



Mayfield School News

Spring 1 2026 Issue



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Message from the Head



Dear families,

As we reflect on the first part of 2026, it has been a half term full of energy, ambition and community at Mayfield. We began the year with an INSET day that brought staff together in community circles and focused on strengthening our curriculum, refining our Teaching and Learning Toolkit, and continuing the implementation of our reading strategy. This work reflects our shared commitment to ambition for every child and to continually improving the experiences and outcomes we provide.

It has been a pleasure to welcome students back into school and see how quickly they re-established routines with positivity and focus. Across both primary and secondary phases, the respect and inclusion shown through the way students support one another has been a real strength of the term and continues to define our school community.

Learning and development have remained at the heart of our work. In the primary phase, our partnership with Rivers C of E Trust has supported strong inclusive practice, with learning walks highlighting effective strategies such as choral response, partnered talk and cold calling to ensure high expectations and participation for all. In secondary, assemblies and classroom practice have focused on our literacy drive, moving into the next phase of Reading in Action. Through reading aloud, thinking aloud and explicit vocabulary teaching, we are building confident readers, speakers and learners.

This term has also provided many opportunities beyond the classroom. Residential experiences, such as the Year 4 visit to Minstead, demonstrated our values in action, with students embracing challenge, supporting one another and showing respect for their environment. Parents' and carers' evenings, SEND review meetings and ongoing collaboration with organisations such as Portsmouth Parent Voices

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have strengthened our inclusive partnerships with families and ensured that every child receives the support they need to thrive.

The arts have been a particular highlight this term. Dance Live has showcased the creativity, teamwork and determination of our children across both phases. We are incredibly proud of our secondary team for achieving an outstanding second place in a highly competitive field, and our primary team as they took to the stage and demonstrated great skill by performing a range of dance genres. These performances, along with in-school showcases, have been powerful examples of our values -ambition, inclusion and respect in action.

We were also delighted to welcome the Deputy Director of Education for Children, Families and Education, whose visit and highly complementary feedback recognised the significant progress being made and the positive relationships that underpin our school.

Thank you to our staff, students, families and volunteers for your continued support and commitment. Together, we are creating a school community where ambition is nurtured, inclusion is embedded and respect is lived every day. We look forward to the opportunities ahead as we continue to believe, achieve and succeed together.

Mr A Howard
Headteacher





Secondary News

House News

It has been a busy and positive period for the House Team, with plenty to celebrate across the school community.

We were particularly pleased with the resilience shown by students during the recent Base Test. Students approached the challenge with maturity and determination, demonstrating excellent focus and perseverance. It was fantastic to see so many students pushing themselves and giving their very best effort.

Participation in the House Games during assemblies has also been impressive. The enthusiasm, teamwork, and friendly competition on display have created a great atmosphere and strengthened house spirit across all year groups. Thank you to everyone who has taken part and supported their teams.

A huge well done must go to all students who either competed in or supported Dance Live. The commitment, creativity, and teamwork involved in preparing for such an event is no small achievement. We are extremely proud of everyone who contributed, whether on stage or behind the scenes.

Finally, it was great to see such strong engagement during the recent PD Day. Students approached the sessions thoughtfully and maturely, contributing positively and making the most of the opportunities provided.

Thank you to all students for their continued effort and involvement — your enthusiasm and resilience make a real difference to our school community.

House Team



Events

Quantum Theatre performs A Christmas Carol!

Quantum Theatre visited Mayfield this half-term, performing a live adaptation of A Christmas Carol for our Year 10 students.

This engaging and immersive performance was a fantastic experience for our students, bringing Dickens' classic text to life in an accessible and memorable way. The production supported students in developing a deeper understanding of the narrative, characters and key themes, while also reinforcing important quotations studied in class. Overall, it was an enjoyable and valuable opportunity that enriched their learning and enhanced their appreciation of the text.



From Classroom to Stage: French Comes Alive!

We hosted 'Onatti Productions', who performed a French Play 'RSVP' to our French learners from Year 6 to Year 8. Alongside students from our other Trust schools, there was a real buzz in the main hall, including fantastic audience participation and even some acting from our students on stage! With French going from strength to strength at Mayfield, we welcomed this exciting opportunity to broaden learning and cultural experiences. Bravo to all our French learners!



Exploring Future Pathways Through Languages

Where can languages take you? A group of Year 9 and 10 students explored this question during an inspiring visit to the University of Portsmouth, discovering what it's really like to study languages at university. They experienced the university's state-of-the-art interpreting suite and heard first-hand stories from people who have lived and studied abroad. The visit gave our students plenty to think about as they consider their next steps.



Holocaust Memorial Day 2026

The Holocaust Educational Trust HMD Webcast

To mark Holocaust Memorial Day (27th January), some of our students took part in the 2026 Holocaust Education Trust webcast featuring Holocaust survivor Paul Sved BEM.

Paul shared a powerful first-hand account of his experiences during the Holocaust, alongside reflections from his son, Richard, on growing up as the child of a survivor and the importance of passing these stories on to future generations. The session deepened students' understanding of history, resilience, remembrance, and human rights. We are proud of the maturity and attentiveness shown by students throughout this meaningful learning experience.

Throughout this week, our students have been learning more about the Holocaust within activities and assemblies and weaving their knowledge into their learning.



