



## Learning – Laughing – Achieving

### Mrs Harrigan

During the lockdown period Mrs Harrigan made the decision to step back from her role within our school family. Karen is one of the kindest people you could ever have the privilege of meeting and her care for all of our children during lunchtimes has been exceptional. She greets everyone with the warmest smile and demonstrates unwavering patience and understanding during what is a really busy hour in our dining hall.

Karen, you have been a wonderful addition to our school family and you are going to be greatly missed by all of us in September. I hope we will have the chance to work together again soon.



### Free School Meals criteria

If you are not currently in receipt of Free School Meals and your personal circumstances have changed, the criteria for Free School Meal eligibility is shown below:

- A child is eligible for free school meals if either parent or carer, regardless of their contact with the child, receives one or more of the following benefits.
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).

If you meet this criteria, please use the link below to make an application:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants>

We are able to provide all of our children eligible for free school meals with a £90 voucher to contribute towards the cost of food this summer and when they return to school in September they will be entitled to free meals each day in school.

## Home Schooling

Greetings from North America, the current continent that we are visiting. It has been a busy few weeks already this term jet setting around the world and I have loved seeing all the fabulous work you have all been producing. It all started in Antarctica, the coldest continent on the planet where we learnt about freezing and melting ice along with the animals you might find there. We then travelled north to the continent of Africa, spending time in Egypt and Kenya learning about the River Nile, pyramids, African music and masks. In week 3, we headed to the largest continent on the planet - Asia and spent time learning about the countries of India, Japan and China. Children enjoyed learning about the Taj Mahal and Gandhi. We then headed to the smallest continent of Oceania and learnt about the wonderful people and places in Australia and New Zealand. We are currently in North America and have learnt about Mexico, St Lucia and fair trade bananas, Canada and the USA. I think the children have particularly enjoyed the Disney day and the special workout from 'Joelle Wicks'. Next week, we are heading off to South America and learning about the vibrant countries there, including famous South American footballers and dances, the Rainforest water cycle, Brazilian carnivals and Peru and the Incas.



After that we are going to take a break from travelling around the world to head home for a very special Mill Rythe Virtual Sports Day! The children will be given 10 sporting challenges to complete across the week and earn points for their house. At the end of the week, all results will be submitted online using a Google Form and Miss Ifould will announce the house winners! There will also be learning about our bodies, keeping fit and healthy, our skeleton and muscles.

Then in the last week of term we will visit the final continent of Europe and Miss Ifould will be setting a Europe Summer Challenge for over the summer holidays! So much to look forward too!

Miss Ifould has done a brilliant job in designing such a captivating foundation curriculum that all of our children can enjoy and her videos have brought much joy and laughter to all of us. Thank you Michelle 😊

## Phone calls home

Over the next two weeks, I have asked our teachers to stop making their current fortnightly calls to the children in their current classes so that they can call the children they will be teaching next year instead. Earlier this week you received a letter explaining about the next step in the transition process and you will be sent a message today sharing which class your child is moving into as well as details for how to find out who else is in this class. I look forward to seeing lots of you across the next fortnight.

## Blue Bubble

We have worked hard in Blue Bubble this week, recapping key learning from earlier in the year. In maths, we have consolidated our understanding of converting between units of measure!) and solved problems involving area and perimeter (something we often get the wrong way around!). We have been busy unpicking language in



English ready to write a compendium entry on our own mythical beast linked to the book, 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.' We've already had ideas about creatures such as the Daymere Unicorn being reputed for pooping rainbows! We are looking forward to writing them next week.

Miss Gray wanted to relive her school days in PE so made us do the 'Beep Test!' She told us that when she was younger, she would tell her PE teacher that she had forgotten her kit when it was beep test day. She looked like she was really enjoying watching us all run up and down as she shouted 'BEEP' every 10 seconds! Archie was the last man standing...

We learnt about Pop artist 'Roy Lichtenstein' in art this week- we are looking forward to creating a piece using his style of ben-day dots next week. In RE, we read Nelson Mandela's book, 'A long Walk to Freedom' which sparked many conversations about his struggles. Then we went off on a bit of a tangent and began talking about prison and human rights. I can't believe I only have two and a half weeks left with my bubble.

### **Glitter Bubble**

Another busy week in Glitter Bubble! We began the week by reading extracts from 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.' We learnt that Flobberworms are only as deadly as they sound and that Phoenixes die and are reborn from their own ashes – how impressive! We can't wait to create our own weird and wonderful creatures.

