



Mayfield School News

Spring 2 2025 Issue



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Message from the Head



Dear Parents and carers, Students, and Staff,

It doesn't seem that long ago since I wrote for the last Mayfield News! It was a fantastic start to the new Spring half-term with so much going on here at Mayfield.

Our Year 11 students hit the ground running, with their mock exams. Their commitment and resilience during this period have been inspiring. We are incredibly proud of how they are approaching these exams with determination and focus. Keep up the great work, Year 11! All of this ambition and revision will help towards your final successes.

Learning walks of our Year R environment consolidated the comments of the CEOs visit where they were particularly impressed with our Year R provision. The students have made fantastic progress since September, demonstrating high levels of engagement and confidence, particularly in their writing and phonics skills. It's wonderful to see how well-embedded routines support their learning journey.

A special highlight for many of us this half term was our celebration of World Book Day! The creativity displayed by both students and staff was incredible, with primary pupils and all staff embracing the chance to dress up as their favourite book characters. From the four little pigs and the big bad wolf to the vibrant Very Hungry Caterpillar, the enthusiasm for reading was contagious. The fun quiz, "Whose member of staff's pet is this reading a book?", brought even more joy to the day. Thank you to all involved for making World Book Day a memorable experience.

This term has also seen some exciting developments across the school. Our Year 4 students had an unforgettable residential trip to Minstead, where they engaged in a variety of activities that will surely stay with them for years to come. Year 9 students recently had their Options Evening, which was a wonderful opportunity to explore new subjects like Child Development and Graphic Design, empowering them to shape their future pathways.

Additionally, we've had a fantastic week welcoming visitors to Mayfield. We hosted the new Year 7 parents and their children for tours around the school, showcasing the wonderful work happening here. We also had Portsmouth Primary SCITT trainees join us for a day of learning, and we were proud to show off our strong relationships with students, the diversity of our curriculum, and the high-quality teaching taking place in every classroom.

CONT...



It's not all work and no play! In Year R, we've had some very special visitors – ducklings! The children are absolutely thrilled as they've watched these little creatures grow from eggs to their first swims. It's a fantastic reminder of the wonder and excitement that comes with learning.

As we head towards the end of the term, we're already looking forward to our end-of-term celebration assemblies, where we will come together to recognise and celebrate the incredible achievements of our students (and staff!).

Finally, I want to celebrate the success of three of our Year 11 students, who were shortlisted for the prestigious Wilkie Scholar Award. They recently had the opportunity to present themselves as positive role models at PGS, and we are so proud of how they represented Mayfield.

As the end of the term draws near, it's been a pleasure to see our students not only working hard but also embracing opportunities to be ambitious, inclusive, and respectful. I also wanted to extend a big thank you to our staff for their dedication and enthusiasm, which continues to inspire and shape the success of all our students.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mr A Howard
Headteacher





House News

This half-term has been another productive and exciting time. Our pupils have taken part in lots of activities, including celebration assemblies and tutor challenges. Well done to all the pupils who supported these by representing their tutors. Pupils have also been receiving rewards for representing our school values of ambition, inclusion, and respect, as well as whole tutor groups being rewarded for good attendance and combined achievement points.

Some of our pupils supported the Languages department as they welcomed visitors from our Japanese partner school, and they represented Mayfield and our community exceedingly well by being brilliant hosts.

Our Year 9s have had an important half-term as they attended assemblies to learn about all the upcoming GCSE options, and they have now made their choices. We would like to say a massive well done for conducting themselves in a mature way throughout this process.

Year 11 will be taking part in revision sessions over the next couple of weeks in preparation for their upcoming GCSE exams. Well done Year 11, you've got this!

We are excitedly looking forward to our whole school Easter assembly, including a special performance from our highly successful Dance Live team, followed by a well-deserved Easter break. We would like to wish our whole community a restful, safe, and happy Easter holiday, and we look forward to starting a new and even more exciting term ahead.

House Team



Events



Global Week

Throughout the week, our school has been celebrating Global Week, an opportunity to explore different cultures, languages, and traditions through a range of engaging activities.

The week began with an after-school crêpe-making session, where students had the chance to try their hand at making this classic French treat. Lunchtimes featured language taster sessions, allowing students to learn key phrases in various languages and gain insight into different cultures. On Thursday, we enjoyed a food-tasting event, where students and staff could sample dishes from around the world, appreciating the diversity of international cuisine.

On the Friday after school that week, we wrapped up the week with a special celebration alongside our Language Ambassadors. They took part in a quiz competition, testing their knowledge of languages and cultures while engaging with lots of fun activities.



Congratulations Chase!