Secondary Dance Live! 2026

This half-term saw two dress rehearsal performances, giving our entire primary section the chance to see what we had been working so hard on. We took 100 performers and a 20-strong backstage team to the Guildhall to compete in this year's Dance Live event. Every single student gave their absolute all, and their dedication was rewarded with an incredible 2nd place, along with the Creative Award for Costume. Our team, made up of students from Years 7-11, more than held their own against sixth forms and colleges. They represented the school with grace, maturity, and professionalism, acting as outstanding role models throughout the event. We've since received messages from many schools and colleges not only congratulating us on our success, but also praising how wonderful their interactions with our students were.

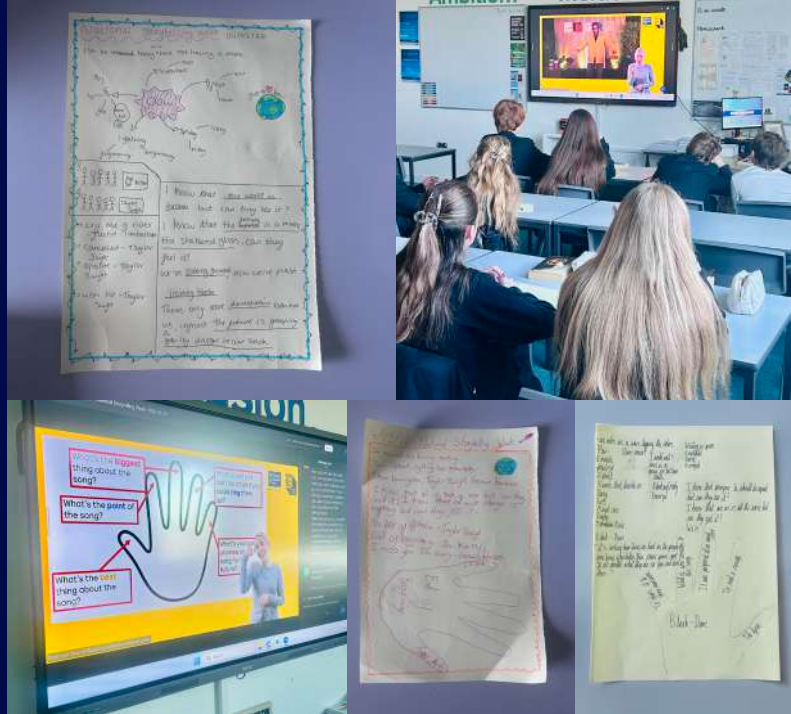


National Storytelling Week

In English this half-term, Year 8 enjoyed the wonderful opportunity to hear from and work with the author Jeffrey Boakye, writer of Musical Truth that they read during the autumn term.

They were invited to creatively explore where we find and source stories from; what matters most to them and how song selection can creatively lead to story writing.

This morning proved an engaging and inspiring first free event to mark the National Year of Reading 2026 - we are looking forward to further exciting author events this year.



PD Day #2 - Inclusion

Our second PD Day of the week focused on the theme of inclusion and offered students a wide range of engaging and meaningful activities. Students explored what inclusivity means to them by creating their own designs for a new wall on the school grounds, highlighting the importance of respect, diversity and belonging within our community. Alongside this, career workshops took place, giving students valuable opportunities to speak with employers, ask questions and prepare for their next steps beyond school. Maths and English revision sessions were also running throughout the day, supporting students with their learning and exam preparation. Meanwhile, Year 7 students took part in energetic team-building activities, helping them to build confidence, strengthen friendships and develop collaboration skills. Overall, the day was both inspiring and productive, reinforcing our commitment to inclusion and personal development for all students.

Author Melinda Salisbury visits Mayfield!

Year 7 students were delighted to welcome author Melinda Salisbury to school. During her visit, she spoke about her book series, which explores the role of artificial intelligence and its impact on young people's lives. Inspired by her talk, students took part in a creative challenge to design their own piece of new technology and present their ideas to a panel of "investors" (teachers). Their imaginative designs were enthusiastically backed. Copies of Melinda Salisbury's books will be available to borrow from the school library.



Careers Events



Get ready for the future you want.

We started this half term in our tutor groups by discussing Career Education, different types of qualifications, what they can lead to, and the academic pathways students may follow when they leave Mayfield. This provides a powerful opportunity to explore career options in a low-pressure, supportive environment.

In addition, we took our Year 7 students to the University of Portsmouth, where they had the opportunity to work with and get to know a variety of local employers. They also began thinking about the many positive qualities and skills they could offer a future employer.

We have also started discussions with our Year 10 students about College Taster Days taking place in the summer term. They attended their first assembly with the City of Portsmouth College, where staff explained how the system works and what will be offered as part of the taster courses. Additionally, students have begun their one-to-one careers appointments with our careers adviser to discuss the options available to them when they leave Mayfield.

During our most recent Personal Development Day, the theme was “Meet an Employer”. All year groups had the opportunity to speak with a range of employers who visited Mayfield School and shared advice on current labour market demands and the transferable skills students need to develop to be employable.

If you would like to get involved in our careers education curriculum or have any questions about college or university trips and outreach programmes, please contact Mrs Munoz in Room 149 (emunoz.mayfield@salterns.org).

Mrs Munoz





Primary News

Message from the Head of Primary



This half term has been filled with great ambition across our Primary phase, particularly in writing, maths, and the overall presentation of work. Students have shown real pride in what they produce, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow. We have also enjoyed some fantastic trips, including a very wet but memorable residential at Minstead and an inspiring visit to the Mary Rose Museum.

A huge congratulations goes to our Dance Live! students, whose technically superb dancing and natural talent for performing shone on stage. We are incredibly proud of every one of them. Thank you to the adults who made this muchloved event possible again this year for over 60 children.

