



Dear Parents and Carers

July 2018

The summer holidays beckon and it's time to reflect on another busy and fulfilling year at Mayfield. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the activities your children have enjoyed. We have to give huge thanks to all of our dedicated staff – teachers, TA's, admin, catering, gardening, cleaning – who regularly go above and beyond to make the school run smoothly and allow our children to thrive.

I am sure everybody in school is very pleased to see that the PTA is blossoming once again. Their activities are often the things that children most enjoy about their time at school and the Summer Fair was a roaring success to round off the year. Parents also volunteer for many other activities around the school on both a regular and one off basis. These contributions are absolutely vital to maintaining school activities as we know them so thank you to everybody who has found time in busy schedules to lend a hand.

It has also been a very busy year for the Governing Body and I would like to pass on my gratitude to my governor colleagues for their support. We worked hard to recruit a replacement head teacher for Mrs Hill's retirement at the end of the year and were very pleased indeed to appoint Mrs Ayliffe and Mrs Stepney in a joint headship. I know that they have been diligently working with Mrs Hill since their appointment to ensure a smooth handover. I've had many supportive comments from staff and parents and I'm sure you'll join me in welcoming them into their new role in September.

So – that brings me to Mrs Hill. I first met her when I visited the school as the parent of a 3 year old 20 years ago, got to know her better during my years on the PTA and have worked closely with her as a governor. However, only really in my role as Chair of Governors have I fully understood the complexity and responsibility of being a Headteacher in the 21st century. Mrs Hill has shouldered those responsibilities with energy and enthusiasm for 24 years and the Mayfield community has benefitted immensely from her experience. Here are some insights about Mrs Hill: she thinks as carefully about the needs of an individual child as she does about the data that leads to league tables; she feels responsible for the extended families of our children as well as the pupils; she believes in a holistic education; she welcomes children as unique individuals – quiet ones, noisy ones, obsessive ones, messy ones, gardeners, artists, those who need to run and those who need to dig – and she will fight for those with specific needs; she worries about her staff and their wellbeing; she's an expert on buildings and particularly on rearranging them; she has a costume for every occasion and never turns down an opportunity to wear one. We wish her a very happy, well-earned retirement!

Wishing future happiness to those families who are moving on and a very happy summer holiday for all.

Judith Greenwood

Chair of Governors

Just a few highlights from the Mayfield year



Maths

We have continued to make use of Mrs Caisova's expertise in Maths Mastery this year from Reception children working really hard to see amounts arranged in different ways and recognise the many ways that we use numbers in our day to day lives all the way to Year 6 who have used statistics to describe the human and physical geography of their own imaginary islands. Mrs Caisova has been sharing her expertise with nine other schools and bringing lots of new idea to Mayfield.

Literacy

It has been a bumper year for literacy activities including the 3rd Pippa Goodhart most improved reader awards and hosting three 'able writers' workshops at Mayfield. We also held the extreme reading competition and a book design competition. The library hosted story time with snacks after school and Reading Week featured authors Luke Temple ('Albert and the Giant Squid') and our own Rebecca Patterson ('My Big Shouting Day').

It was very exciting when Ilana won the Cambridge United book recommendation competition for World Book Day and the CU players and Marvin the Moose visited.

Recently Iris won the Big Read and Write competition judged by author Jo Cotterill – a great achievement.



We benefit enormously from the wonderful volunteers who come in to hear readers across the school and our very special celebrity listener, Smidge the Dog.

Science, Computing and DT

In science week we had a great selection of Science and Engineering experts coming in to help us learn about the jobs they do. Some were parents (thank you all for your expertise and time) and some were from local STEM businesses and organisations such as the British Antarctic Survey. Among the highlights were meeting space scientist Maggie Aderin-Pocock, a day making Rube Goldberg machines, a forensic science challenge and viewing over-sized head lice in 3D (though I'm some of you have had enough encounters with the wriggling variety!)



It has been a really exciting year in DT this year with much creativity and resilience across the classes. Lots of cooking has taken place, Year 2 were able to make elderflower cordial foraged from the Mayfield grounds, and Year 3 were able to make soup from ingredients grown on their raised beds. Year 6 proudly made Viking long ships and jungle dioramas. Year 4 made Russian dolls and independently designed weather vanes. Year 1 made bird feeders and vehicles with great success. Year 5 made cam toys and Tudor buildings.

We have been able to buy some really exciting resources this year including Raspberry Pis and Code Bugs for coding.



Music, Drama and Dance

It has been another packed and exciting year of music at Mayfield, culminating in stunning performances by the choir and orchestra. The staff and children were mesmerised by the quality of the singing talent when the school choir performed Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat in a recent assembly. Anne Taylor has succeeded in bringing out the best in the children. Huge thanks to her and to her dedicated helpers. All pupils have taken part in assemblies and in year group performances and we have been treated to diverse productions from the traditional Nativity play to The Saxon King to Macbeth. Mrs Cox's dance club has also been busy and has performed to Stravinsky's Firebird (played by the orchestra) and at the Summer Fair. The inaugural Talent Show at the Fair included everything from magic to 'baby dancers' to traditional Indian dancing.

Of course we cannot forget (the Ugly Sisters are forever seared on our memories) the first ever staff panto that was hugely enjoyed by the children and parents and at least some of the participants!! We hope our panto writers are not too overworked so that they can produce another one.

