

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 morning 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 years 4, 5 and 6 and watching them learn, laugh and achieve together during the coming weeks and terms with us.

Aaron Phipps

Our new term started with an inspiration guest who shared with our children his incredible life story from the age of 15. Aaron is an incredible example of what you can achieve in life; I am sure your children will come home inspired to make the most of their lives and prepared to grasp the opportunities available to them.

Aaron Phipps, a Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby player and London 2012 Paralympic athlete, was born on the 7th April 1983 in Southampton. As a teenager Aaron took a keen interest in extreme sports such as rollerblading, skateboarding and BMX riding, as well as well as competitive sports like basketball.

However on the 7th January 1999, aged 15, Aaron contracted meningitis C and meningococcal septicaemia (blood poisoning). This deadly disease developed from seemingly harmless flu like symptoms, which 12 hours later saw him on a life support machine. Aaron was in a coma for two weeks. By March, both of Aaron's legs and most of his fingers had to be amputated due to the septicaemia.

Overall, Aaron spent a year in hospital recovering and rehabilitating as he adapted to the life changing situation thrown at him. Eight months after being discharged, Aaron enrolled at Totton College to study for his A level qualifications as his life returned to some kind of normality.

In 2007 Aaron participated in the Totton 10km wheelchair race to raise money for Meningitis Research Foundation (MRF) - the charity that supported him and his family since he became ill with meningitis. Having got the taste for racing, Aaron contacted the British Wheelchair Association who gave him a racing chair. In his new chair Aaron started to compete in races on a regular basis, including two London Marathons, the second of which in 2009, he finished the fourth highest UK male in a time of 1hr 59mins. Aaron was introduced to the GB Wheelchair Rugby squad and due to his high level of fitness he soon became an established member of the team, participating in a number of major tournaments.



Aaron put a huge amount of energy into training and even attended the Florida project in 2011 - a 10 week, intensive training camp to help him be competitive on an international stage. Soon he was classified as a 3.5 player - the highest in the GB Wheelchair Rugby squad.

His hard work paid off when he was selected to be part of the Wheelchair Rugby team for Great Britain in the London 2012 Paralympic games where he scored over half of the overall points for the

team. Then in 2016 Aaron set himself the ultimate challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro - the highest mountain in Africa - to raise money for MRF. It was the first time a disabled British person had climbed Kilimanjaro without assistance.



As he got higher up the mountain, his off-road wheelchair could no longer deal with the rough terrain so he trekked for four days on his hands and knees. This was an incredible test of his endurance but his energy and determination got him to the summit.

Over the years Aaron has raised over £250,000 for MRF, for which the charity are very grateful and proud to have him as a supporter. He is also an athlete mentor for Sky Academy and a motivational speaker.

PE and Swimming lessons

PE and swimming sessions will be starting in school next week. 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. If your child's class is swimming, they will also need their swimming kit including their swimming hat. Children in years 4-6 will be getting changed for PE before lunchtime so it is important that they have warm clothes with them each week.

PE programme for Autumn 1:

	Swimming	Law of Sporting Basics
Year 3	Wednesday	Wednesday
4AT	Monday	Friday
4MC	Monday	Monday
4SH		Monday
5AF	Tuesday	Friday
5JH	Tuesday	Tuesday
5MD		Tuesday
Year 6	Thursday	Thursday

PE programme for Autumn 2:

	Swimming	Invasion Games Tag Rugby	Dance
3IC	Thursday	Wednesday	Wednesday
3SW	Thursday	Wednesday	Wednesday
4AT	Tuesday	Friday	Monday
4MC		Monday	Monday
4SH	Tuesday	Monday	Friday
5AF	Wednesday	Friday	Tuesday
5JH		Tuesday	Tuesday
5MD	Wednesday	Tuesday	Friday
Year 6		Thursday	Thursday

In Autumn 1 swimming will be taught by Mrs Howard and Miss Lewis with Mrs Howard and class teachers leading the swimming programme in Autumn 2. In Autumn 2 Miss Lewis will be leading dance.

Mr Robinson and I will be teaching Law of Sporting Basics in Autumn 1 and invasion games leading into tag rugby in Autumn 2.

Thank you

When we decided to build our school farm we were very aware that weekends and holidays would present us with a challenge in terms of continuing to care for our animals. Stan, Ollie, Jessie, Awesome, Jazz, Hands, Jack and Vera have had a brilliant summer thanks to the time given by Mrs Gilmartin, Miss Mellor and Mrs Brydon. On behalf of all of our animals and children I would like to say thank you for your support.



