is vital we have accurate contact details. The main means of communicating with parents and carers is via the SIMS Parent App. Please be aware that you can update your contact details on this platform. If you have not yet downloaded it or need support using this, then please contact Mrs. Helen Patis, SIMS Manager, on:

Patis@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

As ever, if your child is presenting symptoms, or waiting for the result of a test – do not send them in to school and inform us using the absence reporting line.

Winter food vouchers

Portsmouth City Council has pledged to fund meals over the Christmas holidays for children who are eligible for free school meals. Families in receipt of qualifying benefits will receive £30 of vouchers per eligible child in order to buy food over the holiday period. The vouchers can be spent on food at a range of shops including Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda, Morrisons, Waitrose and M&S. These vouchers are being processed by the School Office and will be sent to the email address that we hold on our SIMS system in the week beginning 14th December.

The vouchers will be delivered to your inbox via the same Edenred portal that was used to distribute the free school meals vouchers during the school closures earlier this year. Parents who opted for paper vouchers in the previous scheme will receive paper vouchers through the post again. Please note that this scheme is open only to families who qualify for free school meals through their household income. Pupils who receive the universal infant free school meals in Year R, 1 and 2 are not included in this scheme. Please email:

General@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

if you have any queries or questions about this scheme.

Asymptomatic testing for COVID 19 in schools

You may be aware that the Government have announced that from January 11th, all senior schools will be issued with rapid-result coronavirus tests. These will help identify asymptomatic cases and therefore limit the spread and reduce the number of children that will have to self-isolate. This testing should be seen as an added measure on top of the “hands, face, space” protocols we have established and embedded in our risk assessment. Our understanding of the approach to be taken is that:

1. tests are safe and reliable;
2. all staff and pupils (initially those in Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11) will be able to access these rapid-results tests free of charge;
3. testing will be rolled out for all pupils, including children in our Primary Section, in time;
4. all staff will be offered weekly testing;
5. pupils and staff will be able to access daily testing for seven school days if they are identified as ‘close contacts’;
6. participation is strongly recommended, but voluntary, and parents will be asked to give consent via SIMS Parent App;
7. testing involves taking a swab from the back of the throat and nose;
8. the tests are called “lateral flow tests” and produce a result within 30 minutes;
9. tests can be undertaken on the school site and do not require laboratory processes;

Further information about this proposal can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges>

Staggered opening from 4th January 2021

In order to support Senior schools in setting up the mass testing programme, we have been asked to operate a staggered start for the Spring Term. Therefore, we will only open fully to Primary and Year 11 between Monday 4th January and Friday 8th January. Pupils in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be offered home learning during this week and the timetable will be as follows:

Time	Year 7, 8 and 10		Time	Year 9
8:15 to 8:40	Silent Reading		8:15 to 8:40	Silent Reading
8:45 to 9:45	Lesson 1		8:45 to 9:45	Lesson 1
9:45 to 10:45	Lesson 2		9:45 to 10:45	Lesson 2
10:45 to 11:30	BREAK*		10:45 to 11:30	BREAK*
11:35 to 12:35	Lesson 3		11:35 to 12:35	Lesson 3

12:35 to 1:00	BREAK*		12:35 to 1:35	Lesson 4
1:00 to 2:00	Lesson 4		1:35 to 2:00	BREAK*
2:00 to 3:00	Lesson 5		2:00 to 3:00	Lesson 5

The sequence of subjects will broadly follow your child's normal timetable.

Email invitations will be sent out prior to the 4th January 2021 to your child's school email account. They should 'accept' these invitations and then their lessons will show on their MS Teams calendar and they can access the lesson according to the timetable above.

*Members of each House Team will be available on the following dedicated email address to answer any questions, or offer support.

Discovery@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk	if your child has a red tie
Intrepid@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk	if your child has a green tie
Victory@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk	if your child has a yellow tie
Enveavour@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk	if your child has a blue tie

In addition to the above, we have limited capacity to support vulnerable pupils or the children of 'critical workers'. If you would like to enquire about this provision, please email Mrs. Erika Anders as soon as possible and by 4:00pm on Wednesday 23rd December on:

AndersE@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

Also, we have a small stock of laptops which can be loaned out to families to support with home learning. Again, email Mrs. Erika Anders on the address above to find out more about this provision.

End of term reports

During next week we will be posting your child's report to SIMS Parent App. All children will receive an attitude to learning grade. Additionally:

- Pupils in Year 11 will be given a predicted grade
- Pupils in Years R to 10 will be given a "RAGB" grade based on their teacher's assessment of their likelihood of them reaching their end of key stage target.

In terms of support for your child over the break, the single biggest help any parent or carer can offer is to encourage a love of reading.

Gifts and messages to staff

I would like to extend my thanks to all parents, carers and pupils that have sent messages and gifts to our staff – it is greatly appreciated.

Wilkie Scholarship - Year 11

Given the disruption to Year 11, we have decided to extend the deadline for applications for the Wilkie Scholarship until 4:00pm on Friday 8th January 2021. If you are in Year 11 and would like to apply then send a letter of application to Mr. David Jeapes, Headteacher via Mrs. Lynne Hollis, PA to the Headteacher, on:

Hollis@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

This should be limited to 1000 words and outline:

- Your achievements to date. Both in and out of school;
- What 'A' level programmes you wish to follow;
- What your university and career ambitions are.

