

MAYFIELD MESSENGER



February Half-Term 2020



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Headmaster's Foreword



Half-Term Round-up

Dear Parents,
The new year (and new decade!) began quietly and studiously; steadily it has built to a crescendo with exam week for main school and climaxing with a round of ABRSM exams for our young, budding musicians. The children, parents and staff have enjoyed workshops in Internet Safety, and a series of English and SATs workshops are being run by our teachers for the parents after half term. The

children will also enjoy a variety of school trips after half term, although Form II did take part in the Blue Coat Festival at St Matthew's Church and their singing was heavenly, thanks to the guidance of the inspirational Mrs Gerighty.

The most exciting development has been gaining the full use of the Hall of the Olympians. Since the beginning of term, the children and staff have happily enjoyed using our brand new sports equipment in our shiny new sports hall in PE lessons and after school clubs – Mrs Pittaway hasn't stopped smiling since 7th January! Although that might have something to do with Liverpool's amazing run of luck this season. The new sports hall will also include a brand new defibrillator, thanks in

large part to the goodwill of one set of parents, who have paid the full cost of it for the benefit of the school – they wish to remain anonymous but they have our most heartfelt gratitude for their generosity. We will think what to do best now with the money we raised from Livingstone's non-uniform day last week.

Finally, I wish you all a lovely half-term break and look forward to seeing the children fresh and eager on the 24th, and I am sure you will join me in welcoming Mrs Hayward back from maternity leave after half term, too.

Best wishes,

Mr M. Draper

Headmaster

PTA



PTA Roles:

Chair: Mrs K Bassi

Deputy: Mrs A Bassi

Deputy: Mr M Gill

Secretary: Mrs I Chatha

Secretary: Mrs D Power

Treasurer: Mrs J Bal

A message from Mayfield PTA: "The purpose of the PTA is three fold:

1. To help enhance the school experience for all the children throughout their school calendar with regular social events (which go hand in hand with fundraising).
2. To fundraise for both the school and charity;
3. To provide a social network for parents, particularly those new to the school.

We would like to make a school wide call out to ALL parents (throughout the school) to join the Mayfield PTA. Your contribution is invaluable to us! If you have any queries please do contact us at pta@mayfieldprep.co.uk. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our predecessors (in particular Daljit Birdi and Liz Larner) on the fantastic job they have done heading numerous positions across the board."

Key Dates: PTA Members Social (parents only) 6th March 2020 (TBC)

Movie Night: Peter Rabbit 19th March 2020

Easter Fair 2nd April 2020 3:30 PM- 5:30 PM

Parent/ Teacher Quiz night 22nd May 2020

Summer Fair 4th July 2020

Meet The Team - Mrs Marston

How have you found your new role at Mayfield?

"I'm really enjoying it. The staff and students are friendly and supportive, and it was lovely meeting some parents at Parents' Evening."

What was your favourite subject at school?

"I really enjoyed most subjects at school. Chemistry was my favourite at Secondary School. I also loved maths and I absolutely love teaching it."



Which reality TV show would you go on?

"Strictly Come Dancing. I'm not a celebrity and I have no co-ordination but I love the outfits!"



What is your favourite book of all time?

"What Katie Did. I read it over and over as a child."



Can you tell us a joke?

"Why should you worry about the maths teacher holding graph paper?"

She's definitely plotting something."



If you could have lived in any decade which one would you choose?

"The 1950's. Lots of films and TV programs I have enjoyed over the years are set in the 1950s and the years always seem to have a carefree feel, full of adventure and new hope after the Second World War."



If you weren't a teacher, what would you be?

"Definitely an Estate Agent - I love looking round other people's houses."

What are your hobbies?

"Acting as a taxi service to get my children to karate, dancing and rugby. Reading when I have time and a bit of crafting."



Which super power would you like?

"The ability to bank time. The traffic lights are always green when I'm early and red when I'm late. I'd like to be able to save those extra minutes for when I need them."

