

Mayfield School

News



Autumn 2 2023 Issue



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Message from the Head



Welcome to the second edition of our half-termly Mayfield News.

The second half of the Autumn term started very positively despite storm Ciaran attempting to cause disruption. The Happiness Heroes in primary were nominated and voted for and Year 11 pupils who demonstrated their interest in the Wilkie Scholarship, handed their letters of application in. There is no doubt that this half term has been packed full of exciting events including year 11 cohort 2022/2023 returning to collect

their exam certificates, parents and carers evenings, mock exams, the Personal Development Day, school trips, school performances (including the Year R Nativity) and the Christmas Fayre.

On 10th November, we came together as a school community to recognise the personal sacrifices made by men and women, past and present, and paid tribute to those who have lost their lives in war. Many children arrived at school in the special uniforms that represent the groups they attend outside of school. Within house groups, the children across primary and seniors came together and showed their respect by observing the laying down of the poppy wreaths, listening to the poem 'Flanders Field' read by our senior prefects and holding a silence as the Last Call was heard.



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This respect continued on Remembrance Sunday, when our two Year 11 head prefects and I attended the Sunday Remembrance Service at Portsmouth Guildhall. The Service was preceded by a parade of Veterans, Military Personnel and Youth Groups with a two-minute silence followed by the Service. We then laid a wreath by the cenotaph on behalf of the Mayfield community.

These opportunities to represent our school begin in Year R and it was a huge privilege being able to watch the year R nativity. I was particularly impressed with

the confidence of our youngest learners, whether that be speaking out loud or singing to an unknown audience of adults. At the end of one particular performance I was joined by a confident individual who shared how proud she was that she made a big effort for everyone to hear her. This performance was an indicator of how far our they have come since starting in September. They, their parents and carers and their teachers should be incredibly proud of them!

This half term, we were also visited by inspectors from Ofsted. This was our first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to have serious weaknesses following the graded (section 5) inspection that took place in November 2022. The purpose of the monitoring inspection was to identify and report on the school's progress and highlight any improvements that school leaders have made since the school's previous graded inspection.

I was very pleased that this first monitoring visit recognised the significant progress that has been made since the last inspection, in particular, recognising that

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safeguarding concerns in the November 2022 inspection have been addressed and safeguarding is now effective. The Ofsted inspectors also acknowledged that 'Improving pupils' behaviour and attitudes has also rightly been prioritised by leaders and it is here ... the most significant progress has been made' and that 'Staff comment that the difference is dramatic, and they now feel safe in school and well supported by leaders'. This acknowledgement is something which we will all continue to build on and maintain as well as work on the other areas of school improvement.

As referenced in the inspection visit, 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 continuing to host Hot Chocolate Friday. The nominations this half-term have been:

Victory - Michelle, Thaibah,
Discovery - Katherine, Harrison
Intrepid - Lorenza, Ricardo, Charlie
Endeavour - Archie, Mollie, Maddie

and lots more pupils!

Once again, 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.

In this last week, we are now looking forward to Mister Samo visiting our school to paint the winning Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) designs inside our school, and the events of the Primary Christmas Shows, Christmas dinner and 'Carols Around the Tree'. I look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year. As always, your support in encouraging your/our children to be their best every day has been welcomed.

Believe. Achieve. Succeed

Mr A Howard

Headteacher

Mayfield School

Message from the Head of Seniors



The weeks have flown by since the last newsletter, and after an unusual closure due to the weather we head into the Christmas break with the customary House Festivities.

This half-term has been dominated by assessments for most of the pupils. With CATs tests, BASE assessments and mock exams, the sports hall has been set up with individual desks and chairs for a significant amount of time.

The highlights of the half-term with sports, our first PD day and House events are shared elsewhere with you so as a window into life in school, I have spent some time talking to Year 11 about their experience this half-term as they took their first set of mock exams. Some of their thoughts and views are below.

Being well prepared in earlier years with exam practice in formal settings, Maddie didn't find the

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prospect of 10 almost solid days in the Sports Hall daunting. Asking her what her feelings are about the mocks now she has been through the process, she said that the whole process has “made me realise what I need to work on for my GCSEs”. Maddie has had feedback on some of her results so far and feels this has really been useful.

Matilda and Amelia said they found the exam period very stressful, but it has made them more aware of how serious the GCSEs are- and with still 6 months to go they have realised in good time the importance of getting ready for those final exams.

