



Mayfield



Spring 1
22/23

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Dear all,

It has been a long and busy first half term of 2023 and I am sitting here in my study, happily reflecting on the many highlights superbly portrayed in the Mayfield Magazine, with contributions from each class and edited by Mrs Hawthorne. I hope you enjoy reading through it as much as I have.

On Monday 23rd January, the whole school enjoyed a wonderful celebration of Chinese New Year. Each class took part in a number of activities, such as making Chinese lanterns, bookmarks, envelopes, lego giant pandas and, of course, the Great Wall of China challenge – more details to come later in the magazine. Many thanks to Mrs Hatton, Mr Watts and the staff team for providing so much fun

and learning and to the PTA for funding the Chinese zodiac dance workshop!

On Friday 3rd February, we celebrated Numbers Day at Mayfield. The children came dressed as digits and we raised £450 for the NSPCC – more details to come later in the magazine. Thanks to Mrs Marston and our team of teachers for organising lots of fun numbers-based activities for the children.

Mrs Pittaway has organised a number of sporting activities this term. The swimming team kicked off at the Streetly Gala on 18th January, where we enjoyed success with a few 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Then, the Cross Country team acquitted themselves very well at the first of a number of meets this term at Aldridge airfield

on 26th January. The U11 Girls and Boys have also played in football tournaments against other local schools this week at Shelfield. The invincible girls were unbeaten, winning 5 and drawing 1. The boys won 4 and drew 1 of their 6 matches. Well done, everyone!

The teachers have organised trips for each class and so far this term, Form II had a fantastic time at the Thinktank, Transition and Form I deepened their understanding of animals and their habitats at the Sealife Centre and Lower II loved their educational visit to the Aisha Mosques – more details later in the magazine!

Finally, we finished off the half term with the return of the Inter-House Quiz. Livingstone House were the deserved winners on the day. Thank you to Mrs Flanagan, the

Quizmaster, for running the competition. There are many other highlights to come in the magazine, including a new feature from Mrs Flanagan focusing on wellness, and lots more, so enjoy a good read about our vibrant and dynamic school!

I wish you all a lovely half-term break and will see you back in school on Monday 27th February.

Best wishes,

Mr M. Draper
Headmaster





Mini Mayfield

Nursery Staff



The children in Nursery have had another busy half term. They have been learning all about different occupations. We have had lots of visits from our parents to talk about their jobs. This included a visit from Burger Boi and the chance to try their food. We also took the children out to Lidl to find out about working in a shop.

In our Forest School sessions, the children have been learning all about winter. They have been out on a hunt to find signs of winter.



In PE lessons the children have been learning to play team games such as 'What's The Time Mr Wolf?' and 'Duck, Duck, Goose.'

The children celebrated Chinese New Year by attending a Chinese story telling workshop. They also took part in lion dances.

We celebrated Number Day in school at the beginning of February. The children dressed up and went on a number hunt. All this fun helped raised money for the NSPCC.





Pre-Nursery

Pre-Nursery Staff



Pre- Nursery love being outdoors in all weathers and recently they enjoyed the snow!

The Early Years curriculum encourages children to explore and respond to different natural phenomena in their setting and during this snowy day they undoubtedly did that.

Some children made snowballs; others followed footprints in the snow. They loved gathering up the snow with their feet and picking up ice from the water tray to watch it melt. We observed the children watching snow on their fingertips and listening to them describe it with words like cold, chilly and frosty.



Kindergarten

Mrs Smith

Kindergarten have had a very busy half term learning about people who help us. We looked at what police officers do, including a visit from Eryn's auntie in a real police van! The children loved exploring in there. Casey and Maddox's daddy came in to tell us all about being a shop owner. We also had a visit from Eva and Samarjit's mommies to talk about their very important roles in the health care sector. Finally, Rory's daddy chatted to us about being a teacher in a secondary school. We even had a visit from a specially trained police dog called Max.

Thank you so much to our wonderful parents and relatives for taking the time out to come and talk to us. The children really enjoyed the visits and produced some thoughtful work as well as remembering some fantastic facts.





Transition have had an amazing half term filled with lots of fun learning and activities! We started with Chinese New Year, and thoroughly enjoyed our dance workshop based on the Great Zodiac Race. We also won the Great Wall of China competition with our fantastic teamwork to create a long, sponge printed representation of the wall.

