

MAYFIELD MESSENGER



Easter 2019



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Headmaster's Foreword



Dear Parents

It has been a ridiculously long Spring Term, but I plead Not Guilty on this. It's all to do with the fiendishly complicated method of calculating Easter Sunday in a uniquely baffling synthesis of mathematics, astronomy and theology.

Apparently, Easter falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the Spring Equinox. The result this year is a very late Easter and hence school breaking up on 10th April when we are usually tucking into our Easter Eggs! Let us take

a look back at the highlights of the last half term.

Work on the new school hall has proceeded quickly and the scheduled completion date of the end of May is still looking good. The governors, senior managers and PE staff have been lucky enough to have had a tour and we are very excited about the size of it: 3 badminton courts and enough room to play 5-a-side football, or basketball, netball or handball!

Huge thanks go also to the parents of Krishie and Nandhika for making a generous donation towards the acquisition of brand new sports equipment, such as goals, badminton nets, netball posts, gymnastic apparatus and sundry sporting paraphernalia. If anyone else is feeling in a generous mood and would like to make a contribution, please

come and let me know! The official opening will take place at 1.30pm on Tuesday 9th July, as a pre-cursor to our annual Speech Day and will be the inaugural event to take place in the new school hall. All parents are invited to attend. The ceremony will be performed by our Guests of Honour, Mayfield's own VIPs of Olympic fame, Mr and Mrs Cook.

Back to the highlights of this term, in music news, we enjoyed a spectacular Spring Concert at the Central Hall last week. The Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Guitar Band, Flute Group, Woodwind Ensemble, Orchestra and pupils from Transition to Lower III excelled themselves. Parents have been most appreciative, and one person commented to me that the finale, 'One moment, one song', brought tears to her eyes! Also, last week we held this year's Easter Service, which included a

re-telling of the Easter story by the United Reform Church interspersed with hymns beautifully sung by our children. We shall be pleased to invite them back again next year. We were also overjoyed to see the Junior Choir win the Under 8s and the Senior Choir come 3rd in the Under 11s categories at the Dudley Music Festival. Well done children and the Music Department!

In sports news, on the same day as the Dudley Music Festival, we managed to put out a full complement of teams for the Hallfield Cross Country. The children raced hard and acquitted themselves well, gaining valuable experience. In the last few weeks, the children in Upper School have contested the House matches. The House Netball was won by Scott, the House Cross Country was won by Livingstone and the

House Rugby was won by Scott.

This week we are looking forward to Lower II and Form II performing 'Hoodwinked', a tale of Robin Hood and Maid Marion, in this year's Spring Festival. At the end of the Summer Term, Lower III will perform 'Troy Story', a tragi-comic version of the legend of the Trojan Horse. It will take place at 7pm on 10th July and everyone is welcome to attend.

At the end of term, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Hassall, dinner supervisor, and Mrs Hughes, cleaner, who are both retiring at Easter after many happy years at Mayfield. We are saying 'au revoir' to Mrs Hayward, Director of Music, who is going on maternity leave and all our best wishes go with her. Mrs Gerichty, a very experienced teacher specialising in Music and Mathematics and who has taught for many

years in schools in London and the Walsall area, will ensure that the Music department is in very capable hands.

Finally, many thanks go to the staff who made Mayfield's inaugural Film Night such a great experience last Thursday. The children loved watching 'Hop' in their onesies, munching popcorn and taking home an Easter Egg each!

It has been a long, tiring but ultimately deeply satisfying and very successful term. I wish everyone a well-deserved break and a great holiday! See you back in school on 30th April.

Happy Easter!

Mr M. Draper
Headmaster

Chess

On Saturday 9th March, I went to a chess competition in Hyde, Manchester to play for my County, Staffordshire. Other Mayfield students who were there were Bobby, Sevak, Jeevan and Yuvraj. We had been specially chosen to play for the County. We were given our Staffordshire chess team t-shirts on arrival and were tutored by a chess between rounds before starting our first round. We were

competing against 8 counties such as Nottingham, Wirral and Leicestershire. The standard of the chess there was extremely high as all of the players had especially been picked by the chess heads of their counties. In our games we had a total of forty minutes plus an extra ten seconds for every move. In total we played 3 rounds over a total period of approximately four hours, including breaks, and did very well

in our games. In order to proceed to the finals, Staffordshire needed to come into the top four counties. Due to everyone's hard work, we achieved this and will soon be invited to the finals in three weeks time. It was a honour for us Mayfield pupils to be picked to play for the county and an even bigger privilege to be invited for the next competition.

By Harman



Meet The Team

What's your favourite sport?

"To watch is football, hopefully Liverpool win the league this year. To play myself either netball or badminton."



Who's on your playlist?

"I love listening to music to sing along to and have a wide taste when it comes to music. My music is on shuffle so could be anything from Queen to Lady Gaga, and songs from musicals."



Who would you invite to a dinner party (past or present)?

"Tough Question, but I love Julie Andrews so I would love to sit down and talk to her."



Which Harry Potter character would you like to be?