All of these events require a lot of work from staff, parents and volunteers and we are very thankful for all the help producing sets and costumes and with learning lines.



Sport



The sporting highlights this year have been many and varied with children representing the school in netball, cricket, access sports, girls' and boys' football, tag rugby, hockey and the City Youth Games. Our older children have been Sports Leaders and have enjoyed engaging younger children in sports at lunchtimes. The running club is growing and some took part in the 3k fun run in Histon. Triathlon Club is new this year and children completed their first mini triathlon at school this summer term. Balance-ability and Bike-ability continue to really help with development and safety and many children have benefitted from the new multi-skills equipment and sensory circuits as well as the specialist pilates club. It's also been an excellent year to have a lovely swimming pool! Children have really enjoyed Cambridge United events including writing competitions and Samba Fest. One of our children is now joining the Norwich City Football Club development programme after their talent team visited. Everybody was inspired by a visit from paraolympian Alistair Patrick-Heselton and we raised over £1000 for school sports equipment when he came. Big thanks to Mr Butler who co-ordinates the PE activities and to all of the staff, parents and sports leaders who give their time to provide such a rich sporting environment for our children whether that's by coaching, organising or driving children to events etc.



Art

There have been many exciting and diverse art activities this year both intra- and extra-curricular. In the autumn term Stephanie came runner up in the design a Christmas card competition for our MP and there was an excellent response to the PTA design a logo competition with the winning logo designed by Doeun now in use. Mayfield calligraphers have been busy using their calligraphy pens to make creative projects. They featured in an article in The Edge magazine (published by the Calligraphy and Lettering Arts Society) and this was the first time this magazine had ever had anything about children's calligraphy in it. Year 2 have had an amazing time working as ArtScapers with Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination, helping wrens and designing a tea room amongst other things. They invited our local seniors group to work with them, sharing places they like to meet and play and making plans for future communities. Joan (92) and Alper (7) also compared their wobbly teeth :0).



History, Geography & PSE



History and, Geography have been brought to life by some fabulous trips this year. For example, Year 1 really enjoyed a river boat trip and Year 6 went to Duxford Imperial War Museum. It made a really positive impact on their writing: seeing the planes and cars of the period; listening to sounds of wartime recordings; plus dressing up in WW2-era clothing for the day inspired the Year 6 writers and they produced some thoughtful poetry, letters and recounts. Year 5 used their historical knowledge and questioning skills to have a wonderful time at Kentwell and exploring the Tudor colleges of Cambridge.

Early in the year, the whole school made class jigsaws for anti-bullying week to show that everyone is different, and everyone is equal. The school also celebrated Empathy Day – recognising Mayfield’s empathy and taking part in a range of activities. Year 5 took on the £5 challenge to make money towards their trip in Year 6 and displayed their entrepreneurial skills. Some Reception children enjoyed ‘Stay and Play’ after school and gained in confidence.



Outdoor Spaces

The new outdoor learning pavilion has been a fantastic addition to our school grounds and has been used as a banqueting hall, a ship, a theatre and a habitat for glow worms amongst other things. It is a hub for imaginative and creative play at lunchtimes. Huge thanks to all of you who sponsored our intrepid South Downs Walkers and to them for their excellent fundraising efforts. PTA funds have also purchased the contents of our new outdoor learning shed – all to be revealed in September! The sleepers creating a flower bed in front of the bus have attracted many visitors, both children and bugs, and the log area is a real social spot. Inside the bus, the top deck has hosted another successful book group with year 6's each Thursday. Enthusiastic readers have discussed a range of interesting books.

We have all appreciated the lovely flowers around the school so many thanks to Agnes for that. Year 1 have spent every Monday afternoon 'Out and About'. Children have built dens under trees; shared stories on the reading bus; sung sea shanties in the outdoor classroom; built ships out of the equipment in the imagination shed; observed the changes of the seasons in the conservation area; and watered plants in the raised beds. There are plans afoot to increase use of the outdoor spaces for all children next year.

This year’s Eco-council reps have worked hard to see how as a school we can be more environmentally friendly. After an audit of the school one area they focussed on was recycling the packed waste from school packed lunches. After a very productive meeting, Jose was keen to try and stop using the paper bags and plastic individual wrapping all together. The kitchen staff are currently trialling this to see if it works . Well done Eco council!

During this academic year we have welcomed the following staff members

Hannah Dupré
Sophie Jenkins
Tess Mangen
Sharon Marsh
Ishvar Patel
Melanie Powell
Hannah Smith
Megan Wroe
Carrie Jeffrey (Aspens)
Monika Jarzembinska (Aspens)
Ruby Holliday (Aspens)

and the following governors:

Ed Davison
Jake Holt
Anthony Rayner

In September we will give a big welcome to:

Sam Butler - Y5 Class Teacher
Stephanie Smith – Y1 Class Teacher

The following members of staff have welcomed their own new additions by taking maternity/paternity leave:

Amarinda Benson
Rachel Emery

We have been very sad to say goodbye to the following staff during the course of the year:

Michelle Balance
Theresa Brignall
Fiona Connan
Becky Hickey
Csilla Maurnyi
Natalie Newstead
Natalie Bloor (Aspens)
Sophie Bloor (Aspens)
Celine Wares (Aspens)

And at the end of the year:

Sandra Chillingworth
Patrick Gosling
Jas Hill
Marcus Nisbet