We really enjoyed our class assembly all about penguins and Antarctica, and thoroughly enjoyed showing off not only our fantastic knowledge, but also our lovely artwork! As part of our Geography topic, we have also learned about how penguins, camels and polar bears have adapted to survive in their habitats, and then looked at the food chain of a polar bear in the Arctic.

To consolidate our learning on penguins and habitats, we visited the Sealife Centre with Form I. We loved watching the Gentoo penguins and we also had the opportunity to see a range of fascinating sea creatures. We took part in an interesting workshop all about Habitats and we found out about the different layers of the ocean and some of the weird and wonderful creatures who live in each one. We then discussed adaptation and investigated how thick otter fur is! No wonder they stay nice and warm when swimming!



Form I

Mrs Draper

Form I braved the frosty and snowy weather to venture out for their Forest Schools adventures this half term. We all enjoyed exploring this natural habitat and developing our teamwork skills. In Science, we have been learning about different habitats, so we were able to undertake lots of practical activities to support our learning. Despite the cold weather, we managed to find a few minibeasts lurking under dried leaves and under the soil! We heard bird song, too! One of our favourite tasks was to create a bug hotel. We tried to create a suitable habitat for minibeasts. We discovered that woodlice and worms prefer a moist, dark habitat. Using cardboard tubes, we worked together to line them with broken, dried leaves, soil and twigs. Once ready, we had to decide on a suitable location to attract minibeasts. Some of us buried them under piles of leaves and protected them from the wind by placing sticks around them. Some bug hotels were hidden in the branches of trees or even buried under the ground to attract worms.

One of our favourite activities during Forest Schools was playing games such as Hide and Seek! However, we found the crunching of twigs beneath our feet often alerted the finder to our hiding place. Thank you to Mrs Higgins and Miss Roberts for working with us.



Transition

Mrs King

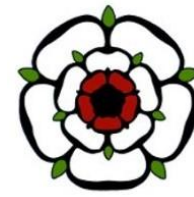




This term, Lower II have been learning about the religion of Islam. They have learnt about when and where the religion was founded, the main beliefs, the holy book and place of worship, as well as key events in the Islamic calendar and symbols of the religion. To experience what the holy place of worship for Muslims is like, Lower II had the chance to visit a local mosque; The Aisha Mosque in Walsall.

The Imam, a leader of the mosque, welcomed the children and everyone had to take their shoes off and place them on a rack. He then took the class to the main hall and explained about the Islamic faith, prayer, the key beliefs or the 5 pillars of Islam and about the mosque and local community. The children were very good listeners and were able to answer questions based on their learning in class.

Finally, they had the opportunity to see the rest of the rooms, including the wash area and finished with a snack in the community room. Thank you to Nabiha's and Aleena's (UII) mothers who came along and helped.



Form II

Mrs Hitch

Form II had a wonderful day at the Think Tank in January, a lovely start to the new term! We started by exploring the Spitfire Gallery, reading all about the history of how these amazing machines were designed. Their cutting-edge technology meant that they played a key role in the Second World War and have left a legacy in the city of Birmingham.

The class were then invited into a lab, where we put on white coats and safety goggles for a Changing Materials workshop. This explored how solids, liquids and gases can create different results when mixed. For example, did you know that a mixture of white vinegar and baking soda can inflate a balloon?

After lunch we gathered in the theatre to watch a show called 'Cauldron Chemistry,' where a scientist treated Form II to a magical display of potion-making, mysterious spells and explosions.

Form II had a fabulous time and learned lots more about different states of matter, as well as the history of Birmingham and its surrounding areas.



