



## Learning – Laughing – Achieving

### Love of Christmas Day – Christmas Shopping – Christmas Fair

What a day our children had on Monday! It began with children enjoying a huge range of Christmas activities alongside their class teachers before being invited to complete their secret Christmas shopping in the MAD studio. Watching the excitement on your children's faces as they selected their presents before talking to them about who they were shopping for was really special – they demonstrated real care for important people in their lives. In the afternoon, the hall and 3IC classrooms were transformed for the Christmas Fair. It was lovely to see so many excited faces leaving school with bags full of the prizes they had won.

Events like this don't happen by chance and on behalf of everyone at MRJS I would like to thank our PTA and the team of parents and staff who ensured our children had such a memorable day. Whether you were involved in the planning process during the last term, filled the MAD studio on Sunday or set it up on Monday morning, sold and wrapped hundreds of presents whilst listening to the same Christmas songs on repeat for far too long, organised and ran stalls and games at the Christmas Fair or cleared away afterwards – thank you! You are an amazing group of people who give up hours of your own time to provide our children with memories they will treasure.

### A week in the life of 6SG

6SG started the week with Love of Christmas Day where we used repeated patterns and decorated paper to create our own beautiful wreath artwork and cards. These were then embellished with sequins and toppers to make them extra special. Later, the children very much enjoyed spending their money in the fair and watching a Christmas film together. In English, we have continued to learn more about the famous explorer Ernest Shackleton and, after discovering a frozen advert in a block of ice at the end of last week, have explored the type of character Shackleton was and discussed why so many men (over 5,000) applied to be part of a crew that faced almost certain death! I can't wait to see how persuasive they can be in their speeches later this week.

Maths has been more challenging this week as we continue to work on multiplying fractions; we have certainly had to rely on being ambitious and resilient, drawing on a range of strategies including drawing pictures to represent the problem to help us.



### **Advent Assembly - Mrs Jenner and Mr Price**

In assembly this week the children were learning about Advent. They learnt what Advent is and when it begins. Next, they learnt about the different ways in which advent is celebrated around the world. Mrs Jenner prepared a beautiful advent crown/wreath and explained what that the different candles signify: hope, peace, joy and love. Mr Price then introduced the children to another way people celebrate advent with a Christingle. The children saw a Christingle Mr Price had made and they were encouraged to create one for themselves over the advent period. The children learnt how the orange represented the world, the red ribbon is a reminder that Jesus died, the four cocktail sticks represent the seasons, the sweets represent all of God's creations and finally how the candle reminds Christians of Jesus; the light of the world. Mr Price then brought out something that the children were all too familiar with - an advent calendar. It turns out that Mr Price had snuck into Mr Bessant's office and found his Paw Patrol advent calendar. To the children's amusement he was then cheeky enough to have Mr Bessant's number 3 chocolate while he was out of school. The children also learnt how advent is celebrated differently across the world. Finally, Mill Rythe reflected upon how advent is a time to think of others and a time to be kind, responsible and respectful – three of our five school values.

### **Mill Rythe Holiday Village Panto – ‘Oh no it isn't; oh yes it is!’**

As an end of term treat we are taking the whole school to watch Aladdin at Mill Rythe Holiday Village next Friday morning. A member of staff will remain at school in case any parents need to make contact with us and they will be able to communicate with everyone at the park. I am sure a great time will be had by everyone.

### **Southdowns Planetarium**

Space. The final frontier...and also the setting for Year 5's fun-fuelled intergalactic school trip on Wednesday. Year 5 have been learning about our solar system this term and our place in this galaxy we call the Milky Way. However, the only way to really learn about space is to experience it in all its splendour, so we bustled down to the Southdowns Planetarium to take a trip to the sun, visit the moon, whistle through the planets and stop by the outer realms of the known universe. I haven't enjoyed a school trip as much as this, and the wealth of knowledge on display by the volunteers who work at the Planetarium was astounding. It was inspirational for the children to witness such passion about space and what the future holds for planetary exploration. I know half of my class are already planning their voyage to Mars to be the first residents there! It was wonderful for the children to learn, not only about modern heroes such as Tim Peake, but my own personal hero - Patrick Moore, a cultural icon of our time. A brilliant trip with incredible children whom I have no doubt will lead the world in interplanetary discovery.



