



## Learning – Laughing – Achieving

### Mrs North – the long goodbye!

Due to Covid-19 we have managed to keep hold of Mrs North for a little longer than we had expected. Unfortunately today has been her last day with us as she leaves us to start her new adventure within a local veterinary practice; a role 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 have not had the chance to give you a proper leaving assembly 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. People say you shouldn't work with children and animals but I can't think of anyone better to disprove this theory!

## Blue Bubble

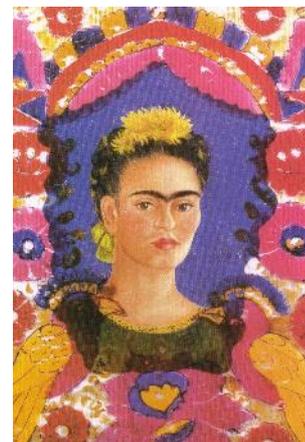
Is it the summer holidays yet?! The beautiful weather we've had this week has put us all in the summer mood and we've tried to spend as much time outside as we can. Being back at school means that Miss Gray's sun tan is suffering so she is trying to top it up whenever possible!

We have been busy writing our own Greek myths in English with some of our heroes travelling to the underworld to fight the Cerberus and others travelling to the depths of the ocean to face the deadly Hydra. We are looking forward to editing and writing up our published versions next week.

We have finally finished our algebra unit in maths (phew) and have now completed the maths curriculum for year 6! This week we have been doing lots of problem solving which has been keeping us busy. Some of us really struggled with Sudoku; we most definitely need to work on our resilience!

We completed our first piece of Pop Art in the style of Andy Warhol on Monday; unfortunately, I don't think any will sell for the \$100,000,000 we were hoping for but that was purely because the colouring pens kept running out!

In Geography, we learnt about Frida Kahlo who was a Mexican artist who painted self-portraits in vibrant colours. We then had a go at creating our own. Getting the shape of the head was the hardest part- Archie's first attempt looked a bit like a potato!



We are looking forward to what adventures next week will bring.

## Orange Bubble

This week, we have been writing our own Greek mythology stories. They sound fantastic! We have enjoyed creating atmosphere and tension in our writing in order to interest the reader, as well as using vivid description. We have also been enjoying the sunny weather and playing games outside - in the shade of course! Mrs Jones has taught us how to French skip and we're getting pretty good at it. Our slow races in PE were good fun too. In Geography, we have continued learning about Mexico. Our focus this week was on the life and works of Frieda Kahlo, a world-famous surrealist artist. We are currently recreating her famous piece, 'The Frame', with our own self-portraits. We look forward to finishing these next week.



## Green Bubble

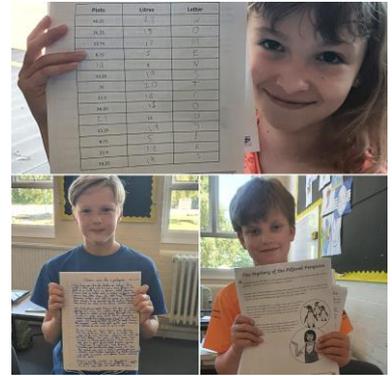
Week 4 in green bubble has been very colourful. Our Mexico journey continued and we learned about Frida Kohla, a surrealist artist. We all produced a portrait of ourselves in her style. Great fun was had attempting to draw them. In art Micky Mouse was the focus. We used complimentary colours to create pop art in the style of Andy Warhol.

Maths has been interesting and fun. We have been using all our Maths knowledge to solve problems. Everyone was really engaged and wanted to complete the task. In English we got to write our own myths using all the techniques we have learnt. It has been exciting listening to all the ideas and we can't wait to share our myths with one another.



## Yellow Bubble

This week the Yellow Bubble grew as we welcomed Gemma in to the fold. She has found it, 'strange but good,' and is really enjoying seeing more people and challenging herself in maths. She isn't alone, we have loved getting our teeth into daily maths mysteries. Max's favourite was the Mystery of the Pilfered Penguins. In English, we wrote our own Greek Myth. Every one did a super job, using rich and atmospheric language to build tension, Oliver did particularly well.



## Red Bubble

What a glorious week we've had! It's been lovely being able to enjoy the sunshine and red bubble have spent a lesson or two working outside listening to the birds. It's been a little slice of heaven! Although it's been hot, we've managed to keep cool and hydrated and lunchtimes spent in the sunshine have been a real treat. Mrs Jenner bought us all ice pops on Thursday – thank you.

Our fitness has definitely improved this week and we're getting faster (and more coordinated!). We played football cricket again after some relay races and worked really well as a team.

We have had a very artistic week. In art, we have produced some excellent Mickey Mouse art in the style of Andy Warhol and in Geography we have learnt about Frida Kahlo, a key Mexican figure. We produced self-portraits in the style of her work and they turned out beautifully.



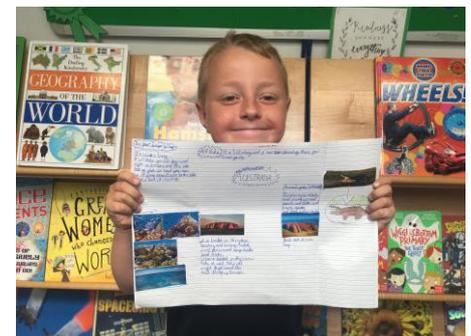
This week's quiz was MUCH better, with one person scoring a massive 50 out of 70. We went back over some of the questions from last week and we are slowly building up our general knowledge. It won't be long before we're signing up for Who Wants to be a Millionaire!

