

## HT Message – Mr. David Jeapes

You will be aware that the Government have stated that details around the planned full reopening of schools will be shared during the week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> February. At this time, I would ask that families take a moment over the half term break to ensure your child has all the necessary uniform and including ‘**black polishable**’ shoes, and for pupils in the Senior Section, an essential equipment pack:

- Black pen and pencil plus spares;
- Purple pen for feedback;
- Glue stick;
- 30cm Ruler and an eraser;
- CASIO Fx Series calculator;
- Face covering plus spare;
- Water bottle;
- Reading book (Year 7 and 8 only).

In order to support families, we have produced a cost-effective pack containing most of the above which can be purchased for £9.30 via our Scopay system and picked up from the Main Reception. If you have any questions about our online payment system, please email:

[BackhouseD@mayfield.portsmouths.ch.uk](mailto:BackhouseD@mayfield.portsmouths.ch.uk)

Equally, for families facing particularly challenging financial circumstances, Mrs. Erika Anders, Assistant Headteacher is available to provide discrete and confidential help. To contact her, please email:

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

Please note that the ‘Friends of Mayfield’ operate a pre-loved uniform shop selling inexpensive, clean, good quality items of uniform. As part of your ‘daily exercise’, please feel free to drop into our Main Reception between 8:00am and 3:00pm to see what is available!

In line with the DfE’s guidance, Mayfield will be fully closed to all pupils including those of ‘critical workers’ and children considered ‘vulnerable’ during the half term break. However, we are required by the Government to keep tracking and tracing ‘close contacts’ of positive cases within our school community over the half-term holidays. This is because, if your child tests positive for COVID 19 over the holidays, it is likely that they will have been infectious in school for the final days of the half-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 have been attending our in-school provision who return a positive test in the half-term holidays. This can be reported to the school by:

- emailing the school on [General@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto: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 does show symptoms of COVID, then you should book a test using the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

### **Asymptomatic Testing of Pupils in Years 7 to 11**

Please be aware that prior to the return of pupils in our Senior Section, we will be required to administer two lateral flow tests, 3 to 5 days apart to check for the presence of COVID 19. Parents and carers will need to give or withhold consent using the link below:

<https://forms.gle/4vze98MHnMDYnSCBA>

If you have not yet completed this form, then please do so as soon as possible. Please note that even if you do not wish your child to take a test at school, you must still complete this form. If you have any questions about the form or tests, then please email this to Mrs. Helen Patis, SIMS Manager, on:

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

Currently, there is no requirement for Primary aged pupils to undertake testing.

### **INSET Days 2020 – 2021**

I can confirm that the remaining INSET days will now take place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. This means that the last day for pupils to attend school during the Summer Term will be Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Staff will use this time to decant from the current building to our new school, ready for a September opening. Further to the above, you will be aware of media speculation around extending the Summer Term, if this does happen, then we will republish the INSET calendar.

### **Job opportunities**

Please be aware of the following posts which have been advertised nationally:

2 x Assistant Headteacher;  
Assistant Quality Leader for Mathematics and Computing;  
Teacher of Spanish;  
Teacher of Science;  
Teacher of Primary (KS1 or 2).

All the above for an April, June, or September start. Additionally, we have the following support staff roles with an immediate start date:

Facilities Manager

Full details can be found on our website. Please alert potential candidates by sharing the above on your social media networks – Thank you!

### **Vacancies for Parent Governors**

Following the expiry of the current terms of our existing Parent Governors, we have two vacancies for the role of Parent Governors. Details of how these vacancies will be filled and how you can apply to be a Parent Governor are [attached](#).

### **Stationery**

We are happy to provide the following items of stationery free of charge:

- Exercise books – lined, square or plain;
- Glue sticks;
- Pens and pencils.

If you would like to take advantage of this, please come into the Main Reception as part of your permitted 'daily exercise' and pick up some of the above. Please note that we will only issue one of each item per adult. If you are unable to leave the house, then [email](#) our 'general' account and we will arrange for these items to be posted home.

### **Sanitary products**

We are aware that some families may need access to sanitary products whilst they are not at school. If you require any of these products, please complete the Google form which can be found [here](#). A package will then be prepared, and arrangements made for you to collect it.

