



MAYFIELD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Friday 11th January 2019



Last week's attendance was **96.27%**
Red (under 92%) Amber (92-96%)
Green (above 96%)

This term our value
is **Wisdom**



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you all had a wonderful festive break and enjoyed some precious time with both your family and friends.

Welcome back to Term 3. We would like to wish all of our school community a very Happy New Year. May it be filled with many positive experiences for you all.

Kind regards,

The Mayfield Staff Team

School Website

We are seeking a volunteer with the appropriate skills to support us in managing our school websites which can be accessed online. This would involve adding new and removing obsolete material on a regular basis.

The material will be determined by those responsible for the various sections of the websites, who will then consult with the website manager as to the nature of any necessary changes. In the first instance this would be the *Governors'* and *Friends'* areas.

If you are interested, please contact Miss Warren or David Robson (Chair of Governors) via the school office so that we can arrange to meet and discuss the position in more detail.

Safeguarding

The school Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Miss Warren.

The Deputy DSL is Mrs Martin. Please let us know if you have any concerns about the welfare of any children at Mayfield CE Primary.

Term 3 Celebration Assemblies

In Term 3, Mrs Martin, Mrs Thomas and Mrs Bennett will be leading the Friday Celebration Assemblies.

Friday 11th January—Bramblings' Class introduce the new value

Friday 18th January—Pipits' Class

Friday 25th January—Robins' Class

Friday 1st February—Candlemas at St. Dunstan's Church at 2.30pm

Friday 8th February—Nightingales' Class

Friday 15th February—Music Assembly

Skylarks' and Falcons' Class assemblies will take place at the start of Term 4.

Activity Trail Update

After what seems like a very long wait, we are delighted to be able to give you an update on the Activity Trail in the garden area of the school. During the Christmas break, SHE Landscapes removed the old activity equipment and prepared the ground for us. The installation of the new equipment is due to take place during the Easter Break which will be perfect for the children to enjoy during the summer terms ahead.





Aspire Federation Update

from David Robson

(Chair of Governors)

In my final briefing I'd like to consider the impact on the various stakeholders of further federation. I shall start with the children, whom we should consider to be the prime stakeholders. They should only see benefits which will result from a wider availability of resources and the provision of a broader set of activities but at no additional cost. This will be supported through the collaboration and cooperation of a larger pool of teaching staff with a greater diversity of talents and specialisms.

The next group is you, the parents and carers, who should notice a more enriched educational environment for your children. There might be seen to be some downsides, although I can only think of one, which could be having to transport your children to another school in the Federation in order to take part in some of the extracurricular activities. I would hope however that this is not seen as a huge sacrifice and many of you will already be accustomed to taking your children to sporting and cultural activities outside of school time.

The third group is the teaching, leadership and administrative staff. I've already mentioned the benefits to the teaching staff of more accessible collaboration and other activities, such as moderation and subject leadership. These, of course, are already taking place in the two existing federations. Further federation will also provide the opportunity for further career development, which a small individual school would find difficult to do. The downside, which would only apply to new teachers coming into the Federation on a new contract, is the possibility of having to commute between the four schools. Fortunately the proposed Federation comprises schools which are geographically close to each other and so this should not be seen as a significant obstacle and is, in fact, already practiced across some schools.

Administration should benefit from the opportunity to invest in people and systems which again would prove too expensive for an individual school. Other stakeholders are the communities in which we live where probably the greatest benefit must be that of keeping our local village schools open and accessible, especially to those without easy means of transport.

The final group comprises the governors, who probably face the biggest challenge of all, particularly should, as is currently proposed, a single governing board be responsible for the four schools. If the new GB is constituted in a similar way to our current GB's, the same number of governors will oversee four schools as compared to two schools at present. This might be interpreted as an increase in workload and time commitment for those who are essentially volunteers and might not be so appealing to current incumbents. However the major challenge will be to examine the way in which the governing boards currently operate and seek to simplify or reduce their current activities, making better use of committees through delegation and improved communication. Committees can appoint volunteers with particular areas of expertise, so there is scope for change.

No doubt some governors will take the opportunity to step down, whilst others will express an interest to carry on. Needless to say, the new GB will need people with the right skills, experience, qualities and capacity, who understand the purpose of governance and the role of non-executive leadership and provide sufficient diversity of perspectives to enable robust decision making. If you feel that you could fulfil this role, then now is the time to come forward and express an interest in becoming a governor. Challenging times ahead I'm sure you agree. I look forward to meeting you soon to answer any further questions which you might have with regard to further federation. In the meantime I will keep you posted via the school newsletter of further developments as and when they arise.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NB—Changes and any new dates are recorded in red font.

TERM 3

Saturday 12th January—Friends Jumble Sale (10-12 noon)

Thursday 17th January—School Census Day

Friday 1st February—Candlemas Service at St. Dunstan's Church at 2.30pm

Tuesday 5th February—Pipits' and Bramblings' Outdoor Learning Morning

Thursday 7th February—HASP KS2 Poetry final at Dallington Primary

Tuesday 12th February—Falcons' Woodland Day

Wednesday 13th February—Nightingales' Woodland Morning

Thursday 14th February—Valentines Mufti Day (wear red or pink)

Friday 15th February—last day of Term 3

TERM 4

Monday 25th February—Term 4 starts

w/c Monday 4th March—Book Week

Monday 11th March—Parents' Evening

Thursday 14th March—Parents' Evening

Tuesday 19th March—School Photographer—Class photos

Tuesday 2nd April—Y6 Big Dance at Tunbridge Wells Assembly Halls

Thursday 4th April from 8.45am — FOMPS Easter Morning, KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade and KS2 Egg Scene Competition

Friday 5th April—Last day of Term 4

TERM 5

Tuesday 23rd April—Term 5 starts