



Dear Parents & Carers,

## Learning – Laughing – Achieving

### A day in the life of 5MD

With the grey clouds and chilly wind creeping over the horizon, year 5 set off with nothing but their burning desires to learn and woolly hats to keep them warm for our annual trip to Dell Quay. I thought it was fantastic for the children to experience the stunning vistas on display around our coastline with the full force of what the British weather could throw at us. And what amazing resilience the children showed. Despite a few quivering lips, 5MD dug deep within and found the strength and courage to soldier on. Indeed, it was by embodying the spirit of those brave soldiers we studied for our World War 1 unit that enabled the children to strive on. The meadows were soon alive with the sounds of war songs such as 'Tipperary' as our brave troops sifted through riverbeds chasing dog biscuits round meanders, all in the name of geological research. With fire in their hearts and freezing water in their boots, they showed over and over again why they are the epitome of pride for me. They astounded the teaching staff at Dell Quay with their knowledge of rivers, and it was wonderful to be able to take the learning further with practical studies and investigations in the field. 5MD then went on to impress me even further by telling us all about the local fauna, utilising all the skills they had learnt in science this week to show where the stamens of flowers were and how a variety of plants, trees and reeds would disperse their seeds. It reminded me of why I got into teaching, and to see them using all the skills they'd picked up in the classroom just made me beam. It was a fantastic trip, and seeing 5MD cascading over the meadows re-enacting gas attacks in the Somme was a cherry that topped an already full smorgasbord of fun, delight and wonder.



### **Havant and Portsmouth Gymnastics**

On Monday, Miss Thorne took our lower school gymnastics team to Portsmouth Gymnastic Club for the Havant and Portsmouth competition. Our children had the opportunity to compete in an Olympic standard training facility and they really rose to the occasion. We were so impressed by their composure when performing in front of 200 gymnasts and parents together with the quality of the work that they demonstrated on both the floor and vault. Their reaction when they were announced as winners was magical to see. Well done to all of our gymnasts for their hard-work and commitment this last term. They now progress to the next round of competition which could result in a place at the Hampshire finals in June.



### **Havant and Portsmouth Swimming Championships**

Wednesday afternoon saw us travelling back to the Mountbatten Centre with our upper-school swimming team. During the afternoon our children competed in 29 different events, against 17 schools, winning an amazing 13 races in the process. It was a pleasure watching our children swim – their technique and determination to eek out every last bit of energy in pursuit of a personal best and potential school record was inspiring to witness. The support from so many parents was great to see and the scenes at the end of the final relay when Oliver dug deep to overhaul his opponent and clinch our final first place was reminiscent of Super Saturday at London 2012! Once again, our children were a pleasure to work with and their camaraderie is very special. Mrs Howard and our teachers do a tremendous job in the teaching of swimming each week in school and this result is a reflection of the 100 plus hours of swimming that children have during their four years at MRJS as well as the work done by those children and their coaches who train beyond school.



### **School Disco**

Our PTA put on a super school disco on Wednesday evening this week. We are very lucky to work with such a committed team of parents. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to make sure the evening was memorable for our children.

### **Battle of the Bands – Times Table Rockstars**

Congratulations to 5AF, 4MB and 3SB on winning last week's battles. Miss Vousden will be setting up new battles for children to compete in during the Easter holidays. The impact of the work being done by so many children in school is so clear to see. If your child has lost their login and username please contact school via [admin@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk)

## Online Safety

It can be challenging for parents and carers to know whether children are spending too much time on their devices. It's even more challenging to know whether a child is addicted to the internet and social media. As technology is becoming more persuasive, children and young people are experiencing tech-related dependencies. This week's guide provides parents and carers with the knowledge to begin to identify and support children who may be developing an addiction to their devices.

If you have any concerns about this or other aspects of your child's online world please do come and see me.



## 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 Easter with family and friends.

David Bessant

Headteacher

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

### Summer 1

23 <sup>rd</sup> April	First day back
<b>24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Yr4 Southampton Art Gallery</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> April	Hi5 Family Fun Day
<b>7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Yr3 Harold Hillier Gardens</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Yr6 SATs week
17 <sup>th</sup> May	History of Art Day
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Film Club
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Yr 5 Marwell Zoo

### Summer 2

3 <sup>rd</sup> June	INSET Day
13 <sup>th</sup> June	Yr 5&6 Matilda
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Fathers' Day Sale
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Film Club
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Yr 3/4 Sports Day
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Yr 5/6 Sports Day
4 <sup>th</sup> July	Yr 5 Winchester Science Museum
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Yr 6 Leavers Disco
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Yr 6 Leavers Assembly 10am