

Dear Parents and Carers

Learning—Laughing—Achieving

Miss Cull and I had the pleasure of attending the Mengham Christmas Lights switch on last Friday. Following the official switch on, members of our school choir joined children from the other primary schools on the Island to sing some festive carols. A great way to start December.

On Wednesday evening Mr Chalk and I took 18 children to Fareham to compete in a Hampshire Indoor Athletics Competition. An action packed two hours of competition saw our children compete in 1 and 2 lap races, long jump, triple jump, javelin and speed bounce. Across the evening there were so many fantastic individual performances, including Jasper jumping 5.99m in the triple jump (a new school record) and both Mia and Cameron dominating their races on the track. A great achievement for two children who are only in year 4!

We have been joined this week by Mr Parmegiani and Miss Padaruth from Chichester University. They are both in the final year of a teaching degree and will be working alongside Miss Vousden, Mrs Wintle, Mrs Chessell, 5RV and 3CW during the Spring term. Welcome to the Mill Rythe Family.

Up for it...

This week Portsmouth University spent the day with year 5 and gave them a taste for what university life would be like. The children were really enthused by this, and it allowed them to see what all their hard work in school could lead to, from SAT's, to GCSE's, college and beyond. It also dispelled a lot of myths about who can go to University and why they go.

The children participated in numerous interactive, fun and inclusive activities to excite their minds, giving them a glimpse of the countless possibilities to come. Year 5 were also able to ask students and lecturers insightful questions about University life, which corrected any misconceptions or fears they may have had. University is a place where everyone can thrive, regardless of background, pursue their interests and passion and hopefully turn it into a career or life they will feel truly happy in.

No matter what anyone wants to study, master or become, as long as you have drive, motivation and passion, you can do it. At this time in their lives, the children can become anything they want to, and this experience allowed them to see how it could be done. Of course, you don't have to go to University to get the life you want, but if it's something you want to do, you definitely can.

Online Safety

With the Christmas holidays approaching and the prospect of children perhaps receiving some form of digital media as a gift – tablets and gaming consoles etc, I thought it would be an appropriate time to remind parents about the need to be vigilant about what children are accessing and potentially exposing themselves to online.

Following the recent news stories relating to the Police's increasing concerns about child exploitation through social media, please do take the time to set up robust parental controls on devices and ensure that you set the passwords and codes so that only you know them.

Clubs

After a term full of great opportunities our clubs finished for the Autumn term this morning and I would like to thank all of the staff who gave up their time to run these and share their expertise and enthusiasm with our children. Information about Spring clubs will be distributed when we come back to school in January..

Join the Team

In January we are looking for two people to join our midday supervisory team:

Midday supervisor x 2 – 5 hours a week

The closing date for this post is 15th December. If you are interested in this post please come and see Mrs Winslade in the office for more information.

Christmas Countdown

It really is starting to feel a lot like Christmas! There is so much going on in school in the run up to Christmas , see our Christmas Count Down below:

Monday 11 Dec	Years 4, 5 and 6 will walk to St Mary's for our production rehearsal, coats needed.
Tuesday 12 Dec Year 3 Christingle	Parents are warmly invited to join Year 3 children at the Christingle taking place at the Hayling College starting at 10.00am. We will walk to the college, so coats will be needed.
Wednesday 13 Dec Year 4, 5 and 6 Production and Service	Our Christmas Production and carol service will take place at St Mary's at 10.00am. Parents are invited to join us for this popular event.
Friday 15 Dec Love of Christmas and Christmas Jumper day	If your child has a jumper or t-shirt covered in baubles they can wear it to school with their normal school uniform. All the children will spend the day doing Christmas activities with their teachers. In the morning they will be able to do their secret shopping for family presents, and later in the day we will have our Christmas Fair open for children to visit with their parents. Please remember to return the slip sent home last week if you want to collect your child earlier from school to attend the fair with them.
Monday 18 Dec House Reward Day And Xmas treat	Our good neighbours at Mill Rythe Holiday village have invited us to a morning of games and to see their panto in the ballroom at the holiday camp. We will walk down the lane for the start of the fun at 10.00am, so please ensure the children have their coats in school. In the afternoon the winning house will have an extra swimming session as a reward. We will let you know by text who these lucky children are.
Tuesday 19 Dec Christmas Dinner	The kitchen will be serving Christmas dinner. If you have not booked a lunch you will need to provide a packed lunch for your child. If you are not sure if you have booked or not, do ask at the office and we can let you know.
Thursday 21 Dec Last day of Term	The children can wear something Christmassy with their uniform today—maybe some antlers or a Christmas hat, tinsel or their Christmas jumper. School finishes at the normal time of 3.30pm.

Learning Behaviour Stars

Don't forget to look on our school Instagram account to see who the Learning Bee Stars were this week as well as keeping up to date with what our children have been doing. If you would like to follow us please search for '**millrythejuniorschool**'

Have a great weekend

David Bessant, Headteacher