Competition, for the eagerly sought-after special signed copy of Nick and Charlie by Alice Oseman, brought out the creativity in our senior pupils. The winner was Chase with the amazing crocheted characters of Nick and Charlie. Congratulations Chase and well done to all who entered.



Mayfield v Springfield Football Match

Mayfield's Year 8 football team made history as they played the school's first home game in over five years—and what a way to mark the occasion! Facing a strong Springfield side, the boys put in a performance full of determination and resilience, securing a dramatic 3-2 victory.

After an intense start, the game remained tight, but Springfield managed to edge ahead, leaving Mayfield 2-1 down with just 15 minutes to play. However, the team showed incredible spirit, stepping up their game and fighting back with two fantastic goals to turn the match around.

A special mention goes to Teddy, whose leadership on the pitch was outstanding. He also delivered a moment of brilliance with a stunning free kick, helping to inspire the team to victory. Well done, lads! A fantastic effort and a well-deserved win—this is just the beginning of an exciting journey!



Events



Mayfield welcomes Students from Maizuru, Japan!

Mayfield had the pleasure of welcoming a group of 10 students from our partner city, Maizuru, Japan. During their visit, they embarked on a guided tour of the school, exploring classrooms, facilities, and student activities. They also gave an engaging presentation to our students, sharing insights about their hometown, cultural traditions, and daily life in Japan. The visit was filled with excitement and curiosity as students from both schools exchanged stories, asked questions, and discovered common interests. It was heartwarming to witness new friendships blossom, fostering a sense of global connection and cultural appreciation.



World Book Day

On World Book Day, characters from your favourite books flooded the halls and classrooms, brought to you by our teachers and members of staff who wanted to dress up for the occasion and dress up. What an exciting day it was! Have a look at these fantastic outfits and costumes!

Our Senior pupils participated in a range of fun activities throughout this week as well, including making their own bookmarks at lunchtimes, testing their knowledge in tutor quizzes, competing in a fun-filled Kahoot quiz in the library, even reading with our Primary pupils in the library. It was a fantastic time celebrating the magic of books and storytelling!

Year 9 Options Evening

This half-term, our Year 9 pupils and their families attended the highly anticipated Options Evening, where they explored the wide range of subjects available for their GCSEs. Teachers and subject leaders were on hand to provide insights, answer questions, and help students make informed choices about their future studies. This year's event was particularly exciting as we introduced some brand-new subjects for 2025, giving students even more opportunities to tailor their learning to their interests and aspirations. It was a fantastic evening filled with inspiration and excitement for the journey ahead!



Careers Events



Get ready for the future you want.

This term was full of career education experiences for our students. We discussed the word “ambition” in our tutor groups and how this can be applied to our style of life. The City of Portsmouth College came to talk to our Year 8s, showing them how they can be ambitious in their chosen college and what they offer within the city.

Our Year 10 pupils have also carried on with their 1:1 career adviser meetings, where they have discovered what they would like to study after they leave Mayfield. Calling our Year 11s—if you would like another appointment, come and talk to Mrs Munoz in Room 149.

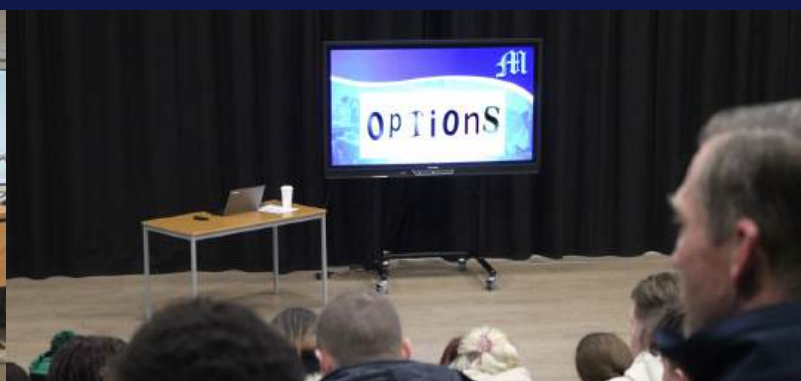
At the beginning of March, we opened the highly anticipated Year 9 GCSE Options evening, where we offered to our students new and exciting subjects to choose from for their GCSEs, along with informative discussions about our current options. We showed them how to apply, what pathway was suggested for them to follow, and provided them with after-Mayfield education information. Local colleges, universities, and

apprenticeship providers visited the school, advising them what the best options were according to what they would like to pursue at college and/or university.

Following this, we had two weeks worth of assemblies during tutor with them, where we gave them the labour market perspective on subjects and how much they can earn with some specific skills; we also showed them what the exam will be for every subject and what the expectations were.

