

Parent Bulletin

5th February 2021



Robert
May's
School

A community seeking excellence for all

Thought for the week: Friendship and Respect

Word of the week: Macronutrient - the nutrients needed in large amounts in the body. Protein, fat and carbohydrate. "Macro" comes from the Greek meaning "long" and "nutrient" from the Latin word for "nourish".

Book of the week: We are all made of Molecules by Susin Nielsen (*available as an ebook on [ePlatform](#)*)

Dear Families,

Parent Survey: we would like to thank all parents and carers who so kindly took the time to respond to our survey about remote learning. It was hugely encouraging to read so many positive expressions, and also to receive some builds, great suggestions and insights about how elements can be improved. Mr Searle is collating the responses and we are taking time in the days ahead to study the responses and work out from that how we can continue to improve. Above all, thank you to everyone for your encouragement. Like all educationalists, we are hoping that it will not be long now before the Government informs us about how we can start welcoming students safely back into school.

Your child and visual/physical breaks from looking at screens: in response to some feedback from parents we have asked staff to ensure that suitable short breaks are given during live-streamed lessons, when students can be encouraged to stand up, stretch their legs, necks and backs, and also to look away from the screen, preferably to something outside if possible. The idea is to try and focus on something 20m away for 20 seconds in order to help prevent eye strain. Students are also being asked to check that their screens do not have the brightness control set on maximum, as this can lead to a feeling of strain. Thank you for supporting this, and we will try and keep up the reminders at our end.

February half term holiday: the government has stated that schools should close their Key Worker/Vulnerable Child facility during the February half term holiday. This is because some kind of return to in-person learning at school is expected at a point from 8th March onwards. As soon as we know how students are to return to in-person learning, we will be contacting families by "In-Touch" email. We will continue to send out Free School Meals vouchers to those families who are eligible during the half term holiday.

Monday 22nd February is a staff training day: this means there will not be any live streamed lessons and there will not be a Key Worker/Vulnerable child facility in school on that day. Live-streamed lessons and work set in Google Classrooms will resume fully on Tuesday 23rd February. The RMS Key Worker/Vulnerable facility will also resume from 8.00am on Tuesday 23rd February. Thank you for noting these details.

Once again, we thank you for your continuing support. Have a safe and peaceful weekend,

Joanna C West
Headteacher

YEAR 9 OPTIONS INTERVIEWS - REPEAT

Year 9 Options Interviews are scheduled to start on Monday 8th February and will run until Monday 22nd February. Each student and their Parent/Carer is invited to attend a video interview with a senior member of staff or a member of the Year 9 and Careers teams. Interviews will be for about 10 minutes and students should be prepared to talk about their option choices and confirm their choices in the interview.

Bookings will open on Monday 1st February using the same School Cloud software as for the recent Parent/Carer Consultations. If for any reason you are unable to use this software, please let the admin team know and we can set up a telephone conversation instead. Please look out for the invitation to make your booking which will arrive through ParentMail.

Information and videos about the options process are posted on the school website: <http://www.rmays.org/curriculum/year-9-options/>.

Mr Wilson

Repeat information: Key Worker/Vulnerable Child Facility

- We are proud to offer this facility again, in order to support the national effort and give our NHS, armed forces, police, food production, public broadcast media, social care and other essential workers the opportunity to continue to do their jobs. If you need to check the list, it is here: [Government Key Worker list](#)
- The usual Covid-19 rules apply. If you think your child has any of the main Covid symptoms, please do not send them into the Key Worker/Vulnerable facility. An outbreak of infection would be disastrous for the facility and would prevent a number of people from being able to do their jobs, both in the community and in the school. Please help us and protect the facility by keeping children away if they are ill. [Government guidance: possible Covid-19 suspected](#)
- **The following only applies to families of students who are using the Key Worker/ Vulnerable facility:**

Please inform the school if your child is unable to attend school, in all circumstances, detailing the reason for the absence. It is essential that you notify us as a matter of urgency if your household needs to be isolating/your child is unable to come into the facility because they are isolating/being tested/are ill. Please also tell us if you have a positive case in your child /household because we will need to tell Public Health England and conduct contact tracing. Please use attendance@rmays.com for all communications about attendance. Remember to include the name of your child, their year group, the date and time of the first symptom they experienced (if you can) and please copy your child's Head of Year.