As part of our OPAL play initiative, we continue to be grateful for any toys or equipment you may be clearing out if you are having a spring clean over the half term break. Children can bring these into their classrooms at any time and we will direct your wonderful contributions to Miss Ray and the Play Team for organising!

It is with great sadness that we share the news that a member of our primary teaching team has passed away. Thank you for your kind wishes and understanding over the past week. We send much love to Mrs Turnbull's family as they navigate this difficult time.

Looking ahead, next half term we will be holding a 'Pink Day' in support of Cancer Research; a charity close to all of our hearts. Children are welcome to wear pink on this day for a small donation – more details to follow. Staff will be taking things one step further by taking part in the Pretty Muddy 5k event on 9th May, and we wish them the best of luck!

May I mention that it seems some parents are not receiving Class Charts notifications as frequently as they should. Whilst we are working on this issue,

please do continue to check Class Charts regularly, as the messages will still be available as normal in the app.

We also look forward to welcoming Mrs Gray to our Learning Support Assistant team after half term. Mrs Gray's experience in the health service and her prior work with families in the city will be invaluable and we cannot wait for her to start!

We wish you a peaceful half term with your families and look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 23rd February.

Miss R Osborne
Head of Primary



Events

Primary Dance Live! 2026

A huge well done to Mayfield Primary for an amazing performance at Dance Live! Showcasing Tap, Contemporary, Charleston, Street dance, Bollywood and Ballet, the children delivered an unforgettable performance. Some of these talented youngsters had never even stepped on a stage before, making their confidence, excitement and enjoyment even more impressive. They navigated the day with respect, ambition and inclusion, truly showcasing our Mayfield values. Extra congratulations on winning Best LED Background Screen — thanks to our creative Year 6 artists. Miss Smith and the team are incredibly proud of you all!



From Classroom to Stage: French Comes Alive!

We hosted 'Onatti Productions', who performed a French Play 'RSVP' to our French learners from Year 6 to Year 8. Alongside students from our other Trust schools, there was a real buzz in the main hall, including fantastic audience participation and even some acting from our students on stage! With French going from strength to strength at Mayfield, we welcomed this exciting opportunity to broaden learning and cultural experiences. Bravo to all our French learners!

Year 4 take on Minstead!

Our Year 4 students had a fantastic time on their trip to Minstead. Throughout the visit, the children enjoyed exploring the beautiful natural surroundings, discovering wildlife, and making the most of the great outdoors. They took part in a range of exciting, hands-on activities that challenged them to step outside their comfort zones and try something new.

Working closely together, the students showed excellent teamwork, encouraging and supporting one another as they tackled each activity. The trip provided valuable opportunities to build confidence, independence, and resilience, while also strengthening friendships. Most importantly, it was a fun and memorable experience, filled with laughter and learning, that the children will remember for a long time.



Fast Cars, Bright Futures

What an unforgettable experience for our Year 5 and 6 girls at the Williams F1 Experience! From the moment we arrived, curiosity and excitement were in full throttle. The girls explored the museum, coming face to face with iconic Formula 1 cars and the incredible stories behind them. They took on the challenge of virtual racing, competing around three world-famous circuits, and truly felt the speed and precision of F1. Stepping into the shoes of real engineers, they designed, built, and tested their own crumple zones, discovering how science, creativity, and problem-solving come together in motorsport. A powerful day of hands-on learning, teamwork, and inspiration—future innovators well and truly in action!

What a Wonderful Half-Term!

Wow, what a whirlwind of a half term it has been! It's hard to believe how much we've packed in since returning from the Christmas holidays. The children have settled back beautifully, and we have loved diving straight into our new topic: Winter.

Over the past few weeks, we've explored all things chilly. The children have learned about winter weather, seasonal changes, Arctic animals, and so much more. The recent frosty mornings have certainly helped bring our learning to life! There has been so much excitement as the children spotted real life signs of winter all around them.

We have also been fully immersed in Drawing Club, and we couldn't be prouder of the children's enthusiasm and developing writing skills. This half term, we have explored a wonderful range of texts and video clips, including:

- We're Going on a Bear Hunt
- The Dot
- The Great Race
- Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Each story has sparked imagination, storytelling, creativity, and some brilliant markmaking and writing.

The weather certainly hasn't stopped the children's curiosity! They have absolutely loved investigating ice and frost outdoors, noticing textures, patterns, and the way things change when they melt. And of course... there may have been one or two muddy puddles involved along the way!

Thank you for your continued support. We are so proud of everything the children have achieved this half term, and we can't wait to see what adventures await next.

The Year R Team

Year 1

This half-term has flown by, and Year 1 have been incredibly busy, learning and exploring so much over the past six weeks.

The children have continued to enjoy Drawing Club this half term, and it's been wonderful to see their confidence and independence growing. They are beginning to take real ownership of their ideas, and we've been so impressed with the ambitious vocabulary and descriptive adjectives appearing in their sentences. Their creativity is really shining.

In Maths, the children have been building their understanding of part-part-whole models, using them to explore how numbers can be made and broken apart. We have now moved on to addition and subtraction through "First, Then, Now" stories. The children have enjoyed using practical resources and storytelling to make sense of these new concepts.

This half term, we have been recapping some of our previously taught sounds in Phonics, and the children are doing brilliantly. Their confidence in recognising and using these sounds is really growing.

Science has been exciting this half-term, with the children exploring materials and their properties. They learned new vocabulary such as transparent and opaque and especially enjoyed our waterproof experiment to find the best material for the little pigs' house.

In Geography, the children turned their attention to our planet, learning about the equator, the North Pole, South Pole, deserts and the rainforest. They loved comparing these places and discussing how their climates differ.