"This is quite controversial but Bellatrix Lestrange! I always think a good villain makes a story and I think that Helena Bonham Carter who plays her in the films is a brilliant actress."



Do you have any pets?

"No, not at the moment but I would like a rabbit."

If you could have any car, what would you pick?

"Aston Martin Vanquish, but a convertible version."



What has been your favourite holiday destination?



Mrs Pittaway

"I went to Barcelona last year and finally got to see the Sagrada Familia which is amazing."



What was your favourite subject at school?

"P.E and English—the other career I considered was sports journalism."

Do you have a sporting hero?

"Growing up I loved Sally Gunnell who was an athlete."

If you had to give up something for Lent, what would it be?

"I gave up chocolate a few years ago so I could probably do that again."

British Science Week

Pupils had an assembly by Mrs Crosby to launch British Science Week with the theme of Journeys. Children were given some ideas about different journeys they could look at over the week such as an outdoor journey,

journeys to space and the 25th anniversary of the Euro tunnel.

In science lessons pupils completed activities about journeys such as the journey of electricity, light and life. Additionally classes took part in a poster

competition which was judged on Thursday 14th March and the chosen entries have been sent off to the British Science Association.

At the end of the week there was a whole school science show for assembly followed by science workshops provided by the Mad Science, West Midlands company where they had experience of explosions. Also taking part were Early Years who have been looking at Dinosaurs.



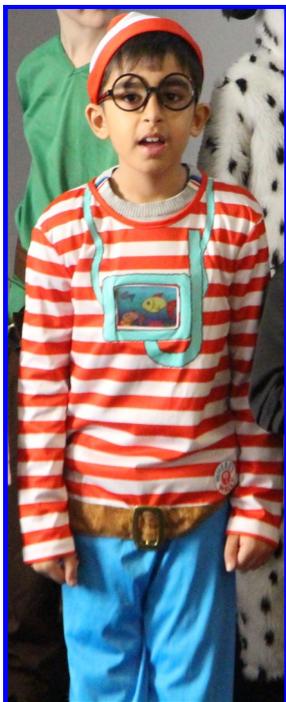
Upper II have been investigating pollution solution by mixing bicarbonate of soda with water then 'cleaning' the solution with a reagent (apple juice).

Lower II have been investigating the way water travels through different types of soils, testing the permeability

of them. They had to observe whether the soil was rapid, moderate or slow at permeability.



World Book Day



A fabulous celebration of literacy was enjoyed by all on World Book Day. Children and staff came in dressed as wonderful book characters. All outfits were displayed on our catwalk for everyone to appreciate. Later on in the morning staff read stories to the whole school.



Curriculum Focus - Sports

Our pupils have competed in a variety of sports over this last term.

The girls played netball matches against Tettenhall College, Norfolk House and Chase Grammar.

Tettenhall College took the upper hand with the Under 11's score at 4-0 and the Under 9's ending on 8-3. It was a different story when playing against Chase

Grammar where our girls won by 10-4! We also drew 3-3 whilst playing against Norfolk House.

Our runners came 4th in the Lichfield Cross Country event. They also competed in the Hallfield Cross Country event, cheered on by staff and parents alike.

In Rugby, against Hallfield School our Lower III and Upper II were beaten by 8-5.

Our team of swimmers

went to the Shelfield Swimming Gala. This proved to be another successful event as Mayfield Boys came within the top 3!

Well done to our teams for their tremendous effort and for showing great sportsmanship in true Mayfield style!



Mayfield Vs. Tettenhall College

“On Tuesday some Lower II girls, Form II girls and some Lower III girls played a netball match against Tettenhall College. When we arrived we went straight to the playground and saw who we were playing against, they were practising throwing and catching. When we were in the court we started to do some stretching then we had to run 2 laps around the court. After we practised our throwing and catching. Our team leader was Reena. Reena and Tettenhall's team leader had to catch the ball Mrs Pittaway threw where whoever caught it and then choose which goal they want to shoot in. We all got in our positions and Tettnehall's centre started us off. It was a very tough match because the score was 8-3. I scored 2 goals and Priya scored 1. At the end we all had to decide who star player was. Eve was star player in our team. We all went to the canteen and had juice and cookies. We all enjoyed our trip to Tettenhall College and hope we can have another match soon. Thanks to Mrs Pittaway for organising the match and taking us.”

By Amrissa.



