



Dear Parents & Carers,

Learning – Laughing – Achieving

Malala Yousafzia

In assembly last week we learnt about the activist Malala Yousafzia.

Extract from Malala Yousafzia's diary published by the BBC

'My friend came to me and said, 'for God's sake, answer me honestly, is our school going to be attacked by the Taleban?' During the morning assembly we were told not to wear colourful clothes as the Taleban would object to it.'

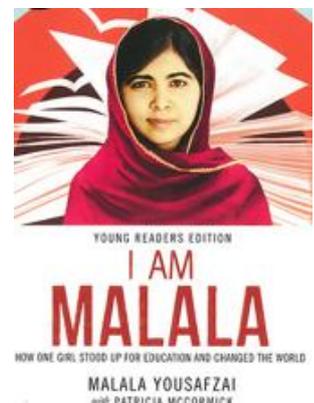
Fortunately this is not a question that our pupils have to consider on their way into school. This was the reality for Malala Yousafzai when she was ten years old. Born in 1997 in Pakistan, Malala is the youngest recipient of the Noble Peace Prize which she was awarded in 2014 when she was 17 for her tireless campaigning for women's rights in Pakistan.

The Taliban took control of the region where Malala's family lived in 2007. The Taliban were strict Muslims who demanded that all people follow Islamic Sharia law. Girls were banned from going to school. Women had to stay at home and were only allowed to leave the house with a male relative and if they were wearing a burqa. Around this time the BBC were trying to find someone to write a blog to explain what life was like to be young and female in Taliban controlled Pakistan. Despite the great danger, Malala's father put her name forward to write the blog. Malala's blog gained notoriety however no one knew that it was Malala – she wrote under a pseudonym for safety.

One day on the way home from school, a member of the Taliban came onto her school bus and asked who Malala was. As she raised her hand, she was shot in the head. Malala was flown to the UK for urgent medical care. Her family followed later as asylum seekers. Even though Malala was severely injured in the attack, she still continued to campaign for women's rights during her recovery. The attack on Malala caused widespread shock. Over 2 million people in Pakistan signed a right to education petition and the compulsory education bill was passed. Malala was awarded more than \$500,000 dollars in prize money when she won the Nobel Prize which she donated to build a secondary school for girls in Pakistan. Malala is now 21 years old.

Hampshire School Games

Yesterday I had the pleasure of attending the Hampshire School Games with eight of our children who had been selected to compete in the athletics competition for Havant. The School Games is as close as primary aged children can get to the Olympic Games; the event brings together over 2000 children aged 7-11 to compete in a range of sports including golf, handball, tennis, swimming, basketball and athletics. As the opening ceremony concluded with a lap of honour, our children were already excitedly pulling on their spikes as they prepared to compete against the twenty strongest schools in Hampshire. During the day they delivered fantastic performances in the 75m, 600m, long jump and vortex. The quality of athletics on display was of the highest standard with several Hampshire records being set. These included a



600m race being won in 1 minutes 45 seconds and a standing long jump of 2 metres 25cm. If you fancy a challenge this weekend have a go at both of these and see how close you can get! As we gathered on track at the end of the day to hear the results announced, I watched the smiles on our children's faces grow ever broader as they realised how well they had done. Third place in Hampshire is an incredible and thoroughly well-deserved achievement!



Ducklings

These have been exciting weeks for year 5 this term. Four weeks ago, we had some duck eggs very kindly donated to us from Jessica Hill's family so that we could incubate them as part of our science unit on living things (with an eye on introducing the ducklings into our Mill Rythe Farm family). It has been a dramatic, gut-wrenching couple of weeks as we've monitored, candled and sprayed our way to the hatching on Tuesday. Duck eggs are notoriously difficult to bring to full term and this has sadly been the case with our eggs. We began with six, and they all got off to a strong start, but sadly after two weeks, three of the eggs stopped developing. However, three were also staying strong and on Monday they all pipped through their air sacs and made that first important hole in the shell. By Tuesday, we could see beaks and hear chirping. With the expert help of Jess by our sides, we began the heart-wrenching process of watching them hatch. It was incredible and we will show some of the more amazing scenes on instagram. Hatching from the eggs is an incredibly difficult process, and alas it all proved too much for one of the ducklings who sadly didn't make it. I didn't realise just how hard that would hit me, it was heart-breaking. Trying not to cry in front of 32 excited children is not easy. Thankfully, we were blessed with two incredible cute little ducklings who made it through. It has been an emotional rollercoaster this week in 5MD but it has been worth it.



Barack Obama

In assembly on Tuesday we discussed our learning behaviour 'ambition' and were inspired by the achievements of Barack Obama. Obama believes that if you feel something is right then you can inspire others to bring about change, which is key to making progress. 'Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.' We reflected on how we could apply this to ourselves as learners and thought about changes we could make this week in order to be the best that we can be.



Sports Days

With only a couple of weeks until our Sports Days I wanted to share with parents that children will be competing in their houses this year. Please can children come into school on the day of their sports day with a t-shirt in the colour of their house:

Victory – Red
Trafalgar – Yellow
Hardy – Green
Nelson – Blue

Year 3 and 4 Sports Day Monday 1st July from 9.30am
Year 5 and 6 Sports Day Tuesday 2nd July from 9.30am

Parents are welcome to stay after the sports day and have a picnic with their children on the field when there will also be an opportunity for them to share some of their work with you from the summer term. If parents are unable to stay then children will have their lunch as normal in school.

Another exciting week in 5AF!

Our highlight has to be the arrival of our new ducklings. We were surprised by the length of time it took them to fully hatch, but we found it fascinating to watch. We can't wait to watch them grow.

This week, Year 5 also travelled back in time to November 1922 when Howard Carter made a monumental discovery – the discovery of king Tutankhamun's tomb! As the first newspaper reporters on the scene, we were lucky enough to be granted permission to venture deep into the tomb to see the amazing, golden treasures concealed in the antechamber. We are still currently writing our articles on this event and enjoying the writing process. We were fascinated by how king Tutankhamun's body was preserved for 3,000 years. So, following the steps used in the mummification process, we attempted to mummify oranges. We are hopeful they will still be in tact in 3,000 years too! And we couldn't resist eating the 'organs'...



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

Items available in school:

Swimming hats	£1.20
Recorders	£2.50
Water Bottles	£1.50

Inset days for the academic year 2019-2020

4th and 5th September 2019

4th November 2019

6th January 2020

1st June 2020

Key dates for the academic year 2018 – 2019 confirmed so far:**Summer 2**

21 st June	Yr 6 Kitesurfing Armada
25 th June	Yr 4 Portsmouth Schools Music Festival
28 th June	Yr 6 Paulton's Park
1 st July	Yr 3/4 Sports Day
2 nd July	Yr 5/6 Sports Day
4 th July	Yr 5 Winchester Science Museum
10 th July	Transition Day
12 th July	Yr 6 Enterprise Day
17 th July	Yr 6 Leavers Disco
22 nd July	Winning House Reward
23 rd July	Yr 6 Leavers Assembly 10am
23 rd July	Last day of term