



# Mayfield



Spring 2  
22/23

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Dear Parents

We seem to have again had a long Spring Term, packed full of events, sport, exams, charity days, special days, snow, rain, wind and sun! As we approach the finishing line at the end of another fantastic term, let's take a look back at the highlights of the last half term.

In sports news, our Under 9s and Under 11s teams have enjoyed participating in the Walsall Schools competitions, playing football, rugby, hockey and benchball. We have also had several cross-country meets, including our own where we cleaned up and welcomed home the shields, as we won in all four categories for the first time. In the last few weeks, the children in Upper School have contested the House matches. The House Netball was won by Nightingale, the House Cross Country was won by Livingstone, the House Rugby was won by Scott and the House Cup was won by Livingstone.

World Book Day was a great success and Nursery particularly enjoyed seeing the Big, Bad Wolf chasing the 3 Little Pigs around the school in line with their Science topic! In exciting news, we are busy fundraising for our new library. We had a fun PTA Film Night yesterday evening and tonight we will have the PTA Quiz Night – Team Headmaster will be looking to retain the coveted trophy! If you have a spring clean over Easter and have no more use for books in good condition, we would be grateful for any donations after the holidays for our new library. Speaking of dressing up, valuable funds were also raised for the Turkey/Syria Earthquake appeal and for Comic Relief on Red Nose Day.

We have also learnt a great deal and immensely enjoyed Science week, culminating in a visit from the Animal Virtual Reality workshop as children saw the world through the eyes of birds of prey and big cats on the hunt! Early Years invited their mums in for a special Mother's Day

celebration. Languages Day yesterday was a huge success and children enjoyed learning greetings, numbers and songs in a number of languages – a special thank you to Mrs Sidhu who spent the morning in Form I teaching them Punjabi!

The big trip this half term was the Lower III residential to deepest, darkest Herefordshire, where they defied freezing temperatures and bucketloads of snow to have the time of their lives! Upper II went on a covert, undercover mission to Bletchley Park to break codes and, I am reliably informed, save the world! Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Kindergarten loved seeing the animals at Lower Drayton Farm on their school trip.

On Wednesday, the Lower School and Early Years had a lovely Easter Bonnet parade, while Upper School created egg-citing models of Mr Men and Little Misses. Well done again, children and parents, for your ingenuity. We also thoroughly enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt in

Early Years, and the children very much enjoyed their Easter Egg prizes! Today, we held the Easter Service in our Hall of the Olympians. The children sung beautifully, the Lower III readers re-told the Easter story and our guest, Revered Joe from St. Matthew's reminded us of Jesus' message to bring more love and kindness into the world. It was a fitting and thoroughly enjoyable climax to the term.

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 Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Happy Easter!

Mr M. Draper  
Headmaster







# Mini Mayfield

Nursery Staff



There has been lots going on in Nursery again this half term. We invited grown-ups from home to come and celebrate Mother's Day. The children helped with a presentation, sang a song and enjoyed sharing cakes with their visitors.

We all enjoyed a day trip to Lower Drayton Farm to find out about what happens on the farm in the spring. The children saw lots of animals including sheep and their lambs. They found out about planting wheat seeds and had a ride on a trailer pulled by the tractor.

We celebrated Red Nose Day by dressing up as different Mr Men and Little Miss characters. In the last week of term, we had Language Day. The children learnt all about life in Zimbabwe.

The term ended with our Easter celebrations, including an Easter egg hunt and Easter bonnet parade.

Our topic has been Traditional Tales and we changed our home corner into a Gingerbread Man Bakery. The children have enjoyed dressing up as characters from the story and pretending to make gingerbread men. They have also had a go at writing shopping lists for ingredients they would need.

We celebrated World Book Day by all dressing up as book characters. The older pupils from Lower III came and read stories to the children.

In the middle of this term, we had a snowstorm. This was a great chance for the children to get out and explore the snow.







# Pre-Nursery

Pre-Nursery Staff



The children in Pre-Nursery have enjoyed forest school on a Friday morning. They have sat on the benches and Miss Roberts told them how to be safe around the camp-fire. She also spoke to them about trees and how they help us. The children used their bodies to be tree trunks and their arms as branches. Everyone in Pre-Nursery likes collecting sticks and they ended their walk by picking up small sticks to take back with them.



# Kindergarten

Mr. Watts

It has been a very busy term for Kindergarten in PE! At the beginning of the term the children were learning how to hit a ball through their partner's legs using a hockey stick and then dribbling it across the hall. Their confidence increased and then they managed to pass the ball to their partner more confidently.

