



MAYFIELD



## REMINDERS

Dinner money must be paid in advance. The cost is £2.45 per day or £12.25 per week. The office can bill payments termly if required. Don't forget to pay online using ParentPay. Ask the office for details of how to set up.

If your child is unable to come into school, please contact the school as soon as possible in the morning before 9am registration. Please keep us informed of continued absences.

In order to keep our records up to date, let us know if there are any changes to your address or telephone numbers for both you and any other contacts. Up to date information is vital should there be an emergency and we need to contact you.

Please can we remind visitors that Mayfield School is a NO PHONE ZONE

Remember to visit Mayfield's school website! Photos, events, trips and any latest information is regularly updated.

[www.mayfieldtorbay.org](http://www.mayfieldtorbay.org)



Autumn 2  
2023

# MAYFIELD NEWS



## Welcome

Dear Families and Friends,

Welcome to our second newsletter of Autumn 2023.

The pupils at Chestnut, College and School have wowed us with some incredible effort, resilience and progress and we are very proud of their achievements.

Our sincere thanks for your ongoing collaboration and support.

On behalf of the whole Mayfield team we wish you a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Kind regards,

Stuart Heron



## UPCOMING DATES

Friday 15th December  
Last Day of Autumn 2 Term

Tuesday 2nd January &  
Wednesday 3rd January  
Non Pupil Days

Thursday 4th January  
First Day of Spring 1 Term

Monday 15th January  
Family Progress Meetings

Thursday 18th January  
Family Progress Meetings

Friday 9th February  
Last Day of Spring 1 Term



## KITTEN LOVE



Mayfield had some very special guests this half term when Hectors House Charity visited the school with some adorable kittens. Pupils from classes 3 and 4 had a lovely session to support their well-being and nurture skills. They were all extremely gentle when cuddling the kittens and everyone was very relaxed after.

## Phonics & Letter Formation



Our Primary pupils have been practicing their phonics skills and learning to write words. They worked hard on their letter formations, writing in sand to match the cards. They also used magnetic letters, identifying the correct letters and developed their fine motor skills writing the words on paper with pens.



