

Mayfield School

News



Autumn 1 2023 Issue



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Message from the Head



Returning to school after the Summer break began with staff training, which included safeguarding and high expectations around behaviour (including the introduction of our 3 school rules – Ready, Respectful and Safe), the effective principles of high quality teaching/planning, and supporting regulation for children who are neurodivergent, to name a few. This work was the start of our focus and drive for school improvement during this academic year.

The start of the academic year for children was impressive too and the children looked incredibly smart. I was particularly impressed with our Year 7 and Year 11 pupils, with our older pupils demonstrating great responsibility in making sure that the younger pupils were able to navigate their timetables as well as navigate the school building. It is incredible to think that this was 7 weeks ago. Our Year 7 pupils are now settled and confident in the routines of the school day. Our Year R pupils are equally confident, and they have also become familiar with the new school routines, including developing their knowledge and understanding of letters and sounds in phonics.

I have continued to be impressed with the children during assembly time too. The arrival to and exit from can never be taken for

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granted, and it is the perfect way to ensure that we are all ready to hear the key messages and themes. The children across the school have shown respect to others whilst waiting to enter the hall, mindful that other pupils are learning. Furthermore, we have now established a fire drill in silence!

Throughout this half term, we held our Parent and Community evening which included a SEND review with attendance from the Mental Health Support Team and the Neurodiversity Team, as well as a Classcharts and revision talk. This also gave leaders an opportunity to respond to questions about the school's expectations. It was after this event that I received an email from a parent to say '...a quick note to say thank you to those who facilitated, and presented at, Tuesday's Community Event... each time I am more convinced that we made absolutely the right decision in choosing Mayfield. The patience, enthusiasm and dedication of the staff are infectious and reassuring. There were some great suggestions on how to support our children's learning and consolidate their knowledge in fun and family-friendly ways. Please extend my

appreciation to all involved. I look forward to the next meeting.'

Equally, it has been great to see parents and carers during a range of opportunities to meet staff. During these evenings, there has been an energetic buzz and the feedback from staff has been incredibly positive with a togetherness, a sense of belonging and a greater sense of community – one which we continue to strive for and strengthen across the school.

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Our open evening was another huge success with many parents, carers and children excited to see what Mayfield had to offer. I was incredibly proud to hear our senior prefects talking about their Mayfield journey and the changes that have happened. Their confidence, honesty and enthusiasm captivated the audience and they represented the school brilliantly.

It is important that we continue to build on the recognition of pupils who are always working hard, making the right choices and always following the school rules. As part of our reward strategy for our senior pupils, I have had the pleasure of hosting Hot Chocolate Fridays. The nominations this half-term have been: Victory - Discovery - Intrepid - Endeavour - . I asked the Heads of House to select pupils who always do the right thing - and they were an absolute joy to spend time with.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the school staff for the preparation and work that has gone into putting our half term events together. We are part of a strong community and have a committed team of staff. Whilst we know that there is still a long journey ahead, this has been a very encouraging start to the academic year. Thank you to everybody who has contributed to this positive half term.

Mr A Howard

Headteacher

Mayfield School



Message from the Head of Seniors



The last seven weeks have flown by as we have welcomed 200 pupils into Year 7 and a further 11 pupils into other year groups in the Senior Section. All young people are nervous when they start in a new school- new staff are too!- but it has been wonderful to see how quickly all of our new arrivals have settled in.

From the very first day, Year 7 have been helped and supported by the older pupils with Year 11 showing them round back on 6th September getting them orientated and making them feel at ease. The House teams have been outstanding at supporting the new pupils too- with the welcome Year 7 House events run in week 4 an absolute highlight.

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Many of our other new students have arrived from overseas – Nigeria and Ghana to name two of the countries we have welcomed children from. Miss Painter runs our World Explorers Group which gives these pupils, and others who have recently arrived into the UK a chance to share experiences. I always take our new arrivals to Miss Painter as she is going to know the exact right somebody to pair people up with.

There has been a lot of change over this first half-term and I am very proud of how so many of the Senior pupils have risen to the challenges and are enjoying the chance to push themselves to be the best they can be.

Miss L Hillier

Head of Seniors

Mayfield School



House News

Endeavour

Endeavour have had an excellent start to the Autumn term this year. The House Team have been very proud after winning the House Cup at the end of the Summer Term and we will be hoping to retain the cup this year!

Endeavour have been number one house for achievement points throughout September. Well done and thank you to all the pupils who have helped us to achieve this.

Our Year 7 pupils attended a reward event of fun and games and received a sweet treat as a reward for such a fantastic start. Also, our superstars of the week have been enjoying hot chocolate with Mr Howard in recognition for all their contributions to the school community, and for

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working hard. Well done to Keira, Clemont, Mia and Amelia who have attended so far.

