



# Mayflower Primary School



Evington Drive, Leicester. LE5 5PH

[www.mayflower.leicester.sch.uk](http://www.mayflower.leicester.sch.uk)  
[office@mayflower.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:office@mayflower.leicester.sch.uk)



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## Weekly Newsletter – Edition 12

Yet another week behind us and in this record-breaking term, lengthwise, I can see the finish line ahead. My thanks to the children, parents, and staff for everything they have done to make the learning in school relevant, exciting, and enjoyable. To be honest, I don't know how you all do it!! Equally, we are so very lucky to have such great people around us, which makes the final 2-weeks of term something that we can all look forward to.

### Reception Trip to the Curve

This week has been more exciting than a box of frogs in Reception, because the children have attended their first trip of the year. On Thursday, in the middle of the pouring rain, the children stepped onto the bus, full of joy, excitement and wonder. Soon after, they arrived at the Curve to see a presentation of *The Owl Who Came for Christmas*. For at least some of our children, this was the very first time they had ever been to the Curve, and to say that they all had an excellent time would be an understatement. There are few things better than live theatre, and in Leicester, we are very lucky to have so many options. The quality of the production is always of the highest order, and I know just how much the children enjoyed themselves. Parents, I hope you have seen the various updates that have been posted onto Tapestry. My thanks to the staff, for organising, and also attending on the day.

### Our New Buildings

On Thursday afternoon this week, I met once again with the Department for Education to receive a progress update in respect of our new buildings. I am happy to report that again, there has been good progress, and I am beginning to feel more and more confident that we will be able to move in from **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024**. School will close at **3.15 pm** on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February** for the half-term holidays, allowing time for the move to take place during the February half-term. On **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024**, there will be an open afternoon, and also an opening ceremony. I did hear talk of a red-ribbon being cut, which is very exciting indeed. I guess the only question that remains is who is going to cut it? Please be assured, we are working on this, and want the day to be very memorable indeed.

### Collection from the TMS Building

Just a quick plea for your help with the buses from Judgemeanow each day. Of late, some parents have been changing the arrangements, as to whether or not their child is on the bus or being collected. This can cause some confusion, and also delays with the buses. Going forward, it would be very helpful indeed if you could phone through any changes before **3.05 pm**. If you call after this time, it will not be possible to make any changes, and we will honour the previous arrangement that was in place. Finally, please can I remind those parents that collect from Judgemeanow, the window is between **3.15-3.25 pm**. Please can you ensure you arrive between these 2-times? Thank you very much indeed.

**Head Teacher:** *Mr L Whitney*  
**Chair of Governors:** *Mr K Bhogaita*

**Chair of FOM:** *Mrs. R. Debar*  
**Treasurer:** *Mrs. J. Letten-Miller*





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## Wellies and Worms in Year 2

I just wanted to devote an additional page in the newsletter this week to the children in Year 2 who have been working incredibly hard up at the allotment. This provision has come to an end, for now, so what better way to celebrate than looking back on what they have all achieved. Before I do this, I would like to thank Mrs. Barnes for the amazing work she has undertaken. The quality of learning has been truly outstanding, and the very fact this took place outside confirms that it will be retained by the children. Learning outdoors is always better than learning at a desk!

What made this provision so special was that this group of children attended the allotment when they were in Year 1. All of the planting and sowing has now come full-circle, and the children have been able to harvest the potatoes, beans, radishes, carrots, tomatoes and cucumbers they'd planted before. The children confirmed they were delicious, and special thanks to Mrs. Patel for making some of those potatoes into Bombay sandwiches! Of course the children have found out that they can grow produce of their own and that it tastes even better than what you can buy from the supermarket.

Other activities that the children have enjoyed include leaf rubbing, closely observing the plants and the leaves, mud painting, playing with conkers, den-building, pumpkin scooping (and eating the seeds), natural dyes on cloth, and wrapping sticks with wool. The majority of these activities take place within continuous provision, which means that as soon as they arrive at the allotment, they are getting busy! They can also choose which spaces they operate in, and when these two criteria are combined, they create the very best conditions for optimal learning. Within this context, the children have been weeding, digging, playing in the sand, digging for treasure, den building, weaving, and watering all of the plants.

Another important part of the provision is for the children to be able to recognise plants in the wild. They build on this in Year 5, with the Forest School, but our Year 2 children have become very good at naming trees, including those that are in the school grounds. Connected to this is seed dispersal, especially the maple and sycamore. Nature truly is ingenious!!

To help us improve provision still further (not sure if this is possible), we have sent out some evaluation forms and it would be great if parents could spend a few moments completing these. If you have sent them back into school, my very sincere thanks for doing this. As part of the evaluation, we will also be creating a floor-book that will be placed into the man reception area at the Mayflower site. As you look through, try to focus on the children's faces. You will see deep engagement, high levels of involvement, joy, wonder, and achievement. This is what successful learning is all about.

On the next page of this newsletter, we have gathered together some photographs, but please keep in mind that this is only a very small sample. Once all of our evaluations have been completed, we hope that you will be able to find time to celebrate this learning, and for those parents in Nursery, Reception, and Year 1, this is something you can really look forward to.

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## Festive Dress-Up Day

By popular demand, our 'Festive Dress-Up Day' will again swing into operation, and your child would be most welcome to get dressed up for the day. There is no theme, but I know how much they like to look smart, so maybe something that would make them feel proud will suffice. There will be no donations on the day, and bringing such a splash of colour to our school will be a very welcome sight indeed. The day will take place on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023**. Please look out for Tweets throughout the day.

## Special Activities

Given the time of year, there are a number of other activities that we will be bringing to the children, and I am sure most of you will be pleased to hear that none of them involve a pantomime!! Please keep the following diary dates to-hand, as required:

- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023: Musical performance for the children in Key Stage 2
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023: A visit from a special person in red
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023: Whole school assembly at the Methodist Church
- To be confirmed: Musical performance for the children in EYFS and Key Stage 1

Please be advised that school will close at **3.15 pm** on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023**, and this will bring to an end what has been one of the longest terms on record!!

## Cold Weather

Over the last couple of weeks, the colder weather has been upon us and it has been good to see the children bringing in lots of warm clothes from home, including coats, hats, gloves and scarves. As the weather continues to challenge us, please feel free to wrap the children up so they can stay nice and warm, especially if they are in Key Stage 2. That walk to the bus at the end of the day is still a long way, and staying warm is essential. My thanks, in advance, for your patience and understanding.

## Attendance

Some very pleasing figures yet again this, week and my thanks for all the great efforts you go to each day to bring the children into school:

Week Beginning Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2023			
Early Years	Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
Willow: 93.4%	2AJ and 2AP: 93.7%	3KW: 99.3%	5HP: 98.1%

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## Wow Moments in School

			
Goldsworthy Art – Y1	Goldsworthy Art – Y1	Gymnastics – Y2	Gymnastics – Y2
			
Rocks – Y3	Rocks – Y3	Rocks – Y3	Mission Zero – KS2
			
Graysford Writers – Y3	Night-Lights – Y4	Framed Art – Y4	Arabic – Y5

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