

HT Message – Mr. David Jeapes

This is the last 'Mayfield Messenger' of 2021. The next edition will be published on Friday 7th January 2022. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year. Please find attached to this message an extract of the Spring 1 calendar.

You will be aware of the COVID outbreak within our staff body. This resulted in Year 8, 9 and 10 having a to access online learning for several days this week – I am very sorry to all of the pupils and their families for this disruption; however, it was not feasible to open fully with so many staff self isolating.

Equally, I know a number of parents and carers questioned why we did not close the school. We can only take the decision to close fully following direction from public health bodies. The advice of UK HSA was clear in that the school should continue to operate partially open.

In order to reduce the risk of further school closures, I would ask that all families with children eligible for the COVID vaccine to consider getting their child vaccinated – if they have not done so already. For more information about booking a vaccine, click here:

[Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Also, and to reduce the spread of Covid-19 at the start of the new term, the DfE has asked schools to facilitate the asymptomatic testing of all year 7 to 11 pupils at the start of the new year. Each pupil will take one Lateral Flow Test prior to returning to school.

Parents need to provide further consent for their children to take part in this testing. Please can all parents complete the online consent form using the link below:

<https://forms.gle/NTSeEaWTjPzqwsxn9>

The testing will be taking place in the Sports Hall and pupils should arrive onsite via the Kensington Road gates at the following times:

Time	Tuesday 4th January	Wednesday 5th January
8.30am		Year 8 Discovery House
9.00am		Year 8 Victory House
9.30am	Year 7 Discovery House	Year 8 Endeavour House
10.00am	Year 7 Victory House	Year 8 Intrepid House
10.30am	Year 7 Endeavour House	Year 9 Discovery House
11.00am	Year 7 Intrepid House	Year 9 Victory House
11.30am		Year 9 Endeavour House
12pm		Year 9 Intrepid House
12.30pm	Year 11 Discovery House	
1.00pm	Year 11 Victory House	Year 10 Discovery House
1.30pm	Year 11 Endeavour House	Year 10 Victory House
2.00pm	Year 11 Intrepid House	Year 10 Endeavour House
2.30pm		Year 10 Intrepid House

There is no requirement for pupils to wear school uniform for their lateral flow tests and they should leave the school site immediately after testing. We will only contact any who test positively.

The following advice is taken from the DfE Testing Programme FAQs:

Should I still take part in the asymptomatic testing programme if I have recently tested positive for COVID-19?

If staff or pupils have recently (within 90 days) had a positive PCR test for COVID-19, they are likely to have developed some immunity. Individuals are exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD within 90 days of a positive PCR test, unless they develop new symptoms.

However, individuals may choose to take an LFD test after the 10-day isolation period, for example as part of a workplace, back-to-school or community testing programme. This should only be done after completion of the required self-isolation period as per the NHS stay at home guidance. If they test positive with a LFD test, they should self-isolate for 10 days or longer if symptomatic.

To accommodate the above, we will run the following staggered start to the term:

	Tuesday 4th January	Wednesday 5th January
Year 7	LFT test on site and Online learning	Normal Lessons
Year 8	Online learning	LFT test on site and Online learning
Year 9	Online learning	LFT test on site and Online learning
Year 10	Online learning	LFT test on site and Online learning
Year 11	LFT test on site and Online learning	Normal Lessons

Links to online learning have been shared with pupils via their school email and the sessions will be delivered via MS Teams. A copy of the timetable has also been sent to all parents via the SIMs Parent App. If your child has any issues with their online learning, please email Mr Tite on tite@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

If parents or carers need the loan of a laptop, then please email Mrs. Erika Anders, on:

AndersE@Mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

All Primary Section pupils should return on Tuesday 4th January at the normal times and are not required to undertake an LFT. However, if they are presenting symptoms of COVID please do not send them into school.

OFSTED inspection

We understand that the section 8 report will be published on the OfSTED website in the coming days and before the return to school in January. This can be accessed here:

[Ofsted | Mayfield School](#)

We are pleased that the outcome of the inspection coincided with our own view of the improvement areas for Mayfield and provided a useful external perspective.

Improving Communication

We are conscious there have been some issues around effective communication over the last few weeks. Please be aware that if your child is absent from school then you can report this to us using the Studybugs app. Please use this link to register.

