

Parent Bulletin

13th November 2020



Robert
May's
School

A community seeking excellence for all

Thought for the week: Anti-Bullying

Word of the week: zhuzh - verb meaning to make something more interesting or attractive by adding something to it. From the Anglo-Romani word meaning to make clean or clear.

Book of the week: *Jemima Small Verses the Universe* by Tasmin Winter

Dear Families,

We are delighted to announce the names of those who have been appointed to our Lead Prefect team!

Lead Prefects are: Cole Ashwood, Imogen Butler, Caoimhe Thomas, Charlie Varney and Lois Wilkinson. They are supported by their Deputies: Alexandra Buckland, Tom Jarman and Tilly Wake. Warm congratulations to all, and we look forward to working with you to explore your ideas and hear your feedback about how the school can keep developing and improving in its pursuit of excellence for all.

As many of you know, we take Remembrance and Armistice Day very seriously here. This is out of respect for the Fallen, and to demonstrate openly that our relationship with all the families whose adults currently serve in the armed forces, whose children we have the privilege to educate, is of enduring importance to us.

Here is the link to a video of our Act of Remembrance which was held on Wednesday: [Armistice 2020 at RMS](#)

Our worship was led by Pastor Helen Chatfield and we were fortunate to host Padre Michael Chatfield, RN who was able to attend and who gave the address. Here is a link to Mr Searle's Remembrance Assembly which was broadcast during the week to students across the school: [Remembrance Assembly](#). Following the service on Wednesday, it was humbling to be sent the following poem, written by Tilly Wales:

I pray

By Tilly Wales, RMS, Year 9

I pray that this war will stop,
I pray one day the guns will drop
I pray that I see a church
That finally we will see the birth
Of a new era of peace

I pray a God can hear our cries
I pray a God knows how we've tried
I pray a God knows our struggles
So that grenades will be no longer juggled

I pray for a new dawn
Where men like us are no longer pawns
I pray that I will see a new day,
And until that time comes I'll pray

Thank you, Tilly. You make us feel inspired and grateful.

Please could I ask you to read Mr Searle's update below about our remote learning contingencies? We've installed cameras and microphones in all the classrooms and have been testing the rolling out of live streaming of lessons into students' homes where individuals are isolating. So far the feedback is very encouraging.

Finally, once again, please accept my thanks and the thanks of all the staff here for thoughtfully keeping an eye on your child's health, watching for symptoms and being very careful about any contact your household members might have with positive cases. We have been able to remain fully open all week. This is a direct result of your patience and community-mindedness. It would be a triumph for all of us if we can remain fully open for the rest of the term!

Have a safe and restful weekend,

Joanna C West
Headteacher

UPDATE ON CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR REMOTE LEARNING IN THE EVENT THAT A STUDENT, OR GROUPS OF STUDENTS, ARE FORCED TO SELF ISOLATE DUE TO COVID-19

You will remember that we wrote to you before half term about our contingency plans for remote learning in the event that groups of students are asked to self-isolate or if we are instructed to partially or fully close the school due to national or local infection rates. This is by means of a reminder and an update on further developments that have been made.

- *The foundation of our remote learning provision remains **Google Classroom*** and any student who is not in school will be able to access the learning materials and instructions for all of their lessons on their class stream. Teachers are posting these resources on Google Classroom at the start of each day.
- *If we do need to partially or fully close the school to the majority of students*, then teachers will deliver lesson content to complement the Google Classroom materials via **MS Teams and online videos**.
- Instructions for students for accessing MS Teams can be found [here](#). The students will need to use their school email address and then the password they use to log onto the school network to access their Robert May's School MS Teams account.

We have been actively seeking ways to enhance the provision for students who are instructed to self-isolate or who are clinically extremely vulnerable. Clearly, we all would agree that the best way of ensuring educational continuity for students is for them to be in school, with all the other benefits this brings in terms of their social skills and mental health. However, over the coming months this may not always be possible depending on the local and national picture.

We have, therefore, made a significant investment in webcams and microphones in classrooms so that sections of lessons can be 'live streamed' to students to help them to benefit from teachers' instructions, explanations and demonstrations.

- These sections of lessons will be broadcast using MS Teams to students who the school is aware have been asked to self-isolate due to either contracting or being identified as a close contact of someone who has contracted Covid-19.
- Teachers have been asked to invite students to 'join' these lessons online where this is the case. This invitation will come via their school email account.
- Several pilot lessons have taken place this week and students who are currently self-isolating have been able to join these and given feedback on their experience.

