



Mayfield



Autumn 2

25/26

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Mr Draper

Headmaster's Foreword

Dear Pupils, Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors, Old Mayfieldians and Friends of Mayfield,

Christmas is my favourite time of the year, and what a wonderful time we have had in the last two weeks of term! Christmas parties, trips to the panto, Nativities and a Carol Service! It doesn't get better than that! Mind you, we are all exhausted (and very excited!) and ready for the holidays! Let me share with you a few highlights of the last half term, and plenty more inside!

The first major event of the half term was when we celebrated Diwali with a day of traditional art and craft activities, including making Rangoli mathematical patterns, and plenty more. A teacher from the local Gurdwara also addressed the whole school in special assembly all about the meaning of Diwali and how it is celebrated all around the world.

The following week, on Remembrance Day, the whole school respectfully observed the two-minute silence and remembered the tremendous efforts and sacrifices which have been made in the World Wars and all the wars since. In the same week, Scott House organised a non-uniform and tuck shop day to support Children in Need.

Pupils in Upper II and Lower III also performed incredibly well in the Primary Mathematics Challenge, with a number of

them achieving Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates. More of our mathematicians than ever before have also qualified for the bonus round in February, providing an opportunity to achieve a rare and highly-prized Bronze, Silver or Gold medal. Good luck to the finalists in the Spring Term!

Just this week, the area's leading independent schools have written to Lower III pupils with the results of their entrance exams, and I am delighted to share that in my 18 years at Mayfield, the most places, and scholarships, I have ever known have been offered at KES, KEHS, EHS and Solihull, Congratulations, Lower III!

In the House Competitions, Livingstone have made a clean sweep, winning the House Football, the House Hockey and the House Merit Cup!

There has been a recent spate of trips and visits, mainly on a Christmas theme. For their trip, Kindergarten, Nursery and Pre-Nursery went to the local cinema to watch the Cbeebies panto and enjoyed their lovely treats! Meanwhile, Upper School and Lower School went to the panto to watch Cinderella at the Lichfield Garrick. The Deputy Head organise the seating plan and to my horror, I discovered I had been placed on the front row right next to the stage. My day got worse as there were not one, but two pantomime dames playing the 'Ugly Sisters'! My worst fears came true

as I was duly wooed by both sisters, much to the delight of all the Mayfield pupils (and staff!) I even had to sing a solo at the end!

After I had a lie-down in a dark room, my day got 100% better as we were all treated to Nursery and Kindergarten's Nativity 'Whoops-a-daisy Angel'. The children all sang beautifully, and Kindergarten narrated the Christmas story wonderfully! Parents, grandparents and staff were all so proud of the children. Not to be outdone, Transition and Form I gave us 'Oh dear you missed them!' The pupils performed spectacularly and my congratulations to all the children for giving us such joy with your singing, acting and jokes, particularly the unforgettable scene with Joseph and Mary, when Joseph learns Mary is to have a baby, and every scene starring the 'Four' Wise Men, which actually made me laugh out loud! Many thanks to all the staff for your hard work in putting it all together.

The staff and pupils decorated their classroom doors in keeping with the season of goodwill. They were all beautiful but, in the end, there had to be one winner. Kindergarten won Bronze for their Christmas wreath made of their handprints, Lower II won Silver for decorating not one but two doors and including messages from each member of the class about kindness, and Form II were awarded the Gold medal for their original 'Take an Elfie' idea! (see the doors later in the magazine).

The finale for the term, as always, was the Carol Service. Well done to the children, Mrs Gerighty and all the staff for giving us such joy at the end of a busy and hardworking term, and thank you to Reverend Emma Horton of St Peter's, our Guest of Honour.

We will also say goodbye to Mrs Smith, who is leaving Mayfield after 6 happy years. She has loved her time here but believes it is time for the next step in her career. We wish her all the best for the future.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. Stay safe, enjoy the holiday and I look forward to seeing you all refreshed on Tuesday 6th January.

Mr M. Draper

Headmaster





Christmas Doors!



Pre Nursery



Kindergarten



Nursery



Transition



Form 1





Christmas Doors!



