

Dear Parents & Carers,

Learning – Laughing – Achieving

Welcome Back Mill Rythe Family

Welcome back to school at the start of what I am sure is going to be an exciting term. It has been lovely to see so many happy faces coming into school this week and we are all really enjoying getting to know the newest members of the Mill Rythe Family in year 3, alongside the children who have joined us in years 4, 5 and 6.

All of our children have had a great first week getting to know their teachers and teaching assistants whilst learning, laughing and achieving alongside their friends. We can't wait to hear about the challenges they are going to attempt as part of the 26 fund raising event in a few week's time. Enjoy getting creative with ideas this weekend.

School has felt very safe this week and I would like to thank parents, carers and grandparents for supporting us with the staggered start and end times of the day. It has been lovely to meet so many new faces and to welcome back so many familiar ones.

Covid-19

Guidance around Covid-19 symptoms and when you need to self-isolate have been added to the end of this newsletter. Thank you to everyone who rang school to check what should be doing in different circumstances; it is really important that we do not have children in school if they or a member of their household have symptoms. Whilst the testing system has received mixed reviews in the last week, I know of adults who have been able to book tests and receive results inside 24 hours. Whilst I know this may be inconvenient it is so important that all members of our school family adopt a cautious approach and continue to follow the most recent government guidance. With the change in guidance for Monday, please do not wait in the car park in groups of more than 6 next week.

Thank you

When we decided to build our school farm we were very aware that weekends and holidays would present us with a challenge in terms of continuing to care for our animals. Stan, Ollie, Jessie, Awesome, Hands, Voc, Bob, Yolko, Jack, Vera and our ducklings have had a brilliant summer thanks to the time given by so many families this summer. On behalf of all of our animals and children I would like to say thank you for your support.

A week in the life of...

3MD

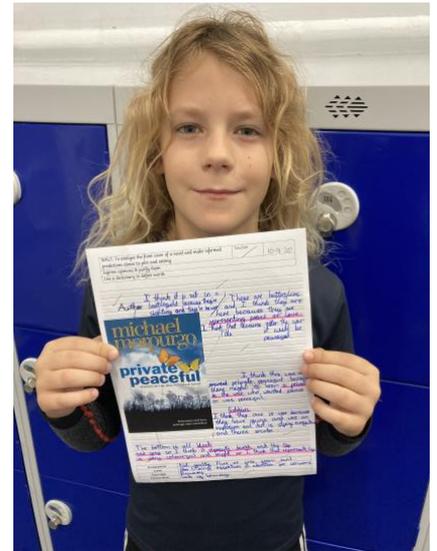
Dragons descended onto 3MD this week as the children settled into their new class creating chaos and mayhem. I was so excited to meet everyone after what feels like an eternity without a class, and they have been a constant delight. We also have a new addition in the form of a glistening, golden, scaly dragon's egg which my intrepid Dragon hunters found this week on the field in the biggest nest we've ever seen! Scorch marks, claw marks and great marks so far this week for the wonderful, beautiful children of 3MD. I can't wait to see how our year progresses.



as: movement, respiration, sensitivity, growth, reproduction, excretion and nutrition). As you can see, we have had a very busy week. Well done for all of your hard work 4JS!

5SG

Wow- what a first week back. I wasn't sure what to expect after so long a period away from normal school but 5SG have impressed me immensely! Their maturity and attitudes to learning really are testament to all of the loving support that they have received at home and it has been lovely to see them getting stuck back in to learning at school. We have begun reading *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo which we will focus on in our reading lessons, begun a unit of writing based on an animation which links to remembrance and our history topic. In art, we have begun using different sketching pencils, experimenting with creating different lines, tone and textures, and today we learnt a little about what Hayling Island was like during World War 1. The children were quite surprised to see that a few well known pubs and landmarks including our school were around all that time ago. I'm certainly exhausted but already looking forward to spending more time getting to know my class next week.