### **Clubs and before school sessions**

Today was our final day of clubs and before school sessions for the Autumn term. A separate letter is attached sharing the incredible opportunities that have been extended to your children by staff this term. I would also like to thank you for ensuring that your children arrive at school so punctually and enthusiastically over the last 12 weeks to complete a range of learning with teachers or teaching assistants.

## **Mengham Carols**

Tonight at 5.30pm Miss Vousden and I will have the pleasure of watching our children singing in Mengham as the Christmas Lights are turned on. If you would like to join us we will be meeting by the tree at 5.20pm.

Every year, especially at Christmas, the Salvation Army try to make life a little easier and happier for families who do not have very much and in some cases nothing at all.

The Hayling Lions would like to help spread a little extra happiness this year by collecting toys for distribution to these families. Perhaps when you are buying your presents this year you could buy an extra one and donate it to this cause.

A representative from the Salvation Army will be coming along to the Mengham Late Night Christmas Event . He will be standing near the Christmas Tree and would love to receive your gift. The toy need not be large or expensive but it would be gratefully received.

## **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:**

(Changes/additions are in bold the week they are added)

### **Autumn 2**

10<sup>th</sup> December Year 3 Christingle Service at Hayling College

12<sup>th</sup> December Year 4 Polar Express Day

**13<sup>th</sup> December Pantomime of Aladdin at Mill Rythe Holiday Village**

18<sup>th</sup> December Year 4-6 Christmas Performance at St Mary's Church

19<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Dinner

20<sup>th</sup> December Assembly Last day of term and Winning House Swimming Reward

### **Spring 1**

6<sup>th</sup> January Inset day

9<sup>th</sup> January Calshot information meeting for year 5 parents

13<sup>th</sup> January Spring term clubs start

17<sup>th</sup> January PTA Film Club

22<sup>nd</sup> January 4-7pm Parents Evening

23<sup>rd</sup> January 4-6pm Parents evening

23<sup>rd</sup> January Love of Inventors Day

30<sup>th</sup> January Year 6 SATs information meeting 2.30pm

14<sup>th</sup> February Love Day

## **Spring 2**

24<sup>th</sup> February Winning House Ice Bun and non-uniform  
5<sup>th</sup> March World Book Day  
19<sup>th</sup> March 9am and 5pm Parents Forum  
20<sup>th</sup> March PTA Shopping day for someone special  
23<sup>rd</sup> March Year 3 Fishbourne Roman Palace Trip  
27<sup>th</sup> March Final day of clubs for the Spring term  
31<sup>st</sup> March Easter Disco  
2<sup>nd</sup> April Intervention Celebration Assembly 9am  
3<sup>rd</sup> April Winning House Cinema and Popcorn

## **Summer 1**

27<sup>th</sup> April Summer term clubs start  
4<sup>th</sup> May PTA Film Club  
7<sup>th</sup> May Year 3 Harold Hillier Gardens Trip  
8<sup>th</sup> May Bank Holiday  
11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May SATs week  
15<sup>th</sup> May Love of History of Art

## **Summer 2**

1<sup>st</sup> June Inset day  
Week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June Year 6 Bikeability  
2<sup>nd</sup> June Winning House ice bun and non-uniform  
5<sup>th</sup> June Art Exhibition in School  
19<sup>th</sup> June PTA Shopping day for someone special  
29<sup>th</sup> June Year 3 and 4 Sports Day and picnic  
30<sup>th</sup> June Year 5 and 6 Sports Day and picnic  
1<sup>st</sup> July Year 2 Parents Welcome Evening  
3<sup>rd</sup> July Final day of clubs for the Summer term  
6<sup>th</sup> July Year 5 and 6 Reserve Sports Day and picnic  
7<sup>th</sup> July Year 3 and 4 Reserve Sports Day and picnic  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> July Hayling College Year 6 Transition Days  
8<sup>th</sup> July MRJS Transition Day  
13<sup>th</sup> July Year 6 Paultons Park Reward Day  
15<sup>th</sup> July Art Exhibition  
16<sup>th</sup> July Year 6 Leavers Evening  
17<sup>th</sup> July Year 6 Enterprise Day  
21<sup>st</sup> July Winning House BBQ and water fight  
22<sup>nd</sup> July Year 6 and Parents Leavers Assembly 10am  
22<sup>nd</sup> July Last Day of Term