

# Mayfield School

# News

*Autumn 1 2024 Issue*



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# Message from the Head



Dear Parents and Carers,

Returning to school after the Summer break began with welcoming new staff to our Mayfield family. This led to staff training, which included safeguarding, relational practice and a continuation of embedding the effective principles of high quality teaching/planning, to name a few. This work will help to build on our focus and drive for school improvement during this academic year.

The start of the academic year for children was most encouraging too. 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 8 weeks ago. Our Year 7 pupils are now settled and confident in the routines of the school day. Our Year R pupils have also grown in confidence becoming familiar with the new school routines, including developing their knowledge and understanding of letters and sounds in phonics, and how to use the outdoor and indoor environment whilst learning through play (continuous provision).

I have continued to be impressed with the children during assembly time too. The arrival to and exit from can never be taken for granted, and it is the perfect way to ensure that we are all ready to hear the key messages and themes – most recently, the introduction of the ‘Time for change’ linked to our school values review.

As always, it has been great to see parents and carers during a range of opportunities to meet staff. During these evenings, there has been a community buzz and the feedback from staff has been 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. These events have included meet the tutor evening in seniors and parents/carers evening in primary.

Our open evening was another huge success with many parents, carers and children excited to see what Mayfield had to offer. Our senior students toured our visitors around the school and I was incredibly proud to see them talking about their Mayfield journey and the changes that have happened. It was also great to see that some of our students were in Year 7. 6 weeks in and they were already demonstrating commitment,

enthusiasm and confidence. This is as a result of belonging to a community which encourages them to be part of something great! Their confidence, honesty and enthusiasm captivated the parents/carers and they represented the school brilliantly – as the positive feedback confirmed.

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 students, I continue to host Hot Chocolate Fridays. This is the perfect opportunity to celebrate individual successes and to find out more about our students who demonstrate the attitudes and efforts every day.

Our celebrations continued as our school opened officially as an academy on the 1st of October 2024. We are proud to join Saltern's Academy Trust and the 2 other schools in the trust, Trafalgar and Admiral Lord Nelson. This partnership has been in place before the official date and this cements this partnership as we all work together on Mayfield's journey of rapid improvement.

