



Dear Parents & Carers,

Learning – Laughing – Achieving

Welcome Back

Welcome back to school at the start of what I am sure is going to be an exciting term. It has been lovely to see so many happy faces coming into school this week and we are all really enjoying getting to know the newest members of the Mill Rythe Family in year 3, alongside the children who have joined us in year 4 and 5, watching them learn, laugh and achieve together during the coming weeks and terms with us.



Parent Pop Ins

On Wednesday 12th September between 3.30pm and 4pm there will be an opportunity for parents to pop into school at the end of the school day to meet their child's new class teacher. This is a chance to come and say hello, put a face to a name and share any information about your child with their teacher. Once you have collected your child please come into classrooms from the playground. Teachers will not be available after 4pm as they have a team meeting but they will look forward to seeing you again more formally at parents evening in a few weeks' time. If you would like to meet with any members of staff before this please make an appointment via the school office or speak to Mr Bessant and Mrs Ginn on the school gate at the start and end of the day.

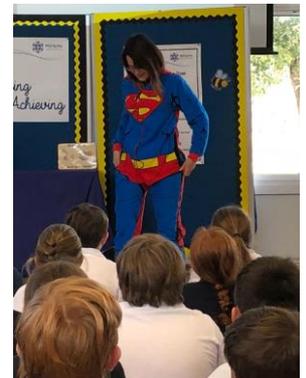
PE and Swimming lessons

PE and swimming sessions will be starting in school next week. In assembly on Wednesday we explored what our PE kit should contain and were then quite shocked to see what Miss Gilchrist had packed...

For the autumn term children need:

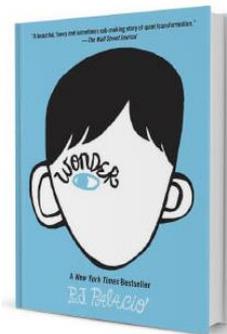
MRJS shorts and t-shirts, trainers, spare socks, a carrier bag, track suit bottoms or leggings and a warm top (all named). This can be kept in their locker

PE lessons will continue outside in almost all weather so it is important that our children have the right clothing with them so that the weather doesn't spoil their enjoyment of PE. I am really looking forward to seeing the progress that our children make in dance, multi-skills and netball this term with Mr Robinson and Miss Lewis.



Reading Star Journals and Must Read books

I am really excited about the Reading Star Journals and Must Read scheme that we launched with our children last year. More details of this are contained in the year group Must Read letters that have been sent home today. Our children are going to have the opportunity to read some amazing books this year and I am sure this will inspire them to develop a lifelong love of reading. During the summer I read *Wonder*, a year 6 Must Read book, having had it recommended to me by so many children last year. It is a truly special story about courage, kindness, friendship and character. August is a quite remarkable boy and the story that belongs to him, his family and friends leaves us with such an important message about how we treat each other. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it to all of our parents and I can't wait to hear what year 6 think of it.



Drama Studio

During the summer our Drama Studio was removed and we have returned to a very different looking playground this week! We are working very closely with Hampshire County Council on the installation of a fantastic new building which we hope will be ready for use in early October. There was great excitement on Thursday when we got to see the new building being delivered in 6 parts and positioned on the footings by a huge crane. I wonder if the day will have inspired any of our children to become engineers in the future?



Lost Property

Please can I ask you to check that all school uniform, PE/Swimming kits & bags waterbottles & lunch boxes are very clearly labelled with your child's name and class this weekend. Your children look incredibly smart at the start of term and I don't want any of their belongings to be lost in school. Inevitably, with 300+ children enjoying PE and the good weather, some items of clothing do not always finish the day with the right child. If everything is clearly labelled we can make sure it is returned to them asap. Each Friday, Mr Miles will be displaying any lost property from that week on the playground. He will then store it until the end of the half term when anything that remains unclaimed will be donated to the green recycling station.

Spinnaker Tower!

Back in May our children raised £1400 for the school through the Slow Bike Race before selecting the teachers they wanted to see leap from the Spinnaker Tower. A staggering £598 was pledged for Mr Darby with a further £245 being pledged to Mrs Brydon. Strong winds prevented the original event from taking place but this Sunday at 10.30am I will join Mr Darby and Mrs Brydon at Gunwharf for what I am sure will be a memorable event. It would be lovely to see as many of you as possible on Sunday morning. We are told that the best vantage point will be by Zizzi's on the waterfront.



