



Learning – Laughing – Achieving

Mr Robinson

I am writing to share the sad news that Mr Robinson made the decision to leave our school before half term. The lockdown period gave him time to reflect upon the next steps that he wants to take with his career and to also consider the needs of his family. Having spent the last two years waking at the crack of dawn to travel from Southampton to Hayling each day he has decided that he needs to find a job a little closer to home that will also enable him to support his family more. I know this has not been an easy decision for him to reach as he has loved working at Mill Rythe.



I have had to pinch myself on a daily basis when I think about what Mr Robinson has achieved at such a young age. There are not many people of his age who can match his drive and the sense of responsibility that is instilled in him. I have loved listening to his stories of the homes he built in the Philippines and the difference he made to others here which shaped the man he is today. At school, Mr Robinson has helped me to engage so many children in sport and develop a love of physical fitness and specific sports that I am sure our children will carry with them for the rest of their lives. Having over 600 children engaging in clubs each term is incredible and he has been determined to see more and more children representing our school and not just what some might perceive to be the 'elite' few. The attached photo is testimony to that - watching the year 3 girls playing against year 6 teams from other schools with smiles on their faces is one of my sporting highlights of this academic year. In the classroom, Mr Robinson had also become a fantastic teaching assistant who was dedicated to ensuring the children he worked with made good progress. I hope that he will consider a career in teaching in the future as he would be an asset to any school. My final memories of working with Mr Robinson will be the extra effort that he was prepared to go to for others; whether that is driving a member of staff home when he saw them setting off to walk home in the rain or spending time each morning building relationships with our most vulnerable children or agonising about how he was going to help a particular child feel more at ease when transitioning from their class teacher to him for PE lessons - these are the qualities I associate with people that I want to have around me and our children in school. I am going to miss

working with him but am excited about what he will go on to achieve too. Take care of yourself and your family George.

A Governor's Role During Covid-19

These are extraordinary times for school governors and the world of governance has been turned on its head. In some ways it has been business as usual which is to ensure our children are safe, approve the school budget, hold the school to account and being supportive too. However, since the lockdown began, dealing with operational aspects of school life has overtaken our usual strategic role and these have been our priority when working with the school leadership team.

Since mid-March, there have been no monitoring or other in school visits, which are another key feature of our role, and where we see first-hand what happens on a day-to-day basis in school. This has meant the MRJS Instagram account, weekly newsletters and regular communication including a weekly Covid-19 closure report from the school have been really important in keeping governors up to date with school life and will remain essential as our new way of working continues.

Our regular governing body meetings have been taking place virtually rather than face to face - a learning opportunity for those not used to meeting in this way! The key priority at our meetings remains the school response to Covid-19, discussing how it is operating and adapting to the constantly changing Government and Department for Education advice and guidance.

At our meetings governors have heard how every member of the school staff team has worked extremely hard, been committed and flexible in making our school a safe place for the children attending or in providing learning packs for children at home. The governors recognise this dedication and it has been wonderful to see how everyone continues to be aligned to the vision and values of the school during these extraordinary times.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during this unprecedented situation. The governors are aware that many parents have been in contact with the school with very positive feedback and this is greatly appreciated by the school team.

Lisa Charlton
Chair of Governors

Hayling. Library: We select, you collect
Hampshire Library Service has launched **Ready Reads: We Select You Collect** - a new book collection service. The library team will select a range of books according to each customer's preferences, which can then be collected from the library.

This service is available for all our titles, including children's books. Parents can order up to 30 children's books and collect them from the library. You will receive a call to notify you that your books are ready for collection.

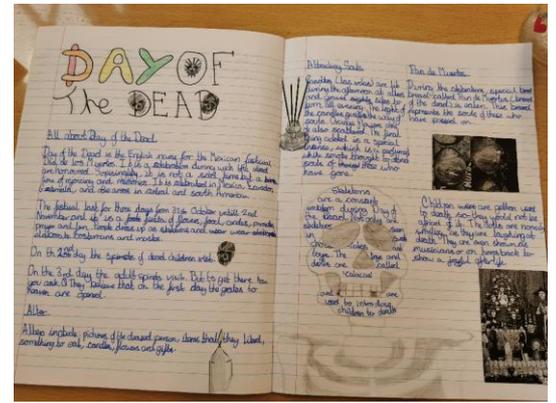


To sign up for this service you can use an online form <https://bit.ly/2A7yi0h> or call us on 01962 454747.