Lower II



Form II



Upper II



Lower III





Pre-Nursery

Mrs Rahman

This term has been full of fun and exciting experiences. The children have loved getting involved in different types of play. We have been exploring with water and paint. The children have had a really good time building friendships with their peers. It's been amazing to see the children developing into their own little characters.

We have loved getting involved in craft work. The children have enjoyed using glitter to create fireworks and they have been enjoying the Christmas activities.

We have all had an amazing time on our trip when we went to the cinema to watch Cinderella. The children loved the coach journey and all the yummy snacks they had at the cinema.

Pre-Nursery wishes you all an amazing Christmas and a Happy New Year.



The children played lovely together



Irfaan and Leo are painting.



Prabh covered the snowman using the cotton balls



We've enjoyed exploring frosty snowmen



"train"

Samson coloured in the train beginning with the letter S



We did a good job following instructions



Alethea was very happy to show me her tall tower

Good work!



Irfaan enjoyed some festive crafts this morning.



Mrs Smith

It has been another busy half term in Nursery. The children have been working hard to develop their physical skills. They have spent some time learning to use scissors to cut out shapes. They have started to learn how to hold a pencil correctly and enjoy mark making on large sheets of paper. Once a week they go to the Hall of the Olympians for a PE lesson. In Maths lessons, the children have been learning to recognise numbers and count groups of objects. Sometimes they do this using the interactive whiteboard. The children have also been learning about 2D shapes. They enjoyed collecting sticks then using them to make different shapes.

The children were very respectful during the two-minute silence for Remembrance day and made some lovely poppies.

In the middle of this half-term, we had a non-uniform day to raise money for Children in Need. The children had fun dressing up in spotty clothes and Pudsey ears. It was an opportunity for the children to talk about helping those who are less fortunate than they are.

December was another busy time with the build up to Christmas. Everyone worked hard to learn the words and actions for the songs in our Nativity play. We enjoyed a trip to the cinema in Walsall to watch the Cbeebies panto, which we all enjoyed.



Mrs. A Young

The children are now fully settled into life in Kindergarten and have had a busy half term. They have worked hard on their reading, writing and maths skills. In PE, they have practised balancing, throwing and catching and music and movement activities.



At the start of the half term, we celebrated Diwali. The children found out about how people celebrate this festival and made their own Rangoli patterns. In November, Kindergarten helped raise money for Children in Need. They had fun dressing up and doing some Pudsey activities.



At the end of November, all the children enjoyed a trip to The Light Cinema to see the Cbeebies panto. They listened carefully to the story and had fun dancing along to some of the songs.

December has been very busy with the build up to Christmas. The children have worked hard learning their lines and songs for the Early Years Nativity production. After all the hard work it was lovely to finish with a Christmas party.



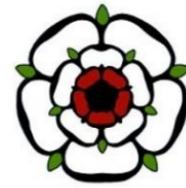
Transition have been learning about the King's coronation this half term in Humanities. The children have been investigating why this is a very special event in Britain's history and what makes this day so important.

The children joined in activities about royal regalia, including designing and making their own crowns, designing coronation robes, orb and sceptre, the promises the King makes, ordering Kings and Queens in chronological order and the music played at the coronation.

Mrs Guest was most impressed with the children's questions about the monarchy, the escapades of previous Kings and Queens and about the Crown Jewels and if anyone had ever stolen them!

Through this project, the children learned more about history and improved their research skills, creativity, and speaking to an audience. They now really appreciate the traditions that help make us who we are.

It has been such a busy half term with the children developing skills to become independent learners in all areas of the curriculum. It is especially heartwarming to see each one of them coming into school ready to learn, with gorgeous smiles on their faces.



Form 1

Mr Watts



Autumn Term is always the busiest and we have been hard at work learning our lines, actions and songs for the Nativity! It was strange to see four wise men instead of the customary three, but it was an entertaining show, and we were very proud of the children. Thank you to all the parents who helped with costumes and practising the songs at home. It was lovely to see so many of you at the performance!