They have loved their Gymnastics lessons and have learnt how to balance across a beam and jump safely from a greater height. They also used a springboard for jumping onto mats and hurdles for improved balance.

More recently the children have created dance moves by using a given theme. They enjoyed dancing like a robot and doing their own version of a Mexican wave!

Every fortnight the students from Queen Mary's Grammar school have been teaching the children football skills, which have included shooting and scoring penalties, passing and running with the ball. They have also been taught basketball skills including dribbling and shooting at the hoop!

One of the highlights was our farm trip to Lower Drayton Farm with Nursery to meet all the farm animals. It was a really great day out, with lots of fun and laughter.







Transition have been amazing historians this half-term, finding out about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in Pompeii in 79AD. We began by looking at a fresco of Sappho, and using our deduction skills to find out who she was and what her life may have been like. We found Italy and Pompeii on a map and then began to look at historical evidence to find out what life would have been like for those living in Pompeii 2000 years ago. We found out that Pompeii was part of the Roman Empire and ruled by Emperor Nero and his soldiers. We then made our own moving split pin soldier!

We then looked at an animated timeline of the eruption itself and looked at some pieces of Primary and Secondary evidence, such as a letter from Pliny, an eyewitness to the tragedy, and some more modern paintings. We used these to build up a picture about how the day unfolded for the residents of Pompeii. We then used watercolour paints to create our own masterpiece, called 'The Last Day of Pompeii.' We thought really carefully about which colours would convey the mood and atmosphere. We also showed off our amazing writing skills with our own diary entry. We will be finishing the topic by using our Science skills to make our own volcanic eruption! Well done, Transition!



**Transition**  
Mrs King



**Form I**  
Mrs Draper

Form I have been carrying out lots of investigative work to enhance their learning this term. We have been learning to measure in our Maths lessons; using a ruler and cm for shorter objects like a paper clip and a metre stick for longer objects like the classroom. We have used balances and weighing scales to measure the mass of a range of fruit and vegetables. We have used mathematical symbols to compare their weights and then order them from lightest to heaviest. We have then investigated volume and capacity and been solving some tricky problems.

During Science week, we explored this year's theme of 'connections' through the theme of Colours. We were fascinated by a series of experiments to see how colours connected together to make new colours. We also linked Science Week to our topic of Animals and Living Things through our study of food chains and life cycles. We currently have 5 caterpillars that we are observing and are looking forward to the next stage of their development.







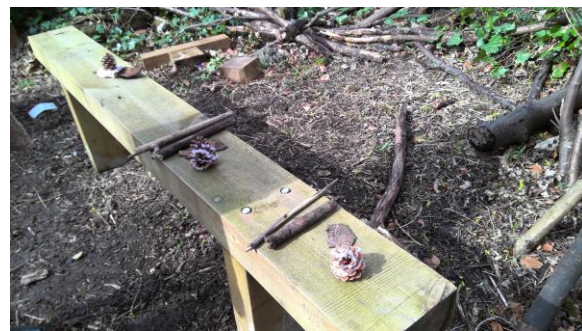
# Form II

Mrs Guest

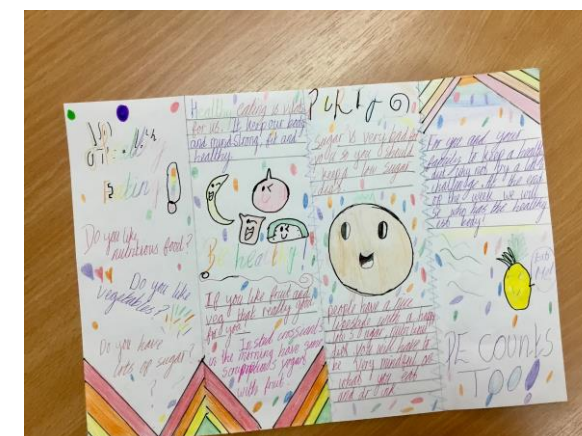
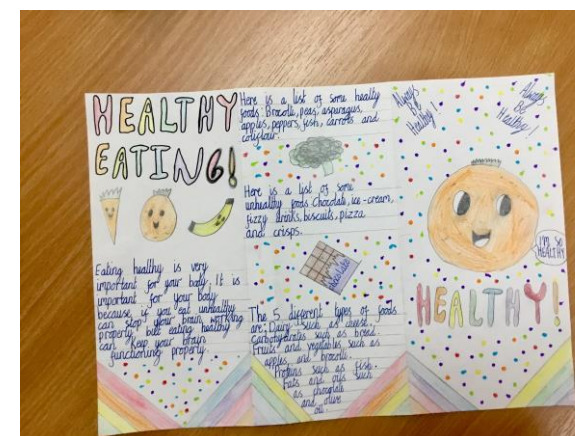
In Form II, the children have been developing their persuasive writing skills in English this half term by entering the Pobble writing competition where they had to design a healthy eating leaflet. Not only did they have to write about the benefits of healthy eating, they also had to use their artistic talents to design an eye-catching leaflet.

