



Learning-Laughing-Achieving

Thank you for all of the amazing emails that you continue to send me. I love reading them and learning about everything that you and your children are doing. Everyone should be so proud of how they are managing at this time and your children are very lucky to be surrounded by such brilliant role models too. There will also be times when all of us find the current situation much more challenging and making sure that we talk to others and seek the right support is so important. As a school, we are here to support everyone in the Mill Rythe Family at any time.

I have updated a section of our website this week with lots of new information about how to keep our children safe on line but also how to manage the mental health and wellbeing of adults and children at this time. You can access this page directly from this link: <http://www.millrythejunior.co.uk/e-safety/> I have also attached to the email with this newsletter a letter from Hampshire Education Psychology team. This contains information about a helpline for parents to use if they have queries relating to the emotional wellbeing of their children as well as a range of links to further advice about mental health and wellbeing. I have also attached a poster containing links to support organisations for education staff, parents and carers relating to the management of self-harm.

Mrs Ginn's Gratitude Rainbow Jar

I think there are probably times each day when we are all feeling a little strange as we can't do all of the things that we normally love doing. I was talking to Mrs Ginn about this last week and she suggested I wrote these things down on a piece of paper and put them in a jar when I was thinking about them. She then said that I could take them out when I did them once the lockdown was finished. I thought it was a great idea and have a jar full of things I am looking forward to. The first one says 'I can't wait to see the MRJS family back together again.' I will be so excited to take that one out of the jar.



Growing school family

I was delighted to receive an email from this young lady's mum this week and to learn that she had become a big sister. The whole family are doing brilliantly and enjoying having so much time to get to know their new arrival. It looks like this young lady will arrive at school having had a huge number of books read to her at a very young age!

I am also really excited to share that both Mrs Wintle's and her husband and myself and Kimberley are expecting to have new arrivals in our own homes in the next couple of weeks. Whilst I am on paternity leave Miss Vousden will continue to lead our school alongside the rest of our staff team. She will keep me updated with everything that is happening both at school and home.

Phone Calls

Following the Easter break, our teachers have again loved calling everyone and hearing in person about how you are all doing. From Monday 27th April, most families will be called on a fortnightly basis. During this time do please continue to keep in touch with us through mrisclosure@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk

Our teachers have captured some of this weeks' conversations and emotions below:

3SW

We have really enjoyed catching up with 3SW again this week. Those who spoke to Mrs Wintle last time, spoke to Mrs Salter-Vaile this time and vice versa. It was lovely to hear about the learning that is taking place at home and all the exercise and fresh air that everyone is getting. Tommy was busy making his Science poster about plants when I rang. Bailey loved our class reader so much that he is now reading the second Kid Normal book. When Jack is not working at home, he goes out for a cycle or goes to feed the ponies. Eleanor is looking after her puppy Parker and Layton is keeping his room nice and tidy! Finlay told me all about the Formula One project he is working on, Scarlett was able to recall some of the continents she has learned about in Geography and Millie has been doing lots of art work and was really proud of the learning she has been doing and getting it right all by herself! We have loved talking to the children and parents again and hearing about what they've been getting up to. Keep up the great work 3SW, we are very proud of you! Mrs Wintle and Mrs Salter-Vaile



3IC

It has been good to hear that 3IC children have had a lovely Easter holiday and lots of chocolate has been eaten. Several children have had birthdays as well - Happy birthday to Willow, Harrison and Fletcher! Poor Fletcher had to endure Miss Ifould singing to him down the telephone! Lucie has become a master chef and been cooking up a storm in the kitchen. Lollie and her dad have been going jogging together and Samuel has been on lots of bike rides. It is good to see that the children have been working off all that chocolate! It has also been exciting to learn that both Harry and Sienna have now learnt to ride their bikes without stabilisers, what a fantastic achievement! Mrs Chessell had a lovely surprise this week too, as she got to spend the day with both Harry and Dougie when they came into school whilst their parents were at work. We have both loved talking to you on the phone and are so proud of you all and the effort you have put into your learning. Keep up the good work and stay safe!

Miss Ifould and Mrs Chessell



4AT

I am so pleased to hear that many of you are making the most of the sunshine and time with your families at home. I have been blown away hearing some of the incredible things you guys have been getting up to! Many of you are keeping busy in the garden and I know Tilly is becoming a dab hand at wood work - what a fantastic skill to learn! Lots of you are keeping your families fed by baking; you could apply for the Great British Bake Off! I hope to see your recipes when we are back together. Kai has been busy with his art work and could be the next Banksy. Matilda has been getting into character with the reading by dressing up for Rio. Seb has even acquired some new and interesting pets- STICK INSECTS!

I would like to say a HUGE well done to all the children, parents and families. You are clearly making the most of this time and the children and certainly enjoying themselves and learning lots of new skills.