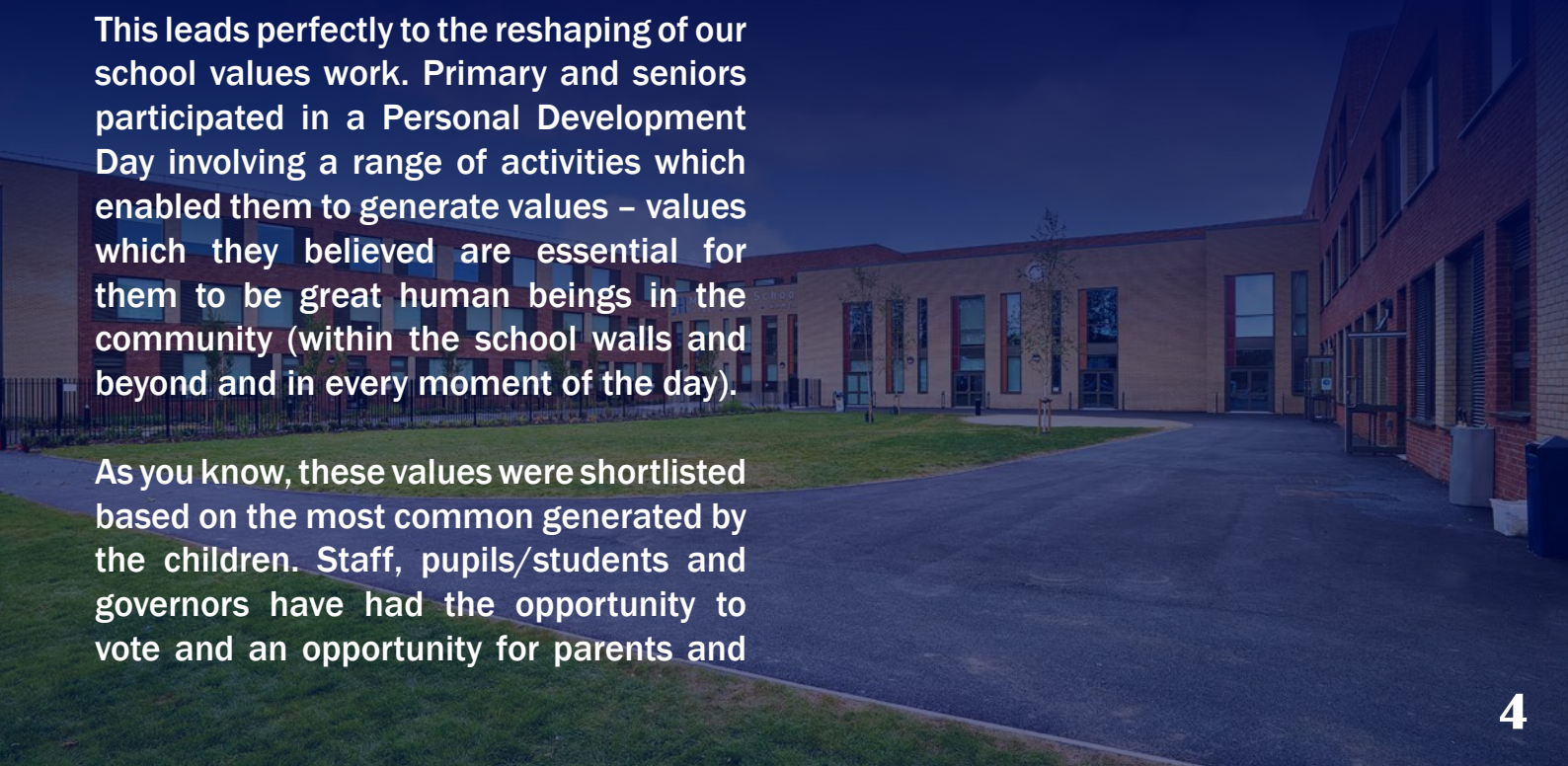
This leads perfectly to the reshaping of our school values work. Primary and seniors participated in a Personal Development Day involving a range of activities which enabled them to generate values – values which they believed are essential for them to be great human beings in the community (within the school walls and beyond and in every moment of the day).

As you know, these values were shortlisted based on the most common generated by the children. Staff, pupils/students and governors have had the opportunity to vote and an opportunity for parents and

carers to join in on the vote was sent via an online voting link too. The vote closed during the last week and after half term I will reveal the first value. The slow reveal of our new values is an important part of the values work we will be doing in the school so that pupils, students and staff can work on what each of these mean in the language that we use and actions that we take on a moment by moment basis. I look forward to sharing the outcome of these during the next term.

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 continue to be part of a strong community (even stronger now that we have joined Salterns Academy Trust) and have a committed team of staff. Whilst we know that we are on a journey of continued rapid improvement, 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*







# House News



# Endeavour

It has been a fantastic start of the year for Endeavour House. It was lovely to see pupils return from an exciting summer and welcome the new Year 7 pupils. As well as new pupils we have also welcomed a new tutor, Mrs Brubaker to E4. You may have also noticed that there is now a tutor team for each tutor.

There are 113 pupils with over 100 achievements. Two pupils, Alfie and Etta, have now reached over 300! Before half term there will be a Halloween themed reward event for pupils with the most achievement points.

Our students also recently enjoyed a PD day and did some amazing work towards creating values for our school. E7 won the balloon tower challenge. Well done to all tutor groups for their fantastic efforts and participation!

## ***New Year 7 Celebration Event***

To welcome the new year 7's into Endeavour House Mrs Reid and Miss Franklin led a rewards event in the Sports Hall during tutor time last week. The pupils had a great time and it is lovely to see how well they have settled into Mayfield Seniors and the new friendships that are emerging.

## **Endeavour Team**



# Victory

This year, we also welcome some new tutors to the Victory House Team – and our expanded tutor teams have really enjoyed supporting our young people at the start of this academic year.

The Year 7s have made a fantastic start to life in senior school, and we are very proud of them! We were able to have a 'meet and greet' welcome event for them hosted by our House representatives.

