

Curriculum Newsletter – 20th Edition

Welcome to what will be the 20th edition of the weekly curriculum newsletter, and before I begin to celebrate our children's many, many achievements, I just wanted to thank all of you for the contribution you have made to our school since the beginning of the calendar year. As a parent and Head Teacher, I can honestly say that parenting is far harder than what I do. I actually think parenting is the hardest job in the world, and also the most important. Together, we are raising the next generation of lawyers, architects, doctors, accountants, nurses, teachers, surgeons, and all of the other vital roles that society needs. We all know that the world is in a difficult space at the moment, but what drives me forward is that the society of tomorrow will be better than the society of today. Education is key to this, and parenting is key to the success of any education system. You are all brilliant at what you do, and I know that our planet will be in safe hands when Mayflower children get their turn at the helm.

Building Developments

For the eagle-eyed, you will have noticed that all of the groundworks are being carried out at the ERPF site, and this is giving a real impression of a completed project. Everything is tidy, clean, safe, and well-organised. Quite rightly, these are some of the last jobs that are undertaken, and this should give affirmation to you all that the finishing line is within touching distance. Despite this, we will not be able to move in until all of the IT requirements have been satisfied, and this includes the server. One possible silver-lining to this cloud is the fact that we will have more time for the children to become used to the new building, and this is especially important for the youngest (EYFS). Please be assured we will make very good use of this time, and when they do move in, it will be seamless, and based on prior knowledge. From an educator's perspective, this is precisely the right and best way of managing such a significant change.

Parents' Evening

Many, many thanks for your attendance at our parents' evening this week. I know that I saw most of you, and those that did not see me will have seen Miss McKenley-Ballantyne or Mrs. Chandarana. Managing parents' evening across a split-site is challenging, and I am really looking forward to the time we will be able to do this in the same building as I will be able to see you all!! As a staff, there are few things we enjoy more than celebrating your children's many, many achievements, and teachers will also have identified the next-steps we will be working on during termlets 4-6. If, for whatever reason, you were unable to attend, it is never too late. The teachers are super-eager to ensure a 100% turnout and office staff will also be in touch early in termlet 4. Finally, please keep in mind that we are very open about the work that the children have done, and this is a celebration of their success in the classroom. The ideal is for you to look through this with your child. They will quite happily tell you more about what they have been doing, and also how this impacts on their learning. As Head Teacher, I often look through workbooks, and I never cease to be amazed at how much they have covered, and the amount of progress made.





Mayflower Primary School

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Artsmark Gold Award Awarded by Arts Council England

Mrs. Seckam

Today was Mrs. Seckam's last day with us, as her maternity leave is due to commence. I know that you have all enjoyed being part of her journey towards parenthood, and we all recognise just what an exciting time this must be. She will temporarily leave us, and does so with our very, very best wishes for the exceptionally different future ahead. I am also very happy to share with you the fact that a wonderful replacement has been recruited, who will start with us at the beginning of the summer term. Her name is Ms. Alarakhia, and she is currently working at Kilby Primary School. We are delighted to welcome her to our Mayflower Family, and know that the children will benefit hugely from her expertise. During termlet 4, Miss Wilkinson and Mr. Beck will cover Chestnut Class.

SATs in Year 6

As I know you will all be aware, Mayflower has consistently been one of the top performing schools in the country. Our results at the end of Year 6 are always outstanding, and this provides such a firm basis for effective transition to the secondary sector. Although it has yet to be confirmed, SATs are likely to go ahead this year for the children in Year 6, and part of the planning around this is to offer a parents' information evening. This has now been agreed, as follows:

Thursday 7th March 2024, 4.00 pm, at Mayflower Primary School

At the meeting, myself and the Year 6 team will be available to explain what SATs look like and how your children can best be prepared for the challenges ahead. We might also talk about the legendary SATs Breakfast Club, that is exclusively reserved for the children in Year 6 only. No appointments are necessary, and I shall look forward to seeing you there.

The Holy Month of Ramadan

The Holy Month of Ramadan will soon be upon us, and just a quick reminder that we do have a fasting policy in school that will be reissued at the beginning of termlet 4. I will also be fasting, and the day I am looking at **Thursday 21st March 2024**. My good friends at Judgemeadow have invited me to a communal iftar, which I have been delighted to accept.

Attendance

Despite all of the winter ailments that are doing the rounds, I have been very pleased with the attendance figures this week. My thanks for making sure your children are in school every day.

Week Beginning Monday 12 th February 2024			
Early Years	Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
Chestnut: 94.7%	1DV: 97.1%	4CR: 96.8%	5AH and 6CW: 97.6%





nternational School Award

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Wow Moments in School