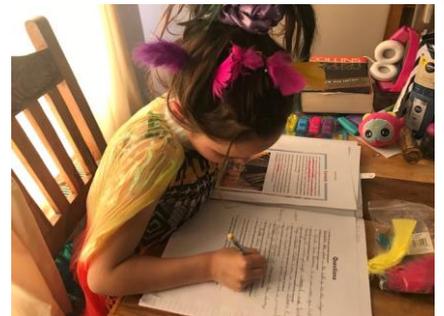
Keep smiling, stay safe. See you soon!
Mrs Thorne



4SH

It has been lovely chatting to families and children this week and catching up on all the learning that has been done and fun opportunities the children have had in spite of the lock down. I loved hearing how Caitlyn has been looking after piglets on her grandad's farm in Wales and practising taekwondo by the stream. Maisie has been taking Teddy for walks and enjoyed an easter egg hunt in the garden - she got 11 Easter Eggs! Tyler has been busy making fairy cakes and flapjacks, Luca has been making red hearts for the NHS and it was Henry's birthday on Thursday so a big birthday shout out to him. Also, I know some of you are beginning to find this strange time a bit tough but we have all done 5 weeks of home learning and new routines now so I know we all have the resilience to keep going until the end! Remember it's ok to have days when you feel a bit blue but we will all get there together. I am very proud of each and every one of you! If I haven't managed to speak to you before you read this, your phone will be ringing very soon. Keep smiling 4SH and stay safe.

Miss Harrison



4MC

Speaking to children and their families again this week has brilliant. What made me feel quite emotional this time was the amount of fun times together families had been managing to have despite the difficult circumstances currently. My class have told me they have completed Easter egg hunts in the garden, have been speaking to each other via virtual conversations as well as on the phone and have been celebrating many birthdays in the last few weeks. Imogen told me they had managed to throw a tropical themed birthday party for dad where they celebrated with a pineapple shaped cake and crazy dancing in the garden! Tia celebrated her birthday over the holidays too and had a lovely day even though it was a bit different to most years. Skye has been extremely busy celebrating mum's birthday. Mum received an amazing sentimental gift of a book that belonged to her grandma who got it when she was 7 years old. It was over 100 years old! It was lovely to be able to share that experience with them and also to hear of their camping expedition in the garden over Easter - something which I am excited to do again soon hopefully!

I have been reminded just how hard 4MC work too. I have been blown away by the dedication of my class and the completion of as much learning at home as they can. Maggie has been working incredibly hard but still managed to enjoy lots of Easter eggs over the holidays. Freya enjoyed a break over the holidays but couldn't wait to get back to her home learning and has even set up a timetable to help manage her time. Ollie has been enjoying reading the Year 4 Must Reads with mum and enjoyed watching the film of Charlotte's Web. John has been reading so much he has almost run out of books and is about to need a new set! Ava also enjoyed an Easter break but was straight back to her home learning on Monday and was about to start reading what would have been our Class Reader for the Summer term, Born to Run. I'm looking forward to speaking to her again next week to find out what she thinks of the book so far.

I can't wait to speak to the rest of you to find out what you have been up to!
Miss Cull

5JH

It has been lovely to catch up with some of my class again this week. In particular, I want to give a shout out to the lovely Isabelle who has really impressed her family, and me, with her diligence. By all accounts she is an organised, motivated robot who, with the help from her handy highlighters, smashes through her work load every day. Her top tip? Put your alarm away from your bed so you have to get up to switch it off. Tip 2. Highlight everything on your list as soon as it is done. Great attitude and ambition Izzy.



Elsewhere in 5JH, we have one lucky lady whose dad has built her a ramp, in the back yard, for her scooter. I can't wait to hear how your tricks are coming along when we speak next. I was thrilled to hear that some of you are managing to work together remotely. Daisy and Olivia have taken to phoning each other to discuss art work they are doing, share ideas and swap pictures of their cats! Both girls were full of fun and chatter, it makes me miss our class even more! Keeping with the fun theme, I was tickled to hear that Ruby dyed her hair yellow, donned a green pair of jeans and a green hoodie to turn herself into a daffodil and that Darcy has become a big sister again. Lovely news. The Easter Bunny was especially good to one of our classmates, delivering them a Kindle. She is now binge reading DIARY OF A WIMPY KID as, "They are very funny!" Away from the books, you are all keeping healthy outside as best you can. Our resident female sport star has taken to spending a lot of time on the trampoline whilst Dacia, not content with improving her arithmetic scores and time, has taken time to master the 'Handstand' - great effort girls. I know you are all working hard to keep your brains and bodies in tip top shape. Keep up the great work. To those of you with new Kindles, keep reading. To those of you who are also working with BBC Bitesize, keep challenging yourself. But, most importantly, keep smiling and stay safe. Speak to you all again soon.