We have also been able to reward our 'Top 10 Achievement' pupils with a Halloween special event- special shout out to the following:

Liam H - 322  
Natalie M - 312  
Lottie N - 208  
Mikel A - 302  
Fraser V - 299  
Christabel A - 284  
Lily P - 281  
Vinny M - 280  
Analia S - 270  
Emily L - 258

There are more rewards events coming up for other year groups - keep an eye out!

## Victory Team





# Discovery

It has been a pleasure welcoming back our old students as well as welcoming our new year 7 students to Mayfield school. As well as new students, we welcome new staff members to the house team: Ms Dicks in D1, Mrs Bartholemew with Miss Rich in D3, Mr De Bruyn in D4, Mr Alam D5 and Mrs Humphreys and Ms Olorunfunmi in D9. We welcome them all to the team.

## *PD Day*

Thank you Discovery for all the positive atmosphere around our most recent PD Day focusing on developing our new school values. On this day the students were in their tutor groups working on different activities that brought them together as a team. These activities included Dragons Den, making a balloon tower as well as a 'Spinathon'. Congratulations to those members of Discovery House who participated in the 'Spinathon' leading us to first place. An extra special shoutout to Riley who managed to cycle the furthest out of everyone who participated in the school.

## *New Year 7 Celebration Event*

To welcome the new Year 7s into Discovery House, Miss Franklin led a rewards event in the Sports Hall during tutor time last week. The students were continuing their experiences of teamwork and displaying the values that they were discussing in some team games. It can be said that fun was had by all.

We look forward to next term with more reward events and more success.

## Discovery Team





# Intrepid

What a great start you have all made to the new academic year. We welcome our new Year 7s and new staff members to the Intrepid Family, Mr Hendricks for I8 and Miss Newell for I3.

We would also like to introduce our House representatives Evelyn, Charlie, Bella and Lorenza who have already started representing Intrepid incredibly well.

The Year 7s have been able to celebrate their start to Mayfield with a 'meet and greet' welcome event hosted by our House representatives.

Thank you Intrepid for all the positive buzz around our most recent PD Day, you were all awesome and worked so hard at creating excellent values for our school. Big celebrations to I9 for winning the Spinning Challenge, I3 for winning the Dragon's Den competition and I1 for winning the balloon tower challenge.

We have also been able to reward our 'Top Achievement' pupils with a Halloween special event.

We look forward to Intrepid having another great year, to ACHIEVE their goals, BELIEVE in their dreams and to above all, SUCCEED.

## Intrepid Team





Senior

# Careers Events



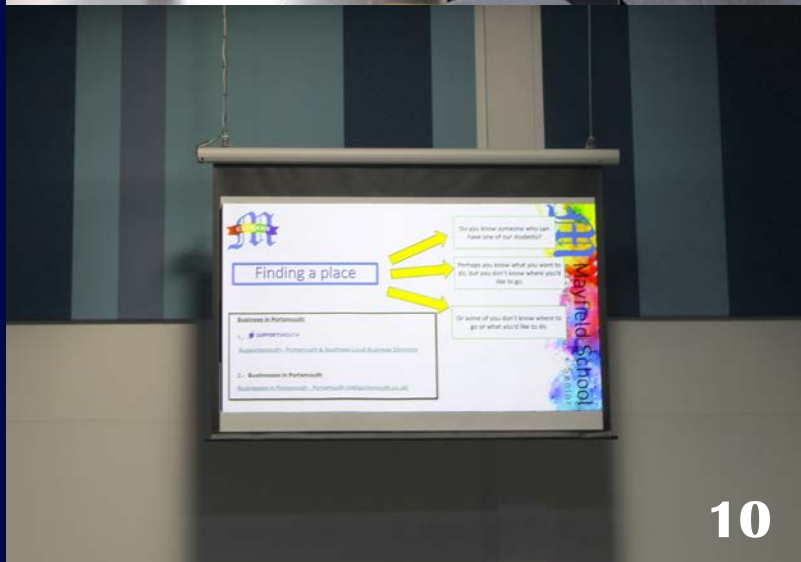
## Get ready for the future you want.