Hampshire Library Service are asking that people do not visit libraries unless they have been given a collection time for their Ready Reads books.

Blue Bubble

Week 3 in blue bubble has been a busy one! We started the week writing Perseus' journey to Medusa's lair using techniques to create atmosphere and tension. We have now started planning our own Greek myths ready to write next week. Many of us have found maths quite challenging this week; algebra is always a topic that scares the children (and many adults!) but they got to grips with it in the end! Archie was particularly good at working through algebraic formulas! In Art, we have been learning about the Pop Artist 'Andy Warhol'. We were surprised to discover that one of his paintings sold for over \$100,000,000! We are hoping to recreate one of his famous pieces next week, sell it for a similar amount and give it to Miss Gray so that she can take a well-deserved break. We continued our Geography unit on Mexico by looking at different Mexican festivals with a particular focus on 'The Day of the Dead'. We created some fantastic information posters and enjoyed learning about how the fiesta is celebrated.



We are really enjoying time together as a small bubble; we have loved playing games- our recent favourite being 'concentration' – as well as practising a play that Christina had written for everyone to act out. Such a lovely idea which has kept the whole group busy at breaktimes!

Orange (glitter) Bubble

This week, Orange Bubble have journeyed across the Atlantic Ocean to Mexico and have learnt about the festivals Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) and Cinco de Mayo. Did you know the festival 'Day of the Dead' begins on Halloween and lasts for 3 days? On Halloween at midnight, it is said that the gates of heaven are opened to release the souls of those who died. This festival is a carnival of colour, singing, dancing, eating and celebrating the lost lives of loved ones. We really enjoyed learning about this tradition and how it is celebrated.



In art, we have been discussing the work of famous Pop artists, such as Andy Warhol. We like his bold use of colour and his appreciation of everyday objects, such as jars of marmite and coca cola cans! We can't wait to create our own pieces of artwork in this style. And finally, in English this week we have begun creating our own Greek myths and we are excited to finish them. Will our heroes be victorious in battle, or will they be defeated by the evil beast?

Green Bubble

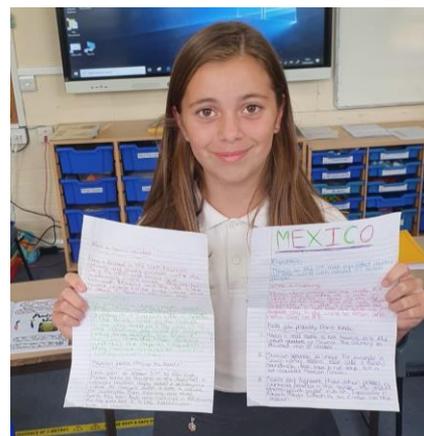
Another week has flown past in green bubble and everyone seems to be enjoying being part of our own bubble family. In Maths, we have been learning algebra and how to write and solve problems using formulas. This was tricky at first but not as bad as we first thought. In English, our myth journeys continued. Some wonderful writing has been achieved so far and Mrs Neale and Mrs Lewis are excited to read the children's myth creations next week.

We managed to do PE outside this week; the rain held off, YAY! Everyone enjoyed playing a variety of football games and improving their dribbling skills. We also saw who could kick a ball the furthest. No prizes for guessing who won... Cameron!

Our Mexico journey saw us look at fiestas and in RE we continued with our peace topic. We now do a minute meditation after break and lunch to find our inner peace and give Mrs Lewis a moment to enjoy hers too.

Yellow Bubble

Week three in the Yellow bubble has been a colourful affair. In Geography, we explored the history of Mexico and the origins of the many different Fiesta's they celebrate. Throughout the year, the streets come alive with people dressed in bright costumes as they parade through towns and cities, dancing and playing music. In art we took a closer look into the life of Andy Warhol, paying close attention to his vibrant colour choices and his interest in the everyday. Maths moved up a notch this week with the introduction of algebra. Everyone showed bucket loads of resilience and ambition to complete some truly tricky formulas. We ended the week in English with a published write of Perseus journey into Medusa's lair. Issac's cliff hanger definitely had a movie feel - 'Only one of them would leave the cave alive...'