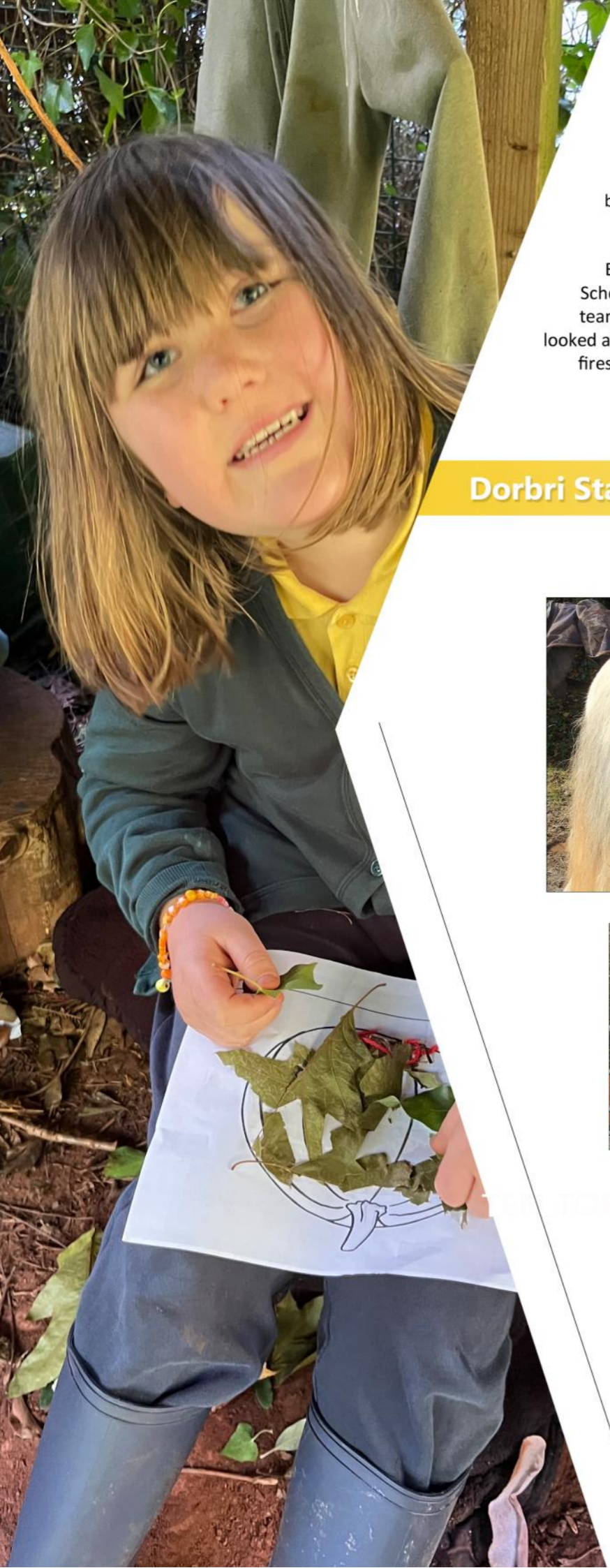
## Outdoor PLAY & Exploration

Pupils in our Early Years and Foundation Stage class have braved the cooler wether and spent lots of time exploring their outdoor environments.

The recently painted play road has been a firm favourite, with pupils using their new balance bikes to navigate the junctions and roundabouts.

Other pupils have spent time searching for minibeasts, collecting leaves and building towers with the outdoor blocks.





## Dorbri Stables & Forest School

Several class groups across the school have been working hard at Dorbri Stables during their weekly visits. The focus this term has continued with stable management techniques, ensuring the horses are well cared for. Sue Andrews has shared some great tips on building a connection with the horses, how to understand their body language and develop life long bonds.

Back on school grounds, Sue has led a variety of Forest School sessions over the half term. Pupils have worked in teams to build shelters using sticks and sheets. They then looked at the different uses a flint tool can have, from building fires to cutting materials. Pupils also gathered a variety of objects to make their own wands.



## MEET THE GOVERNORS

Carol Lawson



My name is Carol Lawson and I am a co-opted governor at Mayfield School.

Before moving to Torquay in 2018, I worked as a teacher for 37 years, of which the last 17 were in an outstanding special school in Nottingham. It is this experience, especially in Healthy Schools, PE, Expressive Arts and Off-Site Visits, that should help me in my role as governor.

I love living in Torquay and enjoy tennis, sailing, pilates, yoga, gardening and walking, with the occasional dip in the sea (when I fall off my SUP!).

## Stop ANIMATION

In Creative Technology lessons pupils have had a fantastic time learning how to make their own Stop Animation Videos.

Using a variety of toys, play dough and lego bricks, they carefully adjusted their models step by step and brought their ideas and stories to life with the finished videos.





## CHRISTMAS at Mayfield

Christmas is an exciting time for everyone at Mayfield, with lots of fun events and crafts taking place across the school. Our younger pupils performed their Nativity play beautifully to friends and family, preparing much of the scenery in their art sessions.

This years Sensory Spectacular followed the story of The Snowman, with each sensory bubble crafted by a different class.

Our older pupils took part in a Carol Service for which they practiced their songs with dedication. They created videos about The Three Kings and Mary and Joseph, editing them during ICT sessions.



## CULINARY Delights

Classes 16 and 18 hard work has been shining through in their cooking sessions!

Spending time at the Yellow Frog Cafe, Combe Pafford and at school, they have been developing their skills, preparing more elaborate dishes and working as a well organised team.

As well as preparing and cooking meals and cakes, the pupils have also helped keep the cafe clean and tidy and manned the tills, practicing money management skills.





Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very successful half-term across the college; the students have experienced a breadth of offer both within the college and the local community.

We are saying 'see you later' to two of our students, Joseph and James, at the end of this term. It is never 'goodbye' as we like to keep in touch with all our leavers and we wish them all the best at their new provisions.

A huge thank you, as always, for your support for the young people and the college. Have a wonderful Christmas break everyone!

Rachel Hawthorne  
Head of College



## Engagement

Over the past term the Engagement pathway students have continued to be active in our community; from local walks that fostered a sense of unity, to our adventurous letterboxing on Dartmoor. Food shopping trips have offered a platform for social interaction, whilst the Pampering Club has provided relaxation and self-care after all our adventures out.

With the festive season approaching, the anticipation of Christmas has led to Christmas creativity which our students have fully engaged in.

The new year will see some changes to the Engagement team. Ellis is temporarily leaving us to go on maternity leave so we wish her well.

## Independent Learners

Our focus in Independent Learners this term has been Artificial Intelligence and how we can use this to support our everyday lives and creative work. Learners have been using AI to create digital art, which they have begun turning into storybooks. In addition to this, Theo has been using AI to create a story about himself and his journey as a child to college life.

Our young people were very excited for June Palmer OBE, to open their shop which is selling a range of products to the other students.