- It might not be appropriate for every lesson or indeed a whole lesson to be live streamed, as the facility is intended to support the lesson resources that are posted on Google Classroom. Teachers may, therefore, switch off their cameras/microphones after they have given their instructions or explanations and when the class is working independently.
- Teachers may ask your child to stay online so that when they talk to the class again they are able to see and hear them and, as has happened in some of the pilot lessons, verbally contribute to the lesson.
- We have sent an email to students with instructions about how they will access these lessons in the event of them being forced to self isolate. We have also reminded them of the online behaviour that we expect. If any student is found to have abused the opportunity that this brings then we will consider suspending their access to this additional learning resource. The School's Behaviour Policy and IT Acceptable Use Policy are applicable.

Our teachers are trying something here that is above and beyond what the majority of schools are doing. For them, this is adding an additional factor to their lesson planning and delivery and, inevitably, there may be teething problems, particularly with the usual challenges that online technology can bring. We have, therefore, asked the students to be patient if things do not go smoothly 100% of the time. We would extend this request for understanding and patience to parents and carers.

We really do appreciate the many supportive messages that we have received this year, which give us the confidence that we can count on your support as our teachers take these first steps in a totally new way of working, so that students who may be unable to attend school due to Covid-19 in the coming months are able to have additional guidance and continuity in their learning.

Jonathan Searle
Deputy Headteacher

COVID REMINDERS:

- **Face coverings:** the Government now says face coverings should be worn by students and staff in communal areas, corridors and anywhere where it is impossible to socially distance. The exception is classrooms, where face coverings are not advised, unless a student feels more comfortable wearing one. Young people and teachers who are exempt from wearing face coverings will be treated with sensitivity. Face coverings should be worn on public and school-specific buses. Please remind your child not to cause problems for the bus drivers who would prefer to stay safe in the current situation.
- Please ensure your child has a fresh clean face covering to wear, and a spare, at all times.
- **Medication:** it has come to our notice that some students are bringing in their own medication such as headache pills: paracetamol/ibuprofen/aspirin etc. They are then sharing their supplies with others. This is not appropriate because they don't know who might have allergies/medical conditions that prevent the use of certain medicines. If your child is on the school site and has a headache, they should go to our medical room where they will be triaged. They should not ask their friends for a spare paracetamol/ibuprofen/aspirin, please.
- Here's a reminder that the school has a one way system for movement around the site. If everyone is facing only in one direction, the risk of Covid-19 aerosols from people's breath being inhaled is reduced considerably. If you can help us by reminding your child to observe the one-way systems, that would be appreciated.
- **Please do not send your child to school if they have **one** or more of the Covid symptoms:** (high temperature, continuous new cough, loss of, or change in smell/taste). Keep your child at home. Please arrange for a Covid-19 test straight away:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> Alternatively use this link: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or call 119 if you are not able to use the internet.

- **Quarantining from foreign travel:** please check carefully the latest arrangements for people travelling back to the UK from abroad: do not send your child into school if they have returned recently from a quarantine-listed country.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk>. Please note, there are exemptions for HM Forces families returning from exercises/deployments. Please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules#defence-personnel-visiting-forces-and-government-contractors>

Covid-19 infections: definitions of contact:

For information about the definitions that contact tracers use, please see this link:

[Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person](#)

FOUNDATION TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT

ODIHAM EDUCATION CHARITY - A Trustee for Robert May's School

Odiham Education Charity, the Foundation Body of Robert May's School situated in West Street, Odiham, wishes to appoint a Foundation Trustee for a 4-year term. We are looking for a resident of the school's catchment area, preferably with experience in any of the following areas: estates, strategy, financial/ procurement or from a secondary education background at leadership level, to complement the other four Foundation Trustees who represent the charity.

If you do not have a background in any of these areas, but would like to be considered for this position please do get in touch with us in any case, as we are keen to talk to anyone who has an interest in education, time to give and a desire to serve the community in this way.

Please contact the Clerk, Sue Laing c/o LFM, The Stables, 23b Lenten Street, Alton, Hampshire GU34 1HG (telephone number 01420 590660) or suelaing.occ@outlook.com for further information or expressions of interest. **The closing date for applications is 19th December 2020** and the newly appointed Foundation Trustee will take up his or her position with immediate effect once the formal appointment processes have been completed.

CATERLINK

Menu. Below is the link to the NEW menu for next week.

Next week our Catering Providers are on **Week 2**.

[Secondary Meal Menu \(October 2020\)](#)

PERMITTED EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

Maths Clinic

If a student would like some help with their maths homework or would like to ask for a bit of help with something they are doing in class please do encourage them to come along as follows:

Monday after school: 2.30 - 3.30pm

Year 10: in M5

Thursday after school: 2.30 - 3.30pm

Year 7: in M3

Year 8 in M8

Year 9 in M6

Mrs Joyner, KS3 Maths Coordinator

Year 9 Science Catch up and Homework Help

After school on Mondays from 2.30 to 3.20pm in S2 with Mrs Lobo. This is ideal for students needing support or help with science homework, revising for exams or difficulties in class.

