

HT Message

You may be aware that, earlier this week, pupils in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 were moved onto a rota system. I appreciate a number of parents, carers and pupils who will have some questions about this. Therefore, please find some FAQs for the Senior Section rota:

If my child has been asked to undertake home learning, will this impact their attendance?

No, periods of home learning are marked with a code which is considered an authorised off-site activity and their overall attendance figures will not be negatively impacted. This is also true for children who have been asked to self-isolate.

What work will be set for them whilst they are learning from home?

Pupils working from home will receive 'live teaching' via MS Teams. Staff will start sessions according to a published timetable which is shared with parents via the SIMS Parent App. Typically, they have at least three 'live sessions' per day.

How long will the rota last for?

During the Summer Term we explored a number of options for Senior Section pupils to undertake some home learning if needed. The current rota system was one of the models we developed and is designed to be used for short periods during times when a significant number of staff are asked to self-isolate. Regular assessments of staffing levels are made, which informs us as to how long we must run the rota for. Please rest assured, we will only run a rota for the minimum time possible.

My child cannot access home learning since they do not have the right hardware or software, what do I do?

Our home learning offer has been designed to run on either a smart phone or laptop via MS Teams. The school has purchased a number of devices which can be lent out to families. Please email Mrs. Erika Anders, SENCo, for details on:

AndersE@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

How can I help my child with home learning?

Please do try and establish a 'normal' routine with the usual wake up time, breakfast etc. Individual timetables are sent out to families via SIMS Parent App, so you know when your child has a 'live lesson' and when they have a break.

How can I access SIMS Parent App?

The SIMS Parent App is our main means of communication with parents and carers. If you are experiencing problems with accessing this app, then please email, Mrs. Helen Patis, SIMS Manager on:

Patis@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

How can I give feedback about home learning?

Mr. Tite, Assistant Headteacher, is coordinating our home learning response. He would welcome constructive criticism or positive feedback on:

Tite@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

What will the rota be next week?

Monday 30th November Year 10 should not come to school and must access learning from home
Tuesday 1st December Year 9 should not come to school and must access learning from home
Wednesday 2nd December Year 8 should not come to school and must access learning from home

Based on the current staffing position, we believe that we can finish this rota on Wednesday 2nd December and return to normal from Thursday 3rd December. Please note, however, that this is subject to change and, if we see a significant number of staff being required to self-isolate, we may need to move back onto a rota at a future date. We will, of course, inform you via the SIMS Parent App, at the earliest opportunity if this is the case.

Why has the Senior Section moved to a rota?

Infection rates at the school remain very low. Since September we have had nine staff (around 6% of the total) and fourteen pupils (around 1% of the total) with confirmed cases of COVID 19. However, a significant number of staff have been asked to self-isolate either through the NHS Track and Trace App or as an identified 'close contact' by the school on the advice of PHE.

Additionally, by moving to a rota, we reduce the need for external supply teachers and therefore, further limit the number of people coming into the building – helping to stop the spread.

Will the Primary Section move to a rota?

Our expectation is that this will not need to happen. Should a positive case of COVID 19 be reported within a Primary Section class, then our approach will be to ask all members of the class to self-isolate and move directly into daily 'live teaching' with their class teacher. In cases where the class teacher is unwell, then provision will be made for an experienced colleague to run the sessions until such a time that the normal class teacher is available.

Is there any provision for vulnerable or key worker children for the day my child is due to learn from home?

Yes, we have limited provision for key worker or vulnerable pupils. If you wish to access this, then please email Mrs. Erika Anders on:

AndersE@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

I have a question which has not been addressed, who can I ask?

Please email any questions to Mr. Stedman on:

StedmanM@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

END OF FAQs

Additionally, we have been made aware that several pupils have been sent to school whilst parents or carers are awaiting the outcome of a COVID 19 test. Please note that this should never happen. You should only book a test if your child is displaying symptoms. Whilst the test is being processed, please make arrangements for them to self-isolate and inform Mr. Matt Stedman by email.

I would like to share some updates from the Friends of Mayfield:

Festive Card Design Competition

Thank you to all our pupils who entered designs for our competition, we had over 100 entries and really enjoyed looking at them. The committee anonymously voted on the designs and we are very pleased to announce the winning designs which can be seen [here](#). Please take a moment to look at them, we have some talented artists at Mayfield! Prizes will be presented to the winning pupils in the coming week.

Pre-loved uniform

Please remember that the FOM manage the pre-loved uniform shop on Wednesdays between 3.30pm and 4.30pm. To access this please come to the Main Reception where staff will demonstrate what is available and gratefully receive any donations!

Funding

This term the FOM re very proud to have been able to buy £1000 worth of outdoor play equipment for the primary section and contribute £1000 to rewards for pupils in the senior section, which will include a Christmas prize draw during last week of term. We are also creating family Christmas hampers for people in our school community who may be struggling in these difficult times. Whilst some of r usual events have been cancelled, please rest assured we are working hard behind the scenes to support our school.

Thank You!

We would like to offer our community an opportunity to share a positive message with staff or groups of staff during the festive period. Our plan is to share these with staff in the last week. If you would like to say “thank you” then please do email us at:

FOM@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

Finally, I appreciate how disruptive the move to a rota system has been for families in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10. Please accept my apology for any inconvenience caused, but also rest assured that by moving to this system we have been better able to deliver good lessons to our pupils.