Computing lessons have given the children plenty of opportunities to problem-solve, as they learned to program Bee-Bots. They practised giving clear instructions and worked hard to debug their code when things didn't go quite as expected.

PE has been all about developing strength, balance, and control, with the children practising shapes, balances, hops, and beginning to build towards handstands and cartwheels. They rounded off the unit by creating short routines that showcased all their new skills.

Music has been wonderfully creative, as the children combined everything they've learned so far to produce an underwater-themed performance. Using instruments, singing, and body percussion, they worked together to create an atmosphere and tell a story through sound.

We are incredibly proud of the children's hard work, curiosity, and enthusiasm this half-term. We can't wait to see what they achieve in the next half term! Thank you as always for your continued support and we hope you all have a lovely week off!

The Year 1 Team

Primary News

Year 2

What a truly exciting, engaging and memorable half term we have enjoyed in Year 2! It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the school year, and the progress the children have made since September has been wonderful to see. They have shown fantastic enthusiasm for their learning and have impressed us daily with their curiosity, creativity and determination. It has been a pleasure to watch them grow in confidence across all areas of the curriculum.

In History, the children have absolutely loved taking a deep dive into the fascinating story of the Mary Rose. They thoroughly enjoyed learning about King Henry VIII and discovering what life was like during Tudor times. This topic really captured their imaginations and sparked many thoughtful discussions and questions. Our learning was wonderfully brought to life during our school trip to the Mary Rose Museum, where

the children took part in engaging workshops and were amazed to see the Mary Rose with their very own eyes. This was a truly special experience and one that the children have spoken about with great excitement. It has been clear to see just how much they have loved this topic.

In writing, the children have been working incredibly hard and producing some fantastic pieces of work. They wrote a detailed non-chronological report all about materials and their properties, carefully using ambitious and topic-specific vocabulary throughout. In addition to this, the children wrote an exciting and formal invitation to the King, inviting him to visit our wonderful Gallery of Achievement. They took great pride in their writing, focusing on presentation, sentence structure and vocabulary, and the results have been something to celebrate.

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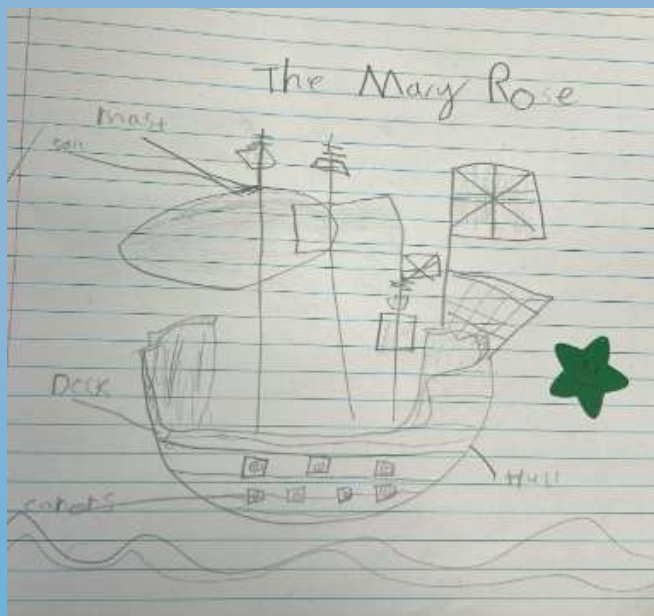


Primary News - Year 2

In Reading, the children have been thoroughly enjoying their guided reading sessions and have loved exploring a wide range of books together as a class. We have spent time looking deeply into texts, sharing ideas and discussing our thoughts. Two favourites have been *The Street Beneath Our Feet* and *Coming to England*, both of which sparked great interest and curiosity. The children have worked extremely hard to develop their retrieval, summarising and prediction skills, showing increasing confidence in explaining their answers and using evidence from the text to support their ideas.

In Maths, we have been exploring a variety of methods to help the children confidently learn and understand the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. The children have enjoyed solving a range of problems and deepening their understanding through mathematical journaling. This has allowed them to explain their thinking clearly and develop strong reasoning skills, showing resilience and perseverance when faced with challenges.

The Year 2 Team



19.01.26

LO: pupils can represent counting in tens as the ten times table and represent the ten times tables in different ways.

Factors	Product
0×10	$= 0$
1×10	$= 10$
2×10	$= 20$
3×10	$= 30$
4×10	$= 40$
5×10	$= 50$
6×10	$= 60$
7×10	$= 70$
8×10	$= 80$
9×10	$= 90$
10×10	$= 100$
11×10	$= 110$
12×10	$= 120$

Write the multiplication number sentence that the pencils represent

10 pencils 10 pencils 10 pencils 10 pencils

1. 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60

2. What is the product of 4 and 10?

3. How many children are there if there are 50 fingers?

4. True or false? If I have nine 10p coins, I have 80p altogether? Prove it. (false)

Handwritten notes and calculations on grid paper:

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120

$10 \times 1 = 10$ $10 \times 2 = 20$ $10 \times 3 = 30$ $10 \times 4 = 40$ $10 \times 5 = 50$ $10 \times 6 = 60$ $10 \times 7 = 70$ $10 \times 8 = 80$ $10 \times 9 = 90$ $10 \times 10 = 100$

$2 \times 10 = 20$ $3 \times 10 = 30$ $4 \times 10 = 40$ $5 \times 10 = 50$ $6 \times 10 = 60$ $7 \times 10 = 70$ $8 \times 10 = 80$ $9 \times 10 = 90$ $10 \times 10 = 100$

$4 \times 10 = 40$ $10 \times 4 = 40$

$5 \times 10 = 50$ $10 \times 5 = 50$

$6 \times 10 = 60$ $10 \times 6 = 60$

$7 \times 10 = 70$ $10 \times 7 = 70$

$8 \times 10 = 80$ $10 \times 8 = 80$

$9 \times 10 = 90$ $10 \times 9 = 90$

$10 \times 10 = 100$



Year 3

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic half term we have had in Year 3! The children have worked incredibly hard across all subjects, and we are so proud of the progress they have made and the enthusiasm they bring to their learning each day.