We finally finished painting our Frida Kahlo inspired artwork where we recreated her famous picture in a frame. We all worked really hard on our self-portraits, ensuring that our faces were correctly proportioned. As Frida Kahlo is slightly looking to the side in her famous piece, we tried to do this too! We showed resilience when making sure that our shading created shadows in the right places – check out some of our finished master pieces below! Can you spot elements of surrealism in our work?

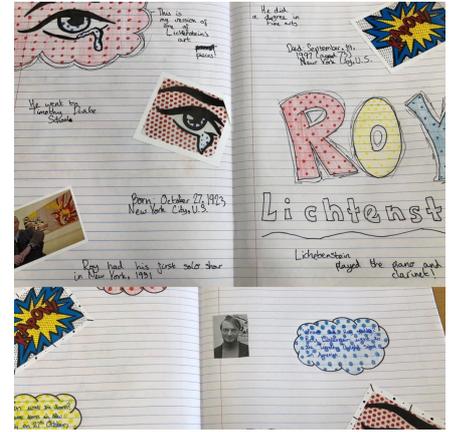
And lastly, our least favourite part of the week was when Miss Furlong made us do 'Miss Furlong's Bootcamp.' Lots of star jumps, up-down planks and complaining were involved but we all enjoyed it really (I think)!



## Green bubble

Green Bubble have had another lovely week. In PE we got to try out our hockey skills using them to play a game of hockey four square, which everyone seemed to enjoy. In English and reading, we have been looking at mythical beasts. Using our imagination, we had to draw a Balroc from a written description.

In Art, we continued with Pop Art and Roy Lichtenstein, who used ben-day dots in his style of art. Maths has really made us think this week; we have been converting different measures and working on area and perimeter. Mrs Lewis and Mrs Neale were really impressed with the children's resilience when they found it challenging. Break times and lunch times are always fun and it's been lovely to see how all of Green Bubble have got along. We had the added bonus of meeting our ducklings again this week. We got to watch them walking around. Our bubble circle before then having a hold!



## Yellow Bubble

Another new addition to the Yellow Bubble this week means we are full up! We were delighted to welcome Oliver M-G and celebrated by chalking-up the playground (courtesy of Mrs Bottomley). On Monday, he was thrown straight into maths as we tackled angles. We put him through his paces with the Nations favourite PE teacher, Joe Wicks on Tuesday and on Wednesday we tuned into NASA TV to watch two European astronauts successfully complete a spacewalk on the International Space Station. Today, we finally finished our Frida Kahlo portraits; superb effort by everyone to capture the vibrant nature of her work.



## Red Bubble

This week, Red Bubble have been learning about Roy Lichtenstein in Art, another famous Pop Artist. He is most famous for his comic book style artwork and we're excited to have a go at reproducing his colourful and fun artwork next week.

We have learnt about Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr this week and how they both stood up for what they believed in, despite being arrested and sent to jail; in Nelson Mandela's case, being imprisoned for over 26 years. Both men strongly believed that black and white people should have the same rights and not be segregated, which is still relevant today as we are still fighting for racial equality. Martin Luther King's speech, "I have a dream..." hasn't come true yet, but we hope it is getting closer.

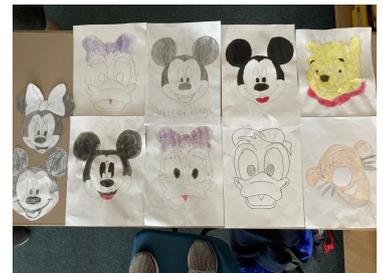
Summer claimed the mantle of Quiz Champion this week as she secured the highest score. Her inquisitive nature and thirst for knowledge is really paying off in our weekly quizzes. We are really pleased to welcome Qasami back into our bubble. He's settled in already and it's like he's never been away!

## Gold bubble

Week five in Gold Bubble has taken us to the continent of North America. The children enjoyed visiting Mexico and learning about their culture. We made sombreros and danced along to some Mexican music. I think Miss Lewis and Mrs Gannon enjoyed this a little more than the children! The children learnt about the journey of the banana and how it is exported out of St Lucia and into the UK. Wednesday brought the magic of Disney when we learnt about the life of Walt Disney and drew some of the iconic Disney characters. No excuses were needed to watch a Disney film so we made ourselves comfortable and started watching Lady and the Tramp.