We paid our respects to two other important occasions earlier in the term: Remembrance Day and Diwali. Our PE lessons have been used to celebrate dance. There are 5 key sequences in dance: jump, turn, travel, gesture and stillness. We choreographed spy moves to the James Bond theme and watched a video which inspired us with our moves.

We had our annual trip to the Lichfield Garrick Theatre to watch the pantomime, "Cinderella". In the final week of term, we had our Christmas party and some of us watched a Christmas movie in the hall. Our Christmas door display was well-received, as was our Corridor display which conveyed the importance of motivating ourselves at Mayfield.

We have also discussed, debated and chosen who we think is the most important historical figure, from a list which included Florence Nightingale, Robert Scott and David Livingstone. It was a somewhat biased debate, depending very much on which House the children are in!



Transition

Mrs Guest





KS1 Nativity

This year's KS1 Nativity, 'Oh dear you missed them!' was all about reminding ourselves that the true meaning of Christmas is to love one another. The story focused on the events from the point of view of the three wise men, or was it the four wise men? The cast of Form I actors and actresses learnt their lines and added wonderful characterisation to their retelling. The star twinkled away throughout so as not to be ignored by the fourth wise man, who was distracted by all the wonderful items on sale in the local markets. Joseph was rather taken aback by the news from the Angel Gabriel of Mary's upcoming delivery of baby Jesus. Helpful innkeepers found a tiny manger for Jesus to be born in. The soldiers tried hard not to let the evil King Herod discover the truth about the newborn King. Wonderfully supported by the choir of angels and host of shepherds from Transition.

The parents and extended families provided a fabulous audience for all the jokes and superb singing. We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas!





Form I STEM Workshop

Form I were delighted to welcome back Sixth Form students from the Queen Mary's Grammar School STEM project. The students from the grammar school came to inspire the Form I pupils to problem solve, predict and discuss Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and computing concepts. The theme of the afternoon was to escape from a Fairy Tale book. Each activity had a different story and STEM focus. A scientific materials investigation focused on Little Red Riding Hood and appropriate clothing. The pupils planted a bean and discussed how to help it grow to support Jack with his enormous beanstalk. Another mathematical activity explored different colour combinations to add decorative buttons on the Gingerbread Man. However, the most popular activity was a technological and engineering construction challenge based on the story of the Three Little Pigs. The pupils had to build houses out of a range of materials and then investigate which material survived the huffing and puffing of the big bad wolf! It was a delight to see the children interact with the STEM students and work together as a team to investigate the range of challenges each activity provided. A super afternoon was had by all.

We are looking forward to the QMGS STEM students returning in the Spring Term to work with the Upper II pupils!



Mathematics



*Science
Engineering*



*Technology
Computing*

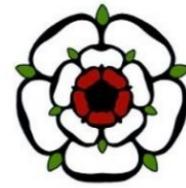


Lower II have had another action-packed, fantastic half-term filled with lots of amazing learning.

In Science, we have been exploring the topic of light and carried out an illuminating investigation into reflective surfaces. We made our own reflectors from a torch and a piece of white card and tested a range of materials to see which material would be most suitable for a reflective bag strip. We also investigated how mirrors work and went out on the playground to see how successfully we could walk along the zig zag markings by only looking where we were going through a mirror held above us. We had lots of fun and a few giggles, as most of us found this quite tricky. We also investigated mirror symmetry and had a go at writing secret messages that could only be read via a mirror.

As part of our Humanities topic, we have been learning about the most valuable thing in the world – water! We found out about a disease called Cholera and how this was spread via unclean water. We then used maps and atlases to explore why Thomas Barclay chose Wales as a great place to build the reservoirs. We learnt to identify some symbols on maps, to locate places using compass directions and how scaling works. The children took part in some fantastic discussions about hidden water usage and were really quite shocked by some of the things they discovered, such as that it takes 95,000 litres of water to power a house for 24 hours! The children all agreed they should be more mindful of how we use natural resources and try to protect our planet for future generations! Our class assembly on water was a great success, and we were really proud of all of the children!

In English, the children have produced some fantastic written work based on 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', including a diary entry from Charlie Bucket and a persuasive advertisement to sell their own sweet treat! Super work, Lower II!



