

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to wish a warm welcome back to all the children, staff, parents, grandparents and carers - I feel like Harry Potter coming back to Hogwarts at the start of a new school year, full of anticipation at the magic and wonder we have in store for us this year! I must say how impressed I have been at how smart our children look in their lovely school uniforms and how well-behaved our children are! I have marvelled anew at the beautiful manners of even our youngest children and I am proud to say the children are a credit to themselves, their families and to Mayfield. I am pleased to say that the children have settled in very well and have soon slipped back into their normal routines, working hard in class and enjoying their breaks outside. We have been lucky in school with the weather, although somehow the thunderous downpours have coincided with the end of school and unfortunately giving quite a few of us a thorough soaking! Let's hope for more settled weather next week, which will be a busy one. Music lessons will begin from Monday, as will the extra-curricular activities at lunchtime and after school. Make sure you know which days your child/children are attending the numerous clubs on offer, such as LAMDA Club, Active Gym Gymnastics Club, Street Katz Creative Theatre Club, Be Creative, Chess, Multisports, Study Skills, Upper School and Lower School Choirs, and many other lunchtime clubs besides.

Your children's class teachers and I will hold a virtual information evening on Wednesday 14th September. Presentations will be pre-recorded and then your child's form teachers and I will be available for any questions you might have. The presentations will be posted on Teams and the Q & A sessions will be also held remotely on Teams. Log in to Teams on your child's account to access the presentation and session. Further details and confirmation of times and dates will be emailed to you next week by the school office.

I must also write that it was with sadness that Buckingham palace announced yesterday the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. In assembly today, we said prayers for the Queen and her family, and we paid tribute to a monarch who has reigned for 70 years, longer than any other British monarch, who has achieved so many successes and lived through so many different times, world-changing and historical events. In assembly today, I shared the following poem by an anonymous author, which I, the staff and the children found very moving.

Phillip came to me today,  
and said it was time to go.  
I looked at him and smiled,  
as i whispered that "I know"

I then turned and looked behind me,  
and seen I was asleep.  
All my Family were around me,  
and I could hear them weep.

I gently touched each shoulder,  
with Phillip by my side.  
Then I turned away and walked,  
with My Angel guide.

Phillip held my hand,  
as he led the way,  
to a world where Kings and Queens,  
are Monarchs every day.

I was given a crown to wear  
or a Halo known by some.  
The difference is up here,  
they are worn by everyone.

I felt a sense of peace,  
my reign had seen its end.  
70 years I had served my Country,  
as the people's friend.

Thank you for the years,  
for all your time and love.  
Now I am one of two again,  
in our Palace up above.

I am sure you will join me in paying tribute to Queen Elizabeth II for a wonderful life and dedicated service to the United Kingdom and her people. Furthermore, in time-honoured tradition, we welcome the new monarch, Charles III - God save the King!

The DfE has announced that schools will remain open during the period of mourning, although I am reliably informed by Mrs Aubrook that when King George VI died on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1952, Mayfield closed for the day of the funeral out of respect for the King. The DfE has hinted that if the state funeral takes place as expected on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September that it will be a national holiday and schools will be instructed to close for the day. We await further instruction on arrangements once the date of her funeral has been announced and we will let you know as soon as we know.

Finally, I wish all our children, staff, governors and their families a great weekend and look forward to seeing you all again on Monday. It's good to be back!

Best wishes

Mr M. Draper  
Headmaster