Payments for Senior School Catering

The payment system for school meals in the Senior Section is changing from Parentpay to Scopay from 4th January. This means that parents will now only need to access their Scopay to pay for all items such as ties, equipment packs, trips and school meals rather than needing to run two separate accounts through different portals. Pupils will not notice any difference in how they pay for their food at school – this will still be based on a cashless system using fingerprint scanners.

All existing balances that are held on Parentpay will be transferred automatically to your child's Scopay account for school meals over the Christmas holidays. The link to Parentpay has also been removed from the school website. From January, please make sure that you top up your child's school meals account through Scopay rather than Parentpay.

Building works

I am pleased to confirm that our contractor, Kier, remains confident that the new school building will be ready for July 2021. The next phase of the project will involve the partial closure of the North Playground to accommodate the works around the new pre-school and nursery building which we are planning to open. Please note that from 4th January 2021:

- Year 7 and 11 should enter the school site from the West Field gates via Inhurst Road;
- Year 8, 9 and 10 should enter the school site via the North West gate on Hewett Road.

Please rest assured that staff will be on hand to direct pupils!

Staff changes

We wish both Mrs. Jessica Dollman and Mrs. Rebecca Denford the very best as they start their parental leave. Also, leaving us we have:

10. Miss. Paige Kittle
11. Miss. Shanice Heywood
12. Mr. Guiseppe Scardigno
13. Mr. Curtis Tait

I would like to thank them for their contribution and wish them well in their new roles. We also say goodbye to both Miss. Carol Tester and Miss. Carole Sands who embark on their very well-deserved retirements, having spent a combined total of over 40 years at Mayfield!

INSET days and early closure

Please be aware that following the Government's decision to move back the GCSE window by three weeks and discussions with Kier around the decant of the existing building, we are currently reviewing

the dates of the remaining INSET days for this year, however, we can confirm the next INSET day is planned for Friday 12th February 2021 – school will be closed to all children on this day. Please rest assured that we will provide a full overview of dates for the Summer and Autumn Term by the end of January 2021 at the very latest.

To help our families plan their time, we have produced an extract of the school calendar containing all the key dates for Spring 1. This can be downloaded [here](#).

This is the final issue of the 'Mayfield Messenger' for this term. We return to school at the normal times on Monday 4th January 2021 and the next issue be published on Friday 7th January 2021. I would like to finish my piece by wishing you and your family a very healthy and Merry Christmas, as well as a Happy New Year.

Head of Seniors (Miss. Louise Hillier)

Week beginning 4th January is:	Week A
Theme of the week:	Respect and Tolerance

We have now finished one of the strangest terms of my teaching career- thank you to all of you who have supported us every step of the way. I have phoned a number of you to tell you that your children needed to isolate and have been touched by the fact that the most common reaction was that you hoped the person with Covid 19 was ok. In difficult times it is wonderful that as a community we are still concerned about the welfare of each other.

January will be a staggered start for the Seniors. We will keep you updated with our plans.

I wish you all a very restful break and hope you and your loved ones keep safe.

Head of Primary (Mrs. Fiona Rogers)

I would like to say thank you to you all for your support over what has been a very different autumn term. The children have been very resilient and have fully embraced, what for us, has become the new normal.

It has been a busy final week of the term which has included a Christmas lunch and has culminated in a festive Christmas jumper day today. It was really lovely to see all of the children looking so festive.

Yesterday we had a very successful rewards afternoon which the children, and staff, thoroughly enjoyed. The feedback from the pupils was that it was "fun", "amazing" and "cool to spend time with their friends".

As is traditional in the primary section, our Christmas door competition was fiercely competitive this year! I am delighted to announce the winners:

Year R – Jellyfish
Year 1 – Octopus
Year 2 – Seal
Year 3 – Amazon
Year 4 – Mississippi
Year 5 – Caribbean

Year 6 – Atlantic

The Infant winner was Seal and the Junior winner was Caribbean.

The overall winner for the primary section was.....Seal class. Well done to Miss Hatton and team and of course to the pupils who made such an effort in creating such a delightful door! Please see the celebration assembly this week for a photo of the winners.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very lovely Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Myself and the team look forward to seeing you all on Monday 4th January.

Head of Pre-school and Nursery

It has been a lovely final week at school. The classroom has been filled with lots of laughter and the children singing Christmas songs. The children really enjoyed visiting the Christmas shop choosing gifts for their family. We return to school on Monday 4th January, the class topic will be 'winter', and the letter sound will be 'K'.

To spread Christmas cheer we have put together a Christmas parcel for a homeless person in North End, also in the New Year we will be sponsoring a Guide Dog for the blind. I would like to say a huge Thank You for your continued support through the year.

It's been a pleasure getting to know all the new children and parents, I hope you and your families are in good health and enjoy the festive season together. Can I just remind you that if you have symptoms or test positive for Covid 19, could you still let the school know?

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the staff at Sunbeams.

Mrs Edwards Head of Pre- School & Nursery