We started our career education already bigger and better! We started in September by opening our Work Experience assembly with Y10s; we explained to them the process. Then, we ran a Work Experience (WEX) Information evening for our Y10 parents and carers where we showed and explained to them what to expect for the two weeks from 2nd to the 13th June 2025.

Then, we started working with our Y11 students who need to apply to college or an apprenticeship provider by Christmas. They had the opportunity to create and write their CV to present it to their college interview. They also attended a Career Information Evening with about eight colleges, four apprenticeship providers and our local university. This continued with the most popular colleges presenting with two assemblies. Alongside this, the students had the opportunity to speak to another college and an apprenticeship provider during their lunch time. This also included the students finding out how to apply to college.

This academic year, every Mayfield student will continue to engage in an exciting career education, having information from the labour market whilst addressing their individual needs for. So, if you would like to get involved in our career education curriculum, or have any questions about college, university trips or outreach programmes, please contact Mrs Munoz, room 149. ([munoz-evelyn@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:munoz-evelyn@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk)).

**Mrs Munoz**







# Primary News





# Message from the Head of Primary



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of this busy half term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful experiences we've shared in the past 8 weeks. Our pupils have also been actively engaged recently in shaping and creating our new school values, which has been a truly inspiring journey for us all! We look forward to gaining your input regarding our school values so we are able to move our curriculum even further forward.

I would like to remind everyone about the importance of our school uniform, particularly on days when PE is scheduled. It is essential that all children come dressed in the correct PE kit to ensure they

can fully participate in their activities. This includes plain black joggers and jumper in the winter – no logos please. Additionally, if you need to purchase primary ties, these are available at the main reception desk. Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

We appreciate greatly your attendance at our recent parents' evenings. It was super to see so many of you and to discuss your children's progress and achievements. Your involvement is invaluable and helps us to foster a positive learning environment for your children.

As we look forward to the next half term, we are excited about the upcoming Christmas

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shows and various activities we have planned. We anticipate a joyful time filled with festive spirit, creativity and much glitter!

Parent Curriculum Maps for Autumn 2 will be available during our first week back. These will provide you with an overview of what your children will be learning in the coming half term. Should you have any further questions or would like any more detail about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to speak directly with their Class Teacher.

As always, thank you for your continued engagement with our school community. I wish you all a restful break and look forward to seeing everyone back, ready for another exciting term ahead!

**Miss R Osborne**  
Head of Primary  
*Mayfield School*





# Year R

It has been a fantastic start to the year for our Year R children! We are thrilled to see how well they have settled in, and we couldn't be prouder. The children have shown such enthusiasm in exploring their surroundings, both inside the classroom and outdoors.

Our learning journey began with the topic 'Who Am I?' During this theme, the children have had the opportunity to learn about themselves and what makes each of them unique. It has been wonderful to see them share stories about their families and friends, deepening their connections with one another.

To help them become familiar with their new environment, we have taken a tour around the school. During our explorations, we discussed the concept of houses and homes, helping the children understand the different ways we all live.

As we move into Autumn, we have begun to think about seasonal changes. Recently, we enjoyed an Autumn walk around our school grounds, where we discovered various treasures nature has to offer.

Thank you for your continued support; we look forward to seeing the children thrive in their learning journey with us.

**Mrs Bates**





# Year 1

Wow, how amazing are all the children in Year 1! The transition from Year R to Year 1 is such a big one, going from so much play-based learning to a much more formal structure, but your children are smashing it!

In Maths we have been working with numbers up to 100, which has involved counting in different ways using different resources to help us. Comparing numbers, partitioning into tens and ones and using this knowledge to support addition.

In English we have been learning different reading skills, such as retrieval, sequencing and summarising. Additionally, in writing we have been working on sentence structure. I'm sure your child will be able to tell you what makes a super sentence! They produced some wonderful writing about 'Where the Wild Things Are'.



All the children have been phonics superstars this half-term, recapping everything they have already learnt in Year R, and then beginning to learn some new alternative sounds. Next half-term the children will be introduced to more alternative sounds to continue to build their phonic knowledge. We will continue to send Phonic homework sheets home on a Friday so you can keep up to date with the sounds and tricky words your child is currently learning. Well done to all the children who are reading 5 times a week, they have gained lots of stars and can't wait for their bookmarks to be filled to receive their prize!

