

Learning – Laughing – Achieving

A week in the life of 3SW

We have been working really hard in 3SW this week! In maths, we have been learning how to use the compact column method for subtraction including exchanging from the tens and hundreds columns. In English, we are really enjoying reading a book called *The Tin Forest* and watching a short film called *Treasure*. We have learnt how to describe and compare the characteristics of the old man and the lady using more challenging language. We have also learnt to recognise and use prepositions to describe where something is, or when something happened. Ask your child to name you some prepositions and see how many they can remember! In Geography we have been learning all about mountains and how they are formed and in Science we tested the permeability of different rocks-that was very wet and very fun!

Love of DT Day

Last Thursday, the children were working creatively for DT Day where they had the chance to reflect upon the knowledge and skills they had learnt in their last DT unit before applying them to a project of their own choice. Year 3 used a lever and linkage system to give their pictures moving parts. Year 4 put their sewing knowledge to the test and made something of their own choice such as a puppet or a bag. Year 5 made something using cardboard boxes with an electrical circuit inside in order to make a part of their product light up. Year 6 were exploring some trickier stitches when sewing their phone cases. The children worked extremely hard and produced high quality products that were imaginative and fun!

Trick Box

This week we learnt the Trick 'Free Flow.' We learnt that our brains get into a state of 'free flow' when we carry out activities we are good at and enjoy. For example when we throw and catch a ball repeatedly, our brains enjoy this because we feel relaxed and positive about it; we are not having to think too hard about it, and can let our bodies and brains enter a state of 'free flow.' It's good for our brains to experience this state as it can help us stay calm and relaxed. Of course, our brains also enjoy new challenges too, so it's important that we try new things as well! Do you remember what happened when Connor and Mia had to use a smaller ball and stand much further apart? They weren't in a state of free flow then were they?! What gets your brain into a state of free flow? It will be different for everyone, so try to find out what works for you.

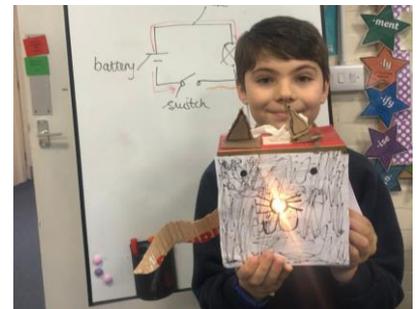


Table Tennis

When Mr Price joined us in September he was really keen to become involved in our extra-curricular club provision. He was delighted when Mr Miles dusted off a table tennis table that had been stored in the garage and immediately set about inspiring children and staff alike to get involved in a new sport. In Mr Robinson he found a willing accomplice and between them they have supported children in year 5 to develop a passion for a new sport. It has been magical to see their enjoyment and skill develop in such a short space of time. Last week they represented our school in the Havant and Portsmouth Table Tennis Tournament at Admiral Lord Nelson School. They had a brilliant evening and were recognised as the most improved team on the night with each member of the team walking away with great memories.



Chinese New Year

This week we have learnt about the Chinese New Year 2020 which is also known as the lunar new year. Across the country, this was celebrated on Saturday 25th January which was the first day of the new year. During assembly, we learnt about the Chinese zodiac cycle, known as Sheng Xiao, which is a twelve-year cycle. Each year is represented by a different animal; it is now the year of the rat. The twelve animals of the zodiac always occur in a particular order and we learnt one of the more widespread legends around how this was decided.



It is believed that one day the Jade Emperor ordered animals to become calendar signs. He told everyone that the first twelve animals to arrive the following day would become the zodiac signs. The rat realised that it was not fast enough to arrive first so it ran and swam as quickly as it could to catch up with the ox. When the rat caught up with the ox, it jumped on the ox's back. The ox was almost the first animal to reach the emperor but just before it arrived the rat ran down the ox and jumped off in front to win first place. It is said that the rat's friend, the cat, missed the selection of animals because it arrived at the palace too late. This is thought to be why rats and cats don't get along – they have been enemies since ancient times.



We looked at the animals of the zodiac cycle and found out which animal correlates to the year that we were born in. There are many traditions involved with Chinese New Year including having special food, traditional dancing, dragon and lion dances and firework and firecrackers. In fun club on Thursday, we had the opportunity to try a variety of Chinese food and see whether it suited our taste buds. The food was enjoyed by nearly all and we were really impressed by how willing everyone was to try the different options on offer.

Online Safety

Talking about how your children use the internet and apps is really important but these conversations are not always easy to initiate. I hope that the following questions will be helpful and will provide parents with a better understanding of what their children are doing online.

Reassure your child that you are asking these questions because you are looking out for them; you know the internet is a great place and you just want to be assured that they are using it safely.

What apps/games are you using at the minute?

This will give you a good overview of the types of things they are doing on their devices and what they are interested in. Remember, they might not tell you everything they are using. New apps and games are released regularly, so have this conversation often to keep up to date with your child's activities.

What websites do you enjoy?

Similar to the first question, this will help you discover what your child is doing when they are online. Additionally, ask them what they do on these websites.

How does this game/app work? Can I play?

Show a genuine interest in what they are doing. Whilst you are playing a game or using an app with them, it might highlight something that they don't necessarily think is a danger to them. If they act like they don't want to share their activities with you, question why.

Do you have any online friends?

Children can form positive relationships with people online, but they may not fully understand the difference between a friend and a stranger. You could make the question more specific to your child, for example, "Have you met anyone online that they like to play games with?" They may not want to share this information with you, so ensure you teach them about healthy relationships.

Do you know where to go for help?

You may be their trusted adult, but your child may find it difficult to tell you certain things. Take messaging as an example, if something was to get out of hand, they may feel uncomfortable telling their parent. Sit down with your child and show them some websites where they can go to report incidents and speak to professionals for free about any concerns they may have. Reinforce with them that they can talk to adults in school if they have any concerns.

Do you know what your personal information is?

Your child may already know what their personal information is but they might not think about how it can be shared. Have a conversation about what personal information is and how this can affect them if it is shared.

If you have any concerns about your child's online use please come and speak to me at school.

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)

Spring 1

4th February Year 4 Anglo Saxon Day

5th February Year 5 (not whole year group) Dell Quay Trip

14th February Love Day & last day of term

Spring 2

24th February Winning House Ice Bun and non-uniform

5th March World Book Day – book donations

9th March Year 6 Practice SATs Week

19th March 9am and 5pm Parents Forum

20th March PTA Shopping day for someone special

23rd March Year 3 Fishbourne Roman Palace Trip

27th March Final day of clubs for the Spring term

31st March Easter Disco

2nd April Celebration Assembly 9am (invitation only)

3rd April Winning House Cinema and Popcorn & last day of term

Summer 1

20th April First day back in school

27th April Summer term clubs start

4th May PTA Film Club

7th May Year 3 Harold Hillier Gardens Trip

8th May Bank Holiday

11th – 14th May Year 6 SATs week

15th May Love of History of Art

22nd May Last day of term

Summer 2

1st June Inset day

Week beginning 1st June Year 6 Bikeability

2nd June Winning House ice bun and non-uniform

5th June Art Exhibition in School

19th June PTA Shopping day for someone 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

7th & 8th July Hayling College Year 6 Transition Days

8th July MRJS Transition Day

13th July Year 6 Paultons Park Reward Day

13th July Years 3, 4 & 5 PTA Non-uniform day £1 contribution

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 10am

22nd July Last Day of Term