- General information about what your child should prepare for in the facility and what they should expect is here: [Updated information for children of Key Workers and those who are Vulnerable](#)
- We are actively encouraging the wearing of face coverings on the buses and in school. Please help us to keep the aerosol spread from people's breaths down by also encouraging your child to wear a face covering in school, provided that they are not exempt. We also have a small supply of visors and we are willing to give one to your child provided that they are not exempt and if, perhaps, they have a medically acknowledged sensory issue with wearing a face covering/mask.
- The HUBL and Resourced Provision are both open with limited space for students who need this support each day. Please bear this in mind if you are considering using the facility.
- We are expecting that this facility may remain open for those who need it during the February half-term holiday and will confirm this in good time before the break starts. Live streamed lessons will be suspended, and the facility will operate on a more informal basis with games, films, puzzles, plenty of outdoor activities, art/craft and cooking opportunities.

Remote learning: expectations and helpful links (repeated from previous weeks)

- As you are now aware, with support from our wonderful Trustees, we have been able to roll out a fully interactive live streaming service for most lessons.
- On rare occasions, a member of staff will need to be away from live-streaming, and will need to set work solely on Google Classroom. This will be because:
 - they are engaged in pre-booked teacher-training or planned professional development,
 - they may have a medical appointment,
 - or they may be ill.
 - In addition to these reasons, please bear in mind that each day, a rota of teachers and Learning Support Assistants are on duty in the Key Worker and Vulnerable child facility. It might not always be possible for them to live stream because their focus is on the children who are sitting in front of them in school. Please respect this. All rota teams are on one-day a week duties, so we are expecting that any impact on live streaming will be proportionately minimal. Thank you.
- BBC2 - programming to support the GCSE curriculum (with at least two hours of content each weekday). If you have younger children from 11th January CBBC will air a three hour block of primary school programming from 9.00am including BBC Live Lessons and BBC Bitesize Daily, as well as other educational programming such as Our School and Celebrity Supply Teacher and much loved titles such as Horrible Histories, Art Ninja and Operation Ouch.
- Sky TV now shows links in its on-screen breadcrumbs to school-age learning programmes and also links to BBC Bitesize.
- Invicta National Academy is a social enterprise which is offering their services completely free for school communities. They offer two hours of live and interactive teaching delivered by qualified teachers. Here is the link: [Invicta National Academy](#)
- Oak Academy has good online lesson provision, in case of need: [All subjects by key stage - Oak National Academy](#)
- Our wish is that your child prioritises the lessons that are being set and live streamed by our teachers at their normal lesson times. The links above are for students who run out of work to do, or are keen to explore other resources in addition to their normal timetabled lessons.
- Hampshire Outdoor Centres have created a home activity pack to link to several national curriculum subjects and encourage students to keep active and be creative. Here is the link: [Home Activity Pack](#)

ART DEPARTMENT

Please find details below about a free to enter competition, Sketch for Survival, which is being run by Explorers Against Extension. There are two categories 'Wildlife' and 'Wild Spaces', and two age groups (adult and junior (16 years and under)) and the closing date is 30th June 2021.

I thought this would be an excellent opportunity for some of our budding artists. Good luck.

[Sketch for Survival Competition](#)

Mr Peters
Head of Art

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Your child will have received an email this week about a very exciting and creative project they can take part in called 'Creative Earth Art Competition'. This is being run by the Government to link in with the UK hosting the UN Climate Change Conference, COP26, with our partners Italy in November 2021. This conference will bring together world leaders to commit to urgent global climate action.

The website below is the link needed for details about the project. There is a video that explains the activity, a template to be used and information about how students can enter the competition.

<https://together-for-our-planet.ukcop26.org/creative-earth/>

The Geography Department

PE TEACHER CHALLENGE

Miss Bazan is back for this week's PE Teacher Challenge. This week's challenge is "The Impossible Pressup Challenge"

[Miss Bazan's challenge](#)

Will anyone reach the 90 second challenge?

Record your results on the Google sheet below (add them to Miss Bazan's tab).

[Teacher Challenge Record Sheet - Student Scores](#)

Good luck and stay safe.

PE Department

PE LOCKDOWN FIXTURE: INTER SCHOOL WINTER TIME TRIALS - REPEAT

LOCKDOWN FIXTURE!

Inter School Winter Time Trials (Monday 1st - Thursday 11th February 2021)

ALL STAFF & STUDENTS HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO REPRESENT

THE MIGHTY ROBERT MAY'S SCHOOL!!!

To keep students motivated as another half term of lockdown draws to a close we are entering into the world of virtual inter school competition. Next week we will take on schools from Hampshire, Surrey and Yorkshire in three endurance events.

There will be three performance based events (both team (top 4 boys and girls per year) and individual) - a 20 minute run and a 40 minute cycle. Students submitting distances for both the run and cycle will also be entered into the biathlon competition (run distance + cycle distance/3). There will also be a participation based event - a 30 minute "shuffle" (walk, jog or combination).

