

## HT Message

Over the course of this week, we have had a further four staff test positively for COVID 19. Several of these work within the Year 5 'bubble' and were confirmed last weekend. Also, we have had another positive case with a pupil in Year 5. Consequently, following PHE advice, we have taken the decision to extend the self-isolation period for all year 5 pupils and staff until Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November. Those in self isolation can come out of quarantine on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November and should return to school on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November. This information was communicated to families earlier in the week via the SIMS Parent App.

At the time of writing this message, the rate of infection within the school appears to be slowing and we hope that by moving quickly to identify 'close contacts' and ask for them to isolate, we will reduce the likelihood of this infection spreading more widely across the school.

I am deeply grateful to all families that have supported us by informing us of positive cases and going into self-isolation. I do not underestimate the pressure this puts on parents and carers, but this is the only way to combat this most contagious of viruses.

Following a successful week of live teaching, I can confirm that the offer for Year 5 parents next week will be four hours of 'live teaching' daily. If you are experiencing any problems accessing the Internet or are having challenges with hardware or software then please email Miss. Jen Lewis, Head of Juniors, on:

[LewisJ@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:LewisJ@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk)

Please be aware that the school has purchased a number of laptops which can be loaned out to families in need. Please also be aware that Miss. Liz Lester will be making welfare calls throughout self-isolation periods. If you would like a priority call, then please email her:

[LesterL@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:LesterL@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk)

Finally, if you have questions about home learning or would like a hard copy of the resources used. Please email Mrs. Rebecca Large on:

[Large-Becki@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:Large-Becki@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk)

In response to the recent spike in infections at Mayfield, we have reworked the EYFS, KS1 and KS2 timetables and extra-curricular clubs to further reduce the number of 'close contacts' within and across "bubbles". The effect of this is to reduce the size of Primary Section 'bubbles' to single year groups rather than pairs.

I am very pleased to report that PCC admissions have confirmed that, once again, Mayfield has proved enormously popular and will fill all available places for September 2021. This is a tremendous vote of confidence in these difficult times.

To help our families plan their time, we have produced an extract from the school calendar containing all the key dates for Autumn 2. This can be downloaded [here](#).

**\*\*\*School Closes at 12:35pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December to all pupils – there will be no after school clubs or teatime club\*\*\***

### **Head of Seniors (Miss. Louise Hillier)**

Week beginning 23rd November is a Week A

The Theme of the week is: Taking responsibility for my learning

It has been lovely to welcome back the majority of the Senior pupils who have been isolating this week. It has been strange without them! Please be assured that there is work available for pupils who are self isolating and a link to the work will be sent to all pupils who have to quarantine. Mr Tite is in charge of our digital strategy so if you have any questions about accessing the work please contact him on [tite@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:tite@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk).

We look forward to the Year 11 Parent's Evening this coming Thursday- please do make an appointment to meet your child's teachers virtually. If you haven't yet taken part in a virtual Parent's evening please be assured that it seems to be very popular with the parents who have taken part and seems to run smoothly. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Patis on [patis@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:patis@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk).

Years 7 and 8 are currently working on their Autumn 2 Prep projects. These are on our website [here](#). If your child is having any issues or problems with these projects, then your child's tutor would be happy to help or will be able to direct you to the person who can. A full list of tutors is on our website [here](#).

This week the pupils have had assemblies about Anti-Bullying. These are difficult times for all of us and it is so important that we look after each other and build each other up rather than knock each other down. I still remember Mrs Rogers assembly last year as it was extremely moving and struck a chord with many of us who heard it. She encouraged the pupils to be kind to each other- and used the old adage "if you have nothing nice to say then say nothing at all". She encouraged the pupils to look out for each other and reminded them of the support available for them at school. This advice is still so true and we need to remember it on a daily basis. Information about the support we offer is available on our website [here](#).

And finally a message from Mrs Denford who leads on careers at Mayfield:

Thank you to all parents who have completed the Careers Provision questionnaire. I wanted to let you know about a focus week we usually have in the spring term. We do a whole school focus on different career paths, we term this MOLIMA week. For those of you who do not know what MOLIMA means it is our school motto 'My Only Limitation Is My Ambition'. If you are interested in getting involved virtually or just sharing ideas about your career path or have any questions about this week, please do email [careers@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:careers@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk) to see how we can link you up so that you can help with MOLIMA week in 2021. Thank you to everyone who has supported this week previously and if you're interested in helping again please do let us know.

### **Head of Primary (Mrs. Fiona Rogers)**

Thank you to all the families who supported our Children in Need events last week. The school managed to raise a great deal of money with a large contribution coming from Primary non-school uniform donations and entries to the Pudsey raffle.

It was lovely to see so many pupils and staff supporting Anti-Bullying week by wearing their odd socks to school. We have been working hard on "Beeing Kind" to each other and it has been really lovely to

see all of the certificates being given out to pupils who have been so kind to others. I would also like to say a big thank you to Mrs Moore for planning a wonderful assembly on this very thought provoking and important subject.

I would like to say well done to all of year 5 who have been engaging with staff online this week as part of their school provision. Next week year 5 will be receiving additional live learning sessions so please check your SIMS Parent App for the most up to date timetable.

Friends of Mayfield have recently asked for donations of games, jigsaws, children's magazines/books/colouring books that can be used for wet play times and lunchtime clubs. If you have any that you no longer need, please can you pass on to staff at the gates in the morning so that they can be quarantined ready for use.

I hope that you have been enjoying seeing the Celebration assembly every Friday. If you have anything that you would like to share with us in our "Superhero Section" please email your child's teacher. Please make sure that you are happy that any photos you send will be shared via the Friday Celebration Assembly document on the SIMS Parent App.

Many parents and pupils have asked about the sending of Christmas cards this year. I am pleased to say that our Christmas post box will be open from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December. All cards will be quarantined and so the deadline for bringing them in is Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

Finally, please can I remind all parents that pupils must be in full uniform each day and that they must arrive between 8.30am and 8.45am after which times the gates are locked and the pupils will be recorded as being late. Breakfast and Teatime Club will be operating as normal from next week.

### **Head of Pre-school and Nursery**

It has been lovely looking at the pictures of the children creating their spider cake homework. They seem to be having so much fun!

Our topic will continue with the theme 'Christmas'. In class we are still finding out about Christmas traditions from around the world, making comparisons with our own traditions and celebrations during the festive season.

Learning intentions linked to class subject are:

- Looking at similarities and differences that connect us to and distinguish us from others;
- Retell the Christmas story by sequencing the events;
- Create props for the Nativity;
- Notice patterns and shapes in the environment.

Letter sound will be 'H' - thank you for creating this piece of work with your children as we do use these to promote speech sounds at carpet time.

Finally, don't forget your photographs need to be in school by the 26<sup>th</sup> November.