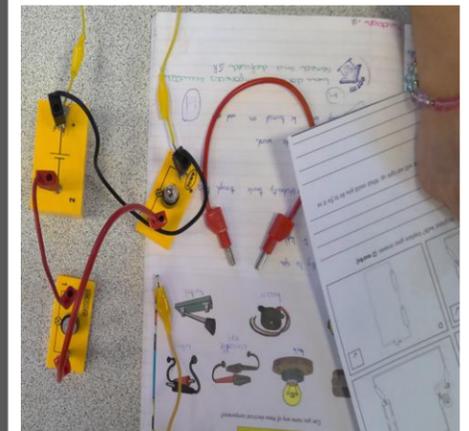
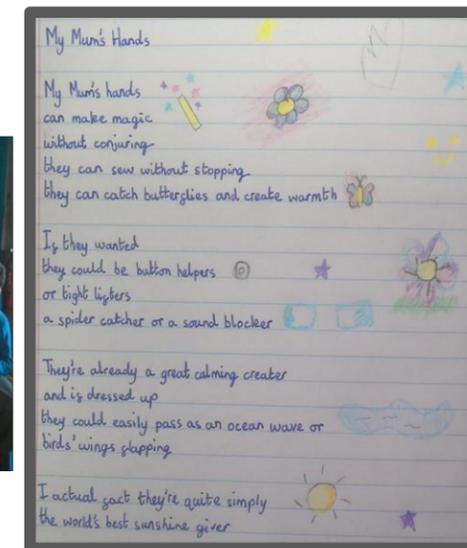
Form II

Mrs Andrews

Form II have excelled themselves in English lessons, this term, by studying the works of two very famous authors. The children demonstrated their talent for public speaking, delivering an entertaining assembly on the life and achievements of poet and children's writer: Michael Rosen. Children performed and shared poetry that they had written, inspired by his humorous verse. Form II were very excited to learn that Michael himself had sent a 'well done' message (on Twitter) after being impressed by the children's hard work and efforts...FANTASTIC! Schools up and down the country held special events on November 13th to celebrate the literary achievements of this well-loved author.

The children also delved into the fantasy realm of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', as they enjoyed reading about the antics of the human and fairy realms in this much-loved Shakespearean play. Form II set their minds to work, producing imaginative pieces of writing that Mrs Andrews has been very proud of. These included writing a set of instructions on how to obtain the mysterious 'Love in Idleness' flower and creating a character description of the infamous Fairy King: Oberon.

Elsewhere, electrifying things have also been taking place in Science lessons as the children have been busy investigating and constructing electrical circuits, using a variety of different components. Working successfully, in teams, they have also tested different materials to determine those which make good conductors and insulators. Great work, everybody!



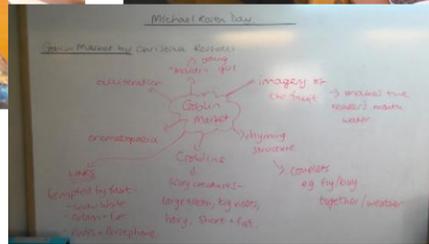
Lower II

Mrs King



Upper II have been working incredibly hard this term, learning all about the nineteenth century. In English, they have been reading *Oliver Twist* and *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, whilst at the same time learning all about what it was like to live in that century in History. Charles Dickens is a challenging author, but the children are really enjoying his sense of humour and his wit. Many of the children are much more confident about reading other nineteenth century authors now, too.

Reading a wide variety of novels, especially the classics, is very important for their 11+ preparation, and being confident to analyse more challenging texts is a necessity for the exam. On Michael Rosen Day, we analysed an extract from a poem by a much-loved nineteenth century poet, Christina Rossetti's *Goblin Market*, all about the wonderful fruits and vegetables the goblins were trying to tempt two sisters with. The children worked so hard and were able to recreate some of the techniques Rossetti uses in their own poems, for example alliteration, rhyming couplets and onomatopoeia.