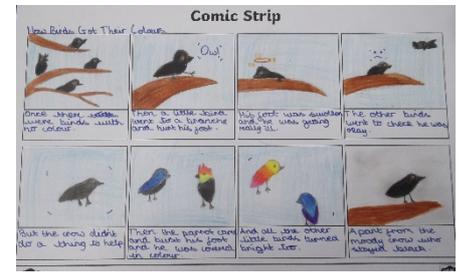
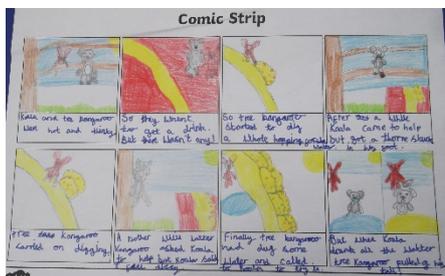
Time spent outside bug hunting, playing games with new found friends and scavenger hunting is always fun. When in class the children continue to work really hard on developing their writing skills and maths knowledge.

Miss Lewis loves spending time with the children in gold bubble. They keep her on her toes but she wouldn't have it any other way. She is really enjoying seeing the children grow in confidence, tackle challenges and form new relationships.



## Bronze Bubble

Bronze Bubble have continued to work hard travelling around the world. We have been to Australia and had a go at presenting some aboriginal stories as a comic strip.



We then travelled to the continent of North America and visited St. Lucia. We explored the advantages and disadvantages of visiting St. Lucia and the impact of tourism on the country. We then learnt all about the process of banana growing and the journey bananas take to get to the UK.

## Purple Bubble

This has been another tremendous week of fun and learning in the bubble; I'll be sad to lose them at the end of term - they are all, without exception - awesome! This week has seen us traverse the Atlantic ocean to explore North America. We started off in Mexico where we learnt all about Cinco de Mayo as well as the Mariachi bands. We then created our own stunning sombrero designs! After that we arrived in St. Lucia, where we learnt the fascinating history of the banana and how it makes its 5000km journey to our stony shores. The children also learnt about the history of Walt Disney and his huge impact on our culture. The class then drew some stunning artwork pieces from famous Disney films. Future Pixar artists I think! If that wasn't enough, we then took a whirlwind tour of Canada and learnt all about it's culture and wildlife. Again, the standard of work being produced in the purple bubble never fails to impress myself Mrs Chessell, we are super proud. Well done Purple!

## **Silver Bubble**

It has been another incredible week in Silver Bubble. This time we have been exploring North America. We've investigated the diverse wildlife in Canada, the culture of Mexico and had a magical time in Disney World, Florida. I think Disney day has been our favourite; it certainly was Mrs Thorne's favourite. We practised copying cartoons just like Walt Disney himself. We even included Disney themed aerobics into our PE lessons which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. I think by the end of the day the children were a bit sick of Mrs Thorne singing along to all the songs all day.

Our children have continued to work hard on their timestable rock stars, setting the teachers challenges and competing for the top spot in their year group! Everyone has been working incredibly hard on their writing and I am seeing improvements in their writing and spellings each week.

We have all settled into the 'new normal' school life incredibly well. The children know the routines inside out and it is clear to see they feel safe and are happy to be in school. Pack your bags for next week as we will be getting on that virtual plane and heading to our penultimate continent!

## **3IC**

It has been lovely catching up with 3IC these last two weeks. It is always a delight talking to the children and hearing about their home adventures. They really are doing so well at home and I am so proud of them all. I have loved hearing how much the children are enjoying learning about the world. Sienna continues to eat food from around the world and thoroughly enjoyed sampling sushi. Lily also has been trying out different foods and loved her Indian curry. Ioan was telling me all about Gandhi and how inspiring he found him. Martha has loved finding out about the Egyptians.

Riley shared some exciting news that his dog had puppies and Mya can't wait for her upcoming birthday. Angel has been practising her gymnastics in her garden and Willow and Lollie went on a day trip to Longleat Safari park and saw some amazing animals up close including lions, tigers, monkeys, gazelles and giraffes. Keep up the good work 3IC and remember to practice those times tables on times tables rock stars! You can do it!

## **Advice to parents and carers about keeping children safe from abuse and harm**

The government have produced new guidance pulling together sources of information about the main risks to children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and signposts you to help and support available. This guide also includes information on the support providers who can help you have effective conversations with a young person, especially if you are concerned for their safety.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm/advice-to-parents-and-carers-on-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm>

## **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@millrythejun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:mrjsclosure@millrythejun.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.sch.uk](mailto:mrjsclosure@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.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.sch.uk](mailto:mrjsclosure@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.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.