The mock exams were very

intensive with all the exams being in two weeks- the pupils found this very difficult- thankfully the summer GCSEs are more spread out. It’s always a balance with mocks trying to get them done and not missing too much lesson time.

Lucy has struggled this year with her health but made a valiant effort to get all her mocks completed. Lucy is very grateful for all the support she was given to access this set of exams. She said, “my needs were supported throughout the exam period, and this helped allay my anxiety about being in the exam hall”.

Freya and Lily both feel they wrote good revision timetables, using

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a mixture of videos and revision materials provided by the school. A large number of the pupils I spoke to said they felt they were given good revision resources by the school to prepare them for the exams and felt that the good preparation helped to take the “exam pressure off of them”.

Several pupils said they appreciated the revision evening that the school ran for their parents to help support them as they feel that this is a very difficult time for them, and they wanted their parents to understand how tricky it is.

Jacob really enjoyed the opportunity to show off what he knew, He is pleased with most of his results and is now very motivated to work harder in the other subjects.

Kai was honest about finding the mocks hard but feels he is now motivated to do better in the summer- good luck Kai!

Ruby, Lucy and Bella were pleased with their results. They felt they had a really positive experience this time and they feel this has

set them up to really shine like stars in the summer exams.

It was great to hear that the pupils felt that the teachers were really quick to mark their work for them. Callum said he was delighted with the quality of feedback that he has been given - he feels that he knows exactly where he went wrong this time to enable him to improve next time. Kelly also commented on how useful the feedback has been to highlight areas to work on and Justine particularly appreciates the quality of the feedback resources she has been given.

The pupils I spoke to felt that Year 11 is going very quickly and they are really grateful for the engaging lessons they are receiving from all the staff. They feel very supported to succeed and feel they have formed really good relationships with all the staff that are teaching them this year.

As ever, our pupils were very willing to talk and share their thoughts and feelings. I am constantly impressed with their confidence and candour. The positive attitude of the pupils I

spoke to was so delightful as they approach their last six months at Mayfield School.

If you are a parent of a Year 11 pupil, then please be reminded our second Year 11 Parents' Evening is on Thursday 4th January 2024 from 4pm to 7pm. Please use the booking system on the shared area to book your appointments - I look forward to seeing you there.

Parents' Evenings for the rest of the academic year are:

Year 8 8th February 2024

Year 9 21st March 2024

Year 7 23rd May 2024

Before I end, I want to take this opportunity to say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Rogers who is the Deputy Head of Seniors. Mrs Rogers has worked at Mayfield for many years, teaching Business Studies as well as leading on behaviour and attendance. Mrs Rogers's compassion and relentless positivity will be very much missed by myself and all of the Senior section. We wish her well in her new school.

I wish you all a happy and restful

break and look forward to welcoming all the senior pupils back into school on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 at 8:30am.

Miss L Hillier

Head of Seniors

Mayfield School

House News

Endeavour

Endeavour have had a fantastic half term. We are celebrating and rewarding all of the students next week that currently have 100% green on their class charts wheel. Endeavour are extremely pleased to say that there are 90 students that have achieved this. There will be special treats delivered to those who are always doing the right thing.

We also have lots of exciting prizes for pupils with excellent attendance that will be drawn and handed out in the last week of school. It is very important that you are in school and in your lessons.

Well done to the Year 11 students that have worked incredibly well during their first round of mocks. It felt like a long three weeks for some of you and it required a lot of resilience and hard work.

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We are proud of the Endeavour tutor groups participation on the first PD day at Mayfield. You all created some great designs and we look forward to more days like this!

From everyone in the Endeavour house team, we hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you back in January!

Miss Hutchinson



Victory

Firstly, well done to all the year 11's who worked hard this half term on their mock exams! We know how tough these can be but you have all shown great resilience! We also look forward to seeing you start to secure your places at college for next year in the coming months.

We are proud of Victory houses participation on the first PD day at Mayfield. You all created some great designs and we look forward to more days like this!

We have a number of exciting events happening in the run up to Christmas, with Christmas jumper day and the Christmas fayre getting the festive celebrations under way. Thank you to those responsible Victory pupils who have volunteered to help on the Christmas fayre stall!

We are looking forward to celebrating all the successes of individual pupils in our house on our Christmas hot chocolate day with prizes for top attendance and top achievers in subjects.