Lower II

Mrs Crosby/Mrs Hatton



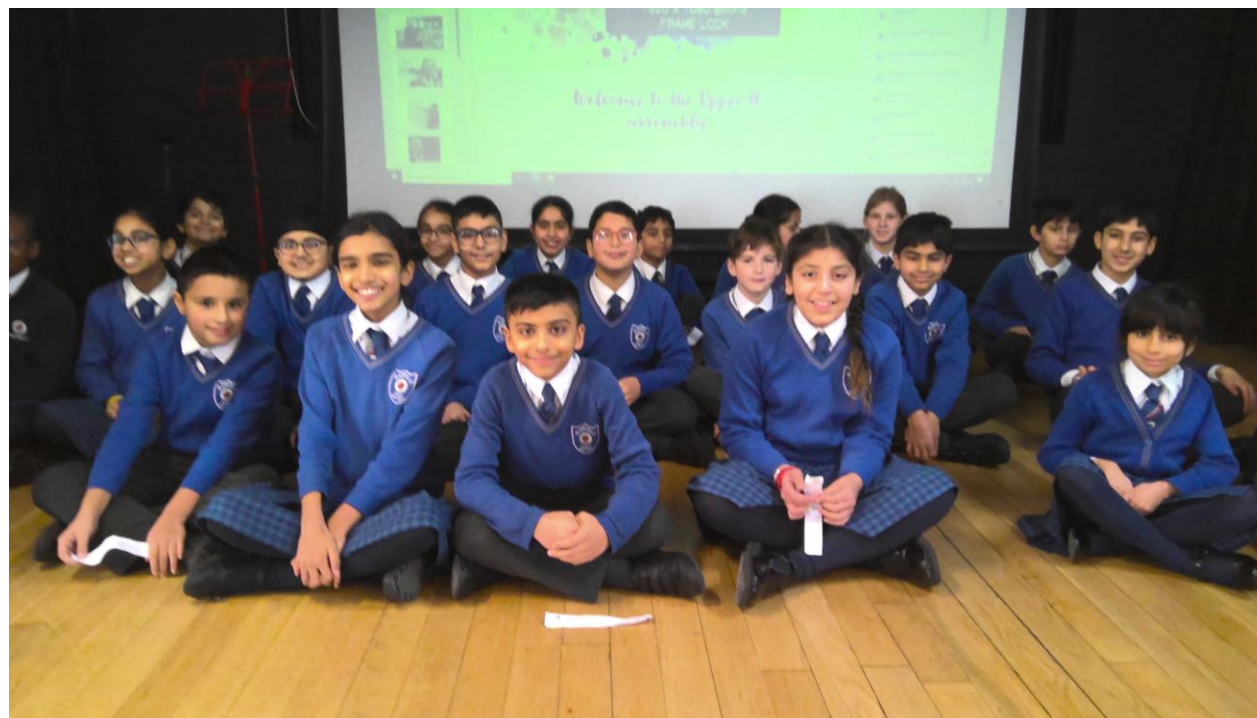


I have a dream...

The 3rd Monday in January is celebrated as Martin Luther King Junior Day. Therefore, in tribute, Upper II's assembly this term was dedicated to the great man and his work on civil rights.

Martin Luther King Junior was born on 15th January, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. He experienced racial prejudice from the time he was very young, which inspired him to dedicate his life to achieving equality and justice for Americans of all colours. He believed that peaceful methods were the best ways to overcome social injustice and bring about change.

All the children rehearsed their lines and read them out loudly and clearly, so everyone could hear. An excellent performance!



This term, Lower III have harnessed the skills of observation, shading, tone, and proportion in their portrait work. Taking inspiration from the Mexican self-portrait artist, Frida Kahlo, the children have produced some incredible pieces, using 'famous faces' as a stimulus. Mrs Hatton has been amazed by not only the children's enthusiasm but also by their attention to detail, and ability to replicate a chosen black and white image. The topic began with the children researching and then presenting their findings, using a visual format. The children looked carefully at the techniques used by Kahlo as well as delving into the life of the artist and her own personal inspirations.

The children came to understand the importance of an individual's heritage and how this had been portrayed in Frida's creative work.



Jude Bellingham



Ariana Grande



Frida Kahlo





Chinese New Year

Mr Watts & Mrs Hatton

fundMayfield celebrated the Chinese New Year on Monday 23rd January with a celebration of Art and RE-themed activities. All the children and staff were encouraged to dress up in a feast of colours, notably red, orange and yellow in commemorating the event.

2023 is the year of the hare and 2022 was the year of the tiger.

All the year groups participated in the event from Pre-Nursery to Lower III, producing artwork and attempting to build the Great Wall of China, either using Lego pieces, paintings or cardboard boxes.

