

HT Message – Mr. David Jeapes

I can confirm that, 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 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>

We have received the following advice from the DfE around the Prime Minister's announcement:

"it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and instead (he) hopes it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools and colleges from Monday 8 March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity.

If the Government achieves its target of vaccinating everyone in the four most vulnerable groups with their first dose by 15 February then those groups will have developed immunity from the virus around three weeks later, that is by 8 March. It is for this reason that we hope it will therefore be safe to commence the reopening of schools from Monday 8 March.

In response to the above, we will continue to offer remote learning and onsite provisions as we have done throughout the Spring 1 half term until at least Friday 5th March. When a final decision is made around the school fully reopening, we will, of course, communicate this with you at the earliest opportunity, including our plans for running extracurricular activities.

INSET Days 2020 – 2021

Given the significant disruption that we have all endured, we have taken the decision to postpone our planned INSET day on Friday 12th February. Therefore, on this day, remote and onsite provisions will continue as normal. I can confirm that the remaining INSET days will now take place on Wednesday 21st July, Thursday 22nd July, and Friday 23rd July. This means that the last day for pupils to attend school during the Summer Term will be Tuesday 20th July. Staff will use this time to decant from the current building to our new school, ready for a September opening.

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 RE
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!

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.

Spring 1 reports

Please be aware that we will not be sending home our usual Spring 1 reports this half term and have opted to run parents evenings for children in our Primary Section and fortnightly meetings for tutors and pupils in our Senior Section. When the Government clarifies the programme for reopening schools fully, we will review and republish our parents evenings schedule. As always, if you have any concerns about your child's progress in school please contact their Head of House (senior section) or their class teacher (primary section).

Free School Meals

By now, families eligible for benefits related free school meals (not universal infant free school meals) should have received vouchers to their registered email address. If your vouchers have not arrived, and your child is not enrolled in KWS or SEN School, then please alert Mr. Matt Stedman, on:

StedmanM@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

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

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

Feedback on remote learning w/c 25 January

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!

I would like to say big "Thank you" to you and all the staff for arranging quality remote education during lockdown. I have to admit that I was nervous at first for my son, D in Year 6, to use Teams all day thinking he might get too chatty with colleagues or distracted. To my surprise, he has been resilient so far. Mr Head always finds amazing ways to keep children focused at all times. D enjoys his English, Maths classes, as well as discussions on History, Geography various topics and art 😊 Mr Head is an inspirational and kind teacher, who knows how to motivate his pupils and nothing is too much trouble for him. I know how challenging it is for everyone to keep on top of things in these hard times and our family appreciates your dedication and efforts to keep our children happy.
Keep up the great work 🍌

I cannot express my thanks enough for the Remote Learning. I am sure it hasn't been easy for all members of staff to support the parents and pupils alike in these difficult times, but you have managed to put in place a great, efficient online learning system with all the challenges implied and still remain on top of things, caring for your families too. Mr Head is a brilliant, dedicated teacher and D loves all his classes and presentations from English, Maths, Science to Geography, History and Art.. He is learning new skills everyday and also develops existing ones. I feel that D is well engaged and happy. Despite not seeing his friends at school, Teams app facilitates educational and social interaction and school has responded very well in providing our children a seamless experience. For this, I am grateful.

Miss Habgood – thank you for a lovely lesson, I definitely understand electrolysis now. You are an amazing teacher.

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

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 if you have not yet been able to log onto your SIMS parent app.

Lateral Flow Testing

We are delighted to report that our rapid testing facility is now open. The purpose of this resource is to test pupils (in Years 7 to 11) and staff that are NOT showing symptoms. If your child is showing symptoms, then they MUST NOT come into school. It is essential that all pupils 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 1st 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

Seniors- firthj@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

Head of Seniors (Miss. Louise Hillier)

Another week of lockdown and the provision of online learning remains a true strength. We have very few senior pupils in school- thank you again for all the parents who are keeping their children safely at home with them, it is really appreciated. All pupils, whether onsite or at home, have exactly the same provision so nobody is missing out on anything. The Government obviously announced that we will be in this position for a few weeks yet, but I am confident that the provision we are offering will mean pupils are not falling behind in their learning. Obviously as soon as the Government believes it is safe for schools to re-open we will be delighted to welcome back our pupils.

Could I please ask you to remind your child that the chat facility in Teams is very important in the learning that is being undertaken and each child needs to be sensible in their use of this facility. If you have anything you would like to share with us about the sessions, then please do get in touch with us- the House email addresses would be good to send to. These are below

Discovery@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

Victory@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

Intrepid@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

Endeavour@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

A member of the House team will be monitoring these every day so if your child, or you, has any questions, comments, concerns, please email here.

Head of Primary (Mrs. Fiona Rogers)

Thank you all once again for your continued commitment to keeping your children at home where possible and supporting pupils with their remote learning during this period of lockdown. We have had some brilliant feedback and I know that you will join me in thanking the staff who have been working so hard to continue to deliver quality teaching to your children. Please can I ask that parents do not use the chat to discuss anything other than the work happening at that time. If you have any concerns about your child's learning, please contact Mrs Buck on buckj@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk or Miss Lewis on lewis@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk in the first instance and refrain from posting comments about this on social media and WhatsApp groups.

Next Friday we are looking forward to participating in various Number Day activities. Please encourage your children to take part and send any photos that we can use during our celebration assembly.

A number of parents have asked about activities other than those that are part of the "normal" curriculum. In response to this, primary pupils will be able to take part in a range of activities to support good mental health during the final week of this half term. We will be asking pupils to take part in "Mindfulness Monday" "Well-being Wednesday" and "Feel good Friday." Your child's teacher will be able to give you further information next week.

Head of Pre-school and Nursery

The topic will change to 'Chinese New Year Celebrations' for the month of February, instead of Dinosaurs. To begin our topic, we will try to locate China on our map then try to find England. We will decide whether the country China is close to England or further away.

We will learn about the Chinese New Year story, discuss what animals were in the story and how many altogether. The children will gain awareness of Chinese culture, how the Chinese celebrate this time of year, learning about activities, traditions, foods, and superstitions.

Learning intentions linked to class subject:

- Show an understanding of the story;
- Discuss the different celebrations Chinese people carry out to celebrate Chinese New Year Celebrations;
- Explore colour, texture, shape, form;
- Select the tools and techniques they need to shape, assemble, and join materials together.

Letter Sound in class is 'O' -we do use the children's lovely work to support speech sounds, please continue to send these into school.

Our word wall has two more words added they are, 'It', 'I', 'A', 'In', 'To', And. These words can be found on the first page of the High Frequency Book that you are using with your children.

Finally, thank you for your continued contributions towards snacks, without your support we couldn't offer this provision.

