



Parent Newsletter

Autumn Term 4 – Wednesday 27th September 2023

In Friday assemblies, we have been talking about our Core Values. In last week’s assembly, we talked about the core value of Empathy and Kindness, focusing on Kindness. We shared a story about our ‘hearts’ and reminded each other that ‘our words matter’ and can affect how our hearts feel. We discussed the importance of thinking about how our words can impact others both positively and negatively. We set ourselves the challenge of saying at least one kind thing to someone each day. Hopefully you have heard some kind words over last weekend!

Thank you to everyone who was able to make it to ‘meet the teacher’ evening last week. For those of you unable to attend, slides from each year group have been sent out. I have also written a summary of information about ‘Out and About’ and ‘Spirals’ that I shared at my talk, which you can see further down the newsletter.

Sarah Stepney

Out and About

About nine years ago Mayfield was invited to work with Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination (CCI) on a project developing and imagining ideas for the outdoor communal spaces at the new development – Edington. The project involved the children working outside, designing, collaborating and sharing ideas. As the project progressed the children had the opportunity to teach PGCE students at Cambridge Faculty of Education to be ‘artscapers’ and to share the joy and benefits of outdoor learning on two occasions with an All Party Parliamentary Group discussing creativity in schools. Once at the Houses of Parliament and also via Zoom during pandemic times.

What we noticed was how children thrived when learning outside. For some it was a space where ‘no-one was looking over their shoulder’, where they could ‘walk and talk and discuss learning’. We saw children who outside of the classroom were able to taking leading roles in tasks and feel more confident to share their ideas.

We decided that this was something we wanted all children to experience and given our lovely grounds felt it was something we could provide. Teachers engaged in training sessions, and began to look at the curriculum and plan how they could successfully take some of the learning outside.

We continue to provide weekly sessions of out and about, share ideas on what areas of the curriculum work well outside, share planning ideas and monitor the outcomes through pupil voice, pupil review meetings and teacher feedback.

<p>Spirals of Inquiry</p>	<p>Spirals of Inquiry is an adaptive, child-focused approach to teaching and learning. It is about continually reviewing, reflecting, adapting and reviewing practise in order to gain a greater understanding of children’s needs and adapt teaching appropriately. It was created by Linda Kaiser and Judy Halbert and used in schools across British Columbia. Having reviewed the approach carefully we decided to adopt it at Mayfield. We have always been a child centred school, and this was another tool to add to our toolkit. Over the course of the last five years we have run ‘Spirals Weeks’ In these weeks teachers have the opportunity to spend 30 minutes with each child in their class. During this time they add pieces of work that your child is proud of to a learning journal and add notes for them to say why they are proud of particular tasks they have done. The teacher also asks a set of questions: Which two people do you think believes that you can be successful in school? What’s going on with your learning? Where to next? A question is also asked that is pertinent to their classroom to gain a deeper understanding of learning in their own classroom setting. These conversations are recorded and added to the children’s learning journals. At the end of the school year the journals go home as part of the final report. We are currently in discussion as to whether these journals remain a physical book or become an online document.</p> <p>During the conversations the rest of the class are engaged with activities ranging from a morning with a specialist sports coaches, child led projects, reviews of the half terms topics, special assemblies.</p> <p>These weeks are constantly reviewed in order to support the children and the teachers to gain the best educational outcomes. This year there will be Spirals conversations in the autumn and spring term for years 1 to 4. The current year five will have an additional conversation towards the end of the summer term with their year six teacher. This year sixes had their summer term conversation with their new teachers and will have a day after half term to reflect on their residential trip which is coming up soon, and a further conversation in the spring term.</p> <p>Our school now ‘thinks in spirals’. Our school development plan’s Aims are laid out as inquiries, where teams of colleagues lead on progressing the aims whilst continually reflecting on the progress we are making towards and the direction the next steps should take.</p> <p>Staff appraisal includes a similar conversation to those teachers have with children. We have all found these conversations to be invaluable over the last two years. They have supported us to recognise and share good practise more effectively, they have supported us in recognising how we support one another in school and they have supported conversations around individual professional development.</p> <p>Where we have a question about the school we will employ a ‘spirals’ approach to finding a solution.</p>
<p>Bookbags</p>	<p>We now have some bookbags and PE bags in stock at a cost of £8 each. Please note we cannot accept cash payments. Payment is via Parentpay only. We shall be checking Parentpay daily, and have orders ready to collect at the office by the end of the day. To avoid paid for items going missing we shall not be delivering orders to the classroom.</p>