Students have been visiting charity shops to collect items for our tombola in anticipation of our upcoming College Christmas Market on the 13th December, which also provided the ideal opportunity to go for a hot drink and a doughnut. As well as our tombola, Katie and Tanya will be running a lucky dip stall and Ryan and Kaden will be baking cakes for their stand.

Within the Independent Learners, the students have forged some great friendships which has resulted in positive work placements at the stables and a wonderful learning environment.





## Duke of EDINBURGH Award

Students have started working towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award this term. They have been making progress within the Physical and Skills section through dedicated sessions within Wonky Wood and Dance.

Some of the students have chosen to volunteer weekly at Oldway Mansion, assisting with the upkeep of the gardens, or in the kitchens either at Turning Heads Community Kitchen or at College.



## TRANSITION

The Transition Pathway have had another busy half term visiting both next step provisions, such as South Devon College, Turning Heads and ROC, and work experience settings, such as Maidencombe Farm, Torbay Leisure Hotels and Winners Gym. Our young people have successfully spent a morning learning and practising their first aid skills. They have also been swimming at TLC, spent time perfecting their dance and yoga skills in college and have worked on their CV's and updating their work experience records.

We have been incredibly impressed with how hard they have been working at being independent. They have taken responsibility for themselves as well as working hard as a team. Our work experience stars deserve a special mention; Tamzin, who has been volunteering in Class 7 at Mayfield, Luke, who has been working at Winners Gym and Shaun, Amie and Mickey have all thoroughly enjoyed their time at Ocombe Farm.



## LIFE & LIVING

Life & Living students have been undertaking work experience which has enabled them to practically demonstrate their communication, English, Maths and problem solving skills, gaining in confidence and their awareness of safety.

At Stover Country Park students have been chopping down overgrown shrubbery and piling up the debris ready to be burned. They have worked very hard, clearing a huge number of unwanted plants to help the trees grow.

In Wonky Wood students have been designing and making wooden signs ready to sell at our Christmas Market.

Ocombe Farm students have been given a patch of land to maintain and have enjoyed learning the skills required to keep it in its prime.

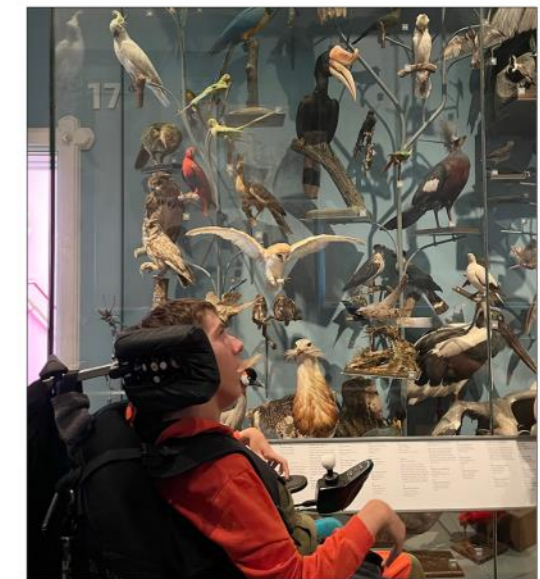


'We have been cutting with tools and helping cut trees. I work hard. I would like to get a job.' **Brandon - Stover**

'I like woodwork. It's amazing. I have made signs. I do a fantastic job.' **Damien - Wonky Wood**

## VOCATIONAL

This term has been filled with a variety of trips, including Exeter Museum. Some of our Vocational Pathway students have started visiting Turning Heads, where they have engaged in multiple activities, learning new skills and meeting old friends. We have also begun to visit ROC Farm as an introduction to work experience and it has been amazing! The students have been helping feed the pigs, move the cows and clean the chicken coops.





During this half term, Acorn have been learning all about sound. The topic was kicked off with a drumming workshop with Drum Devon, where they learnt about vibrations, high and low, loud and quiet, different tempos and dynamics.

In Science sessions they investigated how sounds travel through different materials, experimenting with string telephones and recording what materials made for the best soundproofing.

They then made their own instruments, composed their own songs using digital software and created written texts on all their findings.