YEAR 11 REVISION AND INTERVENTION TIMETABLE 2020/2021

Please find an **UPDATED** Year 11 Revision and Intervention Timetable:

[Year 11 Revision and Intervention Timetable 2020/2021](#)

MEDICAL

Water Bottles

Please can Parents/Carers ensure that their child brings a water bottle into school every day. A substantial number of students have been seen in the first aid room recently suffering from headaches, mostly caused by dehydration.

Many thanks

Mrs T Brown

First Aid/Student Support

CHROMEBOOK PURCHASE SCHEME

The Chromebooks have arrived!

If you have purchased a Chromebook via our recent Chromebook purchase scheme you should have received an email inviting you to book a collection slot. If you have not yet booked a slot please do so over the weekend so that we can do our best to distribute them all by the end of next week.

If you ordered a Chromebook but have not received an email please let us know via info@rmays.com.

School Office

YEAR 11 PARENT/CARER CONSULTATIONS

Next week we will be running consultations for Parents/Carers of our Year 11 students with their subject teachers.

Emails with login details were sent to Parents/Carers of our Year 11 students yesterday, inviting them to log in to our new online consultation booking system. If you are missing this email, or your login details, please contact us via info@rmays.com.

LIBRARY NEWS

Miniature Books

The Library is currently displaying a collection of the best miniature books made by Year 7 English students. The English Team were really impressed with the finished miniature books and also with how much effort the students put into the project.



Accelerated Reader (Year 7 & 8)

Students are off to a really good start with Accelerated Reader this term and we already have 2 Millionaire Readers. Well done to Jacob Venton 8S with 1 Million words and Gethin Burfot 8P with 3 Million words.

In the class competition for the most words read the top three English classes in each year are as follows:

Year 7

- 1) 7V - 1,537,032 words
- 2) 7P - 1,315,421 words
- 3) 7Y - 1,148,637 words

Year 8

- 1) 8R/En3 - 4,951,943 words
- 2) 8R/En1 - 1,040,614 words
- 3) 8R/En2 - 946,767 words

Keep up the good work!

Student Timetable for Library Use

Please remind your child that they can use the Library at the following times.

Day	First Break	Second Break
Monday	Year 10	Year 11
Tuesday	Year 8	Year 9
Wednesday	Year 11	Year 10
Thursday	Year 7	Year 8
Friday	Year 9	Year 7

Many thanks,
Mrs Bennett

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

If you ordered your child's individual school photograph from Tempest Photography your child should have brought it home this week.

If your child has not been given their photo it is because we are expecting a second batch of photos to arrive from Tempest in due course.

Many thanks,
School Office

RMS PTFA FUNDRAISING

Easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into FREE donations when you use easyfundraising to shop with over 3,600 retailers such as Amazon, eBay, John Lewis, Argos, NEXT and Booking.com.

Our retailers then make a small donation to say 'thank you' and easyfundraising gives those free funds to the cause.

Please register using this unique link – just search for 'Robert Mays PTA' and click 'support us' -

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/robertmayspta-1582874283-755391685/?invite=4225V1&referral-campaign=c2s>

Plus, once you've signed up and raised £5 in donations, easyfundraising will give us an extra £5 donation.

There's no catch or hidden charges and Robert May's PTFA will be really grateful for your donations.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

RMS PLANNED TERM DATES: 2020-2021 (please note, these may be subject to change, depending on Government advice)

Please do not attempt to come onto the school site without a previously arranged appointment.
Uninvited adults on the school site will be turned away.

Autumn Term 2020:

Wednesday 16th December 2020 - Last Day of Term

Spring Term 2021:

Monday 4th January 2021 - CPD Day - School closed to students

Tuesday 5th January 2021 - First Day of Term

Half Term Break - 15th February 2021 - 19th February 2021

Monday 22nd February 2021 - CPD Day - School closed to students

Wednesday 31st March 2021 - Last Day of Term

Summer Term 2021:

Monday 19th April 2021 - First Day of Term

Half Term Break - 31st May 2021 - 4th June 2021

Friday 25th June 2021 - CPD Day - School closed to students

Friday 23rd July 2021 - Last Day of Term

As an academy, Robert May's School does not need to follow Hampshire term-time dates. However, we know that several of our students in each year have siblings in our neighbouring community feeder schools, and so to minimise disruption we have done our best to try and match the local arrangement