<p>School Meals on Thursday 5th October</p>	<p>The school receives funding for providing free school meals for all Reception, Y1 and Y2 children. The funding we receive is based on the number of meals taken on the school census days in October and January. It would therefore be very helpful to the school budget if as many children as possible in those year groups have a school meal on Thursday 5th October. The menu for that day is called Out of this World and filled with items the children will really enjoy including Flying Saucer Potatoes and Saturn Spaghetti Rings and our Rocket Lolly as special treats! Please note the publicised menu of roast dinner will not be available.</p>
<p>Register to View School Photos</p>	<p>Carmel Jane Photography will be visiting our school on 6th of October 2023, to take the Individual & Sibling Photos. All Parents are requested to pre-register to enable access to your child's photographs. Pre-registration is required for every photo shoot. Registration only takes a minute. Please visit www.carmeljanehop.co.uk and enter the following code: JRNBWCN You will then be asked to pre-register with your child's full school register name. Once registered, as soon as the photos are available you will receive an automatic email notification to inform you that your child's photos are now ready to be viewed and can be purchased. Don't miss out, pre-register today!</p> <p>More info to follow about family photo sessions for children outside of school.</p>
<p>Harvest Assembly Friday 13th October</p>	<p>Mayfield Harvest Assembly will be on Friday 14th October. This year we will be collecting donations for the local foodbank. Families are invited to bring donations in the morning of the 14th October, when there will be a whole school celebration assembly. Unfortunately we are unable to invite parents to this event because of space restrictions in the Large Hall.</p> <p>This is FoodBank's current list of needed items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UHT Milk • Cooking oil • Tinned vegetables • Pasta/ cook-in sauce • Breakfast tea bags • Rice • Noodles • Instant coffee (small jars) • Jam • Snack bars • Tinned soup • Tinned fruit (in fruit juice) • Sponge puddings and jellies • Savoury snacks • Rice pudding • Tinned meals eg. chicken in sauce, chilli
<p>Art Project</p>	<p>Please could we have donations of fine sandpaper to start an art project we are taking part in.</p>
<p>Dogs at School Gates</p>	<p>We would ask that dog owners please be aware that some children may not be comfortable around dogs and ensure all dogs are supervised and not blocking the school gates when children are entering the school. Also please make sure you tidy up after your dog if necessary.</p>

Local news	Exciting news that a new playground and all weather sports pitch will soon open at the end of Windsor Road. The facilities will open on the 6 th October, offering a new play area for families in the area and can be accessed by a new footpath running from Windsor Road to Darwin Green.
News from the PTA	<p>Year 6 bake sale & uniform sale Remember to come along to the Infant Playground after school this Friday (the 29th September) for our first Bake Sale of the year. Year 6 families will be providing a range of goodies all for just 50p each. Please bring your (small) change. Alongside the Bake Sale, the PTA are running a second hand uniform sale. Suggested donation of just £1 per item – cash preferred but you can also pay via Just Giving.</p> <p>Bag2School It's that time of year again when we ask for you to raid your wardrobes and donate any unwanted clothes and linen. Your child will come home with a Bag2School bag over the next few days – please fill this up and return it to school before 9am on the morning of Monday 9th October. The more our bags weigh, the more they pay! Find out more at fundmayfield.com/events</p> <p>Two events in one day! Friday 13th October may be unlucky for some, but it's lucky for us with two great events in the offing! From 3.15pm please join us for Mrs Ayliffe PTA Tea Party– a celebration of Mrs Ayliffe before her retirement at half term. And in the evening, come and join the Mayfield Governors and PTA for Quiz Night. Find out more about both events at fundmayfield.com/events</p> <p>We'd love to have some of our new bunting ready for Mrs Ayliffe day, so please send your completed flags or decorated triangles to school as soon as possible so we can sew them together ready to decorate the small and large halls. Templates are still available at the school office or at fundmayfield.com/bunting</p> <p>Last chance to vote for Mayfield to receive Council funding Voting closes tomorrow (Thursday 28th September) for Mayfield to get Council funding to the tune of £4.5k to help boost our local biodiversity. Please vote today – every vote counts and boosts our chances of receiving the funding.</p>

Dates for the Diary	
Year 6 Bake Sale	Friday 29 th September
PTA Uniform Sale	Friday 29 th September
Census Day	Thursday 5 th October
School Photos	Friday 6 th October
Bags2School	Monday 9 th October
Harvest Assembly	Friday 13 th October
Mrs Ayliffe PTA Tea Party	Friday 13 th October
Governors and PTA Quiz Night	Friday 13 th October