Pobble and Booths, The Good Grocers, asked pupils in Year 3 and 4, in classrooms across the UK to create a healthy eating leaflet, with the winning entry receiving some great prizes and having their leaflet printed and displayed across the Booths Estate. As you can imagine, all of Form II were exceptionally excited at the prospect of becoming a winner!

As a class, Form II voted for their three favourite leaflets, focusing on originality, inspiring text and amazing design. The three entries that Form II selected were Avraj, Shaan and Sumayya. Good luck to our three entrants and as always all of Form II have made Mayfield very proud!



Lower II have had a busy term outside for forest schools. They have been doing Design Technology in the woods. The children looked for different sticks then learnt how to tie knots with string. The following week they made wall hangings from sticks and string. Finally, they made natural sculptures from things they found in the woods. Thanks to Miss Roberts for teaching forest schools and Mrs Hatton for supervising with Mrs Smith.



# Lower II

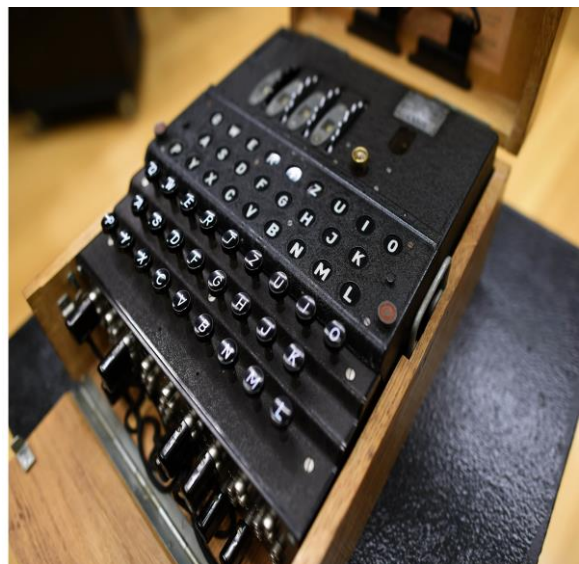
Mrs Crosby/Mrs Hatton/Miss Roberts







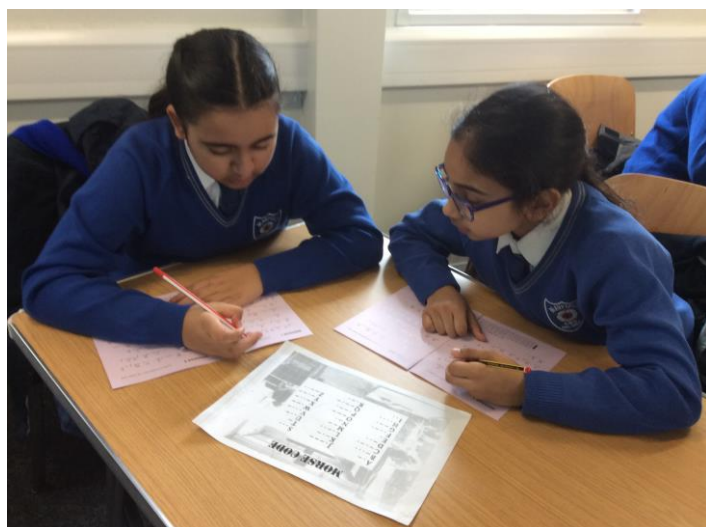
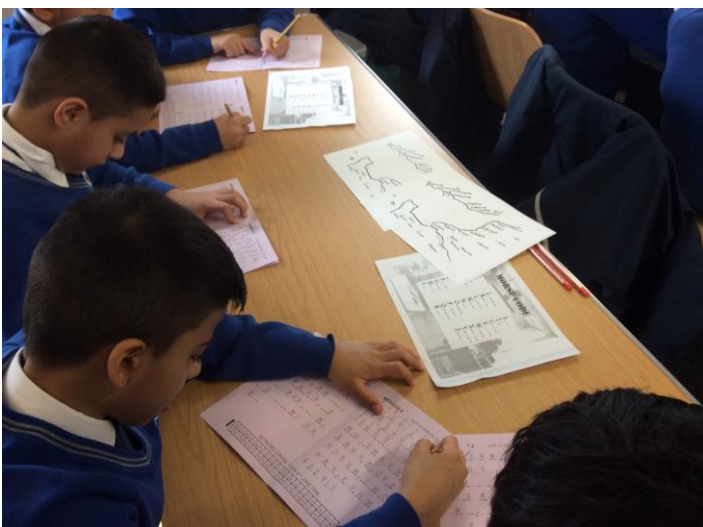
Special agents, secret codes and computers .... all combined into one exciting visit to Bletchley Park for Upper II. Once the top-secret home of the World War Two Codebreakers, we learnt about the start of MI5 and the important work of the many men and women who worked there. It was so secret there is still not a complete list of 9000+ people who were based there between 1939 and 1945.