Competitors in the performance based events will be asked to submit distances via this form, accompanied with a screenshot from a GPS linked running app to evidence performance if they have one.

"Shuffle" participants will be asked to upload an action photo or screenshot to evidence their efforts if possible. The school engaging the highest number of staff and students in the "shuffle" will be crowned overall champions, so please step up and do your bit to help us top this table.

In addition to adhering to all Covid-19 guidance in relation to exercising in public, please also consider the following:

- wear Hi-Vis clothing and supportive trainers;
- walk / run on pavements and footpaths where possible, otherwise face oncoming traffic on straight sections of road;
- check bike brakes, tyres, gears and lights before setting off;
- ensure your parents are involved in planning a suitable route.

Students: please click [here](#) to submit your data. We will ensure that your name and personal data is not shared with other participating schools.

Good luck and enjoy.
RMS PE Dept

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Any orders placed on Scopay will be delivered on a week by week basis. The deadline for placing orders is midnight on Sunday and this will ensure your order is processed for delivery the following week. An email will be sent to Parents/Carers upon receipt of the goods and the parent can then either request a home delivery or to confirm that their child will collect the items from school.

Please email info@rmays.com, marked for the attention of the Science Department, to request further information.

SCIENCE STARS OF THE WEEK (W/C 25TH JANUARY 2021)

Well done to the following students who have been awarded the 'Science Star of the Week' for completion of an excellent piece of remote work or excellent engagement and effort in remote lessons. Well done and keep up the good work!

Year 8: Prathyush Patel 8Z, Lieven De Vries 8T

Year 9: Evie Miller 9Y, Arthur Dennis 9S, Erin Clayton 9S

Year 10: Tallulah Fahy 10X, Dylan Burton-Hall 10W, Zoe Martin 10S, Nikka Hampshire 10W,
Bethany Cranstone 10Y, Josie O'Neill 10U

Year 11: Alfie Jones 11W, Amy Adams 11P, Oliver Krall 11P, Imogen Butler 11Z, Callum Green 11Z

RMS PTFA UPDATE

Uniform Service

The Online Uniform shop remains open, however, our parent volunteers will not be processing orders or be open for collections until further notice.

If you are a Key Worker and have an urgent requirement for school uniform, please email us at uniform@rmspta.co.uk with details. Our email will be monitored regularly during this period.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.
RMS PTFA Uniform Service



Fundraising

Robert Mays PTFA is listed as a charity with Amazon Smile. [Amazon Smile - Robert May's School](#)

Please follow the link above, select us as your chosen charity, and then when you shop online through Amazon Smile, a commission donation will be made automatically. There is no cost to you

Thank you so much

Sian Taylor, PTFA Treasurer

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.

HAMPSHIRE YOUTH ACCESS

Hampshire Youth Service have asked that we share with Parents/Carers information about the services they provide for young people in need of extra support, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic.

They run therapeutic groups for young people aged 11-17 years old and address issues such as anxiety, exam stress and anger. Their programmes run for 6 weeks and it is a free service for Hampshire secondary schools and sixth forms.

Due to the current lockdown, they are now preparing to deliver these groups using Zoom.

For further information, please [click here](#) to read the handout or contact enquiries@hampshireyouthaccess.org.uk if you have any questions

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.

Spring Term 2021: Remote learning from home will follow these dates.

The government has now clarified that schools are not expected to remain open to Key Worker/Vulnerable children during the February half-term break.

Half Term Break - 15th February 2021 - 19th February 2021: RMS is closed to all.

Monday 22nd February 2021 - CPD Day - School closed to students. No online learning.

Tuesday 23rd February- Second half of Spring Term starts.

Wednesday 31st March 2021 - Last Day of Spring 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 arrangements.

February 3rd Update

The 2000th patient from Hook and Hartley Wintney received their vaccination yesterday. The practice today 3rd Feb has contacted all over 70's inviting them for a vaccination



A new (NHS Centre) vaccination centre opened at Basingstoke Fire Station on Monday. When you receive a letter from the NHS you will probably have a choice of a number of new sites including Superdrug in the town centre.

These centres supplement the Chineham location [GP led] which is currently delivering 1000 vaccinations per day



The practice hit the headlines last week with the introduction of marshals at both surgeries to ensure the safety of patients and staff. There have been a few instances of patients with Covid symptoms walking in to the practice past the very large signs.

It is essential that anyone with Covid symptoms reports to the Assessment Centre in Old Basing. By following these rules we can keep everyone safe.

The good news is that the three marshals have found new employment.