From everyone in the Victory house team, we hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you back in January!

Mr Denford and Mr Gardner



Discovery

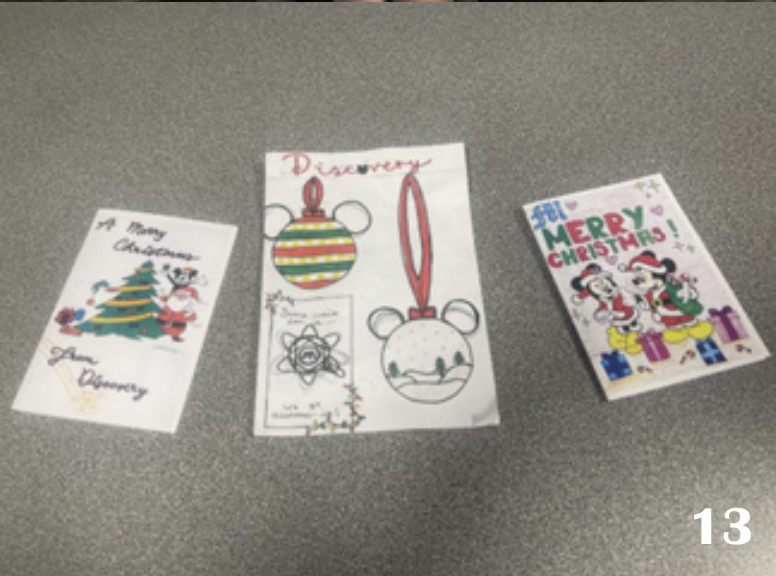
Lots of positive news for Team Discovery- First, Well done to year 11 pupils who worked incredibly hard during their first round of mocks. It felt like a long three weeks for some of you and it required a lot of resilience and hard work.

We are proud of Discovery house pupils who on the first PD Day at Mayfield, showed how well they can collaborate and work as a tutor group. You all created some amazing designs, and we are incredibly pleased to be voted as the overall winners! Our designs will be painted onto the wall in Café Tranquillo - can't wait to see your designs come to life and we look forward to more days like this! Special shout out to Eliza, Meesha, Megan and Kerry-Anne for their winning designs.

More positive news is that we currently have 75 pupils who are 100% green on their class charts wheel - this is incredible (and up by 25 pupils when

compared to our house this time last year). There will be special treats delivered to those who are always doing the right thing.

We also have lots of exciting prizes for pupils with excellent attendance that will be drawn and handed out in the last week of school. It is very important that you are in school and in your lessons.



Thank you to the pupils who volunteered to help run the Discovery stall at the Christmas Fayre, and to those who went above and beyond in making things to sell and bringing in donations- we are very appreciative. Thank you to our pupils who wrote lovely kind messages of someone or something that they are grateful for this year to add to our Discovery tree as well as those that designed, and hand drew some fantastic Christmas card designs ready to be written and donated to mental health hospitals and care homes.

Lastly, we would like to wish everyone in discovery and the wider community a very Merry Christmas and, we hope you all have a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you back in January!

Miss Franklin and Mr Flores



Intrepid

Happy Christmas from Intrepid house. It's been a great half term with lots of activities. Most recently decorating our tree, Christmas jumper day, Year 11 Prefect reward and our very first PD day.

We've had a positive focus on attendance and importance of attending school every day.

Our tree has been decorated with a Grinch theme this year. But we are still very much 'all about Christmas'.

Hot chocolate Fridays have been a great success with lots of stars of the week enjoying biscuits, drink and conversation with Mr Howard.

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Intrepid have continued to shine with our attendance #missschoolmissout. Our top tutor group I9 continuing to impress us. Well done to them!

Year 11 Prefects Reward

A chance to get prefects together to discuss opportunities they have for the year.

Mayfield's first PD was a real success for Intrepid house. It gave our pupils a chance to build our intrepid community and to truly shine. Intrepid art work was very impressive with notable designs from Ronnie, Greta and Jazz.

Miss Jones and Mrs Reid

Events

Get ready for the future you want.

This half term has been full of new experiences for all year groups and a significant number of students have been busily involved in getting ready for their future.

We started with year 11s and having Fareham College during assembly time and lunch time, promoting, talking, and answering some questions. Then, a group of Y7s went to the University of Portsmouth to visit the installations and to talk about transition mindsets and future careers.