Science has been super exciting this half-term. We have been learning all about seasonal changes. We recently took part in an experiment to find out what season would make ice melt quicker, and the children were super excited about going to College Park to spot signs of Autumn.

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As part of our wider curriculum, we have been learning all about the country we live in, what countries make up the UK, and their capital cities. We have also learnt about the continents and oceans that surround them. I wouldn't be surprised if you've heard the continents song being sung around your house – it's a particular favourite!

We have also been getting creative and working on making art using different media.

Another really enjoyable event this half-term was having local firefighters coming into work with us on fire safety.



Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to another enjoyable term ahead!

**Mrs Moore**



# Year 2

What a busy and exciting time we've had in our classrooms! This half term, we've been diving into some incredible stories and exploring fascinating topics. One of our highlights was learning all about the remarkable characters in "The Lion Inside" by Rachel Bright. Our favourite character has to be the adorable little mouse!

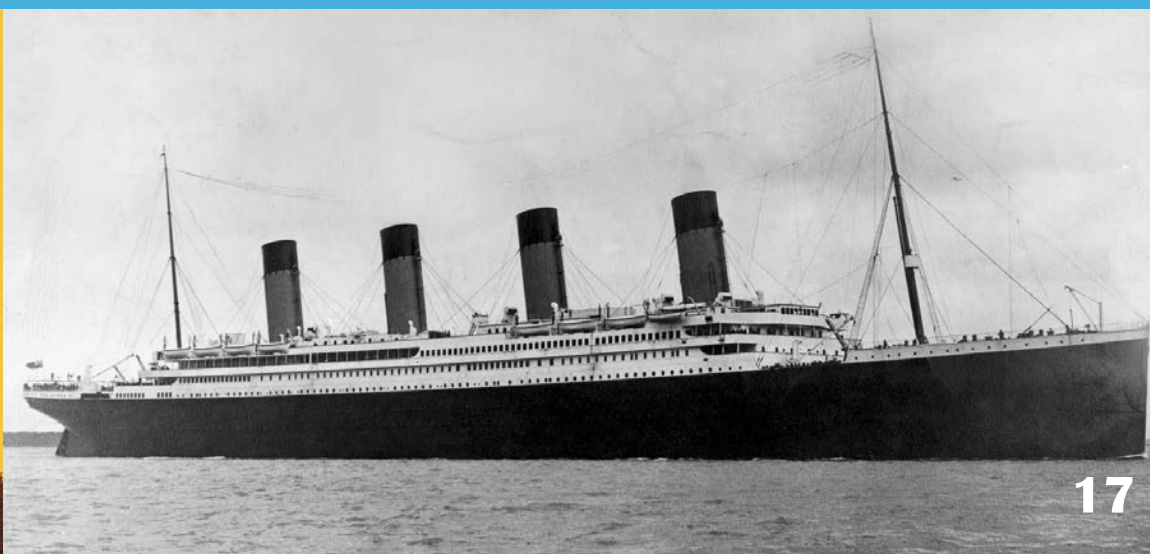
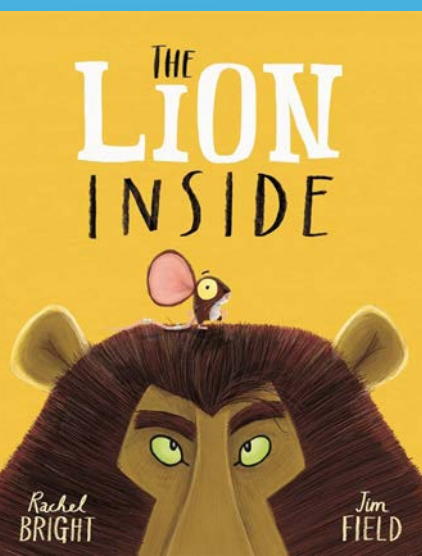
In Maths we have been learning about place value and addition, including adding three addends together! Children have loved this challenge and have shown great resilience in learning new mathematical concepts. Children have also been introduced to Times Table Rock Stars and have, so far, loved it! Please encourage your child to use this tool at home, this is a great tool to improve their fluency.