We were able to enjoy the rare opportunity of witnessing a genuine Enigma machine as well as encountering a range of historical codes and ciphers as we worked together to decipher messages to solve a puzzle.

We learned about the importance of the work done at Bletchley and the code breakers involvement in the numerous deception plans undertaken in 1944 to fool the Germans about the intended location of the D Day landings.

Upper II enjoyed exploring the different exhibits and the different interactive displays.



# Tea with the Mayor

On Friday, Mayfield's Head Boy and Head Girl were invited to the Walsall Town Hall to have afternoon tea with the Mayor. The occasion was in honour of Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald, who comes from Walsall, is an old boy of Queen Mary's Grammar School and has found memories of playing rugby on Mayfield's sports fields. Our Head Boy and Head Girl were offered an exclusive tour of the Mayor's parlour, the Council Chamber and indulged in a sumptuous afternoon tea. At the end of a delightful visit, they exchanged gifts with the Mayor and Cardinal. They charmed everyone present, were a credit to the school and were invited to visit again soon!



## Upper II

Mrs Flanagan, Mrs Inkster & Mrs Pittaway





# LIII Adventure Holiday

Mrs S Crosby, Mrs Inkster & Mr Tobin



Lower III set off for a week of fantastic adventure, fun and games at Oaker Wood Leisure in Herefordshire. We went at the start of March, hoping for good weather but prepared for a cold week! The weather did not disappoint and the snow just added to the adventure. We were glamping in warm and cosy 'pods' and had a brilliant time. Hot chocolates and movies kept us warm in the evenings and the team at Oaker Wood were fantastic making sure we were warm and cosy in the unusual conditions. Activities included zip wire, climbing, high ropes, leap of faith, crate stacking, tree climbing, capture the flag, camp fire, snowmen building and the world's biggest snowball fight! Memories were made and everyone had a great time! Look at our super holiday snaps to get a feel for our wonderful week.







In Art, we have been researching and designing Celtic shields, linking to Lower II and Form II's Humanities topic, the Iron Age. The Celts liked to eat a healthy diet, making sugar-free oatcakes to provide the Celtic Warriors with energy while on a hike through the hills. As part of DT, the children made Celtic oatcakes, following a recipe using ingredients that are still familiar to us today. The children worked very well with help from Mrs Hitch and Mrs Smith. The art room smelt fantastic as the oatcakes baked. Many of the children enjoyed this healthy snack, as did Mr Draper who gave them a 10 out of 10!



Upper II followed a WWII ration recipe for eggless chocolate cakes. As a substitute for the eggs, we used bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. This worked well. We evaluated the recipe and although the cakes looked great, the children would have liked to decorate them with icing or buttercream and decorations, maybe to mask the slight vinegary taste! Thank you to Mrs Andrews for helping with the baking and well done to Upper II.



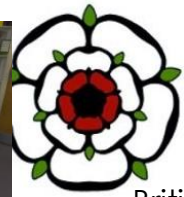
# Hydesville Maths Challenge

**Mrs Marston**

On Friday 17th February, we took two teams of four children to the Hydesville Maths Challenge. Once there, they split into two teams and started on the first challenge - a maths treasure hunt. The next task involved running around outside, collecting letters, hopefully in the right order, to complete a loop. The third round was a relay, with pairs of children completing questions as quickly as they could, before passing the 'baton' to the next pair. The final challenge was completed on handsets, with children scoring points for their team by being correct and as fast as possible. Unfortunately, we didn't score in the top three teams this time and so didn't win a trophy, but all the children had an amazing time, and were given a bag of freebies for taking part. All the children behaved impeccably and were a credit to Mayfield.