In November, all year groups worked on hard skills and soft skills, during tutor time; they learnt the different skills and how to apply these in their day-to-day life. Year 11s had the opportunity to re-write or create their CV to be ready for their college interview.

Y10s had the opportunity during parents' evening to interact with the University of Portsmouth and Bayhouse Sixth Form college. They had the time to talk to the providers and ask them any questions related to what they can offer to them for their future.

We finished this half term with six events for year 11s where the Department of Work and Pensions came to talk to a group of them about fulfilling their potential, the NHS talked to them about T-levels, Sparsholt College showed our 16 students what they are offering to them, how easy it is to get

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there and how marvellous their facilities are. Then, we had Havant and Southdown College interviewing Y11s. It was impressive that 35 pupils had already secured their college course with this college. We also had Mountjoy construction company in talking to a group of students who are interested in any area of construction. Finally, Unloc and Pompey in the community came together to explain what opportunities they offer to young people in Portsmouth.

Next, half term, pupils will have their second Personal Development Day, and this will be focused on Career Education.

If you would like to get involved on this day or have any questions about college, university trips and outreach programmes; please contact Mrs Munoz, Room 104 - munoz-evelyn@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk.

Mrs Munoz





Message from the Head of Primary



Dear Parents/Carers

Now we have come to the end of what feels like the busiest term yet, I am humbled by the continued efforts of both staff and pupils, and the fabulous experiences that have been in place for our children!

From further swimming lessons and class assemblies to Bikeability, school trips to Christmas performances; it has all been happening this half term. A huge thank you to our families for supporting all of these events, for contributing/donating money, supplying costumes and ensuring your children are at school with everything they need for the day ahead.

A group of our Year 3 pupils went to Meadow House care home to sing some Christmas songs on Friday the 8th of December. They were so amazing and made the school very proud! They sang lots of different Christmas songs from Away in a Manager to Last Christmas. The residents

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and staff loved it and were so impressed by not only the singing but also how polite and respectful the children were.

This term Year 4 have been learning about the rainforest and the effects of deforestation. They decided to take part in a 'Rainforest Run' to raise money for the WWF, World Wide Fund for Nature. The money donated goes towards tackling climate change. They managed to raise £177 and ran a total of 3,332 laps! Thank you for any donations, your support is greatly appreciated.

We are well underway with our Dance Live! rehearsals so far this term. Choreography is decided and pupils have managed to learn all of the necessary sections. 'Is kindness the fairest of them all?' is our theme for our performance this year and the crew have been working hard on props and costumes. We look forward to seeing you on Friday 2nd February 2024 for the Dance Live! heats. Tickets will be on sale from Friday 15th December. More information will be shared next week about ticket sales.

It was fantastic to see so many families attending both our Year R Nativity 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' and our 'Christmas Around The World' performance. I suspect the children enjoyed themselves, evidenced by their enthusiastic singing and dramatic acting throughout!

We have lots of learning to get our teeth into next term. We hope you all have a wonderful, exciting and restful Christmas and look forward to seeing you in January!

Miss R Osborne

Head of Primary
Mayfield School



Year R

This half term has been a time of celebrating for the Reception classes. We have celebrated our class Teddy's 5th Birthday, Bonfire Night, Advent and Christmas. Alongside this we have been practising our Nativity Performance. We are all so proud of the children for their commitment to this and they all performed to their grown-ups amazingly.

We have been working on writing short phrases and sentences and the children are really starting to show pride in their work. The children have explored a variety of stories including, It's my Birthday, Little Glow, The Nativity Play as well as their Book Advent Calendar.

The icing on the cake was working together to bake a birthday cake for Teddy's Birthday. The children loved adding the ingredients, mixing, decorating and eating it!

Mrs Bates



Year 1

Year 1's topic this half term was called 'Everyday Heroes'. As part of this the children have been using two main texts in their English – 'Supertato' and 'Superheroes like you'. The children retold the story of Supertato using capital letters and full stops to write accurate sentences. They then used these skills to write about what they want to be when they grow up.

In maths, the focus has been on number facts within 10 and the children have been using different models to explore addition and subtraction and to create number sentence 'fact families.'

In art, the children have been using colour mixing and have been creating textures of paint.