Red Bubble

Red Bubble have had a slightly rowdier week this week, and it's been a week of songs, lots of laughter and some slightly dubious dancing skills... Mrs Brydon has been educating the class on 1980's pop classics, and despite their protests they are now reluctant 80's fans. Parents, please feel free to continue their musical education at home! (PS. George's ABSOLUTE favourite is Club Tropicana). This has all originated from the alarm Mrs Brydon sets each day, to ensure that we are not missing and scheduled hand washing, which sounds like the crickets intro of Wham's best selling hit.



Our Tuesday quiz was only marginally more successful than last week and we still need to improve our general knowledge. However, we are getting better and some of us did amazingly well. Our winner this week was Jasmine with nearly half the questions right. There was a little bit of a disagreement when George accused Jack of cheating for researching the Titanic the night before... it sounded like thorough preparation to the rest of us.



We had an excellent PE lesson this week, with football relay races that left the bubble in an exhausted heap. We then finished the session with a non-tackling football match where Alfie demonstrated a hidden talent, scoring 4 incredible goals against Summer and Scarlett in goal.

We have just started planning our own Greek Myths before writing them next week; we've got some cracking ideas. We've been using the FANTASTIC method of writing to include lots of detail for the reader; ask us what FANTASTIC stands for. I can't wait to read their gruesome tales of how their hero defeats the monster to retrieve something that has been taken from them.



Purple Bubble

It's been another astounding week in the purple bubble. The quality of work being produced across this mixed year group has been nothing short of impressive and everyone continues to give their best effort. This week we have been exploring further around the world and have delved into the geography and cultures of Asia. First we stopped off in India, where we learned about the life and teachings of Ghandi and how he was awarded the Nobel peace prize. His belief that we should, "Be the change we want to see in the world," has never been so meaningful especially in these troubling times. The children then created some stunning art works depicting the majestic Taj Mahal, which are currently adorning our classroom bubbles. We then stopped off in Japan, where we learnt to write and speak some basic Japanese. We also looked at famous Japanese traditions such as Hanami (the cherry blossom) and the mysterious world of Kendo and Sumo, as well as investigating the delicious cuisine of this incredible country. It's been lovely to teach this bubble and work with different children from across the school. They have been a constant joy and it reminds me why the children at this school are so special.



Silver Bubble

This week in silver bubble, we jetted off to Asia. Our first stop was India. Luckily for us, we had an expert in our class. Saksham was happy to share his first-hand knowledge and experience of what it is like to live in India. We learnt all about Mahatma Gandhi and his peaceful protests for equality and freedom. We were able to make links and comparisons between him and Nelson Mandela.



Our trip then took us to Japan. We found out it is a very dangerous place to live because it is on a tectonic plate, which causes earthquakes, and in the centre of the ring of fire! This means there are many volcanoes around Japan and if they were to erupt... well that would be a significant problem. We made cranes out of paper using our new origami knowledge, we all found this really tricky but with a bit of ambition and resilience we all had one to take home! Our final stop was China. Unfortunately there was no time to watch Mrs Thorne's favourite film - Mulan, but we did find out which animal represents the year that we were born in. We even took a virtual tour around the great wall of China and were shocked at how big it is! We look forward to packing our bags and flying off to the next continent next week.

Gold Bubble

What a wonderful week it has been in gold bubble! We travelled to Asia, the world's largest continent. Here we explored India and the Taj Mahal. The children created some sensational art work inspired by their travels; Mrs Gannon and Miss Lewis were blown away by the quality of work produced. Next we headed to Japan and China where we learnt about the history of sport in Japan and had a pit stop tour of the Great Wall of China. We can't wait to see where we will be travelling to next week.



In PE this week the children have been working hard to perfect our running and jumping skills. We had some achy muscles on Friday.

In English, we have been looking at the features of a newspaper and how to correctly use inverted commas when using speech in our writing. In Maths, year 5 are flying with their arithmetic's, year 4 are continuing to develop their knowledge of shape and year 3 have been learning all about money. Miss Lewis is impressed with how hard gold bubble are working and is thrilled to see how the children are growing and enjoying being part of GOLD and knowing that they've got the power to be indestructible and always believe it!

