



2nd December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we head towards the end of term we thought we would write to you with updates from school and plans for Christmas activities.

Christmas

A timetable of activities is attached that will be taking place over the last week and a bit of term. We hope that we have managed to reimagine Christmas at Mayfield in an exciting, fun way for the children. We are very grateful to the PTA for their enormous support with preparations for craft day, and for providing a Christmas production for all the children to enjoy.

Tom's Trust Fundraiser

On Monday we shared an assembly presented by Miss Fillyar about a fundraiser we will be taking part in next week. Tom's Trust provides mental health support to children with brain tumours. During December Ben Blowes (a pride of Britain Nominee for his fund raising achievements and a Guinness World record holder for running a marathon with a tumble dryer on his back!) will run a marathon every day. That's 31 marathons. In school we will be supporting his efforts by taking part in activities such as reading for 31 minutes, telling a made up story for 31 seconds, jumping 31 times or collectively walking 31,000 steps. You can find out more about Tom's Trust by watching the assembly on the following link: <https://youtu.be/Q9eAC0ukM44>. If you would like to sponsor your child for the challenges they will be participating in next week, and support a great cause then you can do so via ParentPay.

Half Term Challenge

Thank you for the brilliant response to the half term challenge. We exceeded the 3,121 miles needed to complete the journey, and celebrated by sharing a video clip of everyone's endeavours. The link is here if you haven't seen it yet: <https://youtu.be/cCA-DFiXUoY>

Playtimes

Due to the maintenance of bubbles at school children have an identified area to use at playtimes. In order to give each class enough space we are having to use the field when previously we might have chosen not to. This does mean that the opportunity to get muddy is increased. Please make sure that your child has both indoor and outdoor shoes/wellies.

Parent Questionnaire

Next term we will send out a parent questionnaire. The two that we asked you to complete during the summer term were very helpful in supporting us with decision making for the autumn term. One of the items we will be asking for feedback on in the upcoming survey is the new parent consultation system. Anecdotally it seems to have been a success.

Staff Absence

We are very grateful to all staff for their flexibility over the term with regard to staff absence. We still have two weeks to go so don't want to tempt fate, but are very pleased that we have managed to keep all classes open so far. As we said in the last letter the need for staff to isolate whilst awaiting test results is increasingly having an impact in school. We continue to endeavour to keep all classes open and to provide the appropriate support for all children. However, please understand that there will be times when we will not be able to provide the usual support in class. Thank you for the offers of support we received following the last letter we sent.

Drop-off and Collection

We seem to have this running smoothly at present. Thank you to everyone for taking on board suggestions and changes that we have made over this term to keep everyone safe. Just one reminder – please do not park on the zigzag lines outside school or leave your engine idling – thank you.

Children taking art and crafts home

At this time of year the children will be creating some wonderful things that they will want to take home to share with you. There will be two dates that items will be sent home – 11th December (craft day) and 17th December (day before the end of term). Please be advised that it is recommended that items are quarantined for 72 hours before using them or displaying them at home.

Communication with Teachers

We continue to develop our lines of communication with the introduction of the parent consultation platform and we are grateful for your patience and mindfulness with regard to not overloading teachers with emails. As stated in the previous letter, we absolutely do not want to stunt communication with parents and carers but it is really important that we continue to consider everyone's well-being going forward.

Art project #positivity

The collages are now complete. The intention is to photograph each one and have it printed on fabric. We will then create a whole school wall hanging for the large hall for everyone to enjoy, and as a symbol of the amazing positivity we have seen amongst our school community over this year. Due to staff absence this hasn't been done just yet, but we hope to get sewing over the Christmas holidays! The actual boards will go up on display around the corridors in school.



And finally...

The second parent forum was held on Thursday 26th November at 9:30am. Thank you to those that attended. The discussion focused on how we support teachers to promote a 'dyslexia friendly classroom'. Unfortunately the session was not recorded so we are unable to send it out as promised. However below is a summary of the content.

Dyslexia Friendly Classrooms:

Approaches include:

- Where a dyslexic child is sat
- Use of off- white paper and presentations
- Alternative ways of recording work accepted as a means of showing understanding as opposed to always writing
- Work marked on content rather than spelling/handwriting
- Teachers aware that they will produce less and may need extra time the next day to have a little extra time for a task

- Dyslexia friendly toolkit years 2-6 with reference sheets, dictionaries, pencil grips, coloured paper, overlays etc for any child to access.
- Clicker 7
- Dyslexia friendly books-Barrington Stokes
- Collins high low
- Catch up series of books
- Additional reading with TA/adult in school

When to test:

We will generally only carry out a screening check 'Dyslexia Portfolio' after a period of time where concerns have been followed up, adaptations undertaken, checklists completed and progress checked over time. If there is satisfactory progress the class teachers continue to monitor.

If there are still ongoing concerns regarding reading, writing and/or spelling then we may carry out these checks which identify areas of difficulty in literacy learning. This would then enable school to make further

adaptations, consider whether a child would be added to the schools SEN register and possibly consider external advice when a child's progress is still impacted.

In both cases we now keep information so that we can pass this onto secondary school when children transfer.

The next Parent Forum will be held on Thursday 4th February at 9:30am – topic to be decided. We envisage the session lasting around 45 minutes, and it is important to note that the maximum number of people that the call will allow is 100. The link for the forum is:

Topic: Parent Forum

Sarah Stepney is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Time: Feb 4, 2021 09:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75141199179?pwd=cmd3bjh5UnlvV3poWXpzdINna3Q0UT09>

Meeting ID: 751 4119 9179

Passcode: 8SvvxT

Please do email us if you have any concerns or questions.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Stepney and Paula Ayliffe

Headteachers