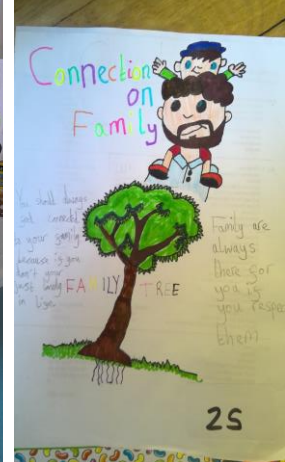
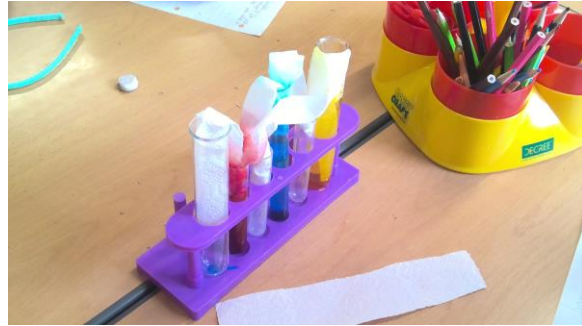




# Science week

Mrs S Crosby

British Science week took place at Mayfield with enthusiasm and creativity. The theme this year was 'Connections'. Every class took part in Science activities involving the theme. Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Kindergarten went on a trip to the farm to explore the connections between animals and our world. Kindergarten also enjoyed connecting the animal faces together as part of the topic. Transition and Upper II had a go at bridge building and explored the connection between weight and strength. Lower II investigated vibrations when building a seismometer. Form I observed the lifecycles of a butterfly and frog, which have the theme of connections and wrote explanation texts involving colours including chromatography, travelling food colours and fruity sweets. Form II were crime detectives for the day and had a go at fingerprinting their own fingerprints to explore the connections between them! Finally, Lower III were thinking like Victorians to solve a range of problems using techniques from the era! Due to the bad weather, the VR animal workshop was postponed but took place the following week and was enjoyed by all! Well done to all who entered the poster competition. Voting was held after school and throughout the next day where pupils, parents and staff could vote on their favourite posters and a winner was chosen from each age category with a joint winner in the Upper II/Lower III category. The winners were: William from Kindergarten, Esha from Form I, Jiya from LII and Reet and Karram from Upper II. There posters have been uploaded to the British Science Week competition website and we await the results! Good luck!







It has been a jam-packed sporting programme this term. We have participated in boys and girls Football, mixed tag rugby, hockey, benchball as well as numerous cross-country events. It has been absolutely fantastic to be able to take part in such a wide range of events and the pupils have certainly enjoyed themselves. We have seen some excellent individual results as well as team results in these events, with Mayfield sweeping up all of the trophies in the Mayfield cross country, as well as a number of individual medals for runners across all age categories.

Some of the events have focused less on competition and have provided an opportunity for fun and enjoyment for those pupils that have taken part. The hockey and the benchball are good examples of this, with pupils working through some drills and then experiencing some games against other schools at the end of the event

The pupils have demonstrated excellent, teamwork, communication, determination and resilience throughout these events. A massive well done to those pupils who have taken part so far.



# Sports Fixtures

Mrs. Pittaway







## Key Stage 2 Eggciting Models



Mayfield EYFS and Key Stage One were head and shoulders above the rest of the school when they donned their Easter bonnets at our annual Easter Bonnet Parade on Wednesday. The colourful contest to find the brightest, most extravagant traditional headgear, as part of our festival celebrations was affiliated by Mrs June Albrook, a much-loved member of our governing body and friend of the school, and Mr Draper. The creations this year delighted and entertained the whole school so a big thank you to everyone who helped in their making.

Key Stage Two were challenged with the brief of creating Eggciting models based on the Mr Men and Little Miss Characters- they were all eggcellent!

