

HT Message

You will be aware that we have seen a rise in positive cases of COVID 19 within our local and school community. I would like to address some of the FAQs we have had:

1. How many staff have tested positive in school?

Four staff, approximately 3% of our workforce, have tested positively for COVID. Two staff members work in different subject areas within our Senior Section and two in Year 5. We have closed Year 5 as a precautionary measure and classes should return as follows:

Caribbean Class on Friday 20th November

Coral Class on Monday 23rd November

Aegean Class on Monday 23rd November

Caspian Class on Monday 23rd November

The Year Leader for Year 5 is Miss. Rebecca Large, please contact her if you have any questions about their home learning or other issues:

Large-Becki@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

Equally, a number of Senior Section pupils have been asked to self-isolate, as a precautionary measure, having been identified as “close contacts” to a staff member or child that has tested positively.

2. How many pupils have tested positively for COVID?

To date, we have been made aware of ten cases (approximately 0.9% of our pupils) who have tested positively for COVID. The majority of these are within our Senior Section. If your child is presenting any of the symptoms of COVID please do not send them in and arrange for a test.

3. Why has my child been asked to self-isolate?

When a positive case is reported to the school, we immediately identify any “close contacts”. These pupils (and any staff) are then asked to self-isolate for 14 days. The number of close contacts varies but can be as many as 50 pupils per positive case. In primary, it will often be the whole class (rather than the year group). In Seniors it will be those who sit closest to the positive case – all staff keep accurate seating plans for every lesson. In order to stamp out the virus at Mayfield, our approach is to quickly identify close contacts and ask them to self - isolate. Please rest assured in all cases, we follow PHE advice and inform Portsmouth City Council as well as the DfE. If you have not heard from us directly then your child should attend school as normal.

4. **If my child has been asked to self-isolate, should they take a test?**

No. They have been asked to work from home as a precaution to stop the spread. They should only take a test if they develop symptoms. Other family members can carry on as normal, unless they develop symptoms. During self-isolation, if your child does develop symptoms and tests positively, then please email Mr. Matt Stedman, Director of Business Operations on:

StedmanM@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

so we can identify any “close contacts”.

5. **Can my child return to school before the end of the self-isolation period?**

No. It is essential that if your child is asked to self-isolate for a period of time, then they complete this in full. This is because the virus has an incubation period and even if your child tests negatively, they may still be carrying the virus.

6. **My child has been asked to self-isolate for less than 14 days, why?**

The requirement to self-isolate is 14 days from the date of the potential last contact with a positive case. In some circumstances, the person who has tested positively has been off school already for several days and therefore this time is taken off the 14-day self-isolation period.

7. **What should my child do when they are at home?**

We strongly encourage setting some routines. Work packs are available to all pupils and in some cases, we will be running ‘live teaching’ via MS teams.

8. **What can I do to help?**

For parents and carers of pupils in our Senior Section, please **check** they have all their essential equipment in a pencil case and have a face covering (plus a spare). The essential equipment that they must have is listed here:

- Black pen and pencil plus spares;
- Purple pen for feedback;
- Glue stick;
- 30cm Ruler and an eraser;
- CASIO Fx Series calculator;
- Reading book (Year 7 and 8 only);
- Water bottle – we do not issue cups.

For parents and carers in the Primary Section, please explain why adults need to wear face coverings and why sometimes we must ask them to self-isolate.

In all cases, please reassure your child that for most people, COVID infection will result in mild symptoms only. We are self-isolating and wearing face coverings to protect the most vulnerable in society and stop our NHS from being overwhelmed.

9. My family is suffering financial or emotional hardship. Who can help?

Please email Mrs. Erika Anders, on AndersE@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk for discrete and confidential help.

10. How is the school communicating cases and measures?

Our main means of communicating with parents is now via the SIMS Parent App. If you have not yet downloaded this, then please email Mrs. Helen Patis, SIMS Manager on:

Patis@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

11. I have a question that has not been answered above, who can I ask?

Please do send any questions to Mr. Matt Stedman, Director of Business Operations, on StedmanM@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk he is coordinating our COVID response. Please note we are experiencing very high rates of engagement from parents and carers and therefore our response times may be slower than usual. Please accept our apology for this.

In terms of other matters:

Today marks the 1-year anniversary since work started on the new school building. Yesterday, Kier confirmed that their programme is on track and they are confident that they will hand over the keys in July 2021.