Mr Miles has had a really busy summer in school leading a range of projects. Mr Belton-Lang has been a huge support, giving up some of his own holiday to come and help paint classrooms in school.

MRJS is the most supportive school family I have had the privilege of being part of.



New Faces

I am delighted to welcome Mrs Haldenby, Mr Timms, Mrs Jenner, Mr Price and Miss Wright to our school family. Mrs Haldenby is going to be teaching 5JH this year with Mr Timms working as a teaching assistant in 4AT. Mr Price, Mrs Jenner and Miss Wright are joining us for the year as they complete their teacher training. They are going to make our school an even better place to learn – laugh- achieve in.

Parent Pop Ins

On Wednesday 18th September between 3.30pm and 3.55pm 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 that wasn't shared via the parent portraits. Once you have collected your child please come into classrooms from the playground. Teachers will not be available after 3.55pm as they have a team meeting but they will look forward to seeing you again more formally at parents evening towards the end of term. 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.

Lost Property

Please can I ask you to check that all school uniform and PE/Swimming kit is 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. Unnamed lost property will be hung in reception until the end of a half term when anything that remains unclaimed will be donated to the green recycling station.

Clubs, Home Learning and Space Chase

I will be writing to you all next week to explain the home learning and club arrangements for this term. I am looking forward to awarding 5 house points to those children who have completed the 'Space Chase' summer library challenge next week when they share their medal with 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 weekend

David Bessant

Headteacher

Key dates for the academic year 2019 – 2020 confirmed so far:

Autumn 1

- 16th September PTA AGM 3.30 - 4.30pm
- 17th September Snappers Photography Pupil Photos
- 18th September Parent Pop Ins 3.30-3.55pm
- 23rd September School clubs start
- 4th October School Council Elections
- 10th October 9am and 5pm Parent Multiplication Workshops with Miss Vousden
- 11th October PTA Film Club
- 17th October 9am and 5pm Parent Reading Workshops with Mrs Brydon
- 23rd October Parents evening 4-7pm
- 24th October Year 5 World War 1 Day – parents welcome from 2pm
- 24th October Parents evening 4-6pm

Autumn 2

- 4th November Inset day
- 5th November Winning House Ice Bun and non-uniform
- 6th November Spooky Disco 5 – 6.15pm
- 18th – 22nd November Year 6 Calshot and Art Week
- 25th November PTA Film Club
- 28th November Year 2 Parents Open sessions 9am and 6pm
- 2nd December Love of Christmas Day, Christmas Shopping and Christmas Fair
- 6th December Final day of clubs for the Autumn term
- 18th December Year 4-6 Christmas Performance at St Mary's Church
- 19th December Intervention Celebration Assembly 9am
- 19th December Christmas Dinner
- 20th Assembly Last day of term and Winning House Swimming Reward

Spring 1

- 6th January Inset day
- 9th January Calshot information meeting for year 5 parents
- 13th January Spring term clubs start
- 17th January PTA Film Club
- 22nd January 4-7pm Parents Evening
- 23rd January Love of Inventors Day
- 23rd January 4-6pm Parents evening
- 30th January Year 6 SATs information meeting 2.30pm
- 14th January Love Day

Spring 2

24th February Winning House Ice Bun and non-uniform
2nd March PTA Film Club
5th March World Book Day
19th March 9am and 5pm Parents Forum
20th March PTA Shopping day for some special
27th March Final day of clubs for the Spring term
31st March Easter Disco
2nd April Intervention Celebration Assembly 9am
3rd April Winning House Cinema and Popcorn

Summer 1

27th April Summer term clubs start
4th May PTA Film Club
11th – 14th May SATs week
15th May Love of History of Art

Summer 2

1st June Inset day
2nd June Winning House Ice Bun and non-uniform
19th June PTA Shopping day for some special
29th June Year 3 and 4 Sports Day and picnic
30th June Year 5 and 6 Sports Day and picnic
1st July Year 2 Parents Welcome Evening
3rd July Final day of clubs for the Summer term
6th July Year 5 and 6 Reserve Sports Day and picnic
7th July Year 3 and 4 Reserve Sports Day and picnic
8th July MRJS Transition Day
13th July Year 6 Paultons Park Reward Day
15th July Art Exhibition
16th July Year 6 Leavers Evening
17th July Year 6 Enterprise Day
21st July Winning House BBQ and Water fight
22nd July Year 6 and Parents Leavers Assembly