5JH

Monday morning was mixture of nerves and excitement, but I needn't have worried as I was met with 24 smiling faces. Everyone was excited to see who was in our class and very keen to catch up with friends we hadn't seen in some cases since March. We settled in quickly, discussing the changes to our school day, how we all felt and setting up new routines. Quickly, the children realised the main changes were around break time and lunches as we now eat in the classroom, but I am pleased to report everyone took it in their stride. After spending two days focusing on our wellbeing, it has been school as we know it with reading, English and maths in that order each morning and art, history, RE and Spanish to finish off our week. We have all been given our new reading books and reading star journals. I can't wait to see who gets to 25 stars first! In the meantime we are going to continue getting to know 'Charlie McGuffin' the hero of our class read *Charlie Changes in to a Chicken*. There have been excellent predictions around how he is going to escape each calamitous change. All in all, we have had an absolutely super start to year 5 and look forward to going from strength to strength next week.



5MC

5MC have made an incredible return to life at Mill Rythe Junior School. Monday was a bit of a shock as we battled the effects of getting up at the crack of dawn but we survived the day and made a start on our well – being curriculum. We discussed what lockdown had meant for us and the worries we may have had before coming back to school. On Tuesday, we talked a bit more about Covid – 19, lockdown and the impact it has had and is still having on daily life across the world. I was really impressed with the mature attitudes towards the current challenges we face. Wednesday was our first day of 'normal' lessons with the return of Guided Reading, English, maths and topic work. Having a first go at drawing portraits of our partner in art was amusing – we think we certainly have a lot of work to do! In RE we have started to consider the meaning of the word interpretation and why it is important in our lives. It has been a brilliant week and it is great to be back!



5SH

5SH have made a strong start to the year, demonstrating beautiful learning behaviours and great kindness towards each other. I am very proud of how quickly each of them has settled having been away from school for such a long time. I know arriving on the first wasn't easy for some of you and there are still some nerves floating around but together we will have an awesome year (I hope we get to complete this one). This week we have enjoyed reading 'Charlie Changes into a Chicken.' We have had some thought provoking discussions in English linked to the war and the book 'Private Peaceful.' We have explored the meaning of interpretation and how people can see the same situation differently and had time to draw our own portraits in art. We are looking forward to experimenting with different marks and tones and learning how to draw individual features of the face. Super week 1 5SH!

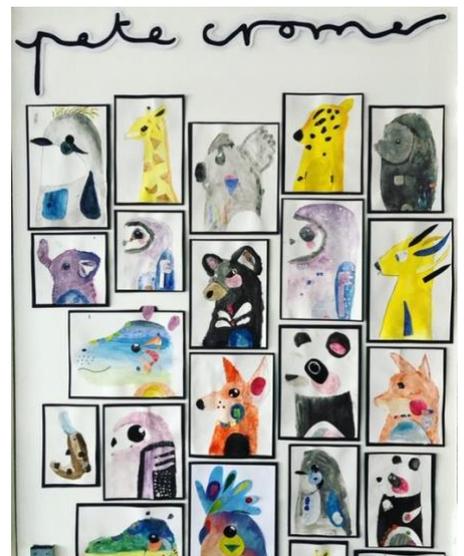
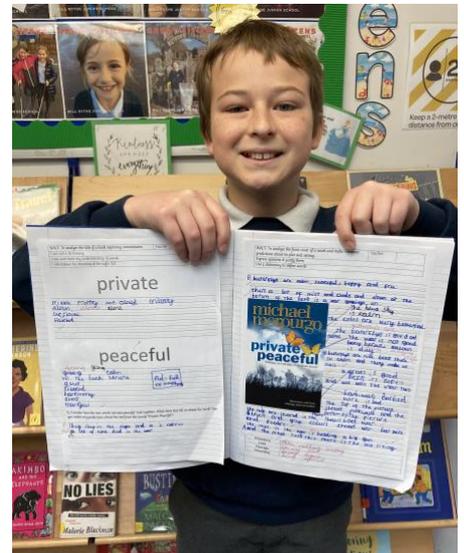
6SB