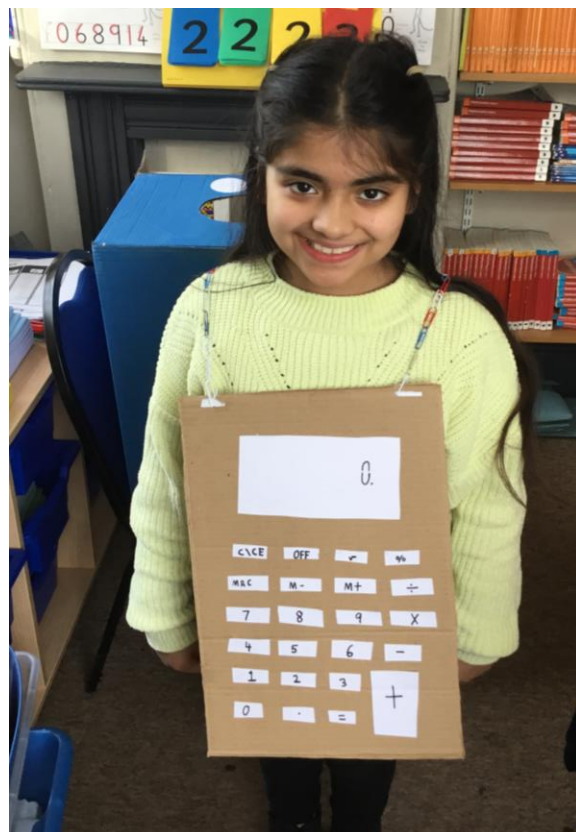
The Mayfield PTA kindly agreed to fund a dance group from West End theatres to act out the story of the Chinese Zodiac race in which the cunning rat beat the ox to first place.

Mr. Draper's rousing Assembly featured the Lower III children as the animals in his re-telling of the story. There were many standout performances, but special mentions should be given to Alexander as the ox, Aayush as the tiger, Mia as the horse and Joban Hayre as the hare!

A great time was had by all, it was a very difficult choice choosing the best Great Wall of China as all the entries were outstanding. Well done to Transition's winning entry.

Thanks once again to our amazing PTA for funding the dance workshop.