In addition to our character exploration, we have also embarked on an amazing journey through history, learning about the Titanic! The grand ship, filled with dreams and stories, hit an iceberg and changed lives forever. We've even created our own creative timelines, helping us understand the events that unfolded and what we can learn from them.

Last week, we went on a thrilling minibeast bug hunt! Armed with magnifying glasses and clipboards, we discovered worms, beetles, and even a ladybird! It was a fantastic opportunity to learn about different animals and their habitats. Did you know that some insects prefer dark, damp places while others love the sunshine? The world of minibeasts is full of surprises!

As always, thank you for your continued support, especially within homework and reading. As a reminder, please remember that books need to be returned on a Wednesday and home reading should be recorded in the purple homework books. We hope that many year 2's will be able to have a reward at the end of the term for completing their bookmarks. As a team, it is greatly appreciated.

**Miss Cornwell**



# Year 3

I hope this newsletter finds you well and settling into the autumn season. We have had a fantastic start to the school year in Year 3, and I wanted to take a moment to share some of the exciting activities your children have been engaging in over the past few weeks.

This term, we have centred our studies around the Stone Age, and as part of our learning, the children participated in a wonderful visit to Butser Ancient Farm. This experience was incredibly enriching, allowing them to immerse themselves in hands-on activities such as fire lighting, chalk carving, archaeological investigation, and even building a wall using clunch. It was delightful to see their enthusiasm and curiosity as they relived aspects of life during the Stone Age.

In addition to our historical studies, the children have been creatively expressing themselves through art by creating their own prehistoric paintings, drawing inspiration from what they learned during our Stone Age topic and using natural materials such as fruit and spices to create different colours. This integration of subjects has truly enhanced their understanding and appreciation of the era.

Moreover, our Science curriculum has been equally engaging, with a focus on rocks and fossils. The children have thoroughly enjoyed investigating different types of rocks and the fascinating processes that lead to fossil formation. As a part of their writing activities, they have crafted a first-person narrative that describes entering a mysterious room, which has sparked their imagination and storytelling skills. Additionally, as we approach the end of this half term, they are currently working on a non-chronological report about fossils, further expanding upon their knowledge in a structured manner.

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For our reading sessions, we have been exploring two thought-provoking books: "Greta and the Giants" and "The Pebble in My Pocket." These stories have not only captivated the children's interest but also sparked essential discussions about environmental issues and the significance of our natural world.

As we continue through this term, please encourage your child to share their learning experiences with you at home. Engaging in conversations about what they've learned can reinforce their understanding and inspire further curiosity.

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to a productive and enjoyable term ahead!

**Mrs Ainsworth**



# Year 4

As we reach the end of the first half term, I wanted to take a moment to share with you some of the exciting learning experiences your children in Year 4 have been engaging in thus far.

In guided reading, our pupils have been captivated by two fantastic texts: *The Queen's Nose* and *Young, Gifted and Black*. These stories have not only sparked thoughtful discussions but have also encouraged our students to explore themes of imagination and inspiration. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm for these books unfold. In our writing sessions, children have been busy crafting poems focused on the weather, allowing for creativity to shine through their expression. Additionally, they have explored the important topic of online safety through persuasive writing, developing arguments on why it is essential to remain vigilant on the internet. This is an excellent opportunity for discussions at home about staying safe online.

In Geography, our young explorers have delved into the parts of a river, as well as latitude and longitude, the equator, and the tropics. Understanding these concepts enriches their knowledge of the world and helps them make connections to their surroundings. In Design and Technology, we have been focusing on healthy and varied diets, particularly around the creation of sandwiches. Children have enjoyed designing and making their unique sandwiches, highlighting the importance of balanced nutrition.

As an exciting finale to this half term, we are looking forward to a visit from Zoolab. This interactive session will tie in perfectly with our Science topic of living things and their habitats, allowing students to engage hands-on with some fascinating creatures. We greatly appreciate your continued support and encouragement at home. Please feel free to engage your children in conversations about what they are learning; it can significantly enhance their understanding and retention!