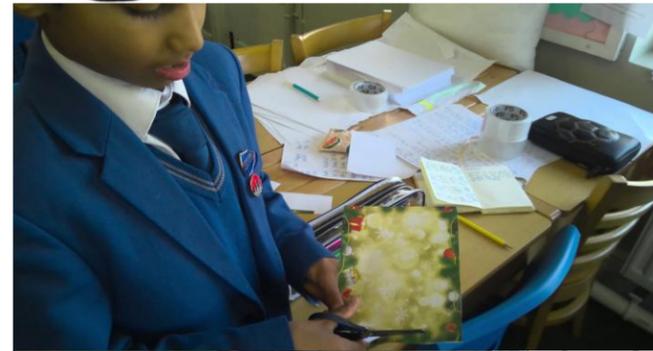
Upper II

Mrs Flanagan



Lower III

Mrs Pittaway



Lower III have been working hard this term on their enterprise projects. After choosing their team's name, the budding entrepreneurs had to carry out some market research to decide what product they would be creating and manage a budget for the items they would require as part of the production process. They created pitches and posters, before stepping into the Dragon's Den, to try and secure funding from our very own Welsh Dragon, Mr Draper!

Funds secured, the real work could begin. The teams have been getting stuck in making their products and have shown good teamwork and communication throughout the whole process. The teams' hard work were rewarded when it came to selling in the final week, with them managing to create many happy customers. The teams will be selling again just before Easter, after taking some time to reflect on the success of their products.





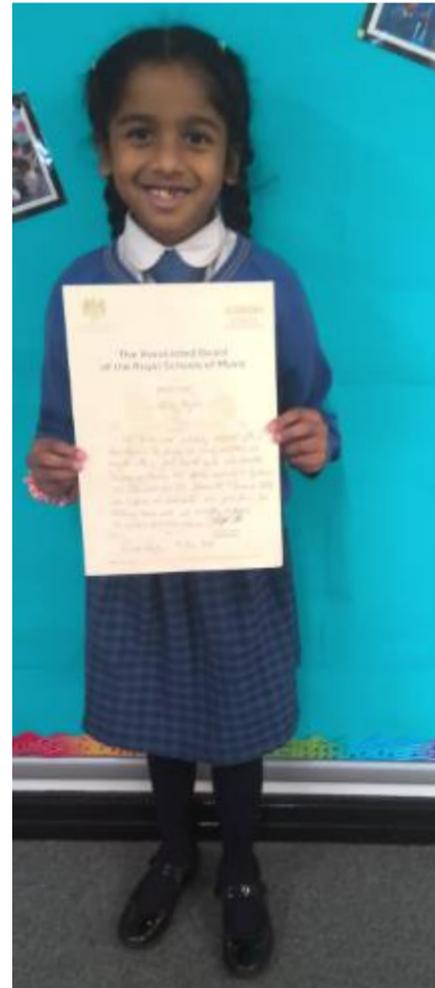
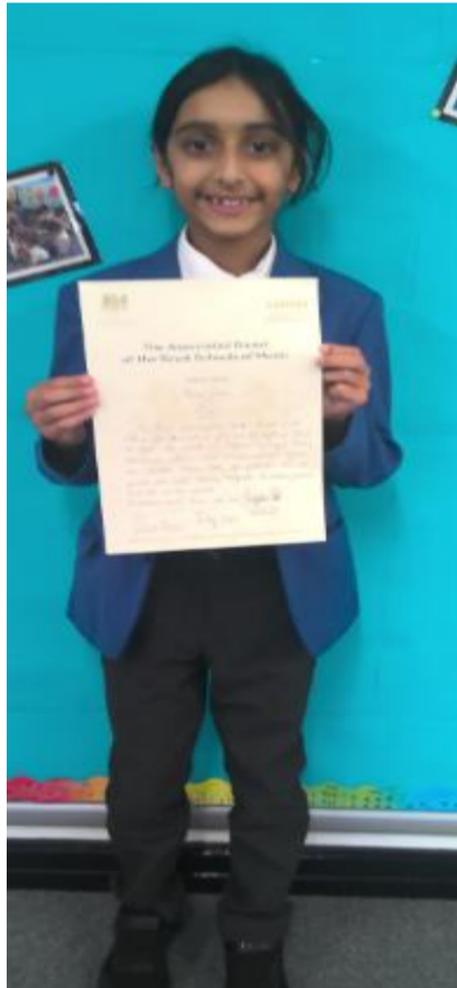
Music



This term we were entertained by an ensemble of musicians performing in front of the whole school 'Jingle Bells'. It was a delight to hear Daanvi on the cello leading with a solo of the song first.