In science, the children have been exploring forces and magnets. They especially enjoyed investigating how objects move on different surfaces and discovering which materials are magnetic. Their projects were creative, thoughtful, and a pleasure to see.

In English, the children wrote imaginative stories about animals facing problems, and these were engaging, well-structured, and full of brilliant ideas. They also applied their geography knowledge of the United Kingdom to write non-chronological reports about famous UK landmarks, showing a strong understanding of both writing skills and geographical features.

We have also been incredibly impressed with how enthusiastically the children have thrown themselves into our Times Tables Rock Stars battle. Their determination, teamwork, and consistent effort have been wonderful to see, and we are very proud of the progress they are making with their times tables.

We have continued to develop our singing with our music specialist, and the children have particularly enjoyed performing our lively Vikings song each week. Their confidence and teamwork during music lessons have been lovely to watch.

In PE, the children learned a variety of skills needed for basketball, including dribbling, passing, and working cooperatively as a team. They also benefited from sessions with a specialist tennis coach, which they thoroughly enjoyed and approached with great enthusiasm.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the half term. We hope you all have a wonderful and restful break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back for an exciting Spring 2.

The Year 3 Team

We cannot believe how quickly Spring 1 has flown by! It has been a busy and exciting half term for Year 4 in both Mississippi and Yangtze Class, and we are incredibly proud of all the hard work the children have shown.

Mathematics

In Maths, we have been focusing on developing efficient strategies to learn our 3, 6, 9 and 7 times tables, alongside the related division facts. The children have been applying this knowledge daily through games such as Daily 10 and Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS), which they thoroughly enjoy. We have also been strengthening our reasoning and problem-solving skills by tackling a range of challenging questions linked to multiplication and division.

Writing

In Writing, the children have been exploring the features of newspaper reports. They have learned how to use first and third person, write in the past tense, use speech marks for quotations, and include alliteration for effect. Using these tools, they planned and wrote their own newspaper articles reporting on the recent cold weather conditions. We have been very impressed with their creativity and application of these skills.

Reading

Our class text this half term has been Varjak Paw. The story follows a young Mesopotamian blue kitten navigating the challenges of a big, unknown city in order to save his family. The children are thoroughly enjoying this exciting and adventurous story and have been developing their comprehension skills by answering a wide range of questions to deepen their understanding.

History

In History, we have been learning about the Viking invasion of Anglo-Saxon Britain. The children explored the reasons behind the Viking invasions and gained an understanding of how this period shaped British history.

Religious Education

In RE, we have been learning about stewardship

within Christianity. We discussed what it means to care for the Earth and why Christians believe this is important, as people made in God's image.

Physical Education

In PE, the children have been developing their skills in netball and rugby. They have shown excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship.

Music

We have been very fortunate to have Mrs Hart joining us in Music this half term. The children have been developing their vocal skills and have been learning to sing "Consider Yourself" from Oliver Twist. We look forward to seeing their continued progress.

Year 4 Residential

A real highlight of this half term was the Year 4 residential visit to Minstead Study Centre. The children demonstrated fantastic independence and resilience while taking part in activities such as orienteering, fire starting, forest walks and preparing their own meals. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to challenge themselves, build confidence and create lasting memories.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you all have a restful half term break and look forward to another exciting term ahead.

The Year 4 team



What a wonderful half term it has been in Year 5. It's amazing to think we are already halfway through the school year, especially when Spring 1 has been so full of energy, learning, and achievement. The Year 5 team is incredibly proud of every single child and all they have accomplished.



This half term has been bursting with highlights. Some of our students took part in Bikeability, showing brilliant resilience, focus, and growing confidence as they learned how to stay safe on the roads.

In writing, the children have created their own third-person stories set in Ancient Greece, using cultural references, expanded noun phrases, and dialogue to bring their narratives to life. We also wrote an engaging biography about Mae Jemison, learning how to organise information clearly and celebrate the achievements of an inspiring figure in space exploration.

Caribbean's Class Assembly was a true celebration of the children's enthusiasm and teamwork.

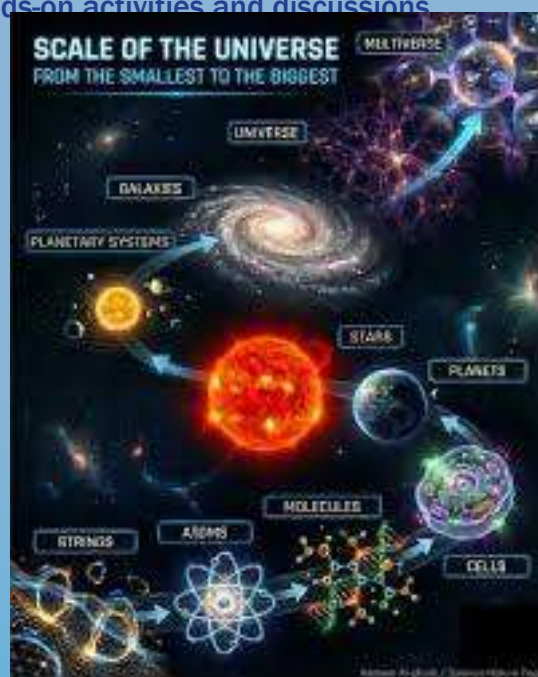
They performed with confidence and joy, and it was wonderful to see them share their learning with such pride.