Number
Day 2023



Number Day

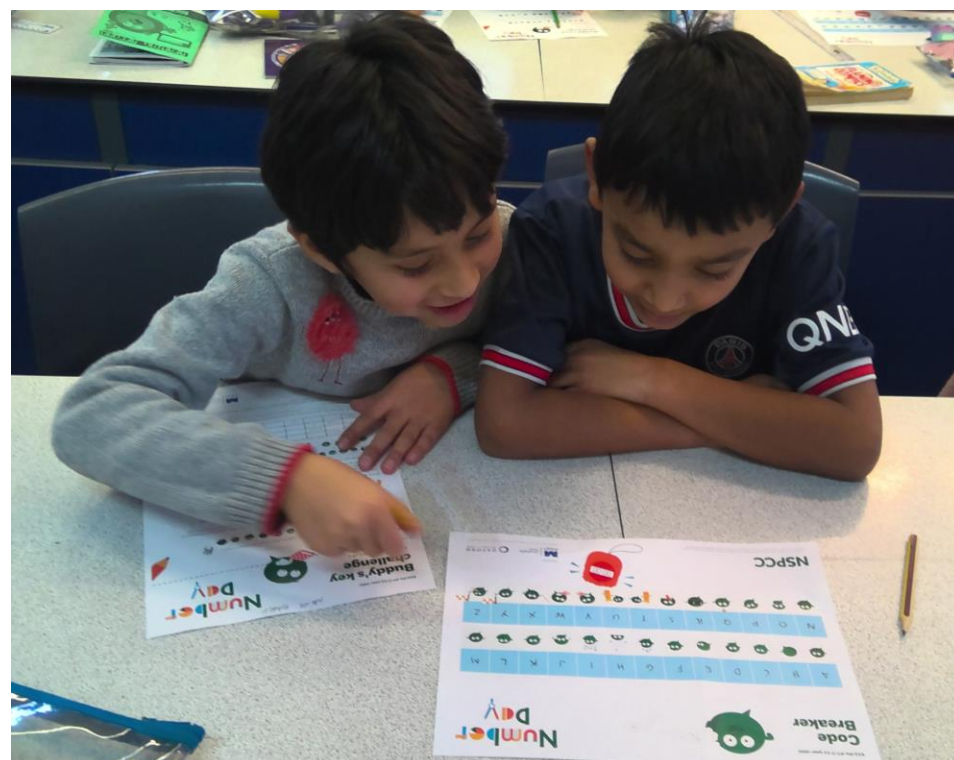
Mrs Marston

On Friday 3rd February, we again celebrated Number Day, in aid of the NSPCC. All the children 'dressed as a digit' and completed various maths activities in class. There was a prize for the best costume in each class.

Have a look at some of our amazing costumes and activities!

There was also a competition on Times Table Rock Stars. All the children from Form I to Lower III were allowed an hour, in class or at home, to answer as many questions as they could. The class with the most points for that hour were the winners. Congratulations to the winners, Lower III, with Lower II a close second.

In total, we raised an amazing £450 for the NSPCC. Thank you to everyone who took part.



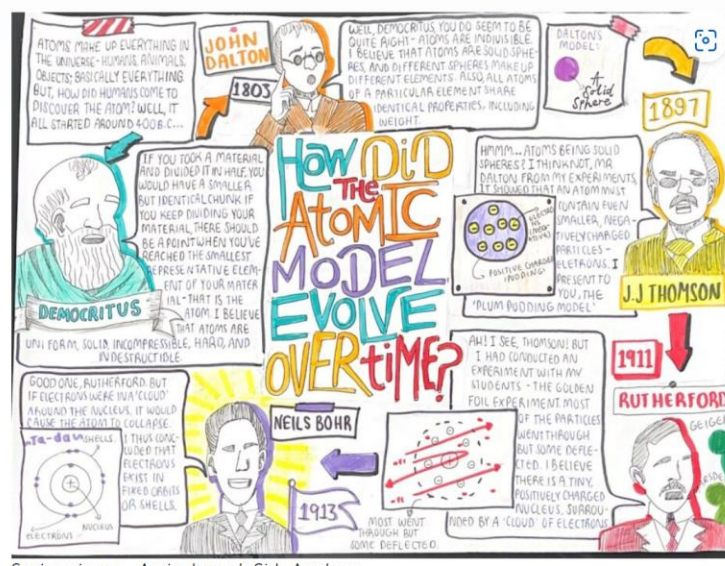
Science week poster competition

We will be celebrating British Science Week in school from Friday 10 March to Friday 17th March with lots of different science activities in school. One of the regular events we hold is entering the poster competition.

All children in school can enter and half term is a brilliant time to create their entry. Posters need to be either A4 or A3 on the theme 'connections'. For more information, please visit: [Poster competition - British Science Week](#)

Posters can need to be brought into school for Tuesday 15th March.

Parents, friends and family are invited to come into school on Wednesday 16th March and view the poster entries. These will be on display from 3.15-4.45 in the courtyard (weather permitting) or the main school hall.





BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2023



POSTER COMPETITION

Pupils can get creative and enter British Science Week's annual, UK-wide poster competition! They can make a poster about any 'Connections' that appear in the world of science they like, and be in with the chance of winning an array of prizes. Each school can enter the 5 best posters!

Is the world built on connections? Why not think about connections in terms of the ancient family tree that connects all animals, how atoms connect or bond to make up our surroundings and connections in construction. What are examples of good connections?

Ask them to think about their personal experiences of connections - from learning about how their body parts are connected, to connecting with their classmates, teachers and family members to help them learn more about science. Has it helped them become stronger, braver, kinder or more accomplished?

Is there someone pupils have connected with who inspired or helped them? It doesn't have to be someone they know, it can be any role model! Why not have them create a portrait that demonstrates this? Connections are everywhere. From the friends we make who share new ideas, to the connection between eco-friendly behaviour and a better future, there is so much to see all around us.



"If you're feeling nervous when we first get there, what can you do? Yes, you can sit next to me and we can talk about things we see until you're ready to join in."

"Earlier, you were very upset...and then what happened? Yes, and I said: You can feel upset but you cannot hit me when you're upset. Let's talk about what you can do instead."

