



Learning-Laughing-Achieving

School Closure

It has been a very different week in school and we are missing so many members of our school family but we also know that you are safe at home together and making a significant difference in the fight to stop the spread of Covid-19. I would like to thank all of our key worker parents who are making such a difference to our local community – it was so special to hear the applause for NHS staff at 8pm last night and then to read the messages from our staff, who shared that what I had heard was repeated in all of their streets too. To the staff and children who have been in school this week I would also like to say well done. Your care for each other, respect for social distancing and the work produced has been magical to see.



Phone calls home

Our teachers will be calling all of the children in their classes next week to say hello, learn a little about what you have been doing at home, to answer questions about home learning and hopefully spread a little cheer. They are so excited about speaking to you all and if any parents would like to have a chat too please do so. Miss Vousden, Mrs Ginn and Mrs Hodgson have already spoken to a number of children and parents this week – thank you for taking our calls.

Home Learning

Wow! What a start you have all made to your home learning. Miss Vousden and I have loved looking in the mrjsclosure@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk account each day and reading emails from parents and looking at the photographs of the work you have been doing. Well done for your super efforts with Joe each morning and the additional work that has been completed using the art links or feedback on books that you have listened to on audible. I loved Lottie's virtual swimming, the great science that has been taking place alongside the incredible bridge projects have been popping up in homes. Please keep sharing what you are doing.



Easter Opening and home learning

I have written to the parents of key workers today to share that we will continue to open across the Easter holidays so that their children can be cared for whilst they continue to work. Our teachers are in the process of planning some different activities for children to do at home across this two week period too. These will be added to the website next Friday.

And finally...

Take care of yourselves and your families during the next week.

David Bessant

Headteacher

The information below has been shared previously but will remain on each weekly newsletter for the time being.

Mrs North

Mrs North is going to be stepping away from our Mill Rythe Family in April. She has secured a job within a local veterinary practice which I know she is going to love and will also enable her to spend more time with her horses, supporting her husband with the farm and hopefully exploring the world.

For me, Nikki is unique. She has a set of gifts that I haven't seen in one person before. If you spend any time in our office, you will see her ability to spin so many plates at one time whilst always wearing a smile and sharing her laughter with those in her presence. Her care for our most vulnerable children and the precision with which she meets their medical needs is so reassuring for their parents. She is never flustered and never fails to brighten the day of staff, children and parents alike. On the occasions when a serious medical situation has arisen in school, Nikki reacts perfectly instilling calmness in those around her whilst communicating with such clarity to paramedics to ensure that child concerned remains safe. She can hold her own with Mr Darby in the staffroom and is someone whose judgement I trust totally and have come to rely upon in the last couple of years at more challenging times.



Nikki - I am going to miss working with you hugely and know that this is a sentiment that will be echoed by everyone at MRJS. We may not get to give you the proper thank you assembly later this term that you deserve but when everyone is safely back in school you are coming back for this - the plans are spectacular! You are going to be missed by staff, parents and

children alike. It has been a privilege to work with you and I would just like to say thank you for everything that you have done for me and our school.

Home Learning

We have been inundated with positive feedback about the home learning that has been set by staff for children across our school; thank you for taking the time to provide this feedback which has also been shared with all staff. I have also spoken to a few parents who have had a few teething problems and we have been able to address these quickly. If you are encountering any problems or have questions please contact me via: mrjsclosure@millrythe-jun.hants.ch.uk

Parents are not teachers and as such pupils should be able to complete the work that has been set independently; they will love to share with their families what they are doing and I would love to see work and other activities that are being completed at home. If you would like to share photos with me please email them to mrjsclosure@millrythe-jun.hants.ch.uk with the heading instagram. Some of these will be added to our account and shared with the MRJS family over the coming days and weeks.



There is flexibility for parents to guide children to complete work for the year group above and below their own if this is appropriate. We have also emailed individual learning home for some children. Please refer to the 'home learning during self-isolation' letter that can be found on the home learning page of the school website.

Top tips for supporting families working at home:

- **Opening you new school:** establish a place for your children to work from and get them involved in setting up their learning zones.
- **Establish routines:** draw up a plan with your child(ren) for each day so that they can see what work they will be completing when. Children react well to structured routines but these can also look different for different children. Not all of our children can sit and maintain focus on their learning for an hour at a time. You know your children better than anyone else so build in physical and mental breaks to help them with their learning.
- **Encouraging good learning habits with positive interactions:** think about the teachers that inspired you at school; what was it about their relationships and interactions with you that ensured you fostered a love of learning with them. Now is your chance to apply these with your own children.
- **Feed their love of learning:** it is more important than ever that we are all making good choices with the food we are eating and drinking plenty of water. Avoid sugary snacks and take regular fresh air breaks with opportunities for exercise beyond those that we have planned for each day.
- **Good teachers lead by example:** put plans in place to care for yourself too. Take time to relax; make sure your own diet is varied and balanced and that you partake in physical exercise.

If you would like me to speak to any children whilst they are at home with you then please let me know via: mrjsclosure@millrythe-jun.hants.ch.uk

Audible books

I was delighted to learn that audible books have made all children's books available to families whilst schools remain closed. I would encourage everyone to make the most of this opportunity - there are so many wonderful stories for children to be able to enjoy over the

coming weeks. Please follow the link below to access them: <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

Mrs Brydon has identified the following broad categories that different year groups may like to choose from initially:

Year 3 – choose mainly from ‘Elementary’, although there are one or two classics in ‘Littlest Listeners’ that children will love, such as ‘Timeless Tales of Beatrix Potter’ or ‘Just So Stories’

Year 4 – choose from a wide range of brilliant books in ‘Elementary’

Year 5 – Choose from ‘Elementary’ or ‘Tween’

Year 6 – Choose from ‘Tween’ or ‘Literary Classics’ such as ‘Moby Dick’, ‘The Call of the Wild’

Mental health and wellbeing

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Educational Psychology team have shared the following guidance with schools for parents and families to refer to in the coming days and weeks.

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/media/1960/coronavirus-mental-health-and-wellbeing-resources.pdf>

The changes that we are all making to our everyday routines are significant and it is essential that we are able to support each other with our mental health and wellbeing at this time.