### **Free School Meals**

This week, families eligible for benefits related free school meals (not universal infant free school meals) should have received two sets of vouchers to their registered email address from the Edenred platform - one voucher for the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> February and another one to cover the half-term holidays. If your vouchers have not arrived, then please alert Mr. Matt Stedman, on:

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

The next set of vouchers to cover week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> February will be sent out on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Please do check your 'junk' box and consider downloading the SIMS Parent App – this is the main means of communicating directly with parents and carers. For support with SIMS Parent App, email Mrs. Helen Patis, on:

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

Children eligible for a free school meal who attend an onsite provision will get this daily.

### **Feedback on remote learning w/c 8th February**

Please see here a selection of the lovely comments that parents, carers and pupils have shared with us around our onsite and remote provisions. Thank you for taking the time to write, we really appreciate this!

*My Daughter 'SC' in year 7 has thoroughly enjoyed her online lessons with Mr Seymour. I have heard his lessons and have seen for myself how engaging he is and how he relates well to the children.*

*I received a call this morning from Miss Moody. I would like to say how compassionate and understanding she was. She is a credit to the school. Please pass on my comment and thanks. Stay safe.*

*I just wanted to take this opportunity to express how impressed I am with Mr Head's teaching during this strange and difficult time. He is fantastic at keeping the children engaged and on track every day,*

*which I know is no easy task. He is so inspiring for the children, particularly when it comes to art and drawing, my daughter loves to see the artwork he has produced and this encourages her!*

*Mr Head is constantly finding ways to make online learning fun and diverse, using sound effects and music to capture the children's attention. I also appreciate how he has mental health at the forefront of his teaching and takes time out to discuss this with the class, he also encourages the children to Share their work and give each other positive praise which is really lovely to see. My daughter always looks forward to Mr Heads quizzes on a Friday, which he makes so fun and interactive!  
Keep up the good work!!*

*I would like to take the time to thank all of the staff who have worked in key worker school, I am very grateful and this has allowed me and my husband to continue working knowing the children are safe and being educated at school.*

*I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Buck who has been so helpful this term with the administration of calpol for 'E'! She has also been so supportive and empathetic towards 'E' and organised ELSA support. Mrs Buck took time out of her busy day and at short notice to speak to me and 'E'. She has been a great support to us both. I cannot thank her enough.*

*Please also pass on my thanks to Miss Lee for helping 'E' and using her ELSA skills to help support him. She was a listening ear and helped him with his feelings.*

*I would like to praise Miss Garner, Ta in Dolphin, year 2. She has gone above and beyond in helping support 'C' in KWS. She has shown true professionalism, with a smile every day. She is a credit to the school.*

*I would like to praise Miss Wright, Carribbean class, again she has gone above and beyond and became a listening ear to 'E' when he was having a difficult day. This is very much appreciated knowing he is getting emotional support.*

Our staff find the feedback really motivating. If you would like to share more feedback, then please do send this to:

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

### **Rewarding pupils during this period of remote learning**

We will continue to share celebration assemblies for primary pupils via the SIMS parent app. We will also be posting home certificates which will be quarantined for at least 72 hours before being sent home.

This week we will also begin emailing senior pupils directly to share rewards and parents via the SIMS Parent App. Pupils will also be able to earn achievement points throughout the period of remote learning. Please contact Mrs Helen Patis [patis@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:patis@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk) if you have not yet been able to log onto your SIMS Parent App.

### **Lateral Flow Testing**

It is the government's intention that all senior section pupils will be tested for Covid-19 in our school's Testing Facility before the wider reopening of schools. Each pupil will be tested twice, 3 -5 days apart. It is essential that all parents with children within our Senior Section complete a registration and

consent form – even if you do not want your child to take a test. Please complete the [e-form](#) below to give (or withhold) consent as soon as possible:

<https://forms.gle/4vze98MHnMDYnSCBA>

A more detailed timeline for the routine testing of senior pupils will be made available to parents when we are informed of the date for the wider reopening of schools.

### **Early Teatime Club Option**

From Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February, there will be the option of booking an Early Teatime Club slot from 3.00 - 4.30pm. Places will cost £4.50 per child and can be booked through the Scopay system. The Early Teatime Club option has been introduced to support the key workers who are struggling to get to school in time for the end of the day at 3.00pm. This option will be available until our normal Extra-Curricular provision restarts.