"Do you think you might be upset for this long or thisssss long? It's up to you."



Practical Tips to Say and Do!

Do you want to suggest a topic here?
Let Mrs Flanagan know...

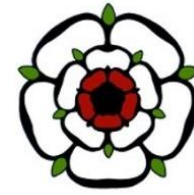


For more see:
[@dr.siggie](#)

"You are very upset, I can see that. Take your time to feel upset and when you're ready, you can tell me what you want to do."

"You're right, this is hard! Let's breathe and take a little break. And then we will try again. When things are hard, we try harder."

"Sounds like you may need some help. Instead of yelling, you can say: Can you help me please? And I'll say: Yes!"



Wellness

Mrs Flanagan

Hello everyone! Welcome to Mrs Flanagan's *Wellness Words of Wisdom*, my new little corner of the magazine - sharing tips and hints I pick up from the world of wellness. These are not my words of wisdom but practical ways to help from psychologists, scientists and behavioural experts. I will link accounts from social media that I think are worth a look at. Also, please get in touch if you want to suggest a theme for this page or if you're in need of specific help. I will endeavour to find actionable tools for mental health, fitness and behavioural protocols to promote happiness and longevity for both children and parents.

In a recent staff training session, we learned a great deal about emotional regulation, here are some pointers for managing and navigate children's reactions to difficult situations.



Emotional Regulation Tips for EVERYONE



1. Be patient and realistic about what your child is developmentally capable of.
2. Allow your child to feel all emotions - even the tough ones.
3. Build coping skills by reflecting on emotions.
4. Model regulation skills in tough moments.
5. Manage the emotion and express it in a healthy way.





Lego builders

Mrs Inkster, Mrs Guest & Mrs Hitch



Lego club has started at Mayfield with nearly forty Key Stage Two children attending one of the two after school sessions. The sessions are buzzing, packed with teamwork and tangible concentration as builders help each other to complete sets. The children are so keen they have even given up break and lunch times to complete sets.

The children can choose to work in pairs or individually building different sets, we have teamed up with Brick Borrow (<https://www.brickborrow.com>) who are providing us with new sets every fortnight. We have also started to invest in our own kits with children across the school making Panda Brick heads as part of the Chinese New Year celebration. Check out some of our builds.



Key Dates

- 17th February – End of Spring half-term
- 27th February – Second half of Spring term starts
- 2nd March – World Book Day
- 6th to 10th March – Lower III Residential Trip
- 13th to 17th March – Science Week
- 13th March – Upper II Trip to Bletchley Park
- 14th March – Nursery and Pre-Nursery Mother's day afternoon
- 14th March – U11 Boys football – Streetly School
- 15th March – Early Years Trip to Drayton Manor Farm.
- 17th March – KS1 & KS2 parent's 'book look' 2.30-5pm Main Hall
- 17th March – Hallfield Cross Country (LII – LIII)
- 21st March – U11 Girls football - Streetly School
- 21st & 22nd March – Parent's Evening
- 22nd March – Mayfield Cross Country (LII – LIII)
- 23rd March – U11 Tag rugby – Streetly School
- 28th March – Lichfield Cathedral School Cross Country (LII – LIII)
- 28th March – U11 Hockey - Streetly School
- 29th March – EYFS & KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade – KS2 'Eggciting' models
- 29th March – U9 Benchball – Shelfield Academy
- 30th March – Languages Day & PTA Afterschool Movie Night
- 31st March – Easter Service 9:00 HOTO
- 31st March – PTA Quiz Night 7-9.30 pm
- 31st March – End of Spring Term - Start of Easter Holiday
- 19th April – Start of Summer Term



Save the Date Mayfield Prep School Family Quiz night Friday 31st March 7-9.30 pm



- Teams of up to 6 people -anyone LII or above welcome to attend, family and friends are invited too!
- Drinks and refreshments available to buy at the event. (Pizza can be pre-ordered)
- Entry £2.50 per person –by ticket only
- Tickets on sale before and after school from Wednesday 15th March or via the school office.



MAYFIELD PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Believe It! Achieve It!

Thank you for taking the time to read our magazine, we hope it has provided an enjoyable insight into the half term.

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