We have been learning about revision techniques in assemblies and our year 9 and 10 pupils are busily preparing for our upcoming BASE assessments. We are looking forward to a well-earned half term break.

Please enjoy a restful half term break and we look forward to seeing you again refreshed ready for Autumn 2 and the build up to Christmas!

Miss Hutchinson

Victory

It has been a busy first half term back for Victory house! We have been pleased to welcome our new year 7's who have settled well into the start of term, it was great seeing you all at our year 7 reward event where there was some healthy competition between houses and rewards for all of you!

We are proud of all of our year 11's who have stepped up to be prefects, we know you will set a great example to the rest of the School as you start your final year at Mayfield.

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This half term has brought a big push on attendance with weekly prizes for the tutor groups that have the highest attendance. Well done to Halle, Joel, Hugo and Holly who have taken the first star of the week spots this year, also meaning they have got to enjoy a hot chocolate with Mr Howard! Thank you to everyone who has also donated to the harvest collection, we are excited for the charity driven events that next half term will bring in the run up to Christmas!

We look forward to finishing the half term off with a pumpkin carving reward for tutor nominated pupils and thanks to all of you for your hard work so far. Have a great break!

Mr Denford and Mr Gardner

Discovery



On behalf of us all in Discovery House we would like to welcome you all back to Mayfield and hope that first half term has been rewarding for you all. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Firth into Discovery House after the departure of Mrs Anders and we are so grateful of all that she has already supported us with this academic year.

Discovery have really hit the ground running this September and October and we want to say a huge thank you to each and every one of you for helping to support your child/children as they came back to school.

We have a lot to be proud of already this year including the ethos

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that the House have shown welcoming the new year 7's into Discovery House. This experience on its own can be a daunting one but we would like to say how proud we are of so many students who welcomed, supported and guided those new to the school.

During tutor time it has been great watching the students getting really involved in Check Ins on a Monday and Check Outs on a Friday. These two tutor time provisions give all students the opportunity to set themselves goals, targets and challenges for the week ahead on a Monday as well as allowing them time to reflect on a Friday about what went well or what they may wish to change for next week.

Alongside the other Heads and Assistant Heads of House we ran a reward event just for the new year 7s to welcome them to the school. This included playing games with the new year 7 Victory students of which we sadly lost. I am very sure that this won't be happening again Discovery.

In assembly for years 9 and 10 we have been discussing the upcoming BASE assessments and different methods of revision. Students have been hearing about methods such as Dual Coding whereby the students use both pictures and words to help cement their learning.

Miss Franklin and Mr Flores

Intrepid

Intrepid have had an excellent start to the Autumn term this year. Our pupils were excited to return to school and see their friends and teachers. The house team have been popping into many lessons and have enjoyed seeing our pupils engaged, challenged, and enjoying being part of our Mayfield community. Thank you to all our parents and carers for supporting the children and our school during the transition back to school after the holidays.

We have had many successes so far this year including being the number one house for attendance for parts of September and October. Well done to all the pupils who have helped to make us top of the league! Endeavour have been creeping up behind us, but I have every confidence in Intrepid making first place again.

Well done to all our pupils who gained a place in Dance Live, we can't wait to see the performances. Many other pupils have celebrated successes, for example our year 7 Intrepid pupils attended a reward event run by Mrs Reid where they took part in games and received a sweet treat for being so resilient and ready for the new year. Also, our superstars of the week enjoyed hot chocolate with Mr Howard in recognition for all their contributions to the school community, and for working hard.



Well done to Ricardo, Aleks, Lorenza and Alfie who have attended so far.

We have been learning about revision techniques in assemblies and our year 9 and 10 pupils are busily preparing for our upcoming BASE assessments. We are looking forward to a well-earned half term break.

From everyone in the Intrepid House Team, we wish you a restful half term and look forward to seeing our Intrepid pupils for the last half term of 2023.

Miss Jones and Mrs Reid

Events

Get ready for the future you want.

This year, our career programme started with our Y10 where sixty of them visited a career and apprenticeship show at Fratton Park; they talked and met employers and colleges. They asked questions and saw what these providers can offer to them.

Then, we had Oxford University running two workshops for Y11s about why they should apply to this University and what the advantages to go to university are. Students talked and asked questions about combining degrees and what is the best option for them. We also opened our Brian Wilkie scholarship process for Year 11 who would like to do A levels at Portsmouth Grammar School.

Year 10s and Year 11 started their career interview with our career adviser and Year 11s have been applying to college as they need to do this before Christmas. Year 11s have had six colleges and one

apprenticeship provider explaining and talking to them about what they offer and how to apply already.