Mrs Lawry

Year 2

This term our topic was entitled 'Healthy me'. In English, the children wrote their own instructions based on 'The Disgusting Sandwich' and have also written a diary entry connected to 'The Day the Banana went bad.' They have been learning about using the past tense accurately.

In maths, our main focus has been addition and subtraction and the children have been using concrete and pictorial resources to explore how they can add and subtract 1 and 2 digit numbers. We have also been learning all about the names of 2D shapes and 3D shapes and have been using new vocabulary such as 'vertices' and 'edges' to describe them in details.

During our science lessons, we have looked at animals and their offspring and what both humans and animals need to grow and survive. We have also been learning about the importance of exercise, hygiene and healthy

eating. As part of this we went on a school trip to visit Tuppenny Barn in Southbourne where we were able to explore their organic vegetable garden, plant our own plants and visit their beehives. It was a lovely day!

Mrs Pountain



Year 3

This half term, Year 3 have enjoyed looking at the Stone Age and learning what life was like. We had a very exciting hook day where we travelled through time, saw a dinosaur, and looked at real dinosaur footprints. This linked with the science topic about rocks and soils this half term.

We really enjoyed reading our class book – The Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura. We have been inspired by the book and used it in our writing and in our artwork. In writing, we put ourselves into the shoes of the boy and wrote amazing diary entries. Later this half term, we wrote stories about travelling in time and encountering a real dinosaur. Our artwork focused on cave painting and the children really enjoyed creating their own.

In Maths, we have focused on formal methods of addition and subtraction. In our fluency lessons, we have been learning

our times tables. We have been using Times Tables Rock Stars and are having fun competing against the other classes. Year 3 has had an amazing first term and we are looking forward to the Spring term ahead.

Mr Head



Year 4

Year 4 have really enjoyed Autumn 2 enjoying a varied curriculum. The topic focus has been on Exploration and Migration; this has allowed the children to study where people come from and why settlements are constructed the way they are. They have looked at place names, the difference between towns and cities, map symbols and even designed their own settlement.

In Science, the children have been studying circuits. They have created working circuits and tested batteries, buzzers and lightbulbs. They have been able to problem solve when circuits work and don't and use different materials to test conductivity.

In Writing, they have read the book *Ocean Meets Sky* and written a narrative chapter ending and a poem based on the text. They really enjoyed exploring the language, and how the characters interacted and changed.

In Reading the children have loved the adventures of Tom, the boy who biked the world. This text has linked really well to our topic and has allowed us to explore themes like adventure and exploration, whilst recognising the importance of experiencing new customs.

In Maths, the children have continued to consolidate their understanding of addition and subtraction before moving on to explore the 3, 6 and 9 times tables. They have been exploring the links between the tables and how they can use appropriate strategies to answer questions.

Mr Newsam



Year 5

Year 5 have finished off the term (and 2023) in a flurry of activities. The children completed their 10 week swimming block and we are very proud of the progress that they all made. Over the last couple of weeks, the majority of pupils in the year group took part in Bike Ability lessons. They started off with a playground assessment, before hitting the roads of Portsmouth on their bikes. Despite some very wet and very cold weather, the children did extremely well, and the leaders of the course were very complimentary about the children's behaviour during the sessions.

As well as this, pupils in Year 5 took part in an enterprise competition, creating products to sell at the Christmas Fair. Pupils worked in groups to design, make, advertise and sell their products. Any profits made are going to each class and there will be a trophy for the class that made the most profit. The

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winner will be announced shortly. We are finishing off the term with a very busy week. The pupils have been practising their song for the Christmas play and are looking forward to performing. We also have a DT cookery day to link in with our 'Here, There and



Everywhere' topic, when the pupils are going to be making some tasty empanadas. To top it off, there is also some mask making and designing in art lessons. What a week!

In other learning, the children have been making progress with written calculations in maths. We have looked at all sorts of great concepts, such as factors, prime numbers, square and cubed numbers. In writing, the children have produced non-chronological reports, explanation texts and poetry. We have certainly been busy.