I thought Mr Darby may have been stretching the truth slightly when he said that I was going to be teaching 'the loveliest class in the world' but I'm over the moon to find out that it's absolutely true! We've had a fantastic few days getting to know each other and I'm thrilled to discover that my new class are funny, imaginative, creative and kind. Most importantly, they also share my love of terrible jokes (or at least are polite enough to laugh with me each morning). They have had a turbulent year but you wouldn't know it - they've slipped straight into routines and are raring to go. I am so excited to see what they're going to achieve this year as they've made an outstanding start!

6AF

It was a pleasure being reunited with my class this week. 6AF began the week by discussing life in lockdown and how we felt about returning to school. Many children said they had had mixed emotions about returning to school, however they were also excited to be back and learning with their friends. We also started reading the book, 'Charlie Changes into a Chicken'. This is a story about a boy called Charlie who turns into different animals when he is feeling anxious or stressed. We discussed what anxiety does to our bodies and we created a bank of calming strategies to use when this happens. We debated what animals we'd like to turn into (if we could!) and then created some artwork in the style of Australian artist, Pete Cromer.

As part of our '26 challenge' in support of Miss Lewis and Well Child, 6AF are visiting 26 countries in 26 days. On Monday, we kicked things off by journeying to the land down-under where we learnt about quokkas, koalas and Tasmanian devils. I wonder if you can spot any of them in our Pete Cromer inspired artwork?

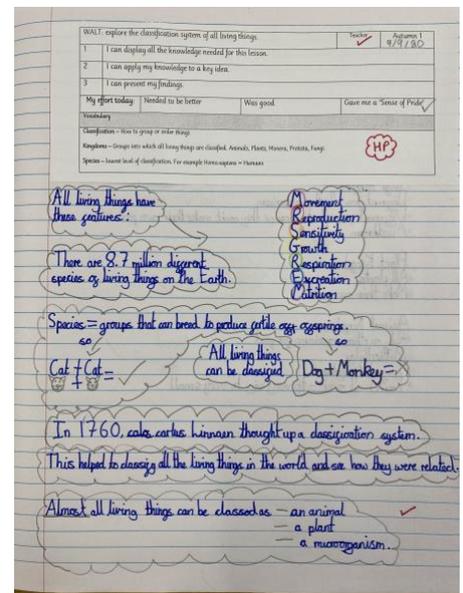


6GR

What a great start to the year we've had in 6GR this week. It was so lovely getting to know the children and they have definitely settled and are in to the swing of life in 6GR.

We began the week by establishing routines post lockdown and getting the hang of when we need to wash and sanitise our hands! We've discovered that the hand sanitiser really doesn't smell that nice! We then spent two days talking about emotions and wellbeing and completing some thought provoking work based on a really funny book called 'Charlie changes into a Chicken'.

Come Wednesday the hard work really started. We got back into maths and English lessons and realised that actually, we hadn't forgotten too much over lockdown which Miss Gray was relieved to see! She does keep moaning about our handwriting though...



We started our English unit based on a book called 'Floodlands' and we are looking forwards to seeing what happens to the main character, Zoe, when she leaves the island that she lives on.

In science, we learnt about how living things are classified using the Linnaean System. Ask us about the 5 kingdoms- I think you'll be really impressed with our knowledge!

We (especially Miss Gray and Mrs Lewis) are exhausted after our first week back but are very much looking forward to seeing what next week brings.

New Faces

I am delighted to welcome Mr Price and Miss Wright back to school. They both spent most of last year with us as they qualified to be class teachers. They are working with us in school as teaching assistants but I know they will be snapped up by schools looking for great teachers in the near future. We will really enjoy working with them before then. I would also like to welcome Madison Wright to the Mill Rythe Family. Miss Wright is completing her initial teacher training with us this year and will be based in 5SG alongside Miss Gilchrist and Mrs Tondeur. She is another great addition to the Mill Rythe Family.



Covid-19 Symptoms and Testing

I would like to thank all of the parents and carers who have contacted us this week if they were unsure about the actions to take if their children or a member of their household was unwell.

If any children or members of their families are displaying symptoms of Covid-19, then your children should not come to school. If you have been contacted by NHS Track and Trace because you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 you should self-isolate for 14 days. The symptoms are:

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

For more information about symptoms, read the further [guidance on symptoms](#).

If you have one or more of these symptoms, you must self-isolate straight away for 10 days – or longer if you continue to have a temperature. If you live in the same household as someone with coronavirus symptoms, you must self-isolate straight away for 14 days.

You must book a test using the link below and I would ask you to do this on the day that symptoms develop and then inform me of the outcome so that we can minimise the risk of an outbreak in school.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

If you are an essential worker you can book your test using the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-essential-workers>

If your child's test result is positive, please inform me immediately; at this point the rest of the household and your support bubble would need to self-isolate for 14 days from this point and the child would need to self-isolate for at least 10 days or later if the temperature remains.

As a school in these circumstances, we will contact the local health protection team who will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who needs to self-isolate.

And finally...

We have an Instagram account for the school which will enable family and friends to follow on a regular basis different aspects of school life. The account can be found by searching for **millrythejuniorschool**. There is another account called millrythejunior but this **is not** the current account for our school. **The school account is not for children to follow on their own Instagram app as this is not meant for children under the age of 13.**

Have a lovely weekend

David Bessant

Headteacher

Key dates for the academic year 2020 – 2021 confirmed so far:

Autumn 1

19th October Parents Evening 4-7pm 3AT, 4IC, 5SG, 5SH, 6SB and 6GR
20th October Parents evening 4-6pm 3AT, 4IC, 5SG, 5SH, 6SB and 6GR
21st October Parents evening 4-7pm 3MD, 4JS, 5JH, 5MC and 6AF
22nd October Parents evening 4-6pm 3MD, 4JS, 5JH, 5MC and 6AF
23rd October Year 5 World War 1 Day

Autumn 2

2nd November Winning House Ice Bun and non-uniform day
16th – 20th November Year 6 Calshot Week and Year 3 – 5 Art Days
14th December Love of Christmas Day and Christmas Shopping Day
16th December Intervention Celebration Assembly
17th December Christmas Dinner

Spring 1

4th January Inset day
5th January Winning House Ice Bun and non-uniform day
7th January Yr 5 parents Calshot Meeting
20th January Yr 6 Parents evening 4-7pm
21st January Yr 6 Parents evening 4-6pm

4th February Yr 6 Parents SATs information evening 4pm, 5pm and 6pm
12th February Love Day

Spring 2

22nd February Inset day
23rd February Winning House Ice Bun and non-uniform day
4th March World Book Day
8th – 12th March Practice SATs week
12th March Mother Day Shopping
15th March Parents evening 4-7pm 3AT, 4IC, 5SG and 5SH
16th March Parents evening 4-6pm 3AT, 4IC, 5SG and 5SH
17th March Parents evening 4-7pm 3MD, 4JS, 5JH and 5MC
18th March Parents evening 4-6pm 3MD, 4JS, 5JH and 5MC
31st March Intervention Celebration Assembly
1st April Winning house cinema and popcorn reward

Summer 1

10th – 13th May SATs week
14th May History of Art Day

Summer 2

7th June Inset day
8th June Winning House Ice Bun and non-uniform day
18th June Fathers Day Shopping
28th June Year 3 and 4 Sports Day
29th June Year 5 and 6 Sports Day
9th July Year 6 at Paultons Park
16th July Year 6 Leavers Event
19th July Year 6 Enterprize Day
22nd July Winning House BBQ and Waterfight
23rd July Year 6 Leavers Assembly