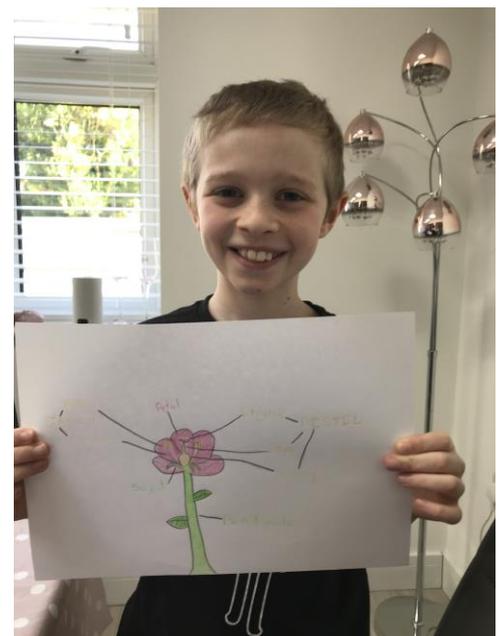
Mrs Haldenby



5AF

It's been an absolute pleasure catching up with 5AF again this week. It seems that everyone has been making the most of the Easter sunshine and, more importantly, 5AF have been eating endless amounts of chocolate eggs! I think mine must have got lost in the post... I want to say a massive well done to everyone for getting back into their home learning this week, which I know hasn't been easy. It's great to hear that everyone is still taking on challenges at home outside of the curriculum too, such as baking and gardening. Jamie has baked his third cake of lockdown this week and has even made a quiche! Aeronwy and Daisy have still been able to have virtual music lessons and I loved hearing Daisy's drumming over the phone. I was very jealous hearing about Summer's mini Olympics as it sounded like so much fun. Noah has been researching different animals and creating fact files on them. He was able to tell me facts about creatures I hadn't even heard of! Keep up the great work 5AF, I love hearing what you've been up to. Don't forget to send us photos of your amazing work!

Miss Furlong



5MD

During these difficult times, it's good to know that I can always rely on my class to fill me with happiness. The conversations I have with them on the phone really are the sunshine in my week. It's been great hearing about how they are all coping and how they are staying happy. Toby has started training for a future Olympic gold in running; Betty has been busy honing her art skills to become one of the world's most talented artists by creating a plethora of masterpieces in her back garden; and Amelie has been creating some magnificent sailing vessels out of wood with her Dad which she will soon

let loose on the sea to traverse our oceans. Everyone has impressed, inspired and moved me. It was wonderful to hear about Emily becoming a sister this week to baby Florence. I have no doubt that she will be the best and kindest sister a child could have and I wish them the sincerest of congratulations. To top it all off, I was then serenaded by the talented piano playing of Shrinidhi, whose soulful and moving piano playing bought a tear to my eye - she will be a talent to watch out for in the future. I will never cease being proud of this class.

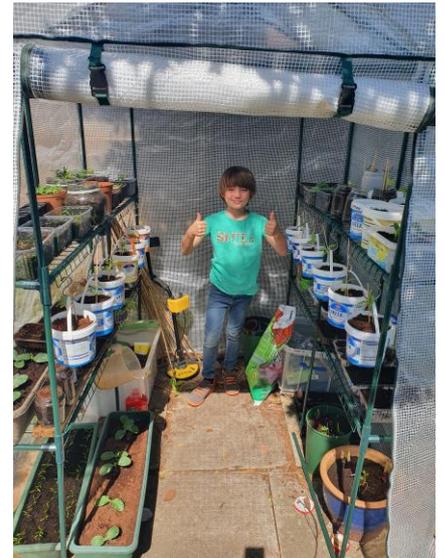
Mr Darby



6GR

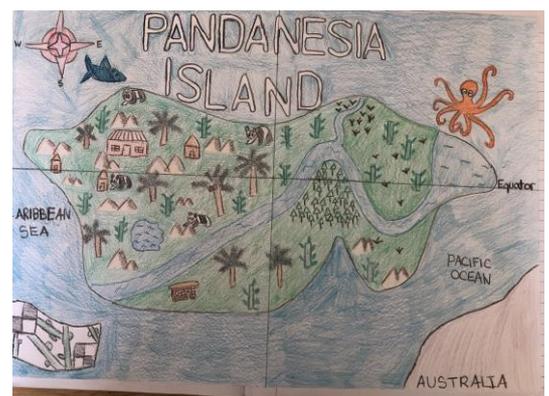
It has been lovely talking to the parents and children of 6GR again this week. Cameron was busy in the garden doing athletics with his dad - one of the stations involved a hula-hoop and Cam has now challenged me to a hoola competition. This will be the perfect opportunity for him to learn that winning isn't everything and it's the taking part that counts! Annie was sat enjoying the sunshine with her guinea pigs and Chloe and Sadie were telling me about the baking that they had been doing at home. It was clear from talking to the children that they are missing their friends and I emphasised the importance of them keeping in contact with each other over the coming days and weeks. It was heart-warming to hear how Kelsie has been supporting one of her friends who has been struggling with being away from school - it is lovely to know that we have such kind and caring children at Mill Rythe and I can't wait to see them all again!

Miss Gray



6SG

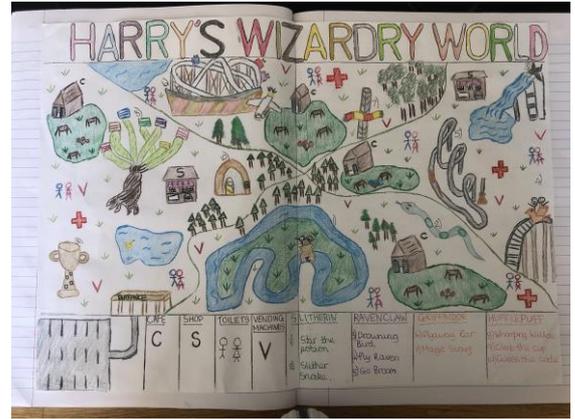
Great to speak to my class and their parents again this week. For many, the novelty of home learning is beginning to wear thin and everyone (including myself) is missing being at school with their class and friends. I am so pleased though with the efforts that the children are taking with their home learning and am so proud that they are trying their best. It was lovely as well to hear about some of the new hobbies children have taken up to pass the time: Summer shared that she has been learning Spanish after signing up to Rosetta Stone; Gemma has been creative with ribbons found in the house to do ribbon dancing. Many are spending time working on hobbies and talents that they already have including drawing, gardening, sport and playing a musical instrument. I have also enjoyed hearing how children are helping their families and parents: Erin is helping her mum with deliveries for the amazing 'Hayling Helpers' and Ollie has been busy helping his dad do a big DIY project in the house. What an amazing set of skills our pupils are developing in the face of adversity. I fully expect by the time school restarts, a set of qualified craftsmen and women which is just as well, as despite several attempts, I still can't seem to pick up Spanish so Summer will be able to support Cristina in teaching this subject to my class!



6SB

I've had a really lovely few days speaking to parents and children on the phone again this week. My class are still working hard and staying motivated and, now that the Easter break is over, they're straight back into their routines. I was particularly touched that some of the children took the time to ask me how I was, and what I was reading. I discussed some potential new reads with Rebecca, Qasami and Freddie as I've been looking for some new reading material, and had a lovely chat with Mia about what she's been up to. We seem to all have settled into a good routine (even Finley, who wanted an extra day for Easter before getting back to his learning!). I miss you all 6SB, but you keep me smiling with your positive outlooks and enthusiasm. Keep that up! I've also had the time to catch up properly with parents. Mums and Dads, you are doing a fantastic job with your lovely children, keeping them safe and happy and motivated. I can't wait to see you all soon when this is over.

Mrs Brydon



Home learning

A young lady in year 3 sent me a lovely email at the end of the Easter holiday. She wanted to share with us a story that she has written by composing a sentence each day and how she has been taking a different approach to her geography learning:

Leia's Story

Meet Leia, she is a six year old, brave girl and she has brown hair and brown eyes. She lived in a house with a balcony in Pompeii. Also, Leia lived with her aunty and uncle. She always wears a brown dress with a belt. She was on her own, on her balcony, planting her plants and could see the city. Suddenly her plants started shaking and she could hear dogs barking, people screaming. She could smell burning. The sky got darker. Leia was worried. She could see buildings cracking and people running around the city like crazy. Leia ran down the stairs crying. She grabbed her belongings and ran away from the city with her aunty and uncle. They headed to the water and found a boat. Clambering onboard they used the boat to escape from Pompeii.



Bringing Geography to life!

Mr Bessant, I have been doing geography a bit differently. Every Saturday we learn about a new country. We have visited India, China, America and Italy. We made and ate food from that country. We had chinese beef, spring rolls, curry, naan bread, burgers, pasta and panettone bread and butter pudding. Also, we learnt which continent the country is in and drew the national flag. We also listened to music from the country and we made chinese lanterns, ate with chopsticks and did some Bollywood dancing. This week we are going to Spain.



And finally...

Take care of yourselves and your families this weekend.

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.

When staff leave parents are normally able to come into school to speak to them themselves and share special memories or just to say thank you. If there are parents who would like to contact Mrs North before she leaves us, please email her at n.north@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk

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.