[Studybugs – Register](#)

For support with this, then please contact:

Attendance@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

Reports

Reports have now been published for all Years – please check your Sims parents App – if you have any questions please email, Mrs Helen Patis on:

patis@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

Aspire Christmas Fayre Stall

We'd like to say a great big thank you to everybody that supported the Aspire Christmas Fayre stall. We raised a whopping £64 which is going to the British Heart Foundation. Thank you to Aimee, Olivia, Peter, Riley and Levi, who did a great job helping set up and sell the goods.



Brilliant job!

Head of Seniors – Miss Louise Hillier

Here we are at the end of our first term in the new building. It has gone so well- we have all settled in and it honestly feels like we have always been here. The last few weeks have been tricky as the Covid situation has changed nationally. Thank you to all the Senior pupils who have worn their face coverings and regularly tested themselves at home to do their bit for keeping the school community as safe as possible. The move to online learning for some year groups this week has gone well- thank you to all the staff who worked so quickly to get suitable work available for pupils.

It is nearly Christmas and as part of setting up new festive rituals we have this year introduced the tutor group Christmas tree window decoration. Mrs Rogers and I enjoyed looking at all the entries and our favourites from each House are below.



As you know, on the first day back after the break, Tuesday 4th January, all the Senior pupils are working online from home so that we can carry out the Lateral Flow Testing that the Government has asked to happen. The lessons for this day are set up and Teams invitations have already been sent out to the pupils. On Wednesday we have Years 7 and 11 back in the building on normal lessons whilst 8, 9 and 10 remain online and have slots for their Lateral Flow Testing. We are very much looking forward to Thursday 6th January when we will all be back in school.

If you have a child in Year 8 please make sure you have the Year 8 Parents Evening on Thursday 10th February in your diary. It will come round very quickly once we are back in January.

I hope you have a lovely two-week break whatever the national situation is.

Head of Primary – Mrs Fiona Rogers

This week has been very busy as we head towards the Christmas holidays. Last week the children were very excited to watch the Nativity and attend the Christmas Fayre. Year 5 pupils worked really hard in their enterprise challenge to raise money for their choice of charities.

The Christmas lunches this week have been a huge success. The staff and children have enjoyed a lovely Christmas roast and a festive chocolate brownie. The atmosphere in the main hall was very festive and it certainly set us up for the season!

I was lucky enough to have spent time walking around the school with Miss Hillier to judge the Mayfield Christmas tree designs. The winners in primary were:



Octopus



Caribbean

The children really made an effort to personalise their trees and they have really helped to make the classrooms look super festive.

Thank you so much for your generous donations to the Salvation Army Present Appeal. Yet again, our school community has rallied together to support a fantastic charity. The Salvation Army were very grateful for the donations and will be working to deliver them to children in Portsmouth in time for Christmas.



This week, Year R have been learning about the traditions associated with Christmas, have enjoyed listening to a variety of Christmas stories and got to make presents and cards for their families. The children have been so resilient in their first half term of school, and they are looking forward to the Spring term full of new challenges and exciting learning.

It has been a productive half term for Year 1. We have been busy participating in science experiments, designing and making our capes for Supertato, writing letters and continuing to learn about addition and subtraction within 10.

This week in year 1 we have been recapping key skills. Children thoroughly enjoyed celebrating the Christmas spirit on Thursday with their Christmas dinners and ending the term with Christmas crafts and Christmas film.

Year 2 have been enjoying their final week in school this half term with some mathematical challenges! In English we have been imagining how the main character is feeling in the story 'The Polar Express'. We have completed our topic learning and learnt about the significance of candles for the Jewish

festival of light 'Hannukah' and the four candles in the Advent Ring for Christians. We enjoyed crafting our own candle as a symbol of celebration or remembrance.

We all enjoyed being together to eat our Christmas Dinner and singing some festive songs in our classrooms.

All the Year 2 staff would like to wish every child and their family a joyful, restful and healthy Christmas break. See you in January ready for some new and exciting learning!!



This week Year 4 have been writing their own Christmas story based on The Nutcracker. In maths we have been looking at bar and line graphs with a Christmas theme.

This week, Year 5 calculated their profit from Enterprise week. We discussed how to calculate profit and considered why some products made more profit compared to other products. The winning groups received certificates for this, and all profit raised went to charity.

In art, we have sculpted clay pots and then carved into them. We focused on how to join parts including the handles and the base.



Finally, I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I hope that you all manage to get some rest and that everyone remains safe and well over the Christmas period.