Chinese New Year

Lower School had a tremendous amount of fun during the Chinese New Year celebrations. Using iPads, dragons were brought to life in story books whilst Nursery had their very own dragon dance!

Children experienced many aspects of Chinese culture: tasting food, making hats, fans and drums, and enjoying some ribbon dancing.

Nursery also enjoyed cooking and eating some Chinese food.





Time To Talk

On the 6th February we supported Time To Talk day, Lower II gave a thought provoking assembly about the stigma of mental health and parents were encouraged to start conversations in the Courtyard. Mr Watts and Mrs Higgins also ran drop-in sessions for any children who wished to talk during Mental Health Week. #TimeToTalk.



WOULD YOU RATHER

Have the neck of an ostrich?

OR

Talk to a friend who's burying their feelings?

time to change
time to talk day
06/02/20

Choose talk,
Change lives.

#timetotalk

Swimming

Mrs Crosby took a group of our swimmers to the Sheffield Swimming Gala on 22nd January. Eleven schools took part in the event and Mayfield came third in the Boys race and overall came 4th with an impressive 99 points. Selected pupils from Upper II and Form II also went to a swimming gala at KES. They came back with multiple Bronze medals and one Silver medal. Well done!



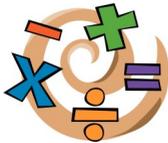
KES Maths Challenge

A group of Form II students went to King Edwards School in Birmingham for a Maths Challenge. They competed against 9 other teams and enjoyed a variety of mathematical tasks over the day.



“Our team worked together to solve tricky maths problems.” - EB

“My favourite bit was lunchtime where we made some jokes up.” - HM



“The KES Maths Challenge was fun and challenging.” - AS

“The Maths Challenge, challenged our ability.” - SS

Student Spotlight

Karram (Form I) has written a fabulous report in English, about a spider's appearance. This is research work that children have been doing in order to write up their first non-fiction report. Eva from (Lower III) has done an outstanding piece of work for Humanities. Well done Karram and Eva!

Wednesday 15th February 2020

L.O. To write about spider's appearance

Interestingly a spider's anatomy is not like an insect because a spider has 2 sections and insects have 3 sections. Do you know spiders have eight pointy long legs. They also have 6 eyes and eight eyes. Did you know spiders are colourful. Why are spiders colourful? Spiders have might have 2 eyes 1 eye or 6 eyes I don't know. Certain spiders are brightly coloured and this is to deter birds from eating them because they are poisonous. What a good fact!

Dragon Bones in Medicine

In 19th century China, 'dragon bones' were ground up and added to medicines, tonics and creams. This happened as the Chinese believed that dragons brought good luck and so used excavated bones, which they thought were the remains of dragons, to heal ailments. Before their supposed medicinal purposes were uncovered, the bones were usually dug up and reduced fragments were the ones who found and supplied the 'dragon bones', selling them to antiquaries dealers and herbal doctors.

Fantastic Eva! You have carried out productive independent research today, producing a detailed and informative poster on the 'Dragon Bone' mystery.

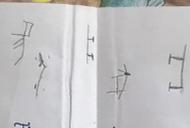


Dragon Bones

Wang Yong and Liu E

Wang Yong, the chancellor of the Imperial Academy in Beijing, purchased some 'dragon bones' from an antiques dealer in a Peking market in 1889. When Wang fell ill with malaria, he and his friend, Liu E, were examining the bones just before they were going to be pulverised for a medicine. After probing their cloudy, they noticed some strange inscriptions on the bones, which were similar to those on the bronze Wang collected. After his friend's death in 1900, Liu E bought the bones from Wang's son. In 1903, Liu E published a book which identified 34 characters from the bones. A scholar called Luo Zhenyuan was responsible for finding the source of the bones and after their discovery 20,000 fragments of bones, a nine-year excavation began in Anyou, where Luo said the bones came from.