Homework

Children will come home with homework for the first time next week. On Monday, your children will be introduced to their new Reading Star Journals. There are lots of things for you to share and talk about with them. To start off, we would like the children to work with you to decorate their front cover to make it personal to them - they could cover it with coloured paper, wrapping paper or pictures or design it in any way they choose. It needs to have their name and class on the front with the words Reading Star Journal (it will be easy to return if lost). They looked brilliant last year and it was lovely to see the pride that our children showed when they returned to school on the following Monday. This year we have bought plastic covers for the journals to help keep them in good condition until July.



Spelling homework will come home on a Monday with spellings tested the following Monday and maths homework coming home on Friday and being due back in the following Friday. Reading Star Journals are due in each Monday. **The only exception to this is 4MB who will bring spellings home on Friday and return them for the following week.**

Spelling homework

Your child will be coming home with a list of spellings each week. The expectation is that children will learn to spell all of the words. When the spellings are tested in class, children will have the word read to them both alone and in a sentence. These spellings are built around spelling rules that children are being taught in class along with words that children in upper and lower school are expected to be able to spell.

Multiplication and division facts

The national expectation is that all children will know their multiplication and division facts for all times tables up to and including 12 x 12 by the end of year 4. Where children have this instant recall, their arithmetic skills are quicker and more accurate and they can focus on understanding reasoning questions rather than having to use time and energy working out key facts. Your child will be coming home with a sheet each week that contains 36 questions. Children need to spend a little time learning these facts each day before being tested by parents and guardians. When it is time to do the test please start a stopwatch and point to each question in turn, working your way along the rows, moving onto the next question when the fact has been recalled correctly. When the final answer has been recalled correctly please enter the time into the first box. This is then repeated for six consecutive days and we should see the time taken to answer each question correctly reduce as the week progresses. Please can parents sign the sheet and ensure it is returned to school for the following Friday. Last year this approach made a significant impact to the speed and accuracy with which children recalled these facts and our children were really motivated by improving their previous time.

And finally...

We have an Instagram account for the school which will enable family and friends to follow on a regular basis different aspects of school life. The account can be found by searching for **millrythejuniorschool**. There is another account called millrythejunior but this **is not** the current account for our school. **The school account is not for children to follow on their own Instagram app as this is not meant for children under the age of 13.**

Have a lovely weekend

David Bessant
Headteacher

Key dates for the academic year 2018 – 2019 confirmed so far:

Autumn 1

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| 12 th September | Parent Pop Ins 3.30-4pm |
| 24 th September | Individual School Photos |
| 2 nd October | NSPCC online safety parent workshop 1.50-2.50pm |
| 10 th October | Parents evening 4-7pm (booking available week before) |
| 11 th October | Parents evening 4-6pm (booking available week before) |
| 17 th October | Yr 4 ACE time 2pm |
| 18 th October | Yr 3 ACE time 2pm |
| 19 th October | Yr 5 and 6 ACE time 2pm |

Autumn 2

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| 12 th – 16 th Nov | Yr 6 Calshot Activity Week |
| 12 th – 16 th Nov | Art Week |
| 6 th December | Love of Christmas Day and Christmas Fair |
| 11 th December | Yr 3 Christingle Service at the Hayling College |
| 19 th December | Yr 4-6 Christmas Performance am |
| 20 th December | School Christmas Dinner |

Spring 1

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| 7 th January | INSET day |
| 23 rd January | Parents evening 4-7pm (booking available week before) |
| 24 th January | Parents evening 4-6pm (booking available week before) |
| 28 th January | Yr 6 SATs Parents Information meeting 2.30pm |
| 14 th February | Love Day |

Spring 2

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| 11 th -14 th March | Yr 6 Practice SATs week |
| 21 st March | Yr 5 Parents Calshot Meeting |

Summer 1

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| 27 th April | Hi5 Family Fun Day |
| 13 th – 16 th May | SATs week |
| 17 th May | History of Art Day |

Summer 2

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| 3 rd June | INSET Day |
| 1 st July | Yr 3/4 Sports Day |
| 2 nd July | Yr 5/6 Sports Day |
| 17 th July | Yr 6 Leavers Disco |
| 23 rd July | Yr 6 Leavers Assembly 10am |