In maths, we have explored area and scaling, deepening our understanding of how shapes can grow, shrink, and be compared. The children have shown great perseverance as they tackled these new concepts.

Our geography lessons have taken us across the globe as we investigated human and physical features. The children have become increasingly confident using atlases to locate places and understand the world around them.

In French, we have been exploring body parts and continuing to develop our spoken French, building confidence in pronunciation and everyday vocabulary.

One of the most exciting opportunities this half term has been our space sessions with the University of Portsmouth. The children have been captivated by the wonders of our solar system and have engaged brilliantly with the hands-on activities and discussions.



We have also continued to practise our Year 5 and 6 statutory spellings, strengthening accuracy and confidence in writing. In PE, the children have enjoyed a range of team games, developing communication, cooperation, and sportsmanship.

It has truly been a packed and joyful half term with so much to celebrate. The progress, enthusiasm, and positivity the children bring each day make Year 5 a wonderful place to be. We are so proud of them all and cannot quite believe we are already halfway through the year.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you enjoy a restful break, and we look forward to another fantastic half term ahead.

The Year 5 Team

Primary News

Year 6

With Christmas a distant memory and January seeming like it was to never end, here we are at the February half term and mid school year point already. We have had a busy start to the new academic year and really rising to the challenges ahead of us. Here is a snippet of what we have been learning.

In reading, we have been reading Skellig, by David Almond, following the story of Michael, who has just moved into a house in need of renovation, with his mother, father and unwell baby sister. With his parents focused on his baby sister, Michael finds that they do not really have the time for him and he explores the overgrown garden of the new house, leading to a dilapidated garage. In the garage, Michael discovers Skellig, a being seemingly crossed between a human and an owl. We have followed them through the themes of family, change, friendship and trust. We empathised with Michael and discussed the differences between him and Skellig, using information from the text.

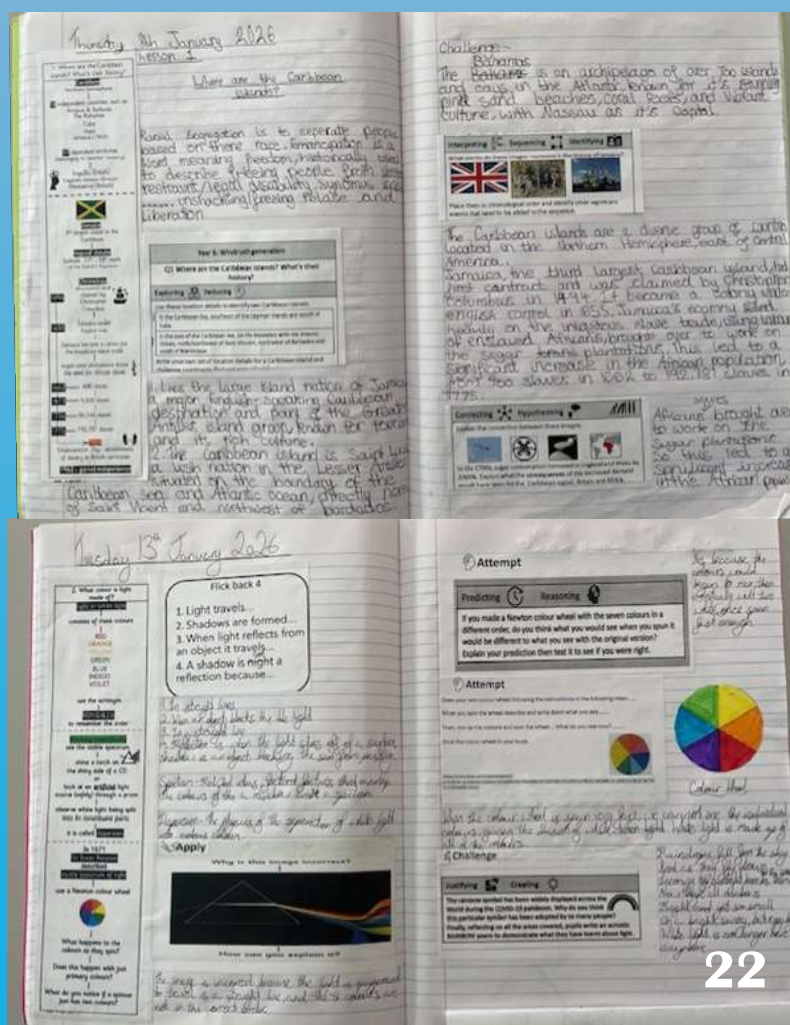
In writing, we started the half-term writing a third person extended narrative text, based on a disaster. We based our writing on visual stimulus, using extracts from the film 'Impossible', based on the true story of the 2004 Boxing Day Indian Ocean Tsunami disaster. This helped us to create some powerful and emotive writing, with plenty of opportunities to advance the action and story through character dialogue and description. We have developed our skills in adding in adventure, using parenthesis and the vary ways to punctuate this, as well as varying sentence types for effect and using the past and past progressive tenses. We finished the half term writing an explanation text about Tsunami's, allowing us to apply our Geography skills from last half term when we studied volcanoes and earthquakes. We were able to use higher level and precise vocabulary, key facts, non-fiction text organisational features, along with visual prompts, to support the reader, such as, labels, diagrams and maps.

