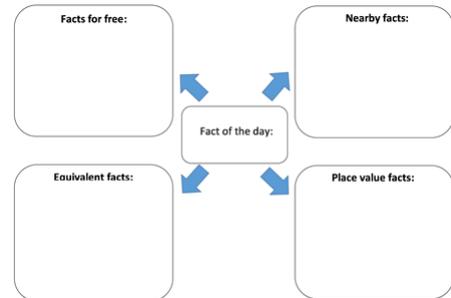


Dear Parents and Carers

Learning—Laughing—Achieving

I have really enjoyed starting the school day in 4HS this week. They are so organised and produce some brilliant work using the derivation board each morning demonstrating super knowledge of facts for free, place value, equivalent and nearby facts. If you have a few minutes this weekend, ask your child to explain how they use the board.



Sticking to a mathematical theme, I was extremely impressed with 6GE's approach to elegance in their maths morning meeting this week. In school, we talk about elegance within maths as being the most appropriate approach to solving an equation. When solving 120×65 a number of really interesting approaches were developed which were more efficient or elegant than using a formal written method. How would you solve this question?

Our 'Must Reads' continue to be enjoyed by our children in school and I have had several recommendations from year 6 to read Wonder by R.J.Palacio. This young lady loved reading Flat Stanley during half term and has been able to use it for her reading bingo too as her Mum also enjoyed it as a child.



World War 1 Day

"Gas!!!!!" screamed one of the children as everyone lunged for their gas masks and dived for cover. Thankfully it was just a re-enactment of life in a World War One trench and not because Sergeant Erica had just eaten his lunch. The scene was set for all-out WAR! Year 5 had reported promptly for duty in full military dress, carried out their drills and got straight into preparing their trenches for battle. This wasn't made easy with class invasions and skirmishes in the corridor. I don't believe I've had as much fun with my class as crawling along the corridor floors, rifles in hand, in complete silence to wreak havoc and destruction in 5RV. The action soon moved to the hall, where both classes faced each other in a full enactment of the moments leading up to the Christmas day armistice. As soldiers were wounded, nurses were on hand to revive them back to life and return them to battle. Gas attacks were widespread with children reaching for their self-made masks. Then everything turned to calm as the haunting sound of 'Stille Nacht' drifted across the trenches, and both sides came together to participate in the now legendary harmonious game of football, exchange gifts and share stories. It was a touching moment amidst all the death and carnage and year 5 pulled it off with dramatic aplomb. The children have worked so hard on their World War 1 unit and they were keen to show off their tremendous work to their parents as part of ACE time. We had poetry, art and stories to share and it was evident that they had all poured their last modicum of heart and spirit into each piece. Enough to evoke a tear from even the hardest of souls. I was incredibly honoured to have been involved with them on this journey, and I was the epitome of pride on the day as they signalled the end with 'A long way to Tipperary'. A huge thank you to all the adults who helped the children get their costumes, did homework projects and of course came to see them on the day. We couldn't have had such a rich immersive day of learning and fun without you. Mr Darby.



Keeping children safe online

I have looked at the following websites this week which contain really helpful information about how to keep our children safe online. Their information is for both adults and children and having looked at them yourselves you may like to share some of this with your children.

ThinkUknow

The latest information on the sites you like to visit, mobiles and new technology. Find out what's good, what's not and what you can do about it.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

KidSMART – Guidance about staying safe online.

www.kidsmart.org.uk

Childnet

A non-profit organisation working with others to help make the internet a great and safe place for children.

www.childnet.com

We have had some lovely feedback from parents and children about the work that is shared with parents on instagram each week. I have become aware this week of one or two children having their own instagram accounts and have done some research around this. Instagram require users to be 13 years old before they create their own accounts. If your child has created an account and you would like support with deleting it please use the link below:

<https://help.instagram.com/517920941588885>

Swimathon

There have been some herculean efforts during this week's Swimathon! Our children have swum an incredible number of widths in each session. It has been lovely to see the pride on their faces as they have left the pool each day. Children ended up swimming widths as opposed to lengths as this increased the number of children able to swim at one time so please adjust sponsorship accordingly! One or two children have been sponsored at a very good rate per length and managed to swim 60 plus widths in the given time.

Please can completed sponsor forms and money be brought to school by Friday 10th November in named envelopes. Thank you for your generous support.

Mr Hazelgrove

We have been very fortunate to have worked with Mr Hazelgrove in the last 12 months. He is a fantastic sports coach and has played a key role in developing the sporting opportunities for our children both within and beyond the curriculum. He also runs a company which delivers an online platform to schools to support them in the delivery and assessment of PE. In recent months the volume of work for this company has increased significantly – he is now working with 264 schools across the country – and combining both roles has become unmanageable. His last day with us was on Tuesday and it was fitting that his last rugby sessions were delivered in beautiful weather. I am sure that he will continue to maintain close links with our school and support the growth of sport at Mill Rythe. I am delighted to welcome Mr Chalk to our school and he has really enjoyed getting to know your children in recent weeks.



PTA News

Thank you for your continued support. The AGM for the PTA took place on Monday this week and the projects that are planned for the next year will have a really positive impact on all of our children. I am very fortunate to work in a school with such a hardworking and committed PTA. Keep an eye out for the newsletter that will be coming home shortly.

Attendance update

Our whole school attendance for last half term was 97.3% a great achievement from everyone. Well done to 3AW on winning the first round of 'Attendance Snakes and Ladders!' – they also had the best class attendance with 98.9% for Autumn 1.

Year 5 Cake Friday

Thank you to all of the year 5 parents and children who brought cakes into school today for our first sale of the year. The money raised will go towards our project to give each class a new class library.

SATs week

Year 6 are making great progress in so many areas of the curriculum and are incredibly focused on making the most of the opportunities available to them in school. The Government have confirmed that SATs week will take place in the week beginning **14th May 2018**. We will hold meetings with parents of our year 6 children in the Spring term to explain more about this week.

Christmas Fair Donations Day and Non-uniform Day

Our final donation day for the Christmas Fair will take place on Monday 4th December. Please can:

Year 3 and 4 children donate toiletries for men
Year 5 and 6 children donate toiletries for women

Learning Behaviour Stars

Children receiving the learning bee trophies each week now have their achievements shared via our school Instagram account. Thank you for the feedback about this account – it is lovely that you and your children are enjoying following what is happening each day in school. If you would like to follow us please search for '**millrythejuniorschool**.'

Have a lovely weekend.
David Bessant

Headteacher

Diary Dates 2017/18

9th Nov	Year 3/4 Flu doses
10th Nov	Film Club Pre-booked PTA Event 5-7pm
13th Nov	Year 6 residential visit to Calshot
13th Nov	Art Week — Whole School
14th Nov	Y5 Junior Citizen event
23rd Nov	Year 6 Weighing and Measuring
24th Nov	Year 3 Portals to the Past
4th Dec	Non-uniform—Christmas Fayre Donations
12th Dec	Y3 Christingle at Hayling College
15th Dec	Love of Christmas Day -
18th Dec	Winning House Swimming Day
19th Dec	School Christmas lunch
21st Dec	End of term
14th May	SATs Week