We are planning on running 'My Only Limitation Is my Ambition' (MOLIMA) week during the Spring Term. During this week, we invite in a range of professions to share their journey with our pupils. This can be done in person or virtually. If you would like to participate then please email Miss. Peyton Turner, MOLIMA Coordinator, on Turner-Peyton@mayfield.portsmouthsch.uk

'The Friends of Mayfield' (FOM) are a group of like-minded volunteers who organise a number of activities to raise funds for the school. The time commitment is as little or as much as you can spare. If you are interested in finding out more about the FOM then please email, Mrs. Judith Firth, Chair of the FOM, on FirthJ@Mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

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

Please note that we advertised a November INSET day incorrectly on our SIMS Parent App. We apologise for this mistake. Please note that there are no more INSET days planned this half term.

Head of Seniors (Miss. Louise Hillier)

Week beginning 16th November is a week B

Theme of the Week: Liberty: Freedom to pursue enterprise

This week we came together as a school and stood for the 2 minute silence at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month. Despite the very unusual times, the Senior pupils showed great respect during this time and I was, as ever, very proud of them. Respect is so very important and at the moment we are requiring the pupils to respect the Covid demands- particularly that of wearing a face covering. Once more can I prevail upon you to ensure that your child arrives at school daily with an appropriate face covering. Your support is very much appreciated.

We received an email this week from one of the local residents commenting on how well behaved our pupils are as they walk past their house. We all know that people with a complaint are normally quicker to email than those with a compliment, so this was a lovely email to receive. Hopefully more people will spot our pupils doing the right thing and let us know.

On Thursday 26th November we have our Year 11 Parents Evening from 4pm to 7:30pm (staff will be available for 3 hours within that slot). It is running virtually due to the current Covid situation but booking is as normal through our online booking system. There is a link to this on our website [here](#). Please do take this opportunity to connect with your child's teachers and discuss the progress your child is making in these very important GCSE years- we look forward to welcoming you.

Can I please take the opportunity to remind you that shoes for school need to be black and polishable. As the weather is going to become decidedly less pleasant a coat is sensible for wearing to and from school, but coats, scarves and gloves need to be removed inside the building.

Head of Primary (Mrs. Fiona Rogers)

This week our pupils paid their respects by standing together to observe 2 minutes silence at 11am on 11th November. I was extremely proud of the pupils and how seriously they took this mark of respect.

We also reached a very important milestone this week with our first ever formal mock SATS tests for year 6. Mr Newsam and Mr Head are extremely proud of how the pupils conducted themselves this week. The maturity with which they approached the tests is very commendable so well-done year 6!

This week, we have been focussing on Anti-Bullying Week and Children in Need. We are hoping that as many pupils as possible will take part in odd socks day on Monday 16th November and will show their support by helping us to celebrate our own individuality and diversity.

We have recently made some changes to our playtime routines in the junior section which have been very well received by pupils and staff. We are now eagerly awaiting our new playground equipment which has been kindly donated by Friends of Mayfield.

All of the children are working towards earning “blue slips” with each one giving them a chance to win a Lego prize in our end of term Christmas raffle. We are also focusing on “Beeing Kind” to others and awarding certificates for acts of kindness throughout the school week.

Finally, a reminder that school uniform needs to be worn every day including black polishable shoes, a tie and a blazer. Please let your child's teacher know if you have any issues with uniform so that we can support you with this. A reminder that uniform can be purchased via our pre-loved uniform shop.

Head of Pre-school and Nursery

The class topic will be Christmas celebrations until the end of term. The children will be learning about the Christmas Story and its meaning. In small groups, we will visit the school library as a source for information, which will help us to look at how other families from around the world celebrate the festive season. We will learn about their traditions, culture and faith.

Learning intentions linked to class subject:

- Develop an understanding of the Nativity Story;
- Discuss the story and its meaning;
- Look at other festivities from around the world that happen in November and December;
- Learn about different faiths, traditions and cultures.

Letter sound is ‘G’.

The work you create with your children is used at carpet time to promote speech sounds. I am going to use their creations to make an alphabet book for the classroom.

Just a few reminders:

- The last day to take part in the Christmas shopping is 23rd November
- The Inset Day on the 27th November has been cancelled, the pre-school and nursery always have the same Inset days as Mayfield School.

Thank you for your continued support.