Finally, we hope our Year 10 pupils have sorted out their work experience placement at this time. If you/your child is struggling to find a work experience placement, please talk to Miss Munoz in Room 149 or by email at munoz-evelyn@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk.

Mrs Munoz





Primary News



Message from the Head of Primary



For fear of repeating previous newsletters, it really does feel like this half term has sped by, and I can't quite believe how much we have packed into these last 6 weeks!

Year 4 had an amazing time on their residential trip to Minstead Study Centre in the New Forest. The children enjoyed exploring the natural surroundings during a 3-hour walk, stream-dipping and songs around the campfire. The adults were grateful that the weather mostly behaved whilst they were there too!

Our Key Stage 1 children had some very special animal friends to visit just a couple of weeks ago, courtesy of Wild Science. They had the opportunity to learn about different animals, their habitats and how to care for them with hands-on experiences that sparked curiosity and a love for wildlife. I'll be honest and say that I had to avoid the area when the reptiles visited – the children are clearly far braver than I am...

In another exciting development, our Year R had the chance this week to watch ducklings hatch right here at school! The

children loved learning about the life cycle of ducks and observing the process first-hand.

We are excited to announce that we have been exploring the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Programme to improve our lunchtime offer for our pupils. This initiative will require a significant amount of new equipment and changes to the existing lunchtime setup, but we are excited about the positive impact it will have on children's play and social development. We will share more information as we plan for its implementation and hope that we are able to engage some of you as our OPAL Parent Champions.

As part of their recent science learning, Year 5 pupils have been exploring the solar system. They have, over the last few weeks, completed homework projects on the planets, which were both informative and creative and, quite frankly, outstanding. It's fantastic to see their enthusiasm for space, and thank you to all the supportive parents out there who have enabled them to build such magnificent models!



Attendance and punctuality continue to be incredibly important at Mayfield to ensure that your child does not miss out on any part of their learning pathway. We also want to remind parents that children should be wearing the correct school uniform. As the weather improves, we've noticed a few blazers and ties missing. Please ensure your child arrives in the correct uniform: either full school uniform or PE kit (plain black jumpers without logos, school blazers, or long-sleeve Mayfield PE tops should be worn over PE T-shirts).

Congratulations to all the students who earned Marvellous Mayfield Moments and Stars of the Week! This half-term, 256 Marvellous Mayfield Moments were awarded, and 102 students were recognised for their hard work and achievements as Stars of the Week. A huge well done to the students in Discovery House for winning the House Cup this half term too. Their effort has been persistent after a closely run race by all the house teams. As a reward, Discovery House pupils are invited to wear non-school uniform (with a red theme if they would like) on Friday 25th April.

On a particularly sad note, we would like to share that Mrs Palamidis will be leaving Mayfield School today and is off on adventures new, accepting a deputy headship outside of the city. We are not too sure who will be able to remind us to make sure we have a drink during the day, keep us entertained with her interesting recall of colleagues' names or who will now supply the emergency biscuits. Her skill, knowledge and advocacy for our SEND pupils will be greatly missed by us and the families she has supported, and we wish her much love, luck and excitement for her new role. Her new school is incredibly lucky to welcome her!

We are also saying a temporary 'so long' to Miss Davies this week, who is expecting her first child after Easter. Our thoughts are with her as she negotiates the journey of motherhood and all that a new bundle of joy brings!

I hope you enjoy our year group contributions below and wish you all a very happy Easter break. The next half term kicks off with our return to Dance Live! to compete in the final on the 24th of April. Good luck in advance to all our dancers!

Miss R Osborne
Head of Primary



Primary School Council 2024 - 2025

This term, we have been thinking about an improvement we would like to make within our school. We have all agreed our top priority is to improve our playtimes. The council members who attended the summit in October talked about the steps we need to take to work towards bringing change. The councillors agreed the first step is to find out from their peers what they do and do not like about playtimes and what changes they would like to see. Once this information was collected, we looked at the results to see if there were recurring themes and how we could begin to tackle these. During the summer term we are going to plan how we are going to tackle some of the improvements suggested. We are going to break it into manageable steps, one of which is fundraising!

Also, this term our school council all attend a 'Changemaker' enterprise day. The day had been designed to inspire young people to explore what it means to be a changemaker and undertake an enterprise challenge! It was hosted at the Changemaker Studios in Portsmouth Guildhall and gave the children opportunities to develop creativity, teamwork, leadership and public speaking skills. They had to get into teams and were given the challenge of making 'Letterbox Snacks'. Each team had to decide what each team member's role was, from the project manager to the designers to the finance manager! They took part in a design masterclass and then were given time to plan and design their boxes. They also took part in a money masterclass, where they learnt about how much it would cost to make their product and what to sell their product for to ensure a profit. They then had to work on a presentation to pitch their idea. They were all amazing at presenting their pitches to the boss at Changemaker Studios to see who had won the challenge! It was a really fun day, and the school

council feel they can use what they have learnt to design, make and sell a snack or something similar at school to raise money to go towards the playtime improvements they would like to make.



