



Learning – Laughing – Achieving

Dear Mill Rythe Family,

It has been a lovely first week back in school after our half term break and I have been so impressed with the learning that has been taking place across all year groups in so many areas of the curriculum.

I shared with 6GR on Thursday of this week that Miss Gray is going to be away from school for most if not all of the second half of the autumn term. This has given me the chance to step back into the role of class teacher each morning and I have had a wonderful first couple of days working with a really special group of children alongside Mrs Lewis. Teaching is a brilliant job and it is a privilege to see children achieve something for the first time, often having first demonstrated real grit and determination in the face of challenge. 6GR will all look forward to welcoming Miss Gray back to school in the New Year and sharing with her the progress they have continued to make in their learning.

Unfortunately, being in class each morning means that I won't be able to meet all of our children on the gate before school. Mrs Ginn and Mrs Ayling will be braving the autumn weather to welcome everyone to school in my absence. Please introduce yourselves to them over the coming weeks. If you have anything that you would like to discuss with me in person, then please contact the school office and I will come back to you asap.

Newsletters this half term will move to a fortnightly communication with parents and carers whilst I am teaching in 6GR.

Please note this was written prior to the positive case of Covid-19 that has been reported in school today so is subject to change for the next 14 days.

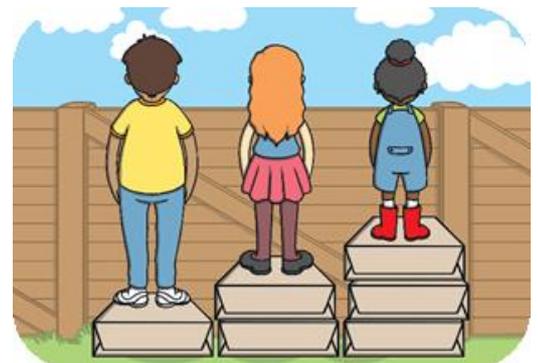
Face Masks

With the start of the new lockdown in England, I know some schools have asked parents to wear face masks when they are on the playground. In the last 7 weeks, all of our parents and carers have been brilliant in terms of only being on site at the right times and in maintaining social distancing with each other, our children and teachers. At this time, I am not going to ask parents and carers to wear face masks when they are outside of our school building – you may of course wear them if you want to. However, if you would like to talk to a member of staff who is on duty then please do put a face mask on and maintain social distancing during these conversations. Thank you for helping to keep our staff safe at all times.



School Assembly – Equality

In this week's assembly we have been exploring the concept of 'equality'. Equality is understanding that everyone is different but that we are all people; knowing that everyone has the right to be treated fairly; and treating others with respect. During the assembly, we explored the things that make us different and how everyone is unique in their own ways. We also explored what also makes us the same such as having feelings, thoughts and needs. We explored and



discuss some famous quotes about equality - what do you think they mean?

"When I see you through my eyes, I think that we are different. When I see you through my heart, I know we are the same." - Doe Zantama is an author and illustrator.

"A person is a person, no matter how small" - Dr Seuss, author and illustrator

We explored how everyone has a right to be treated fairly and equally through the concept of imagining three people of different heights wanting to watch a game of football. They are standing behind a fence which blocks their view. To help, they are all given the same size of box to stand on. They are being treated equally. However some of them still can't see the game! However, if they are given different sized boxes to stand on to help them all see, they are being treated with equity. It means that sometimes we need to give more help to others in order for them all to be treated fairly.

Online Safety

Starting a conversation with your child about a sensitive issue or something you don't usually talk about isn't always easy, especially if this means you will be talking about things they prefer to keep private, but there are ways to make having these conversations with your child easier.

Find a good time and place. Try to choose a good moment. Pick an opportunity when you know you're not going to be interrupted and you are both going to feel comfortable and have enough time – without turning it into one of those 'special talks' moments.

Think about how you are going to introduce the subject. You could mention a recent news story or just explain why you would like to talk to them about something. Try to be clear. It's no good having a difficult conversation if at the end of it they don't really understand what you wanted to talk to them about.

Explain to them why you are worried. Your child might think that you are getting worried for no good reason, but if you explain why something is troubling you they will understand why you want to talk to them. Tell them if it is something you've noticed in their behaviour or maybe something you have read about or seen their friends doing. Help them to understand your worries so that together you can work them out.

Let them talk. It's hard sometimes when a child doesn't want to open up. Asking them a question like 'how are things going' and remembering to give them time to answer will help. It's tempting to keep talking at them to fill the space – try not to.

Listen more than you talk. A conversation has to have two people in it. It's important you listen to them and that you explain you'd like them to listen to you. Talking at them is never going to work.

Be loving and supportive. The most difficult conversations can be made easier if your child understands that you care about them and whatever the outcome you will love them just as much.

If your child tells you something that worries you:

Take a break. If your child is telling you things that worry you it is really important to stay calm and not to react immediately. Let them tell you what's going on and then decide together how you're going to deal with it.

Get help together. If your child tells you something which means they could be in danger you must report this to the relevant organisations. Try to agree to do this together. Don't take over unless you think that is your only option.

Get support for yourself. Your focus is going to be on looking after your child but remember to look after yourself as well and get support from your family and friends. You can get further advice from [ThinkuKnow](#), [Parent Info](#) and [other organisations](#) that can help you and your child.

What if your child doesn't want to talk?

If your child doesn't want to talk to you and you are still really worried don't give up. Try again another time or find a different way to start the conversation. Be patient and make sure they know where they can go themselves for support on difficult issues. You might want to talk to their teacher to see if they share your concerns – whatever you decide be ready when your child decides they want to talk to you.

If you have concerns about an adult your child is in contact with on or offline, you can report these concerns to [CEOP](#).

If you are concerned your child is in immediate danger, call 999.

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 households 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.** We also have a lost property Instagram page which can be found at **MRJS_lost_property**. We will hold all lost property until the end of a half term at which point it will be donated.

Have a lovely half term

David Bessant

Headteacher

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

Autumn 2

9th November Last day for confirming yes/no for flu immunisation
12th November Annual Nasal Flu Immunisation Programme
16th November Year 3 Stone Age Day
16th – 20th November Year 6 Calshot Week and Year 3 – 5 Art Days
8th-15th December School based book fair
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 Enterprise Day
22nd July Winning House BBQ and Waterfight
23rd July Year 6 Leavers Assembly