### **Instrumental Music Lessons**

For pupils who normally receive instrumental lessons from one of our peripatetic teachers, you will be receiving either a letter inviting you to join online lessons run by Portsmouth Music hub, a link to some video resources to work through or an invite to a Teams meeting for an online lesson. All engagements for this half term will be free of charge and your child will continue their live lessons on their return to school. If you no longer wish to continue with these lessons, please inform:

Juniors- [lewisj@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:lewisj@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk)

Seniors- [firthj@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:firthj@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk)

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

Well done to everybody- pupils and teachers for working really well during an extremely challenging half-term. We have certainly all had to show our resilience to keep going. Over the half-term holiday please do encourage your children to take a well-deserved break and spend as much time as possible away from their screens. Time away from screens is needed for everybody! We need pupils, and staff, refreshed and ready for what the next half-term might bring us.

Whilst we await the Government directives for the return to school it would be a good idea for pupils to start collecting together all the things they will need for the return:

Full uniform e.g. asking “where is that tie?!” and starting to remove false nails and changing any unnaturally coloured hair that won’t be allowed when we come back

Full equipment- chasing down the glue stick that might have slipped down the side of the bed!

Work completed during lockdown- gathering together any and all loose bits of paper that have work on them and getting them ready to bring back in with them.

It would also be a good idea to remind your children to start adjusting their body clocks back to normal school routine- I know some pupils will still be getting up bright and early and getting an early night on a school night- but a few will have let their body clocks slip out of sync.

Thank you for your support with all of these things- this will help the transition back to normal school, when it comes, so much easier.

Please do remember that if you have any questions or concerns, or just want to say thank you for something, the House teams are available on the email addresses below:

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

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

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

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

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

As we come to the end of this half term I would like to say well done and thank you to all of the parents and pupils who have embraced and supported online learning. The resilience displayed by all has been tremendous and we are very proud of how you have adapted to a new style of learning.

Today we say goodbye to Mr. Jake Bachelor who will be leaving us to pursue a career outside of teaching. We thank you very much for your work with Coral class and wish you all the very best.

I hope that you have all been receiving the celebration assembly via your SIMS parent app. The amount of work being produced and shared has been such that we have needed to split the document into various parts due to the size of the files! This week look out for the presentation on Infant NSPCC Number Day which raised £236 for the NSPCC. Congratulations to everyone involved in this. If you still do not have access to the SIMS parent app, please email Mrs. Helen Patis on [patis@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:patis@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk) who will be able to arrange this for you. Moving forward, more and more information will be disseminated via the app and so it is essential that parents are able to see this.

Whilst we do not yet know the date of return to “normal” for all pupils it is a good idea to start preparing for our return. All pupils will need their uniform and PE kit. If you have lost items which you believe to be in school, please do email: [general@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:general@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk) stating clearly the name of your child, their year group, their class and what has been lost. We do urge you to name everything that comes into the school to make it easy to return lost items to their owner. If you need uniform items, we do have brand new ties available which can be purchased via ScoPay and our Pre-Loved uniform shop is stocked with items available to purchase. Both of our uniform suppliers, Skoolkit and Penelope Ann are also open for online purchases.

Before lockdown, Mrs. Reid and Mr. Campbell were working hard to launch the “Bee Kind” initiative across the whole of the school. On our return to school after lockdown, we will be doing a lot of work with children about being kind to themselves and to others. If your children have not done so already and would like to create a Bee Kind bee for our Bee Kind walls around school, please can they be emailed to [campbellj@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:campbellj@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk) or [reidc@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:reidc@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk). Alternatively, Bee Kind bees can be posted to the school or dropped into reception as part of your daily exercise.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a pleasant half term and look forward to seeing you all as soon as possible at some point in the Spring 2 half term.

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

Our topic will continue with Chinese New Year Celebrations after the half term. In class we will be learning about traditions, food, superstitions and activities that take place for each day of the New Year Celebrations.

We return to school on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February and can I please remind you to send your children into school with gloves and a hat as the weather is extremely cold.

Have a lovely half term – please remember to inform the school if you or your child display any symptoms of coronavirus during the break.