Look out for some money-raising events that the school council may be running in the summer term!

Additionally, the councillors who were selected to attend the Portsmouth Council of Portsmouth Students (PCoPS) Summit at the end of November will be invited to return to the Student Voice Celebration Day in June – more information to follow.

Mrs Moore

Events

World Book Day Celebrations

Joining in on the festivities, our Primary pupils enjoyed dressing up as their favourite characters and people this World Book Day! Take a look at some of the amazing costumes and outfits we saw!



Primary Reading Competition Entries

In celebration of World Book Day, Mrs Higgins organised a competition for our Primary pupils to send in photos of them reading in unusual places... and these are some unusual places indeed! It was hard to pick a winner but we finally decided on our Runners-up - Florence and Eleanor, and our Winner - Alice! Well done to everyone who entered into this fantastic competition!

Florence
from *Dolphins*



Eleanor
from *Yangtze*



Alice
from *Southern*



Author Guy Bass visits Mayfield!

Renowned author Guy Bass recently paid a visit to our Year 4, 5, and 6 students, captivating them with fascinating stories about his life and journey as a writer. He also introduced his exciting new book series, *Scrap*, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm among our young readers.



Year 4 Minstead Trip 2025

This week, our Year 4 pupils embarked on an exciting adventure to Minstead in two groups, immersing themselves in nature and learning valuable life skills along the way. Wrapped up in their warm coats and hats, they explored the forest on invigorating walks, discovering the beauty of the outdoors while embracing teamwork and resilience. From hands-on activities to moments of reflection in the natural surroundings, the trip was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to connect with nature and develop essential skills for the future. A truly memorable experience for all!



Year R

This half-term, we have been gardeners. The children found some seeds, so we decided to plant them and see what happens. We have found out about different types of seeds, parts of a plant and what plants need to grow. Then we had some mysterious eggs delivered to our classrooms, and we had to investigate what they could be. There were lots of exciting ideas, like a dragon, a unicorn, a chick or a crocodile! Finally, we had a delivery of some real eggs and enjoyed the excitement of watching them hatch into baby ducklings. We loved taking care of them and watching them change and even having a splash about in the pool.

Mrs Bates



Year 1

We hope you are all looking forward to the Easter break. I think the children definitely deserve a well-earned rest with all the hard work they have put into their learning this half-term.

In English we spent some time reading 'Here We Are', which is all about our planet, and then we focused on poetry and looked at the poem 'Chocolate Cake'. The children really enjoyed this one, as the love of chocolate cake was something they could all relate to! In writing the story, they learnt to write a story using the familiar setting of their bedroom. Most recently we have been focusing on recounts and writing about an enjoyable weekend.

Phonics This half-term has been all about preparing the children for the upcoming phonics screening in June. We have taken part in lots of recap sessions to ensure they are secure with what we have learnt so far, and we will continue to do so into the beginning of the summer term. Well done again to all the children who are reading 5 times a week; those children are making amazing progress with their phonics. We can't wait to give out some more reading awards!

In maths the children have continued to look at addition and subtraction, with a particular focus on addition and subtraction facts within 10. We then turned our attention to numbers 11-20. The teen numbers are always a bit tricky to grasp and work with, but the children are doing well. Please regularly practice counting back from 20 to support your child in being a confident counter.

In science we have continued with our learning all about materials. We used the knowledge we have learnt so far about properties to carry out an experiment to see what materials are best for a certain purpose. They were given the task of making a waterproof shelter for Incy Wincy Spider. They looked at what materials would

be best, planned and made their shelters, then tested them to see if they were fit for purpose. We also all took part in a science afternoon. Some children stayed at school and looked at forces and how matter can change. They told me the best bit was watching the icing sugar change with water, but I think that's because they got to decorate a biscuit and eat it! Some children went to a science fair where they took part in some science activities. Lots of them said the best bit was looking at some of the sea creatures in the tubes!

Our wider curriculum learning has continued to be action-packed this half-term.



They loved learning all about toys in history. We looked at their own toys, looked at toys from the past and made lots of comparisons. The children also loved DT this term. The children learnt how to design a bridge, make it and evaluate it, as well as using technical vocabulary to describe their bridge and the process. It was an exciting afternoon; when making the bridges, there was tape everywhere!