If you have any questions about college, university trips, outreach programmes or you would like to get involved in our career programme please contact Mrs Munoz, room 104. (munoz-evelyn@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk).

Mrs Munoz





Message from the Head of Primary



Dear Parents/Carers

It is a pleasure to be writing to you once again in our Autumn Half Term Newsletter! It feels as though the weeks have sped by but we have managed to pack so much into 7 weeks that I hope you enjoy reading about your child's learning in our year group contributions below.

I do have a couple of reminders for our pupils and parents moving forward this year:

On entry to the school grounds, could we ask that all children and adults walk their scooters and bikes to the relevant bike/scooter racks in order to keep our families as safe as possible during our busiest times.

We do hope that the option for

your children to wear their PE Kits to school is helpful. May I remind parents that during these colder days a plain black hoodie, a branded Mayfield long-sleeved

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PE top (smaller sizes available from SkoolKit) or a school jumper/blazer are acceptable additions to keep the children warm. Please can we ask you avoid sending your children to school in branded sports tops/hoodies. Many thanks.

For pupils in Year 1 to 6, please remember to send your child with their school tie each day. If you need to purchase replacements, please contact Reception on 023 9269 3432 or via general@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk. School ties are also available at Penelope Ann School Wear and SkoolKit.

Thank you for your comments also about how crowded the end of day can become when all parents are waiting together to pick up their children. After the half term break, we will be opening the 'Year R' gate in the afternoons to allow parents onto site from a slightly different entrance which will hopefully go some way to easing the congestion at the main entrance.

Your contributions for our Harvest Festival are gratefully received; we understand how the cost of living is affecting all of us at the moment so your generosity in supporting the Portsmouth Foodbank is accepted with heartfelt thanks. The children had a great time singing in our Harvest Assembly on Wednesday and really understood the support they have offered to their community through their contributions.

I would like to say a huge well done to Intrepid House for achieving a grand total of 6662 house points this term! The other house teams have worked so hard and there was only a difference of 430 points between



the highest scoring house team and the lowest scoring house team, so we very much look forward to next half term's competition!

Myself and the Primary Senior Leadership Team have spent the week in classrooms watching your children learn and we are very proud of everyone's effort and motivation to do well. Please pass on our congratulations to our Primary pupils and we can't wait to see their learning and progress move on rapidly this year.

Miss R Osborne

Head of Primary
Mayfield School

Year R

The first half term has been an exciting one for our new Reception children. They have all settled in amazingly and are getting used to life at Mayfield. The Reception classrooms are now on the other side of the corridor which means that we have been developing our outside adventures and enjoying this Autumn weather. Phonics and guided reading is up and running to help develop a love of reading. We are all so impressed with our new children and look forward to a great year ahead.

Mrs Bates



Year 1

In Year 1, this half term, children have enjoyed their 'Our Journey' topic and have been learning about their family, their location, body parts and senses. In English, they have been exploring a text called 'This is the Bear' and are able to retell the entire story with the use of actions. Children are beginning to use the vocabulary from the text to write sentences. In maths, children have been completing a variety of different activities connected to place value.

In Literacy, we read the book 'How to Catch a Dragon' and wrote our own versions, changing the names and what they were going to draw. In Maths we learned about money, recognising coins, notes and time where we were able to tell the time for o'clock and half past.

Mrs Lawry

Year 2

In Year 2, children have enjoyed their English text entitled 'The Lighthouse Keeper's lunch.' Children enjoyed our hook lessons where they got to taste Mr Grinling's picnic and make their own Iced sea biscuits. In maths, children have been exploring place value and are beginning to be able to write their numbers up to 100 in words. We have connected all of our learning to our topic 'Oh I do like to be beside the seaside' and have enjoyed testing different materials for a picnic and making beach huts.

Mrs Pountain



Year 3

This half term, Year 3 have settled very well into the new year. A special mention to those children new to our school this term, a very warm Mayfield welcome. This half term we have been looking at food from all over the world and what makes a good balanced diet. This links with our science topics including looking at animals and what they eat.

This half term, we have really enjoyed reading our class book – *The Boy Who Grew Dragons* by Andy Shepherd. We have been inspired by the book and used it in our writing. Firstly, we made some amazing tasting dragon biscuits using our vivid imagination. We then wrote some creative instructions on how to make them. Secondly, we wrote non-chronological reports about dragons! We came up with interesting, fun facts about our dragons.

In maths, we have focused on place value and understanding number. In our fluency lessons, we have been learning our times tables. We have introduced Times Tables Rock Stars and are having fun competing against the other classes. Year three are really looking forward to the exciting year ahead.