## Purple Bubble

Purple bubble's travels this week have taken us all the way to Australia. After a tiring flight which took us nearly 24 hours we began to learn about this exciting and extraordinary continent. We discovered it's capital is Canberra and that it has a population of only 24 million, much less than the UK. We explored various landmarks such as Ayres Rock, the Great Barrier Reef and Sydney Opera House and created an information page for others to read. We also researched all about Aborigines and digeridoos. Our travels then took us to New Zealand where we learnt to dance the Haka, a type of ancient Maori war dance.



We have also continued to work on our maths knowledge with Year 3 focussing on statistics, Year 4 on symmetry and Year 5 on written methods for calculations. In English, we have completed comprehensions, read for pleasure and are working on improving our handwriting ready to impress our new teachers in September. Our brains were hurting from all the work by the end of the week so we are all looking forward to a relaxing weekend to get us ready for next week's adventure.



## Silver Bubble

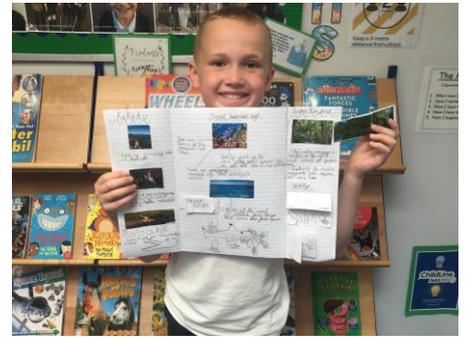
It's been another lovely week in Silver bubble. I must say, I have the most polite class I have ever taught! Every morning I am greeted with smiles and children asking how I am. Not a moment goes by when they forget their manners, always saying please and thank you; the small things that make a big difference.

This week we have travelled to Australia and our own weather really has made us feel like we are there in person! We loved seeing Mrs Ifould's photos. We have learnt about some of the famous landmarks and about the Aborigines.

I am really proud of the work children are producing in English. I am particularly impressed with the progress in Dougie's handwriting and Lucie's confidence in reading. The children have really developed their independence when using the computers and they are able to navigate the home learning links with confidence and ease. Their speed and recall of multiplication facts on TTRS is getting quicker every day!

As always, the class have enjoyed their time playing outside. They have made new friendships and it is lovely to see them grow in confidence each week.

I'm looking forward to next week's adventure!



## Gold Bubble

In Gold bubble this week we travelled to the other side of the world. Our visit to Australia brought high temperatures and an array of wildlife such as sharks, kangaroos, koalas and the kiwi bird. The children are full of knowledge about the kiwi bird, the only bird with nostrils at the end of its bill. We made boomerangs and after learning how to correctly throw one we went out onto the field and had a go. Miss Lewis very quickly discovered it's not as easy as it looks and they do not always come back when thrown. The children however loved watching Miss Lewis try. We learnt all about the aborigines and then did some aboriginal inspired stone painting.



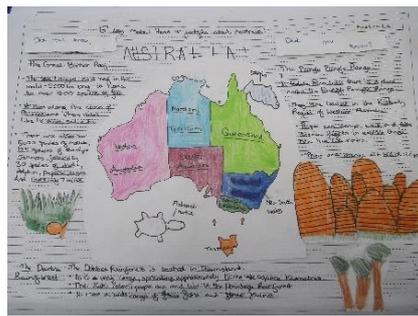
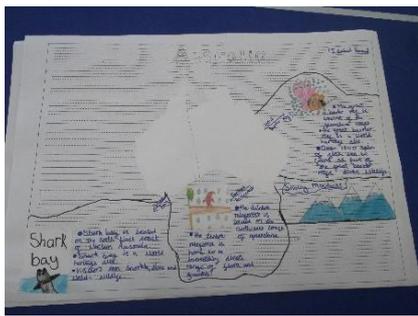
English this week has seen us look at a wide variety of writing features across year groups from present perfect tense to similes, metaphors, parenthesis, expanded noun phrases, subordinate clauses, relative clauses and modal verbs. The children then used these skills in their writing. Miss Lewis is excited to read the finished versions. In Maths this week, year 5 have been multiplying decimals using their formal written method whilst year 4 have been learning all about symmetry. Year 3 have been working extremely hard with Mrs Gannon and Mrs Gilmartin on collecting and recording data in bar charts and pictograms. We are all very proud with how hard gold bubble are working.



## Bronze Bubble

Bronze bubble have settled really well at school, establishing new routines, maintaining social distancing and learning in different ways. I am so proud of everyone in Bronze bubble! I feel so lucky to still have members of 4SH with me, to be reunited with some children I taught last year and also get to know some new faces.

We have had lots of fun this week, from football rounders, to Joe Wicks, to making new friends across 3 year groups. We have also enjoyed learning all about Australia and New Zealand. We have taken great care and pride in our presentation and work we have produced too. Here are some examples:



## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February (please note this is different to MRIS)

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 [mrjsclosure@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto: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

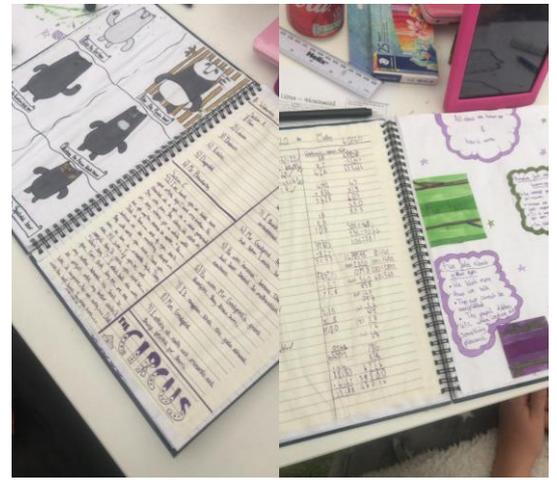
Headteacher

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.