These are some characters from the oracle bones



mystery solved mystery

Oracle Bones

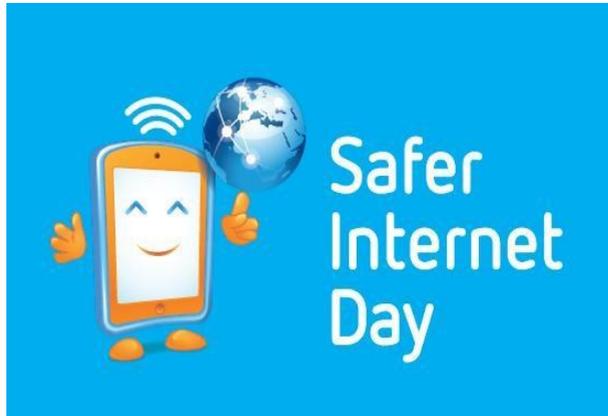
Proven to be animal shoulder bones and tortoise belly bones, oracle bones are what brought the 'dragon bones'. In the Shang Dynasty, these bones were used to determine the fate of the current king. Either a diviner or the king himself would inscribe the king's questions onto an oracle bone and place a heated metal rod inside it. It was believed that the crack would channel their knowledge to the bones. The rod caused the bones to crack and the way it cracked determined us a huge insight into Shang culture and to check that people prior to 1899 had consumed these artefacts, thinking they would cure them.






Safer Internet Day

On 12th February our technology partners Conzero came in for Safer Internet Day and held an assembly for the children and a workshop for parents. Parents were given guidelines on how to ensure our children are kept safe online.



Half-Term Cooking 🥞

With Pancake Day coming very soon, here's a simple recipe to try with adult supervision.

Ingredients: 200g plain flour, 400ml milk, 2 large eggs - lightly whisked, 1 tbsp vegetable oil, a pinch of salt, vegetable oil for frying .

Method:

- 🥞 Put the flour and salt in a bowl, make a well in the centre, pour in milk and eggs, then whisk until you have a smooth batter. Add the oil and whisk again.
- 🥞 Take a large frying pan and carefully wipe the inside of the pan with some kitchen roll dipped in vegetable oil.
- 🥞 With an adult helping heat the pan over a medium heat for about a minute, then add just under a ladleful of batter to the pan and immediately start swirling it around to get a nice even layer.
- 🥞 Cook the pancake for about 30 seconds then use a spatula to lift the pancake carefully and check that it's golden-brown before turning over. Cook the other side for around 30 seconds and your delicious pancake is ready!

Key Dates - 2020



- ◆ 24th February Back to School
- ◆ 28th February Form I SATS workshop for parents
- ◆ 4th March LII & FII English Workshop for parents
- ◆ 5th March NSPCC workshops Upper II & Lower III
- ◆ 6th March World Book Day
- ◆ 7th March Dudley Music Festival
- ◆ 11th March Nursery & Kindergarten to Think Tank
- ◆ 11th March Lower III to KEHS Creative Writing
- ◆ 13th March UII & LIII English Workshop for parents
- ◆ 16th March Book Fair
- ◆ 17th March Parents Evening Nursery to Form I, LII & UII
- ◆ 18th March Parents Evening PN to Form I, Form II & LIII
- ◆ 19th March PTA Peter Rabbit Movie Night
- ◆ 20th March Lower II & Form II Cressida Cowell Talk
- ◆ 20th March Tr & FI to Umberslade Farm Park
- ◆ 20th March Upper II at Aldridge Enterprise Day
- ◆ 24th March Transition English Workshop for parents
- ◆ 25th March Nursery Writing Workshop
- ◆ 26th March Lower II & Form II Soloist Concert
- ◆ 30th March Spring Festival
- ◆ 2nd April Easter Fair
- ◆ 2nd April End of Term



MAYFIELD PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Believe It! Achieve It!

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