In music the children focused on sound patterns. We used fairytales to introduce the children to the concept of sound patterns and rhythms, and they were great at clapping rhythms and adjusting their voices whilst retelling the story of The Three Little Pigs. In RE our focus has been 'Welcoming'. The children thought about what this means and how being welcoming can affect them and other people.

In ICT our computing module was about grouping data; they were able to use their maths knowledge during some of these lessons and were very successful.

PE is always a favourite with the children, and this half-term we have been focusing on basketball and football. We even had a couple of slam dunks in basketball this week!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you all have a lovely Easter, and we look forward to welcoming you back for an action-packed summer term!

Mrs Moore



Year 2

We've had an exciting and enriching time this half term in Year 2 recently, and we're thrilled to share some of the highlights with you!

We have been writing our own take on the Disney film Brave. The children have enjoyed reimagining the story and creating their own versions, adding their own twists and unique characters. It's been fantastic to see how they've used their imagination to craft brave, strong stories filled with courage and adventure.

In our reading sessions, we've been exploring the beautiful book Rhythm of the Rain. This story has inspired the children to think about the changing seasons, nature's wonders, and how the rain connects all living things. It's been a great way to spark thoughtful discussions about our world, and the children have enjoyed the soothing rhythm of the language while learning to appreciate the importance of rain in the environment.

In maths, we've been focusing on mastering our 2, 5, and 10 times tables. The children have been working hard to develop their skills and confidence with multiplication, using a range of fun activities to practise. They are making great progress, and it's exciting to see them become more confident in their ability to recall these key facts quickly.

In science, we've been learning all about how germs spread and the different types of microbes. The children were intrigued as they discovered the three types of microbes: bacteria, viruses, and fungi. To make things even more exciting, they had the chance to design their own microbes, using their creativity to think about what their unique germs might look like! Additionally, we've been enjoying watching our very own butterfly life cycle unfold right before our eyes. It's been a fascinating experience, as the children have observed the changes from caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly, learning about the amazing transformations in nature.

We were also fortunate to have an amazing visit from Wild Science! The children were excited and eager to interact with a variety of fascinating animals. They had the chance to handle a gentle guinea pig, a mysterious tenrec, a slow-moving tortoise, and even held a slithery, friendly snake! This hands-on experience was not only fun but also educational, as the children learnt about different species and their habitats. It was a memorable day, full of laughter and wide-eyed wonder.

We hope that your child will share their experiences with you, as they are so proud of what they have learnt and achieved!

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to make Year 2 a year full of learning, growth, and excitement.

Mrs Sloan & Miss Cornwell



Year 3

We've had a wonderful term, especially as the weather has begun to warm up!

In Maths, the children have worked incredibly hard on consolidating their addition and subtraction methods, showing great perseverance and progress.

In English, we are in the middle of writing our own narratives in the first person, focusing on setting descriptions of the countryside. The creativity and imagination on display have been fantastic!

In Science, we have been exploring the topic of plants, investigating what they need to grow and how pollination works. The children have learnt about the main parts and functions of plants through hands-on activities, including dissecting flowers and creating detailed observational sketches. We also used food colouring to observe how water travels through flowers, helping us understand how plants absorb nutrients. Each group is also caring for a plant this half term, conducting an experiment to see what happens when we remove essential elements like water, soil, air, and light—stay tuned for the results!

As part of our History topic on the Romans, we enjoyed writing instructions for a Roman pinch pot, which we then used to create our own. This hands-on activity was a great way to bring history to life! Our learning about the Romans will continue next half term—watch this space, as we hope to hold a Roman dress-up day!

At the time of writing, we are eagerly anticipating our trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace. We can't wait to share our experiences with you afterwards!

Both classes have also started practising for their class assemblies, and we look forward to welcoming you to enjoy their performances.

Wishing you all a lovely break, and we look forward to another exciting half term ahead!

The Year 3 Team



Year 4

What an exciting half-term we've had in Year 4! We've been busy with hands-on learning, thought-provoking reading, and an unforgettable residential trip.

In Science, we've been exploring the human body, looking at how it works and how we can take care of it. One of our favourite experiments involved investigating how different drinks might affect our teeth—using eggshells to represent tooth enamel! We made predictions, observed changes, and discussed the importance of making healthy choices.

In reading, we have been deeply engaged in our class book, *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, learning about Ahmet's journey as a refugee. This has helped us develop empathy and a better understanding of the experiences faced by children around the world. We've had some fantastic discussions about kindness, friendship, and how we can make a difference.

Of course, one of the biggest highlights of this half-term was our residential trip to Minstead Study Centre! We had an amazing time singing songs around the campfire, building shelters, and exploring the stream to discover what creatures live there. We also challenged ourselves with orienteering, using maps and teamwork to navigate around the area. It was a trip full of adventure, learning, and lots of fun!