Samay and Rohan played a duet for performance week during the Summer Term. Having passed Grade 1 they are now ready to tackle Grade 2 next Spring.



Laya, Maira and Anika all passed their piano Prep Test. All girls received lovely comments from the examiner. Now they are all making a good start towards learning pieces for their next exam, the Initial Piano Grade.



Dhiyaan achieved top marks in his Grade 2 piano exam. He gained a Distinction and great comments from the examiner.

Suhavi passed her grade 1 Flute and is making great progress working towards doing Grade 2 sometime next year.





Sports

There has been a busy schedule of fixtures this term, in a range of different sports. From football to benchball, cross-country to netball. Culminating in a Christmas themed dodgeball event!

The Under 9s and Under 11s girls' football teams both enjoyed handsome victories over our local rivals, Hydesville, with the boys' Under 11s and Under 9s teams recording a win, a draw and a loss.

The Under 11s netball team also tasted victory with three wins out of five in the Walsall Schools netball event.

The cross-country team braved the cold and the mud to compete on the cross-country league, with more fixtures to follow in the new year.

There will be lots more opportunities next term to get involved, including some new sports after school clubs!

Mrs. Pittaway



Sports

The Mayfield U11s football team almost won the Walsall Kids Cup football tournament at Walsall FC Bescot Stadium earlier this term. The opposition Goalkeeper denied Captain Ekam, tipping a last-minute free kick over the bar to secure a 1-0 win for Whetstone who went on to win the tournament. Mayfield had impressed in earlier rounds with a win and a draw, with one goal from Jude and two from Shahil, and the team fancied their chances of winning the tournament. In 3 years out of the last 6, the winners of the Walsall leg has gone on to win the national cup at Wembley, so history beckoned until fate took a hand in denying them that crucial result in the final match. The team stayed on to play a friendly against another school, in which Ekam scored a free kick from inside his own half! What a way to finish an excellent performance on a memorable afternoon.



Your adventures!



Congratulations to Samay who has won the 2025 U10 Staffordshire County Cricket batting performance pathway award! Well done, Samay, keep up the excellent work.



Congratulations to an old Mayfieldian, Dylan Khera, who has been awarded one of only five prestigious Foundation Scholar awards at King Edward's School. How lovely to hear of your successes.



Key Dates

Tuesday 6 th January	Start of Spring Term 1- 2026
Wednesday 7 th January	Lower III Joy of Movement every Wed for 6 weeks
Wednesday 7 th January	Barford Tigers Hockey Coaching Lower II/Form II
Thursday 8 th January	NSPCC Whole School Assembly
Friday 9 th January	Barford Tigers Hockey Coaching Upper II/Lower III
Monday 12 th January	Extra-Curricular Clubs re-start
Tuesday 13 th January	Wellbeing Governor Whole School Assembly
Thursday 15 th January	House Assemblies
Tuesday 20 th January	Cross Country Race at Lindens
Thursday 22 nd January	School Council Meeting
Friday 23 rd January	QMGS Skiffle Band Concert
Tuesday 27 th January	Walsall Schools Swimming Gala
Friday 30 th January	West Midlands Fire Service visit Form II
Wednesday 4 th February	Whole School Open Morning
Thursday 5 th February	Science Week Poster Competition Launch
Thursday 5 th February	Cross Country Race at Mayfield
Tuesday 10 th February	Street Teams Keeping Yourself Safe Workshop
Tuesday 10 th February	Parents Evening online
Wednesday 11 th February	Parents Evening in school
Friday 13 th February	School Disco
Friday 13 th February	End of Spring half-term



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