In maths, we are now well into our SATs revision curriculum, as well as ensuring the Year 6 curriculum coverage. We started the half term

with place value and knowledge of the number system. We have covered a range of calculations using place value to help us, with numbers up to 8-digits. We then re-visited the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, including measuring area and perimeter, and angles. We then focused on symmetry before moving on to position and direction, using grids with 4 quadrants. We have covered interpreting statistics through graphs and charts, applying our knowledge of angles and percentages, as well as working out mean averages. We then studied ratio and scale before ending the half term with multiplication and division calculation work.

In Science, we have been learning all about light. We have been learning that light travels in straight lines, how shadows are formed, refraction, Sir Isaac Newton's discovery of the colour wheel and how spectrums work, and how we see objects in the colours that we do. We have worked scientifically in carrying out experiments about angles of reflection and the types of surfaces that make the best reflectors.

CONT...



Primary News - Year 6

In History, we have been learning all about the Windrush generation, who travelled to Britain after World War II, between 1948 and 1971, from Caribbean commonwealth countries, to help rebuild Britain. We have learnt about the challenges (against expectations) they faced through segregation, the significant contributions made by them to Britain and the history of the Caribbean islands, from the early discovery of them by Christopher Columbus in 1494.

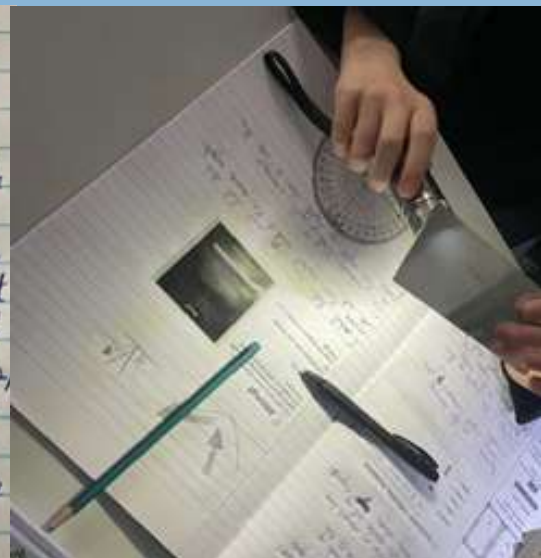
In PE we have been learning to line dance. Although not an 'authentically original' line dancing tune, we have enjoyed learning the moves to Steps' 5,6,7,8! In French, with Madame Humphries, we have been learning about describing our appearance and naming body parts. We also had the amazing opportunity to join some of our peers from the seniors in watching a play performed in French!

Thank you for your continued support and please keep encouraging your child to complete home learning tasks set, along with their times tables and corresponding division facts, and their reading and completing of AR quizzes. Have a great week ahead!

Best wishes,

The Year 6 Team

A happy family of five were on holiday in Thailand, they were staying in a beautiful resort with three different pools and palm trees everywhere. Maranda - the mum - was wearing a flowery sarong around her waist. She had lovely short hair with crystal blue eyes. "Thom, play with the boys please!" she yelled from the sun lounge to her husband. "Yeah ok. Come on boys let's play catch!" he replied while throwing the ball to Nathan (his youngest son). Laughter filled the air. Out of the blue, the birds above started to fly away, the power from the blinder went out, the wind picked up, the bushes were rustling and dogs were barking. Maranda was too lost in her book to realize what was going on, just as she was about to turn out her page, it flew out of her book. She went to retrieve it but stopped.



Notices

Portsmouth City Council want to hear from families across Portsmouth about their experiences and what really matters to them. The Portsmouth Families First Survey is your opportunity to help shape how local services support children, young people, and families in the future.

This is more than just a survey. Your views will help influence how services work together across the city and make sure support is easier to access, more joined-up, and better suited to families' real lives.

Why is your voice important?

Children, young people, and families are at the heart of Families First. By sharing your experiences, you can help improve services so they are easier to navigate, more responsive, and designed around families — whether support is accessed through schools, health services, early years, or community settings.

What is Families First?

Families First is a national programme led by the Department for Education. In Portsmouth, it focuses on offering help earlier to keep children safely with their families, reducing the number of times families are passed between services, and developing a joined-up “Family Help” approach. It also means working closely with families to co-design support and creating better, more innovative care options for children in care and care-experienced young people.

How to take part

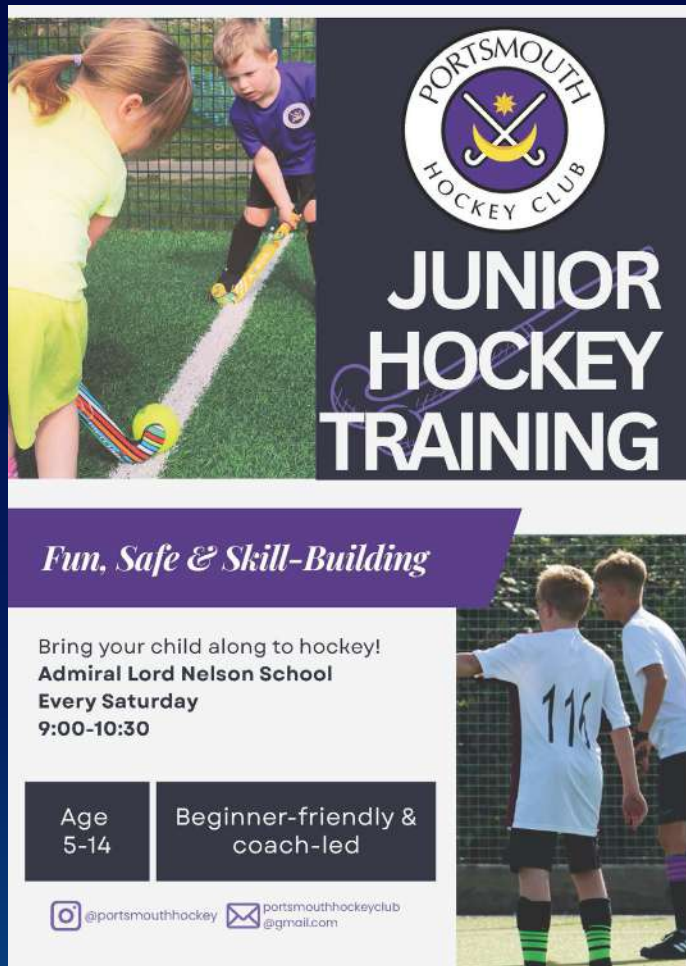
Families can share their views by completing the survey using the link or QR code. Every response helps make services better for families across Portsmouth.



