

## Learning – Laughing – Achieving

### Dear Mill Rythe Family,

I am sure that the Prime Minister's announcement earlier this week that schools will not be reopening until at least Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March will have been greeted with mixed feelings by all of our school family. Whilst we all want to open our school again to all of our children, it is so important that lockdown restrictions are not eased too quickly, resulting in infection rates rising rapidly again and leading to more heartache for too many families.

I am concerned about how this extended period of lockdown will impact on the mental health and wellbeing of children and adults alike. This [link](#) takes you to our newsletter page of the website. The top link - **Supporting Children at Home** - is a brilliant PowerPoint that I would encourage all of our families to take some time to explore this weekend (to view it properly, please select slideshow and then play from the start). It contains a wealth of strategies for supporting our children, and in turn ourselves, through this difficult time; strategies that I am going to be taking home to share with my family this weekend. If you would like to discuss any of these with myself, Miss Vousden, Mrs Ginn or Mrs Hodgson, please contact us at school next week. We are here to listen and support all of our families.



### Assembly – Sir Harpal Kumar

In this week's assembly we learnt about achievements of Sir Harpal Kumar. Born in 1965, he and his parents became refugees when they left Pakistan and moved to India. He spent his early life living in refugee camps before moving with his family to England where he supported them to establish their family business.

From a young age, the values of hard work, education, ambition and risk-taking were very important to Harpal. These values saw him become the first member of his family to go to university where he pursued his passion for medicine.

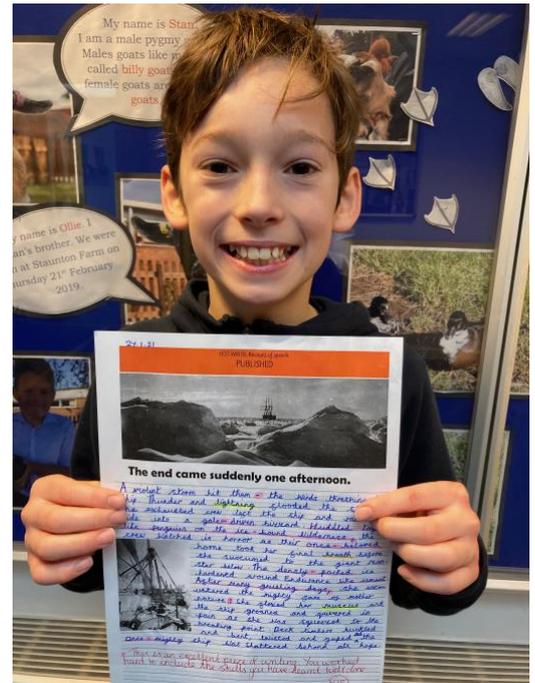
In 2002 he joined Cancer Research and in 2007 he became the Chief Executive Officer, responsible for leading the charity. Through his tireless work and commitment to science, he has led the fight against cancer changing the lives of so many people in the process. He describes



his proudest moment as announcing in 2014 that for the first time ever, as many people were surviving cancer as were dying from it. Sir Harpul Kumar is an inspirational man whose work and life has changed the lives of so many others. When I think about what people like Harpul have achieved, it always leaves me excited about the difference our children will make to the world and the lives of others.

## Beautiful Work – 6GR

The end came suddenly one afternoon. A violent storm hit them – the winds thrashing the ship. Thunder and lightning flooded the sky. The exhausted crew left the ship and ran outside into a gale-driven blizzard. Huddled together like penguins on the ice-bound wilderness, the crew watched in horror as their once-beloved home took her final breath before she succumbed to the giant monster below. The densely-packed ice hardened around Endurance like cement. After many grueling days, she encountered the mighty face of mother nature: she flexed her muscles and the ship groaned and quivered in pain as she was squeezed to breaking point. Deck timbers buckled and bent, twisted and gaped as the once-mighty ship was shattered beyond all hope.



There is some wonderful work being produced by children learning both at home and school this half term – we are really proud of our children’s efforts and desire to learn new knowledge and skills.

## Assembly - Rosa Parks

Last week’s assembly saw us meet Rosa Parks. Rosa was a civil rights activist, who fought for the rights of African Americans throughout her life. Black people were treated unfairly, just because of the colour of their skin and were segregated from white people. They were expected to give up their seats on buses for white people. In 1955, Rosa made a stand by refusing to give up her seat. This led to the ‘Montgomery Bus Boycott,’ which saw African Americans refuse to use the buses. After a year, the supreme court ruled segregation on public transport illegal. Her actions inspired others to stand up for injustice and demand equality of opportunity. When asked if her campaigning left her tired, she famously replied, *“The only tired I was, was tired of giving in.”*



## Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 9th February

As part of Safer Internet Day this year, primary school aged children are being invited to take part in a live online escape room where children will be tasked with unlocking codes to fight against fake news. The dates/ times for the events are as follows:

Tuesday 9th February: 10:15am-11:30am  
Tuesday 9th February: 12:45pm-2:00pm

Wednesday 10th February: 10:15am-11:30am  
Wednesday 10th February: 12:45pm-2:00pm

This sounds like a great event that our children will enjoy. Please register a space for them by clicking on the [form](#) link.

## 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 weekend and keep up the amazing progress with couch to 5k.

David Bessant

Headteacher

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

### Spring 1

~~20<sup>th</sup> January Yr 6 Parents evening 4-7pm~~

~~21<sup>st</sup> January Yr 6 Parents evening 4-6pm~~

12<sup>th</sup> February Love Day

### Spring 2

**22<sup>nd</sup> February Inset day cancelled – school will now be open on this day**

~~23<sup>rd</sup> February Winning House Ice Bun and non-uniform day~~

~~4<sup>th</sup> March World Book Day~~

~~8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March Practice SATs week~~

12<sup>th</sup> March Mother Day Shopping

15<sup>th</sup> March Parents evening 4-7pm 3AT, 4IC, 5SG and 5SH

16<sup>th</sup> March Parents evening 4-6pm 3AT, 4IC, 5SG and 5SH

17<sup>th</sup> March Parents evening 4-7pm 3MD, 4JS, 5JH and 5MC

18<sup>th</sup> March Parents evening 4-6pm 3MD, 4JS, 5JH and 5MC

31<sup>st</sup> March Intervention Celebration Assembly

1<sup>st</sup> April Winning house cinema and popcorn reward

### Summer 1

~~10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> May SATs week~~

14<sup>th</sup> May History of Art Day

### Summer 2

7<sup>th</sup> June Inset day

8<sup>th</sup> June Winning House Ice Bun and non-uniform day

18<sup>th</sup> June Fathers Day Shopping

28<sup>th</sup> June Year 3 and 4 Sports Day

29<sup>th</sup> June Year 5 and 6 Sports Day

9<sup>th</sup> July Year 6 at Paultons Park

16<sup>th</sup> July Year 6 Leavers Event

19<sup>th</sup> July Year 6 Enterprise Day

22<sup>nd</sup> July Winning House BBQ and Waterfight

23<sup>rd</sup> July Year 6 Leavers Assembly

