



## Learning – Laughing – Achieving

### A message for Year 6

What an amazing journey you have had since joining MRJS in September 2016. When I first met you in January of 2017, you resembled a gaggle of meerkats; many of you struggled to sit in your chairs for any length of time and both Miss Vousden and Mrs Salter-Vaile often appeared to be working significantly harder than you! What did shine through from the beginning was your incredible character and care for each other. In the last 3 ½ years, I have watched your growth and development with great pride and you leave us as fantastic children who are ready for the next step in your life and education.

Since September, you have all made incredible progress with your learning. You have a passion for seeking out and applying new knowledge; I have loved reading the writing that you have produced in English – your attention to detail and passion for writing is inspiring; seeing your confidence and pride in the accuracy of your maths improve markedly has been wonderful and your knowledge of grammar is significantly better than mine. Your achievements beyond the classroom are a constant source of joy – achieving and overcoming fears at Calshot; setting new standards with your sporting performances; the quality of your artwork and love of drama, dance and singing; the joy you take in being in each other's company.

I couldn't be prouder of each and every one of you, as well as the teachers, teaching assistants and most of all, parents and family who have guided you along the way. Leaving year 6 and preparing for life in secondary school is a significant moment in your life at any time, let alone during a pandemic. Some of you have had to overcome serious obstacles along the way; whilst others of you have been there to help each other through these challenging times. Keep supporting and caring for each other please.

As you know, I worry about the world that you are growing up in but I also believe completely in your ability to change our world for the better. Don't let anyone tell you that you are too young to understand or that things have always been done in a particular way. Do what you think is right for others and yourselves – don't make the easy or convenient decisions. Think about the values that mean the most to you – kindness, respect, responsibility, honesty and ambition – demonstrate these through your actions each and every day. You will make mistakes along the way – learn from them and become part of the solution and not the problem. Listen to people with different opinions to you. Learn from them and work alongside them. Recognise each other's strengths and weaknesses. Challenge people whose aim is to divide us and

work together to build bridges with people who have been treated wrongly. Learn from the mistakes of my generation and be the force for change in your world.

Take all of the opportunities that are presented to you – think about the choices that Aaron Phipps made when he woke up as a 15 year old having lost his fingers and legs. By grasping everything that life had to offer him he has achieved the most incredible feats. You can all do the same. Put down your phones and talk to your family and friends face to face. Surround yourselves with good people; listen to their advice and thank them for sharing it with you.

Many of you are already making your mark on the world – Eco Club, Great Citizens, beach cleans, challenging injustices, standing shoulder to shoulder with Greta Thunberg and fighting for issues that affect climate change, Black Lives Matter – you make me optimistic about our future.

Keep making us proud year 6!  
Mr Bessant

### Virtual Sports Day

Our virtual sports day was a huge hit with both our children and families at home as well as our children working in school. We have loved the emails and photographs that have been shared with us and are really proud of the efforts that everyone went to across the week. I'm still not convinced by some of Mrs Brydon's measuring though...

### House Results

4th place: Nelson: 14,619  
3rd place: Hardy: 17,143  
2nd place: Trafalger: 17,785  
1st place: Victory: 18,850

### Sporting honours

Most points per class  
3IC Sam Maloney 829  
3SW Millie Wainwright 856  
4AT Matilda Rogers 885  
4MC Evie McBride 976  
4SH Maisie McMaster 486  
5AF Sakshum Thakur 989 (highest in school!)  
5JH Maria Hoiescu 689  
5MD Katie Yates 931  
6GR Cameron Duffy 636  
6SB Summer Mansbridge 754  
6SG Summer Elliott-Smith S 817

### Top Scoring Events

Bucket throw - Jonny Throup 31  
Speed bounce - Charley Jones 105  
Step up- Betsy Harberd 82  
Squat- Ruby Rowlands 59  
Egg and Spoon – Daniel Exelby 70  
Under over- Sophie Yates 34  
Burpees - Wyatt Caldecott 36  
Plank- Saksham Thakur and Sophie Yates 354  
Toilet Roll- Evie McBride 398  
Standing long jump- Yasmine McMaster 382



### **Breakfast and After School Club and Kidzone**

We have continued to put in place our plans for our breakfast and after school club in September. I am pleased to share that we will be able to accept childcare vouchers. Once we have the details for this, they will be shared with you this summer. A number of parents have requested care until 6pm. For the start of term, I'm afraid that we are not going to be able to operate beyond 5.30pm. The club is being run by our existing school staff and they are currently working from 7.30am each day as well as then going home to plan and prepare work for the following day. I hope that we will be able to extend the provision to 6pm soon as new staff are recruited.

I was sorry to learn this week that Mrs Wrixon has made the decision to close Kidzone. Gill has been involved with both our own and Mill Rythe Infant School for a long time and her care for our children has been excellent during this time. When we made the decision to run our own club for our children during the Autumn term, I was aware that this would have an impact on Kidzone but I also have a responsibility to protect the integrity of our class bubbles to keep our children, staff and their families safe during these uncertain times. I met with Gill last week to share this with her but to also share that we wanted Kidzone to continue to run on our site for children from MRIS in September. I was disappointed to learn that this will not be happening and understand that this will present some challenges for parents of children from MRIS. When we return to school in September, I will start to look at whether we can offer wrap around care for children from MRIS later in the term.

### **And finally...**

I am very proud to be the Headteacher of Mill Rythe Junior School where I work with a fantastic team of children, staff and parents. Our children achieved some incredible things in the first half of this year within music, art, sport, dance and the core subjects of English and maths and they never cease to amaze me with their care, sense of fun and desire to be their best.

Since schools closed in March, I have continued to be delighted with the work and achievements of our children at both home and in school. They are nurtured and taught by an incredibly committed staff team who learn, laugh and achieve alongside your children and supported by brilliant parents and carers at home. It has been a year quite unlike any other!

Thank you for your support in the last year. We will look forward to welcoming everyone back to our school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Take care of yourselves and your families this summer.

David Bessant

Headteacher