## The Science of SOUND

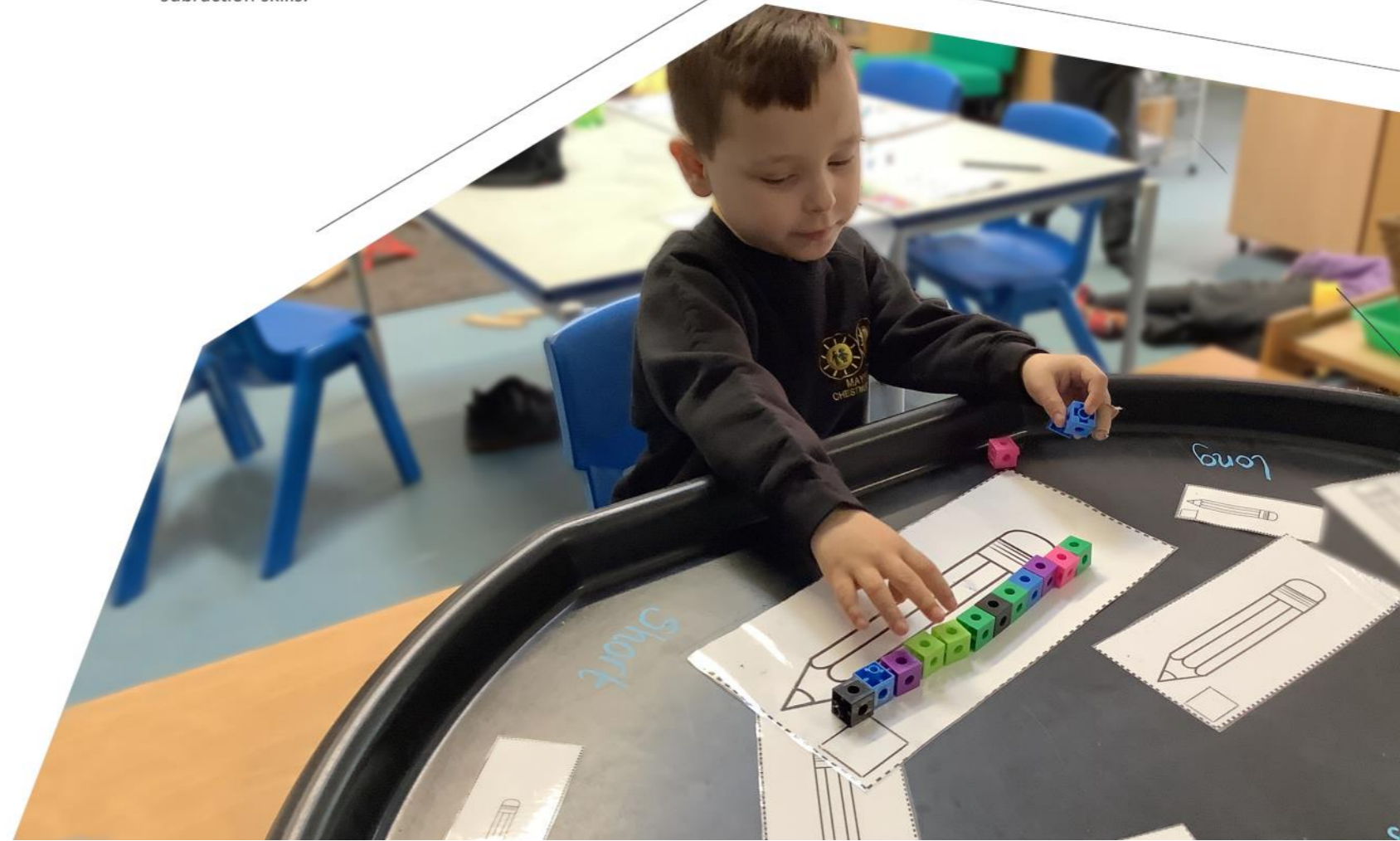


## Maths in Maple

Maple class have been working very hard in their Maths sessions, strengthening their knowledge in space, shape and measure principles.

Using cubes they have investigated the differences between different lengths, and the correct language to use when recording their findings.

They also spent some time looking at sequencing as well as addition and subtraction skills.





## Christmas DINNER & Festive Fun



Christmas arrived here at Chestnut with a bang for our Christmas Fun Day! Dressed in festive jumpers and novelty hats, pupils started the day by adding ornaments to the school trees, playing Christmas games and exploring sensory trays.

Everyone then headed to the hall for their much anticipated Christmas Dinner, complete with crackers and music. Both the staff and pupils had a fantastic time, filled with laughter and friendships!



## Chestnut FOOTBALL Team



## Brixham's History

Oak class have been researching World War 2 as part of their topic this term. A visit to Battery Gardens & Heritage Group in Brixham provided a fact filled day and brought the history to life.

The pupils explored the war shelter, gun emplacements, the observation post and had a glimpse into life during the War in the museum centre.