Thank you for your partnership in your child's education. Here's to a fantastic finish to our autumn term, and I wish you all a splendid half term break ahead!

**Mrs Ainsworth**



# Year 5

This term, Year 5 have been diving into the world of decimals in maths. The children have been learning to read, write, and order decimals up to three decimal places, within fractional parts, which has really strengthened their understanding of place value. They've explored how to add and subtract decimals, and have begun to apply these skills to real-life contexts, such as money and measurements. It's been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they solve increasingly complex problems, and they've enjoyed using games and practical activities to reinforce their learning.

In writing, Year 5 have been focusing on strengthening their fundamental grammar skills. They've been working hard to include a variety of conjunctions and adverbial phrases to improve the quality and flow of their sentences. Through shared writing activities and individual practice, they are learning how to extend their sentences in a way that makes their writing more engaging. We're proud of how they are applying these skills across different genres, making their written work more descriptive and cohesive. We wrote a third person narrative with cultural references, and also wrote a formal letter of application to be a crew member on the Endurance, Ernest Shackleton's expedition ship, which sailed in 1914. This is having

studied Shackleton's Journey, by William Grill, in our reading lessons.

In history, Year 5 have travelled back in time to Ancient Greece! From exploring Greek mythology and the Gods to learning about the origins of democracy, the children have been fascinated by how Ancient Greek culture continues to influence the world today. They've been particularly interested in learning about the Olympics and how they compare to the modern-day games.

**Mr England**



# Year 6

Year 6 have been hard at work in maths, focusing on solidifying their strategies for addition and subtraction with numbers up to the millions. The children have been practising their skills through a range of challenging word problems and puzzles, helping them understand when and how to apply different methods. Whether using the column method or mental arithmetic, their ability to calculate efficiently and accurately is growing stronger every day. We've been particularly impressed with their problem-solving skills and how they are showing increasing resilience in tackling multi-step problems.

In writing, Year 6 have been focused on securing their understanding of grammar fundamentals. They've been working to improve sentence structure by using a wider variety of conjunctions and adverbial phrases to extend their sentences. The children are learning how these tools can add depth and detail to their writing, making it more compelling and fluid. We've seen excellent progress as they apply these skills in their independent writing tasks across different subjects.

In history, Year 6 have embarked on a fascinating journey through World War II. The children have been learning about key events, such as the outbreak of the war, the Blitz, and the impact on everyday life in Britain. They've been captivated by the stories of evacuees and the experiences of those on the home front, discussing how communities pulled together in challenging times. They've been working on creating personal timelines of key wartime events, helping to deepen their understanding of this significant period in history.

**Mr Davies**





# School Calendar

First day back after Summer Holidays: Monday 4th November 2024

Christmas Break: Monday 23rd December - Friday 3rd January 2024

First day back after Christmas Break: Monday 6th January 2024

## NOVEMBER

<b>4th November</b>	New Year R 2025 Parent Evening 2
<b>5th November</b>	Maths Inspiration trip AMSP
<b>7th November</b>	FOM Year 1 and 2 Disco
<b>8th November</b>	Remembrance Assemblies
<b>11th November</b>	Year 11 Mock Exams Begin
<b>15th November</b>	Children In Need
<b>15th November</b>	FOM Community Quiz Night
<b>20th November</b>	Primary Flu Vaccination
<b>25th November</b>	Year 5 Bike Ability Week 1
<b>28th November</b>	School Councillors Trip to Portsmouth Guildhall
<b>28th November</b>	Senior Section dance Showcase

## DECEMBER

<b>2nd December</b>	Year 5 Bike Ability Week 2
<b>6th December</b>	Little Sunbeams Nativity
<b>6th December</b>	FOM Christmas Fayre
<b>9th December</b>	Senior Week of House Celebrations
<b>10th December</b>	Year R Nativity

## DECEMBER

<b>12th December</b>	Senior Flu Vaccinations
<b>17th December</b>	Year 3 - 6 Christmas Show
<b>17th December</b>	Senior Christmas Concert
<b>20th December</b>	Celebration Assembly



**Mayfield School**



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