We are so proud of all the hard work and enthusiasm Year 4 has shown this half-term. We can't wait for the exciting learning ahead next term!

The Year 4 team



Year 5

As we reach the end of the Spring Term, we are all ready for a well-deserved break in Year 5 and look forward to the Easter break ahead. It has been lovely enjoying the longer, lighter days, along with the sunnier and warmer weather. Summer is definitely on the way! We have really enjoyed our learning in Year 5 this term, especially our Science unit on Earth and Space, which seems to have woven through many of our other subjects. Here is an insight into what we have been up to!

In reading, we have been immersed in our book, *Boy In The Tower* by Polly Ho-Yen, following young carer, Ade, on a journey of survival from the 17th floor of his tower block as sinister growing plants (Bluchers) seem to be taking over the community and making buildings crumble to the ground, leaving death and devastation in their wake. A few survivors from Ade's block have each other for support, all the time Ade is still caring for his mum who doesn't leave their flat! We really enjoyed empathising with Ade and predicting where the story would go next – an absolute gripping read.

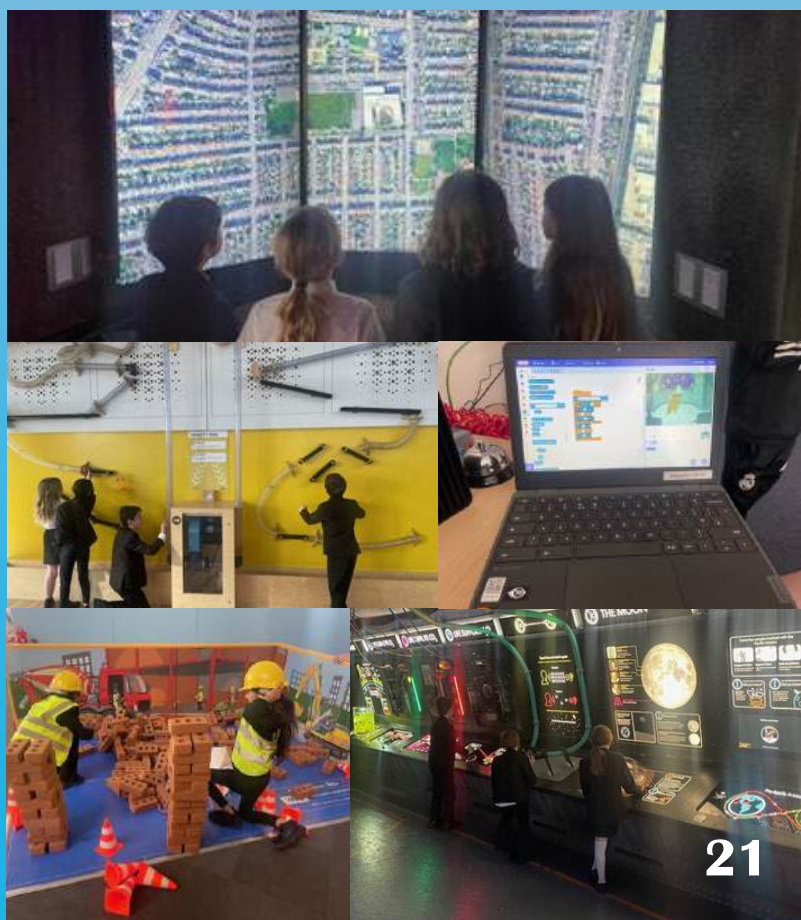
In writing, we have written biographies about British astronaut, Tim Peake. This was a perfect opportunity for us to pull our knowledge and vocabulary from our Science unit into our writing. We were inspired learning about Tim Peake, especially as he is originally local to Portsmouth, having even attended Portsmouth University! The writing skills that we focused on were, writing from a third person perspective, using the past and present perfect tenses, relative pronouns and relative clauses, and pronouns and conjunctions to aid the flow of our writing.

In maths, we have focused on finishing our unit on area and multiplication, advancing our learning into solving the areas of compound shapes. We then completed a unit around measures of various types, including, length, mass, time, money, volume and capacity, then solving problems using multiplication and division to compare units of measure, including using unit fractions as part of our equations. We then revisited and built upon our place-value work from the Autumn Term, applied through

multiplying and dividing, and calculating with decimal fractions linked to real life contexts, such as time, money and conversions.