“On the 27th February 2019 Form II and Lower II went to Norfolk House School to play netball. Mrs Pittaway drove the minibus and soon we were there. When we got there we were ready to win! We wanted them to give us all they got! After that we had a drink and the match started. I couldn't wait to test our skills against the best they've got to offer! It was Mayfield's centre pass. A little bit later Norfolk House got the ball and scored and Norfolk House got the second pass so now they had the ball but soon Mayfield had the ball and scored a goal. It was Mayfield's centre pass. Norfolk House got the ball and scored another goal. It was the end of the quarter. Mrs Pittaway told us some stuff and then we were back on. It was Norfolk House's centre pass. They got it passed Mayfield and scored. Then it was Mayfield's centre pass. They weren't being friendly and they didn't let us score but we weren't letting them score either. The quarter was over and Mrs Pittaway said we're getting better but they still scored 1 goal. The third quarter started. It was Norfolk House's centre pass. They got it to their side but Mayfield didn't let them score and got it to their side but then it was the end of the quarter. The final quarter started. Do you think we could score any more goals? The whistle blew and we were off. It was Norfolk House's centre pass. They brought it towards their goal but Hana and I brought it back to our goal and Amrissa scored. It was Mayfield's centre pass we got it to our goal and we scored. It was Norfolk House's centre pass but once again me and Hana got the ball and got it to our goal but then the whistle blew and the game was over. Someone brought out a table and the next thing you know Mrs Palmer's cake was on the table and we ate it and went. The score was 3-3.”

By Reena.

Pre-Nursery

Pre-Nursery have been enjoying music and movement. They have been reading the story We Are Going On a Bear Hunt.

The children used the Nursery climbing structure to help improve on their balance and coordination skills.

They also measured and mixed ingredients to make some yummy pancakes.

Pre-Nursery also explored what happens when colours are mixed.



Nursery

In Nursery our topic this Term is Dinosaurs. We have been learning which dinosaurs are herbivores and carnivores. We have been constructing dinosaurs from junk modelling and building blocks. Whilst doing this we have been looking at the 3D shapes we have used.



We celebrated Pancake Day, by making some delicious pancakes in Nursery; we used different toppings and had a vote as to which topping we liked best.

Nursery enjoyed joining in with World book day and joined in with a whole school catwalk.

We took part in a fantastic science workshop that was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children and staff.

Kindergarten

This half term we have been learning about our environment. We started by going for a walk round school, looking at different environments. We then talked about different buildings around us and have carried out a project to build model houses out of junk.

Back in early March it was Shrove Tuesday and the children enjoyed making and cooking pancakes. This was closely followed by World Book Day and the chance to dress up as our favourite book characters.



The week beginning 11th March was National Science Week. The children had the chance to enter a competition to design a poster on the theme of transport. All the entries were displayed in the school hall and they looked amazing. We all then had a chance to vote for our favourite, with the winners being sent off to a national competition.

On the Friday of Science week we had some visitors from a company called Mad Science and all the children got to take part in a workshop where they carried out their own exciting experiments.



Friday 15th March was Red Nose Day and the children had lots of fun dressing in red to raise money for Comic Relief. Scott House also ran a tuck shop so we had cakes and squash as a treat.

At the beginning of April Kindergarten presented their class Assembly to the school. They retold the story of The Three Little Pigs and showed off their model houses.

This half term ended with some fun Easter activities and an Easter egg hunt.



Easter Reading

Easter is a great time to curl up with a good book. Here are some new releases and some classics which might interest you. Remember libraries often have fun activities on during the school holidays, check out your local one.

Lower School



Upper School



Trips and Visits

Form I and Transition had a great trip to Dudley Zoo. The children had a lovely time seeing the different animals.



A group of our pupils went to Hydesville Tower School for the Maths Challenge. They competed against a group of other schools from the region and had a fabulous day.





Lower II and Upper II went to see the Ministry of Science show at Forest Arts. It was exciting, fun and informative and both classes thoroughly enjoyed learning through the medium of theatre. Nivaran has done a write up of the visit.

Ministry of Science Report

On Wednesday 27th March Lower2 and Upper2 were representing Mayfield at Ministry of Science. The aim of this trip was to have a chance to learn science, but in a more practical way. The event was held at the Forest Arts Centre. We were accompanied by Blackwood School. We were very fortunate to have Mr Watts, Mrs Cook, Miss Winson, Miss Gamble and Mrs Cummings. Once we reached, people were already ravenous but as soon as the show kicked off everyone stopped moaning. There were lots of bangs but one I would like to share is the loudest. So, they boiled Nitrogen at minus 195-196 degrees and they put it into a fizzy drink bottle and while the man was talking about it they had to do safety checks and once all that was over they closed the lid of the bottle and put it into a megalithic metal container and quickly covered it. Then.....BANG! Everyone was covering their ears but the sound was still extremely loud. Then we had a 15 minute break. Then it was just another 50 minutes and then it ended. We came out of the centre and the coach just turned up.

From all of U2 and L2 we appreciate having another brilliant opportunity.

From Nivaran



Key Dates - 2019



- ◆ 30th April Summer Term Starts
- ◆ 3rd May Form I to Moseley Old Hall
- ◆ 8th May Senior Schools Meeting
- ◆ 17th May Cricket Fixture (Home WGS)
- ◆ 20th May Swimming Gala
- ◆ 22nd May Cricket Fixture (Away WGS)
- ◆ 24th May ABRSM exams

Alumni News

On the 6th February the ex-England rugby player Jan Webster died. He attended Mayfield and Queen Mary's Grammar School. He played for Walsall Rugby Club before moving onto Moseley and becoming an England International, running 11 caps. He will be sadly missed by young and old friends alike.

Mrs A Hart



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