The last day of this term is Friday 18th December. Please note that the school will close early to all pupils at 12.35pm. **There will be no extra-curricular activities or tea-time club on this day.**

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

Head of Seniors (Miss. Louise Hillier)

Week Beginning 30th November is a week B

The theme of the week is: The Importance of Charity

This has been an unusual week for the Senior Section as Years 7-10 have spent a day at home accessing on-line learning. The majority of the pupils have really worked hard in these sessions and it has been lovely to see some of the thank you emails they have sent to the staff who ran the sessions. This is a new way of working for all of us so there have been a few teething problems- thank you for bearing with us.

The Year 11 Parents evening was a very positive evening, and it was lovely to engage with so many parents and discuss how we can work together to help their children reach their potential. The Year 11 mock timetable for January has been sent out to Parents via the SIMS Parent App and is on our website [here](#).

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 are working on their Autumn 2 'Prep' projects- details about the projects can be found on our website [here](#). The final deadline for each of these will be coming up so please do contact your child's tutor if they are having difficulty with any aspect of the projects. Contact details can be found [here](#).

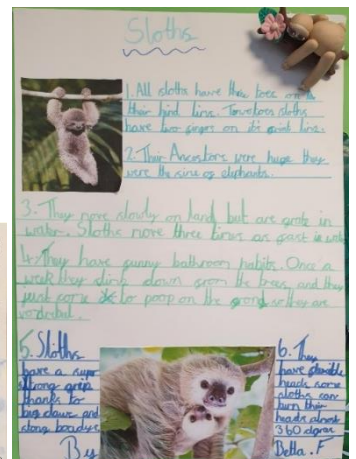
A reminder that to use our bike sheds we do require pupils to have a cycle helmet. Pupils who do not have one will not be allowed to leave their bikes on site. In addition, for safety, particularly at this time of the year, pupils should have fully working lights and ideally a bright coat.

Finally, on the last day of term, pupils are invited to wear a Christmas jumper under their blazer. There is no need to rush out and buy a new one- last year or a homemade one is perfectly acceptable. We always try and keep school as normal as possible in the run up to Christmas so it will be nice on that last day to spread some Christmas cheer in our jolly jumpers!

Head of Primary (Mrs. Fiona Rogers)

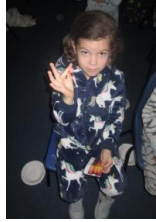
I would like to start by once again thanking everyone who donated to our Children in Need appeal this year. I am delighted to say that a total of £1087.82 was raised by wearing non-school uniform and the Primary raffle.

A reminder that Prep for this half term is due in on the 7th or 14th December 2020. Please refer to your child's prep sheet for further information. Below is a selection of super Prep from year R, 4, 5 and 6. Please keep an eye out on the school Instagram account for Prep over the coming weeks.



Our Assembly this week was led by Mrs Cleary and focused on Diwali. It was really interesting to find out about how Diwali is celebrated and to see some childhood photos of Mrs Cleary's family joining in the celebrations.

Year 2 were very excited to travel on the Polar Express in their pyjamas as a hook for their English topic on Wednesday. Mrs Buck has shared some photos of the children enjoying their day:



This week children should have received a list of pupils and staff in their year group in case they would like to send Christmas cards. A reminder that our Christmas post box will be open from Monday 7th December until Tuesday 15th December 2020. Please ensure that class names are written on the envelope so that the Elves will know where to deliver the cards to!

Pupils have also been asked to submit an entry into the competition to design the annual Christmas card for Penny Mordaunt MP. Whilst some pupils have created a design in school, if your child would like to enter this competition and has not done so already, they need to come up with a design on a single side of A4 paper with their name and class written on the back. The deadline for bringing these into school is 9am on Monday 30th November. Please pass to Mrs Rogers or Mrs Buck on the gate in the morning.

Whilst our Infant section are busy working on their virtual nativity, the whole of the Primary section has been invited to take part in a whole school 12 days of Christmas challenge! Each year group has been assigned one of the 12 days and will be attempting to learn how to sign it.

Year R will learn day 1 – “a partridge in a pear tree”

Year 1 will learn day 2 and 1 – “two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree”

Year 2 will learn day 3, 2 and 1 – “three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree”

Year 3 will learn day 4, 3, 2 and 1 – “four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree”

Year 4 will learn day 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 – “five gold rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree”

Year 5 will learn day 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 “six geese a-laying, five gold rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree”

Year 6 will learn day 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 “seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying, five gold rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree”

If you would like to help your child with this challenge, there are lots of videos on available on YouTube showing this in British Sign Language. It is certainly going to be a big challenge!

Finally, on the last day of term, pupils are invited to wear a Christmas jumper under their blazer. Please do not rush out to buy a new jumper, some of the best ones are “homemade” and we have seen some very creative designs in recent years!

Head of Pre-school and Nursery

It has been lots of fun in class rehearsing the Christmas Nativity – the children are amazing, it is going to be a lovely production.

The topic will continue with the theme ‘Christmas’, we shall be writing letters to Santa, and talking about their experiences of Santa leaving gifts on Christmas Eve. We shall discuss as a group how Santa knows what every child would like -how do they tell Santa?

Learning intentions linked to class subject:

- Explore ideas around the theme of giving and sharing;
- Manipulate materials to achieve planned effect.
- Look at traditions from around the world;
- Christmas counting and shapes.

Letter sound is 'l' - we really enjoy seeing the work you create with your children at home.

Just a reminder, if you need to apply for a school place, applications will close on the 15th January 2020. You can apply online at www.portsmouth.gov.uk/schooladmissions or, you can ring for a paper copy, ask for the Admission team on 02392 688008 - **don't be late as this will affect your chances of a place at your preferred school.**

Finally, don't forget to bring your order in for school photographs by 26th November.