4MC

As always, I've really enjoyed talking to 4MC this week. Most people I spoke to were feeling the same – missing their friends, wishing they could go back to school and wondering when this will all be over. I have to admit, I have been feeling the same but I am still so proud of you all for your continued resilience and determination with your home learning. Ollie had been busy completing some puzzles. Alex was looking forward to celebrating his mum's birthday the following day. Meghna had been busy reading lots of new books and baking lots of cupcakes, cookies and pancakes. I am thrilled to hear that my class are such good bakers! If you have any REALLY easy recipes (I'm not a very good cook) that you want to send me then please do! I can't promise they will turn out as good as yours though! Scarlett had built herself a new room for one of her dolls but what made it extra exciting was working electrical circuit she had built inside it too. She put the skills she learnt in our DT unit to excellent use - well done Scarlett! It has been lovely to speak to you all this week 4MC. Keep up the great work and I will speak to you all again soon!

4SH

I have really enjoyed chatting to lots of you again this week and I am still so proud and amazed at all of your continued dedication with your home learning. It has been a long time now and yet the ambition and resilience you display is incredible. Tilly has been creating lots of different crafts with her sewing machine - a mask and a shopping bag! Harry has been down to the beach and spotting crabs in the sea. Declan had his birthday not long ago so a big birthday shout to him! He had a lovely day with some surprise visits from friends. A massive thank you to Daisy who has been the perfect tech support for Timestable Rockstars. I now know how to access all of the challenges you have sent me. I am also brushing up on my quick typing as Molly, Tilly and Henry have proven to be unbeatable by me yet! Well done you three! Feel free to send me challenges 4SH and do check on Rock Slam to see if I have sent you any! I would like to add a huge well done to Alice and Molly who have completed some outstanding home learning and emailed it across. You can both have the first house points to be awarded via the newsletter! I look forward to chatting to more of you soon and if you're in school, look out for me next week for a social distanced wave!

Mental health support available for children and young people in England

Children and young people will be experiencing a variety of feelings in response to the COVID-19 outbreak including anxiety, stress or low mood. It is important to understand that these are normal responses to an abnormal situation. Please do continue to contact myself, Miss Vousden or Mrs Ginn directly at school if you have any concerns about yourselves or your children. I have also detailed below a range of support that is available for children and young people:

- The Government's [online educational resources](#) for home education with a section on mental wellbeing.
- [PHE's guidance](#) on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing

- BBC Education [online learning content](#), also for reception to Year 10 pupils, to support home learning, with weekly wellbeing tips provided via their social media pages.
- The [Think Ninja](#) app has been made freely available to young people (aged 10-18 year olds) across the UK and updated with specific mental health and wellbeing content related to the pandemic.
- [MindEd](#), [Anna Freud](#) or [Place 2 Be](#) webpages and the [Starline](#) parent helpline for home learning.
- [Rise Above](#) is a website co-created and produced by young people to help build resilience and support good mental health in those aged 10 to 16. The content has been adapted to the pandemic and includes new mental health content based on insights from young people who are learning from home.
- [Every Mind Matters](#) includes an online tool and email journey to support everyone to feel more confident in taking action to look after their mental health and wellbeing. It also includes a section for parents and carers on looking after children and young people during the pandemic.
- Children and young people who are caring for someone with a mental illness can self-refer to the **NHS Volunteer Responders** programme using this [link](#) if they are having issues shopping for food or picking up prescriptions.
- Children and young people can access free confidential support anytime from voluntary and community sector organisations by texting **SHOUT to 85258**, calling **Childline on 0800 1111** or **the Mix on 0808 808 4994**. Children and young people can also find online information on COVID-19 and mental health on the [Young Minds website](#). For support with an eating disorder, children and young people can ring **Beat's Youthline on 0808 801 0711**.
- Local mental health crisis support lines (for all ages) can be found via a simple age and postcode search [here](#).

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.

Sharing work and experiences

During this time do please continue to keep in touch with us through mrjisclosure@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.sch.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.