Our Science unit this half term has really captivated us. We have been learning about Earth and Space and the children have really enjoyed learning about the planets within our solar system, along with the pattern of the Earth orbiting the Sun and the Moon orbiting the Earth, how this affects tides, weather, seasons, darkness and light. We have also been learning about the different atmospheric qualities of each planet and why Earth has the perfect balance of conditions to sustain life. The real highlight of supporting and enhancing our Science unit was our recent visit to Winchester's Science Center. Here, we were able to get a close-up view of the solar system and planets within the Planetarium. We were also able to explore many aspect of space travel history, with many facts and hands on activities.

We have really enjoyed learning about The Ancient Maya and Anglo-Saxon civilisations this half term, a longer comparative study, which we will continue after Easter.



So far, we have been learning about the terms 'invaders' and 'settlers' with historical and modern-day examples. We have also been learning about how their factors that can 'push' people from one country/community and factors that can 'pull' them to a country/community. We have been learning about the everyday life and the rituals of The Ancient Maya and how The Anglo-Saxons came to settle in Britain.

In Computing, we have been using algorithms to make programs, using sets of controls and 'true' and 'false' questions and conditions. We have been successful in making programs that include both a range of sounds and movements. In Art, we have been studying Dutch artist, Teis Albers, with a particular interest in his space themed art and use of a range of medias, which have replicated within our own artwork. Our PSHE work this term has been about rights and responsibilities. We have been learning about our rights in different aspects of life, along with acknowledging how we came to have our rights and those who have fought for them. Most importantly, we have been learning that, with our rights come responsibilities and accountability. We have continued to enjoy our French lessons with Madame Humphries, developing our vocabulary to describe the pets we have or would like.

The diorama models of the solar system, which the children produced with you as part of their longitudinal home learning project, were just spectacular. The interpretations of the task, along with the enthusiasm, sheer quality and the way in which the children have spoken about how they worked with their adults at home, along with extended family, has just been the cherry on the Year 5 cake this term. The children have loved looking at them all displayed within our corridor. Thank you for your support with these projects, along with everything else that we have achieved. Have a lovely Easter break and we look forward to a busy and positive summer term ahead. Happy Easter from all of us in Year 5!

The Year 5 Team



Year 6

Year 6 have had a busy and exciting term, filled with lots of learning, creativity, and hard work! Here's a little insight into what we have been up to over the past few weeks.

In Maths, we have been diving deeper into the world of fractions. The children have been developing their skills in adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions, as well as applying their understanding to problem-solving tasks. It has been fantastic to see their confidence grow in this tricky area of Maths!

Our Writing lessons have been particularly thrilling as we have been crafting spooky stories! The children have been focusing on building tension and atmosphere, using powerful vocabulary, varied sentence structures, and dramatic descriptions to engage their readers. We have been so impressed with their creativity and imagination – some of their stories are truly spine-chilling!

In Art, we have been exploring the Chiaroscuro technique, a method that uses strong contrasts between light and dark to create dramatic effects. The children have loved experimenting with this high-contrast style and have produced some incredible artwork that really brings their skills to life. We can't wait to display some of their fantastic pieces around the school!

Science has been all about classification, and we have been delving into the Linnaeus system to understand how living things are grouped based on their characteristics. The children have enjoyed sorting and classifying different species and learning more about the incredible diversity of life on our planet.

Alongside all of this, we have been working extremely hard to prepare for our upcoming SATs tests. The children have shown fantastic dedication and perseverance as they revise key skills in reading, writing, and maths. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and commitment, and we are confident they will do their very best when the time comes.

As always, thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's progress, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

The Year 6 Team

Notices



HAF Spring Sessions

The HAF Fun Pompey Team are excited to share details of our HAF Spring holiday activity programmes in Portsmouth, designed to support children and young people during the Easter break.

These programmes offer a range of enriching activities and nutritious food throughout Portsmouth (P01 to P06).

There are three key offers this year:

- Spring Spectacular (Ages 5-11) – Free Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) sessions for children on benefits-related free school meals. These activities provide a fun and supportive environment while ensuring children have access to healthy meals. (Universal free school meals do not qualify.)
- Spring Break (Ages 11-16) – Free HAF-funded sessions for older children receiving benefits-related free school meals.
- Spring Sessions (Ages 11-16, P01-P06) – Activities are open to young people, including those from low-income families, who may not qualify for free school meals but still require support, thanks to alternative funding.
- Spring Family Fun Days – Free Holiday Activities and Food sessions for eligible families with children on benefits-related free school meals.