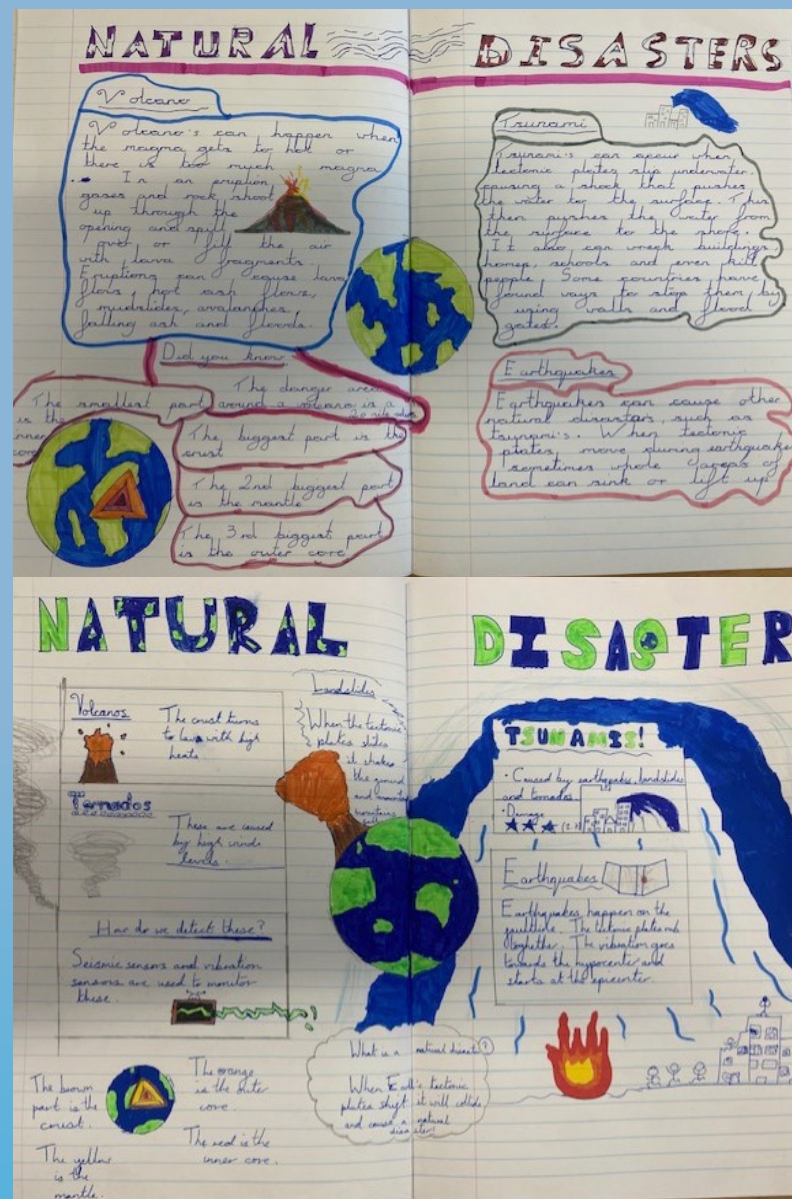
Thank you, as always, for your support, and we wish you all very happy holidays and wonderful New Year.

Miss Lewis

Year 6

Year 6 have had an exciting half term learning all about our extraordinary planet. In writing, we have been looking at the power of tsunamis and their destructive force. We have used this as a stimulus to write diary entries from a family that got caught in the 2004 tsunami in Thailand, and craft persuasive speeches as leaders of countries affected by this disaster. The children worked on conveying emotion through their writing and utilising a variety of persuasive techniques to draw our audience in and appear credible and authoritative.

In maths we have been learning about fractions, and how to add, subtract multiply and divide with them. We have used bar modelling and a range of practical resources to support the children's understanding of these advanced concepts. The children have also been excelling in their Friday arithmetic tests and are



becoming quicker at recalling their times tables.

We have been learning about natural disasters in Geography and how powerful Mother Nature can be. In science, we have been looking at the human circulatory system and this has culminated in a fantastic practical lesson where we dissected hearts to explore the different tissues, valves and chambers of this fascinating organ.

Mr Davies, Miss Leslie & Miss Gregory

School Calendar

First day back after Christmas Holidays: Wednesday 3rd January 2024
February Half-Term: - Wednesday 3rd January - Friday 9th February 2024

January

2nd January	INSET DAY
4th January	Year 11 Parents Evening 2
9th January	Early Finish for All Pupils (Trust Conference Afternoon)
16th January	Parent and Community Event
16th January	SEND Review Evening
17th January	Senior PD Day 2

February

8th February	Year 8 Parents' Evening
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