Mr Head



Year 4

Year 4 have had a great start to the year, exploring rainforests and their role in the world. The half term started with a trip from ZooLab who brought in animals from the rainforest for the children to hold and learn more about and understand. This helped inspire the children to learn more about the rainforest, and since then, we have been writing about the rainforest, learning about its different layers and understanding how humans have caused areas of the rainforest to become endangered.

In English, the children have read the Great Kapok Tree and written rainforest setting descriptions and a non-fiction piece about the animals and layers of the rainforest. They have enjoyed using a variety of grammatical structures to manipulate and change their writing to impact the reader.

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In maths, the children have really enjoyed learning about place value in more depth and how our number system works. They have also enjoyed the competition of using times table rockstars, both at home and in school, to advance their knowledge of multiplication.

In PE and games, the children have enjoyed learning more about movement and sequences in PE and the skills related to football too.

Mr Newsam



Year 5

Year 5 pupils have had a really positive start to the year. We were engaged in our topic from the very first week, with a visit from a drama company for 'Crime and Punishment Day.' Children took part in a drama workshop, a judge and jury activity and they also had the chance to handle some very interesting artefacts!

It has been a particularly sporty start to the term. Children have been taking part in their weekly swimming sessions. It has been lovely to watch them grow in confidence as the weeks have gone past. Lots of children have started swimming in the deeper section of the pool, and even our more reluctant swimmers are jumping into the pool with enthusiasm. It has been great to see them using all of our Learning Superpowers in the swimming lessons.

As well as swimming, the year group had the chance to take part

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in a tennis workshop, delivered by coaches from the Mountbatten Centre. For many, this was their first introduction to the sport. The coaches were very complimentary about the children's effort and positive attitudes. Well done Year 5!



In the classroom, we have been studying the book 'Oliver Twist' in our English lessons. The children have produced writing in a number of styles, including diary entries and persuasive writing. They were very engaged when they needed to write to us to persuade us to keep their playtimes! We were (of course) only joking about taking them away!

We have started our new MyHappyMind topic, 'Meet My Brain' and have been taking part in something called 'Sharing Circles' on a Monday and Friday. Please ask your children about this, as they are part of our school incentives to help promote positive mental well being.

So much has gone on already this year, and we can't believe we have reached the end of the first half term. We look forward to telling you about more exciting things as we get closer to Christmas.

Miss Lewis



Year 6

Year 6 have had an exciting start to the school year! They've settled in brilliantly and are buzzing with excitement about their learning. Whether they're diving into the ancient mysteries of the Maya, getting lost in thrilling English tales, or tackling maths problems, Year 6 are taking it all in stride.

We've had a great time exploring the fascinating world of the Ancient Maya. We have been on a time-traveling adventure, learning about Maya culture, history, and achievements. We had a special visitor—a Maya archaeologist—who made the Maya civilization come alive with fun activities and cool insights.

In English, we've been hooked on the epic tale of the hero twins. They've been debating the actions of these twins and flexing their writing skills by crafting balanced arguments. It's not just about reading; it's about using their creativity and thinking skills to express themselves.



In maths, we've been refreshing our knowledge of the basic operations - addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Our Year 6 students are working hard, solving problems, and getting ready for even more complex problems next half-term. We're so proud of their efforts and can't wait to see where this school year takes them!

Mr Davies, Miss Leslie & Miss Gregory



School Calendar

First day back after October Half-term: Monday 30th October 2023

Christmas Holiday: Monday 18th December 2023 - Tuesday 2nd January 2024

October

31st October	Primary NSPCC Assembly
31st October	Primary Swimming Session

November

1st November	Flu Vaccinations
2nd November	Pacific Class Assembly
7th November	RNLI Assembly
7th November	Parent and Community Event
8th November	Primary NSPCC Workshops
8th November	PACE Training for Parents
9th November	Caspian Class Assembly
10th November	Primary Remembrance Assembly
13th November	Primary Dance-a-thon
14th November	Primary Swimming Session
14th November	Primary Discos
14th November	MHST Clinic for Parents
16th November	Primary Inter Faith Day
16th November	KS4 Drama trip to Life of Pi
17th November	Children in Need
17th November	FOM Quiz Night

November

21st November	Primary Swimming Session
21st November	School Nurse Drop-In
23rd November	Year 10 Parents Evening
23rd November	Danube Class Assembly
27th November	Primary Dogs Trust Assembly and Workshops
29th November	Year 10 STEM Visit

December

4th December	INSET DAY
6th December	Primary Christmas Shows
7th December	Ex-Year 11 Certificate Evening
7th December	Reception Nativity Performance
8th December	FOM Christmas Fayre
11th December	Senior Reports sent home
11th - 14th December	Senior House Christmas Celebrations
14th December	Carols around the Christmas Tree
14th December	Primary Celebration Assembly
15th December	Early Closure for all pupils



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