Active8 Minds
Sport & childcare specialists

EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB

SPORTS ZONE | ACTION ZONE | CHILL ZONE | ART AND CRAFTS

MEON JUNIORS
HIGHBURY PRIMARY
TPS
HORIZON HAVANT
SPRINGWOOD
WOODCROFT
WICOR
BEDENHAM
ST. JAMES

AGES YEAR R - YEAR 7
SIBLING DISCOUNT AVAILABLE
HAF FUNDING AVAILABLE
8AM - 5PM

HAF FUNDING AVAILABLE

01243 696580
bookings@active8minds.co.uk
www.active8minds.co.uk

Ofsted Registered
Friendly & Qualified Staff
Staff DBS
Safeguarding & First Aid Trained
Childcare Vouchers Accepted

Active8 Minds Easter Holiday Club

Looking for an exciting way to keep your child engaged this Easter? Active8 Minds offers a fun-filled holiday club for children from Year R to Year 7 at multiple locations.

Activities include:

- Sports Zone – Active games and team sports
- Action Zone – Exciting challenges and activities
- Art & Crafts – Creative hands-on projects
- Chill Zone – A space to relax and unwind

Locations: Meon Juniors, Highbury Primary, TPS, Horizon Havant, Springwood, Woodcroft, Wicor, Bedenham, St. James.

Times: 8 AM – 5 PM

Affordable prices + sibling discounts available
HAF funding available for eligible families

With friendly, DBS-checked staff and a safe, engaging environment, this is the perfect way to make the most of the Easter holidays.

Interested? Book now! Call 01243 696580, email bookings@active8minds.co.uk or visit their website at www.active8minds.co.uk.

Community Learning Service - Family Learning

Family Learning would like to invite our community families to come and spend some time with their children during the Easter holidays - making, playing and doing!

for children aged in Year R to Year 6, 2 children per adult

On: Wednesday 9th April

Timings: 10am - 12pm

Come along to a FREE Spring workshop and enjoy a variety of Spring-themed arts and crafts with your children!

To book your place, come in or call:

02392 621860 or email thelearningplace@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

COMMUNITY LEARNING SERVICE Portsmouth City Council

Family Learning

Would like to invite our community families to come and spend some time with their children during the Easter holidays - making, playing and doing.
(suitable for children aged in year R to year 6; 2 children per adult)

Come along to a **Free! SPRING** workshop

At: The Learning Place

On: Wednesday 9th April

Start time: 10am Finish time: 12pm

Enjoy a variety of Spring themed arts & crafts with your children!

To book your place come in or call:
The Learning Place, 6 Derby Road, North End, PO2 8HH
02392 621860 thelearningplace@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Places are very limited - make sure you book early!

Learn portsmouth.gov.uk www.portsmouth.gov.uk

COMMUNITY LEARNING SERVICE Portsmouth City Council

Parent Power / Managing Children's Behaviour

Come along to our **free 4-week** course to put the fun back into parenting!

FREE

Parenting can be tough! Come along and learn some new strategies, helpful hints, tips and advice to establish boundaries and create a calmer, positive environment. This course is recommended for parents/carers of children aged 2-11.

Tuesdays 29th April 6th 13th 20th May.
Start time: 10am finishing at 12pm

This course is based at:
The Learning Place, 6 Derby Road,
North End, Portsmouth, PO2 8HH.
To book a space call 02392 621860
Or Email thelearningplace@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

www.learn.portsmouth.gov.uk www.portsmouth.gov.uk

Community Learning Service - Parent Power/ Managing Children's Behaviour

Parenting can be tough! Which is why the Community Learning Service have created a free 4-week course to put the fun back into parenting! Come along and learn some new strategies, helpful hints, tips and advice to establish boundaries and create a calmer, positive environment. This course is recommended for parents/carers of children aged 2 - 11.

On: Tuesdays 29th April, and 6th, 13th, and 20th May

Timings: 10am - 12pm

To book your place, come in or call:

02392 621860 or email thelearningplace@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

School Calendar

First day back after Easter Holidays: Tuesday 22nd April 2025

May Half-Term: Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May 2025

First day back after May Half-Term: Monday 2nd June 2025

APRIL

22nd April	Dance Live!
23th April	Senior Section Community Dance Competition (6 - 8PM)
24th April	Year 6 Induction Evening (?) (6 - 7PM)
29th April	Primary Parents Evening 1 (3.30 - 6PM)

MAY

1st May	Primary Parents Evening 2 (3.30 - 6PM)
5th May	BANK HOLIDAY
6th May	STEM Performance for Year 7s (1.30PM)
7th May	SEND Review Evening 3 (3.15 - 4.45PM)
8th May	GCSE Exams begin
8th May	Primary History Workshops (All day)
19th May	Year 10 Work Experience Assembly
22nd May	Year 7 Parents Evening



Mayfield School



mayfieldschool



mayfield_school

**For more updates and information,
follow us on our Social Media pages
and visit our website at;**

mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk