



Learning – Laughing – Achieving

Partial Re-opening

Back in April, I wrote about Mrs Ginn's Gratitude Rainbow Jar and shared that the first piece of paper I had put in there said, 'I can't wait to see the MRJS family back together again.' I still haven't taken it out of the jar but it has been lovely having so many more children and staff back in school this week. Whilst I was on paternity leave, Miss Vousden did an amazing job of putting a re-opening plan together which has enabled us to welcome back year 6 and 42 key worker children to school for the second half of the summer term. Mr Miles worked tirelessly across half term to transform the look of our school and to ensure that children and staff are able to social distance throughout the day. This week our staff and children have been brilliant at keeping each other safe whilst learning-laughing-achieving together. Thank you to all of our parents and grandparents who have ensured that children have arrived and been collected from school on time and have had the right things with them each day. A great first week back!



Transition

As we enter the final half term of the year, lots of parents and children will be starting to think about transition into their next year groups and for our year 6 children into their new schools. We are working very closely with year 2 and year 7 staff to ensure that the transition process is right for our children and families at this time whilst acknowledging that it has to look different to our normal plans. Attached to the email with this newsletter is a friendship list. Please can children in our current year 3 and 4 classes complete these with the names of five children (first and surnames please) from their year group that they are particularly friendly with. We will then ensure that they are in class with at least one of these children next year. These need to be emailed back to admin@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk by midday on Wednesday 10th June. We will then be in a place to share staffing and classes with families in the next couple of weeks. Our current year 5 classes are staying in the same groups as they move into year 6.



Ducklings Galore

It has been a busy week on the farm with Yoko successfully hatching six new ducklings. They are beautiful and she is doing a great job of keeping them safe and warm. The children in school got to meet them earlier this week and we will look forward to keeping everyone updated about their development on Instagram over the coming weeks.

Red Bubble

Oh my goodness, I have loved having the children back this week! It's almost like we have never been away, slipping into old habits and routines and, I have to say, I have really missed them. As George explained, 'It's so nice to be back to normality, doing normal things,' and I have to agree. I am missing my other half of 6SB too, but I've been checking in on the children in Orange Bubble and entertaining them with my very bad French pigeon impression. They've clearly missed me... We've spent the early part of the week exploring our emotions and adapting to our new normal. We are now armed with some very useful strategies to help us cope when our feelings overwhelm us, and have reminded ourselves of the huge 'family tree' of friends and family who can help us if we need them. We are now back into our normal maths and English lessons, working on our arithmetic skills and line graphs this week. It's brilliant to see that all that hard work over lockdown has paid off because our arithmetic skills have barely changed. Welcome back Year 6!

Blue Bubble

It was lovely to welcome the children back into school on Tuesday. Many of them were feeling apprehensive about what school would look like but we soon got into the swing of washing hands and social distancing, it has quickly become the norm and we are enjoying spending time in our smaller groups. Most of the week has been spent learning about different emotions and how to manage feelings - with a particular focus on managing anxiety. Alongside this, we have been reading a book called 'Charlie Changes into a Chicken' which is particularly funny! Break times have been great fun - we have been playing socially distanced games such as '21 down' and 'splat'. We also learnt a new game to play in the classroom called 'Pirates' which has quickly become our favourite! Miss Gray was pleased to be teaching maths and English lessons again - especially after playing the 'shop' game and Elsie had to pick a word beginning with 'J' and she asked, "What type of j?" or Archie giving a clue about the word 'London' in an Australian accent! I think we came back to school just in time.... We are looking forward to week 2 in our family bubble!

Orange Bubble

What a new and exciting first week in Orange Bubble! Or as we like to call it, 'glitter bubble' because Miss Furlong doesn't really like the colour orange. School has felt a little different this week but we like that the changes are there to make us as safe as possible. We also like the smaller class sizes and having our own desks! This week, we have spent time addressing any worries we've had, alongside playing lots of circle time games. The alphabet shopping game was a little bit painful for Miss Furlong and Mrs Jones to watch, with kiwis beginning with 'q', aubergines beginning with 'o' and cats beginning with 'k'! This was the first day back so everyone must have been a little tired. We have also enjoyed reading our new class reader 'Charlie Changes into a Chicken'. Unfortunately, Mrs Jones had to read the word 'terror-fart',



which resulted in a giggle fit. It's great to be back and we've all enjoyed our first week of learning and can't wait for next week.

Green Bubble

Unsure what to expect after weeks away from school, I was glad to discover that Green Bubble have lost none of their enthusiasm and are still as loud as ever! We started the week looking at wellbeing and emotions where the children have been engaged in discussions and have produced some lovely pieces of work about their feelings using body outlines and abstract art. After settling back into our new school routines, it was back to English and maths on Thursday. I was really impressed with their attitude and how much they had remembered; the hard work at home has clearly paid off. In PE we played football rounders, which was a challenge because it was really hard to not pick up the ball. Everyone of the children in Green Bubble have been amazing this week and it has been a pleasure spending time with them.

Yellow Bubble

The Yellow Bubble is settling in well and we have very quickly bonded over our love of Pirates! As our name suggests we are bright, cheerful and unless you try to rob our treasure chests, very warm and supportive. We have worked hard to adapt to the changes around school and they get easier to remember every day. Arithmetic today proved that the Yellow Bubble are just as sharp today as when they left us in March, with one person scoring top marks! Bring on next week.

Purple Bubble

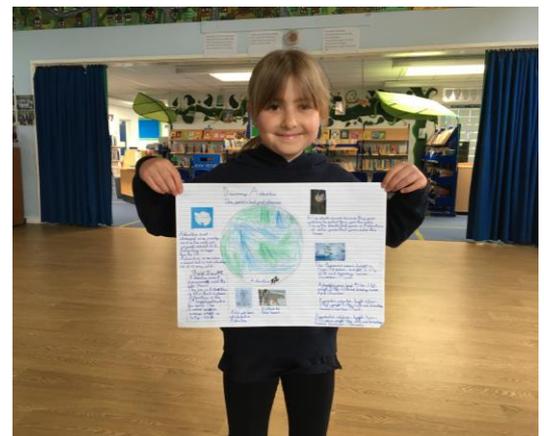
This week we have been begun our travels around the world starting in the most southerly of southern regions - The Antarctic! The children have been captivated by this huge continent of ice and rock and its importance to the world. We have explored its mountainous, bleak landscapes and swum its icy cold underbelly to encounter a whole myriad of wonderful creatures from the Emperor penguin to the colossal squid! The children have been immersed in this icy world, and it's been wonderful to see their imaginations run free when actually the space around us seems so incredibly small at the moment. It's important to remember that there is so much more out there, and one day we'll be free to roam it all again.

Silver Bubble

The children have settled well into Silver Bubble this week! They have made a display in their new class and got to know their new bubble friends. Team silver have not let the changes unsettle them and they have been hard at work completing their home learning. As a team, they have learnt some new games to play on the playground that help to ensure social distancing is maintained whilst having lots of fun. The children are happy in their bubble and I have enjoyed getting to know some new faces. I look forward to the things we are going to learn together over the coming weeks.

Gold Bubble

This week in Gold Bubble we have been learning all about Antarctica. We have discovered where it is, what it's like and which creatures inhabit this bleak continent. The children have produced some fantastic information sheets (one of which featured on Mill Rythe Instagram page) and posters containing all the interesting facts they have learnt. Eventually, after some fascinating discoveries we were transported back to the confines of the classroom where the children have been working very hard on their maths and English skills. It has been a busy week in Gold Bubble but the children have enjoyed making minions of themselves and improving their football skills. I have enjoyed seeing the children grow in confidence with the



new systems that we have in place across the school whilst enjoying their learning and leaving each day with smiles on their faces.

4MC

As always, talking to 4MC this week has been a pleasure. They have continued to impress me with their dedication to the home learning even though we really have been working from home for a long time now – it feels like forever!

Lorenzo had been continuing with some research about the Galapagos Islands, inspired by the home learning a few weeks ago.

Maira had been working hard on the maths home learning to do with measures and her mum told me they were about to have all their flooring replaced so Maira would be able to put her new measuring and converting skills to good use! I'm not sure Maira was so keen however!

Morgan had been busy working on a research project all about birds. We have shared many bird spotting stories over the last few weeks and he even helped me to identify a bird I had seen whilst out walking my dog. He also informed me yesterday that a Nuthatch (I heard one on a walk) was a member of the woodpecker family. Morgan had also been busy visiting Stansted House and taking part in studying coppicing (coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management which exploits the capacity of many species of trees to put out new shoots from their stump or roots if cut down. In a coppiced wood, which is called a copse). I have to admit, I had never heard of this and had to look up what it was. I really did learn something new today; thank you Morgan!

Lottie was still working hard but had managed to find time to enjoy the paddling pool in the sun.

Riley had some exciting news to share. He had just got a new puppy called Blue! He told me all about her and her cheeky antics; he sounds like lots of fun! I'm looking forward to seeing a photo soon. He had also been enjoying spending time body boarding, surfing and riding his bike.

Lily had continued to work hard on the home learning but had also managed to do lots of baking too. Her multi-layered cake she made recently sounds very impressive and it sounds like she is certainly able to put my baking efforts to shame! I told her she must one day teach me to make a decent cake 😊

Maggie was working brilliantly still but I was so proud of her this morning when her mum told me she scored her highest score ever on the Spag.com tests. She scored 96%! Well done Maggie! That shows all the hard work pays off in the end and you should be proud of your dedication during lock down.

Keep up the good work 4MC. I'm looking forward to catching up with the rest of you next week!

4SH

It has been lovely catching up with families again this week as lock down has continued into week 11. I am still so proud of you all and full of admiration at your continued resilience for your home learning and your new ways to have fun and be creative. Daisy Ba has been making cereal bars and swimming in the sea. Sammy has been to the beach and Henry has been out on his electric bike cycling to the skate park. Tyler has really enjoyed being back at school and Daniel has been improving his inline skating outside. His next challenge is to teach his dad! Alivia had a birthday on 26th May so a big birthday shout out to her! I hope you all had a lovely half term last week and I look forward to chatting to many more of you soon. Keep smiling 😊

Inset days 2020-2021

Our inset days for the next academic year will be:

Thursday 3rd September

Friday 4th September

Monday 4th January

Monday 22nd February (please note this is different to MRIS)

Monday 7th June

Support from Revd Dr Jenny Gaffin

In these uncertain and challenging times many of us are experiencing extra pressures, personal worries and sadness. If you'd like a sympathetic listening ear please feel free to call Revd Jenny on 02393 070178 or you can email her on jennyhaylingvicar@hotmail.com. She'll be glad to support you through whatever situation you may be facing.

Trick Box @ home

Trick Box is a simple, fun and effective whole school, whole family, emotional management and personal development programme. In school we use the Trick Box programme to develop positive life habits to help our children deal with challenges in the here and now as well as building a repertoire of personal skills for the future. It helps children to recognise and self-manage emotions, create confident mindful decision making, develop communication skills and develop a positive mindset. Miss Gray's latest trick is attached to this newsletter. Now more than ever, it is important that children (and parents!) are remaining positive and managing their emotions in these difficult times.



Victim Care Service

The Victim Care Service, provided by Victim Support works on behalf of Hampshire Constabulary to provide The Victim Care Service across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Victim Support is an independent charity that has a range of support available to help victims of crime cope with the impact and effects of crime. Their specialist Children's and Young People service offers both emotional and practical support that aims to help children and young people to:

- Develop coping strategies
- Make positive changes
- Assess and address their feelings about their experiences (including safety planning)
- Identify and address their feelings about their experiences
- Plan for the future
- Reintegrate back into schools and communities
- Have a say in decisions made about them

All of the sessions are victim led and delivered in a way that best suits the child or young person, they usually involve a lot of play, arts & crafts, reading of specialised story books and more. They work with parents/carers and other professionals to identify the support needs of the child and discuss the different support options. A support plan is then created which details what needs have been identified, how we aim to meet these and what resources will be used.

Posters and a referral form are attached to the email with this newsletter.

Sharing work and experiences

During this time do please continue to keep in touch with us through mrjsclosure@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk and share the amazing work and activities that are taking place at home.

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.

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.