Take the survey now

Scan with your phone or visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/portsmouthfamiliesfirst1>



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Friends of Mayfield February NEWSLETTER

Hello February

At this month's committee meeting we started the exciting preparations for our Primary discos and Family Easter egg hunt.

You can pick up tickets for both disco's and Easter event on 9th, 10th and 11th of February, at 3:15 and 4:15. Tickets for the discos are £5 and £3 for Easter. Please note we can only accept CASH.

WE NEED YOU

Looking ahead to our Summer Fayre, we need your help, we are looking for raffle prizes. These can be an unwanted gift, unopened and of good quality or if you know of someone with a business that could donate a prize.

We also need stalls, personal, small business or corporate, please email - janandrews0306@hotmail.co.uk

EVENTS AND DATES

Primary discos, Tuesday 17th March.

Quiz night, Friday 13th March
(adult only event)

Bingo evening, Friday 24th April
(adult only event)

Summer Fayre, Saturday 11th July.

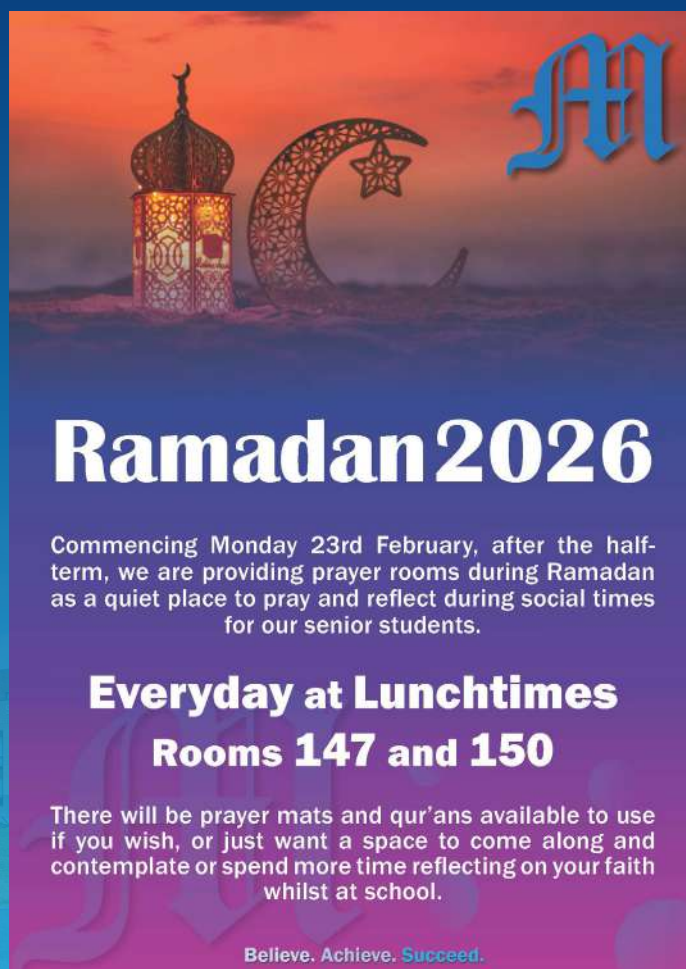
NOTICE

Our next committee meeting is on Monday 2nd of March, 5:30pm in cafe Tranquillo. Everyone is welcome to join us and find out what we are all about!

Our points of discussion will be finalising plans for primary discos and our Family Easter Egg Hunt. We will also be discussing our other upcoming events.

MORE INFO

Please join our Facebook page for up to date info or email friendsofmayfield@sailterns.org



Ramadan 2026

Commencing Monday 23rd February, after the half-term, we are providing prayer rooms during Ramadan as a quiet place to pray and reflect during social times for our senior students.

Everyday at Lunchtimes

Rooms 147 and 150

There will be prayer mats and qur'ans available to use if you wish, or just want a space to come along and contemplate or spend more time reflecting on your faith whilst at school.

Believe. Achieve. Succeed.

School Calendar

First day back after February Half-Term: 23rd February 2026

Easter Holidays: Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April 2026

First day back after February Half-Term: Monday 13th April 2026

MARCH	
5th March	World Book Day
11th March	School Photography Day 1
12th March	Year 9 Options Evening
13th March	School Photography Day 2
18th March	INSET Day
24th March	School Council Meeting 2 in Library (2:20pm)
26th March	Year 9 Parents Evening (3:30 - 6:30PM)
27th March	Celebration Assemblies: 1:45 - 3PM - Secondary Celebration Assembly



Mayfield School



mayfieldschool



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For more updates and information,
follow us on our Social Media pages
and visit our website at;
www.mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk