



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you all for your continued patience and understanding. The start to 2021 has felt chaotic for many, with indecision from the government affecting people in so many areas of society. I am pleased that we now have some clear direction about how our lives will look and more importantly we all have some clear guidance that will enable us to work together and ensure that the transmission rate of the virus reduces significantly between now and February half term.

Thank you to all of you who have completed the critical worker applications and/or communicated with school about a variety of different matters in the last couple of days. I have been struck, once again, by your care and understanding.

Tomorrow, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, we will re-open school physically to children considered vulnerable by the Department for Education (DfE) and to the children of critical workers. We will open virtually to all of our other children.

We have split our staff team so that we are going to be able to provide a good quality of education for all of our children regardless of whether they are working at home or are in school. Most importantly, the curriculum that we will be offering to all of our children is identical regardless of where their learning is taking place. This is different to what we were able to offer in the first lockdown and will ensure that when we all return to school (hopefully after February half term), we will all have been inspired by new knowledge, understanding and skills.

**It is essential that all children complete the maths and English learning each day. The lessons build on each other, which means that missing any of the learning will make it hard for your child to make good progress.**

### **Remote Learning - 3 Day Emergency Plan**

For the rest of this week, children who are learning from home will need to access their remote learning from the remote learning page of the school website:

[Remote Learning 6th – 8th January – Mill Rythe Junior School](#)

For tomorrow morning, Miss Vousden will have added a Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 section to this page. You can access maths, English and foundation learning here each day this week. Children need to complete their work into their remote learning books that came home in the autumn term. The learning that children will be engaged in during the morning will recap core knowledge that children were taught at the end of the autumn term. The challenge of recalling this knowledge strengthens long-term memory and will be a good way of evaluating the quality of their learning from December. In the afternoons, they will engage in foundation packs produced by Hampshire. These contain a range of creative activities that I am sure our children will really enjoy.

**Headteacher: Mr David Bessant BA (QTS)**

**Deputy Headteacher: Miss Rebecca Vousden BSc PGCE**

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## Remote Learning - Google Classrooms

From Monday, we will be teaching children maths, English and foundation lessons using Google Classrooms. There are three PowerPoints for children and parents to watch together, in advance of Monday, alongside a parent letter providing more information about this. You can find these at the top of the remote learning page on the school website. **Please pay particular attention to the section about how to photograph or upload work and 'turn it in.'** Miss Vousden will provide some more top tips on this before the weekend.

Please can your children mark their work in maths and arithmetic using the honesty cards before turning it in? As the name suggests, children need to use them honestly and when they make errors, go back and solve these questions again – this is when the most powerful learning happens. In school, this would be done in a different colour pen but trust your children to do this in a way that works for them. They shouldn't rub out or cross through any work that is wrong as it is helpful for teachers to see where misunderstanding develops.

Class teachers will then be able to monitor the progress your children are making while they are at home. All remote learning books need to come back to school with your children when they return to school so that teachers can review learning more thoroughly and ensure that your child's learning and progress remain on track while they are at home.

When children first log into Google Classrooms, click on Classroom at the top of the page before going to timetable. This will show you what needs to be completed on each day.

It may take a couple of days to become fluent with how Google Classrooms works; this is to be expected. We have learnt quickly from our experience of using it in the last half term and have refined our approaches as a result. If there are glitches early on with the technology, please share these with us via [mrjisclosure@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:mrjisclosure@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk) and we will do our best to resolve these as soon as possible.

Over the next few days, some of your children may find working in front of Mum and or Dad a little daunting. Be patient, positive and encouraging please, even if you are feeling something else under the surface!

Your child has usernames and passwords for Google Classrooms, study zone and spag.com (in their reading star journals) but we will re-send to everyone ahead of Monday to make sure that children don't have any problems accessing this work.

We have a small number of children in school who have an individual curriculum. If your child works in this way in school, Mrs Ayling will be contacting you before Monday to share how this will be replicated remotely. This learning will then be emailed directly to parents.

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I am really looking forward to seeing the work that our children produce at home so please do email me work that children are particularly proud of using [mrjsclosure@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:mrjsclosure@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk) I will then share it on Instagram with the wider MRJS family.

### **Does my child have to complete all of the learning on Google Classrooms each day?**

The reading, maths, English and Maths Morning Meeting (MMM) or multiplication workshop must be completed each day. If children miss a day, they will find it very hard to re-join the learning journey. Learning will be removed from Google Classrooms at the end of each day so it is not possible to catch up on subsequent days. Each afternoon, we are setting the same work for the foundation curriculum that is being completed by our children in school. Whilst I would like all of our children to complete this too, if there is anything that doesn't get done then it is better that that is the foundation learning.

### **What about assemblies, mental health and well-being and PE?**

From the week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> January, class assemblies will be shared via google classrooms. Each week, children will be able to complete Trickbox with Miss Gray online, where they will learn a new strategy to support them with managing their mental health and well-being. This half term, we are not going to be using Joe Wicks for PE but instead we would like families to download the couch to 5K NHS app and get active together as you build your fitness through a carefully structured programme to improve your running pace and stamina. Make sure you keep me updated with your progress this half term 😊

### **Contact with school**

Throughout lockdown, staff will ring all families on at least a fortnightly basis, with many families being contacted more regularly to see how everyone is doing. We are in school every day and whilst we are not able to educate everyone in person at this time, we are here to support all of our MRJS family.

If you would like to talk to myself or my team at any time, please call the office on 92463663.



### What is the plan for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers?

If your child is returning to school tomorrow or later this week, school will have been in touch with you earlier today to confirm this. You will also have been given the name of the 'new' class that child/children will be joining.

The table below shows the start and finish times for each class and the adults that the class will be working with:

Class	Staff	Arrival time	Finish time	PE kit days starting week beginning 11 <sup>th</sup> January
3MD	Mr Darby Mr Timms	8.35-8.45am	3.15pm	Tuesday and Thursday
3KS	Mrs Shergold Mrs Gervasoni Mrs Gilmartin	8.35-8.45am	3.15pm	Tuesday and Thursday
4IC	Mrs Chessell Mrs Deeney	8.35-8.45am	3.15pm	Tuesday and Thursday
4JS	Mrs Jones Miss Thompson	8.35-8.45am	3.15pm	Tuesday and Thursday
5MB	Mr Blake Mrs Neale	8.50-9.00am	3.30pm	Wednesday and Friday
5SH	Miss Harrison Mrs Gannon Mrs Bottomley	8.50-9.00am	3.30pm	Wednesday and Friday
6GR	Miss Gray Mrs Lewis Miss Lewis	8.50-9.00am	3.30pm	Wednesday and Friday
6SB	Mrs Brydon Mrs Howard	8.50-9.00am	3.30pm	Wednesday and Friday

**Please note, no PE kit needs to be in school this week.**



We are going to continue to have a staggered start and end to our school day to help reduce the number of people on our site at any one time. Whilst children are in school, they will continue to work in class bubbles to ensure that they are not mixing with children or staff from other bubbles throughout the day. We are going to return to encouraging all children to maintain social distancing from other children in their own bubbles for as much of the day as possible. Whilst this won't prevent a bubble from being closed if we have a positive case in school, we hope it will reduce the risk of any infection coming home to other members of your child's household. All of the other systems that we have had in place in school since September will remain in place this half term.

**I am a critical worker and my child won't be in school every day. How will this affect their education?**

It won't! We have planned our curriculum to ensure that the learning taking place in and out of school each day is the same. As long as children complete their learning each day, they will be able to move seamlessly from face to face learning in school to remote learning at home. **This system is dependent on children completing the work online on time. It will not be available the next day and we cannot share it with you again after the day on which it was meant to be completed.**

**We need your help**

For all of our families who are returning to school tomorrow, please can I ask you to read and then do the following:

- Speak to your children about the importance of social distancing from anyone who is not in their class at all times and from the children in the class during lessons and when playing outside. We will help all of our children with this.
- Speak to your children about the importance of washing their hands thoroughly and regularly.
- Ensure that all adults wear face masks when they come onto the school site (outside now as well as inside) and that only one adult comes onto the school site with your child.
- Continue to not place others in danger by talking to them at distances less than 2 metres.
- Do not arrive at school before or after your arrival time. As the autumn term progressed, there were an increasing number of children and families gathering before their arrival time. If you are waiting to send a second child into school, please use the car park and stand away from other families.
- Do not allow your children to walk/travel to and from school with children from other class bubbles. If you are a parent of a child who walks home, please really emphasise the importance of this with your children.
- If you or a member of your household has symptoms, that person and all members of your household need to self-isolate immediately and fully. They need to book a test and await the result before your child potentially returns to school if the test result is negative. Going

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out for a walk or meeting one person because you or other members of your household feel well is not self-isolating and places others in danger.

### **And finally**

We are looking forward to educating all of the MRJS family in the next six weeks, whether that is in school or remotely.

I would just like to add a thank you to the whole staff, who have been incredible throughout the last few days. They were placed in an incredibly difficult position at the end of the holiday when I felt that the government didn't make a decision they should have made for all of us. They have had to work incredibly hard to be 'ready' for three different starts to the spring term. Many of them are exhausted and we haven't had the chance to do the best part of our job yet. I know that tomorrow they will be the best versions of themselves as we start to work with our school family again.

And finally, thank you again to you, our parents and carers who have helped us throughout this challenging time. Your understanding, encouragement and support has been unequivocal.

David Bessant

Headteacher

Mill Rythe Junior School