## EYFS & Key Stage 1 Easter Bonnets







# Library Plans



It is with great excitement; we can announce our plans to redevelop Mayfield's school library. The continued development of our reading provision has been a focus for the staff this year, we have introduced electronic library software 'librosoft' and accelerated reader as part of our improvements. We are planning to purchase a purpose-built building similar to the designs above for the new library. The new building will allow children to access the library before and after school as well as during their break times. By positioning it on the ground floor it makes it easier for all members of our school community to access.

The benefits of a stand-alone building are:

- Easy access for pupils in main school during break & lunch times
- Large enough for whole class story times
- Easy access for our younger children as there are no stairs
- Opportunities to hold parent and child story sessions

We hope this additional resource will raise the profile of reading in school and children who read for pleasure achieve better results in all subject areas. We are planning to get the building for the start of the next academic year and have asked the PTA to help us raise funds for the interior fitting out of the library and updating of some of the books. We are looking to raise £10,000.

The PTA have agreed to help and have organised the following events:

- Thursday 30th March – Movie night
- Friday 31st March – Family Quiz night – now open to any age – please see flier for more information
- Friday 5th May – 'Mayfield Readover' – a chance for children in LII, FII & UII to sleepover in the Hall of the Olympians to raise money for the library – more information will be sent out separately to these year groups
- PTA summer fayre (date to be confirmed)

We would be delighted if you are able to support as many of these events as possible.

Tickets for Movie Night and the Quiz are available before school in the courtyard or via the school office.

Another way you can help us raise funds is by signing up to the Easyfundraising website [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk). Every time you shop online the school can get a donation to our cause if you go via the easy fundraising website; either search Mayfield Preparatory School or use the link below:

[Easy Fundraising - Mayfield Preparatory School](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

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Focus on Growth Mindset

Teach the Mindful Approach



# Mrs Flanagan's Words of Wellness



Explain the Brain Science

Embrace (and Celebrate Failure)



Emphasise Failing Forward

Let Failure Happen

Explain the “Learning Pit”

☆ **FAIL** ☆  
(First Attempt In Learning)



Children typically fear failure - but what if they knew *mistakes grew their brains*? Happily, there is a huge amount of research to prove it!

Here are science-backed tips for discussing some specific (and common) fears:

If your child fears **MAKING A MISTAKE...**

- Every error they make results in electrical signals firing that help them learn.
- Discuss a study that prove their brain “sparks and grows” whenever they make a mistake - and what it means about failure (Moser et al., 2011).

If your child fears **MAKING A WRONG GUESS...**

- Making guesses is one of the best ways to learn the material.
- Making an *incorrect* guess they think is right and *then being corrected* is even better! Something about making the wrong guess and learning the right one makes it easier for their brain to recall the correct answer in the future.

If your child fears **TACKLING DIFFICULT MATERIAL...**

- When learning challenging material, it's TRUE they (and everyone else) make more errors.
- It's also true they **retain** the information better. In fact, the *harder they have to work* to understand something, the *longer it lasts in their memory* and the more deeply it's processed.

When children understand the brain science behind why mistakes improve learning, it's easy to get them excited about the prospect.

Adapted from the article **7 Ways to Teach Children Failure Is a Great Thing** | Big Life Journal





# Key Dates

Start of Summer Term	19/04/2023
Under 11s Walsall Schools Athletics competition at Streetly Academy	19/04/2023
Crested Pop-up Uniform Shop	20/04/2023
Extra-Curricular Clubs start	24/04/2023
U11s Walsall Schools netball competition at Streetly Academy	24/04/2023
Lower III trip to George Masall Medical Museum and Infirmary, Worcester	26/04/2023
Bank Holiday - School closed	01/05/2023
Form II trip to the synagogue	02/05/2023
Lower II - Upper II Readover	05/05/2023
Bank Holiday - School closed	08/05/2023
KS2 SATs week	09/05/2023
KS1 SATs begin	09/05/2023
Lower II trip to Wroxeter Roman City	09/05/2023
Senior Schools Fair for U11 pupils & parents	10/05/2023
Under 9s Walsall Schools mini-tennis competition at Shelfield Academy	10/05/2023
Under 11s cricket v West House School (away)	15/05/2023
Nursery/Kindergarten Topic Day	16/05/2023
Lower III online Maths quiz	18/05/2023
Walsall Schools gymnastics competition at Walsall Gymnastics club	22/05/2023
Nursery/Kindergarten Topic Day	25/05/2023
Lower II & Form II Swimming Gala	25/05/2023
End of half term	26/05/2023



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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[www.mayfieldprep.co.uk](http://www.mayfieldprep.co.uk)



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