



Learning – Laughing – Achieving

Dear Mill Rythe Family,

It was lovely to open our school gates on Monday to all of the MRJS family and to see children learning, laughing and achieving alongside each other this week. I have had the pleasure of teaching PE to year 3 and 6 as well as spending some time in year 6 classes this week and have been really pleased with the learning that I have seen.

We have also had to send two groups of children and staff home this week following two unconnected positive tests for Covid-19. The children were really understanding but obviously disappointed to have to return home so soon after coming back to school. This is a clear reminder to all of us that we need to continue to do everything we can to keep ourselves and each other safe. I have been approached by a few parents this week who have been concerned about adults and children who they believe are not social distancing on the way to and from school. Please take time to reflect on your interactions with others this week and make sure that we are all following the national guidance. The car park has been used really sensibly and I hope this has helped those parents who need to go directly to work after bringing their children to school.

We currently have eight members of staff self-isolating at home so our staff team in school is a little stretched ensuring that all classes and duties are covered as well as ensuring the site is secure and safe. We will endeavor to respond to communication as quickly as possible but please bear with us during the next week if things are a little delayed. If there is anything urgent, please call the office directly.

Swimming

Due to staff self-isolating, there won't be any swimming sessions in school next week. Please can children come to school in their PE kit on their swimming day instead.

Assembly

This week's assembly was the NSPCC 'Speak Out and Stay Safe' assembly, hosted by Ant and Dec. The assembly helped children understand abuse in all its forms and how to recognise signs of abuse; that abuse is never a child's fault and that they have the right to be safe; where to get help and the sources of help available to them, including [Childline](#).



Children thought about who they could speak to if they were experiencing any worries, from trusted adults to Childline and it was a good opportunity to reinforce how important it is to talk about worries. Please talk to your children about the assembly and encourage them to talk about who the trusted adults are in their life.

A week in the life of...

6GR/AF Bubble

Well, that wasn't the start to the week that we were hoping for but the 6GR bubble have made the best of it! Miss Gray thinks that it was a secret plan formed by the 6AF members just so that they could spend another week with her!

Google classroom has been fun. We have started each day with a registration session that should only last about 10 minutes but in true GR style, we have managed to chat for a good half an hour! We have shared some of our pets (including Shay's chicken), some fun facts and a few of us have shared some funny poems.

In the maths sessions, we have been completing some assessments so that our teachers can see what they need to teach us or recap in the coming weeks.

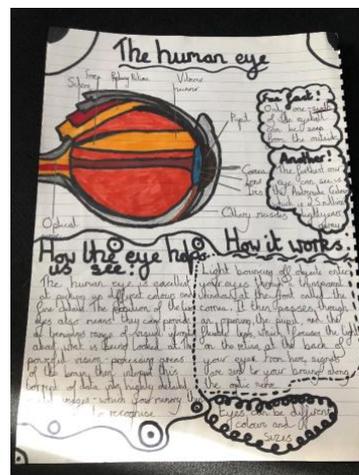
English has been brilliant: we have continued our unit on Greek myths and have learnt about how to build tension and create atmosphere in our writing. We then did an apprentice write describing Perseus' journey to Medusa's lair.

In science, we did some research on the human eye and produced an information poster based on our findings. Miss Gray was really impressed with the quality of these! In RHE, we learnt about respect and in RE we learnt about the crucifix and what it symbolises as well as completing a piece of art work to symbolise resurrection.

We are really looking forward to getting back to school into our own classes and seeing all of our friends again.

3MD

3MD are back! Woop Woop! Having them here, finally, this week has made me realise just how much I've missed them over the latest lockdown. Every child brings something special and wonderful to our class and I couldn't be prouder of them. They have shown fantastic resilience over the past few months, but the way they've returned with such energy, enthusiasm and gusto has been inspiring. It's been a joy to have a class full of laughter and noise again, and it has even bought a tear to my eye to see friendships re-kindled out on the playground. Every child bounced into the room on Monday and we haven't looked back. We got straight on with our learning and the kids haven't missed a beat. I can only put that down to the incredible effort put in by parents with home learning during lockdown - thanks to you, your child has come back fully prepared and steeped in knowledge allowing them to excel confidently and enthusiastically. Hopefully they will be here now FOREVER as I don't think I could handle another separation of my awesome 3MD family. I will however miss our weekly on-line scavenger hunts around the house and I think another game of 'What's under my hat' has to be played before term is out. Well done 3MD and welcome back, you've made an old-ish man very happy!

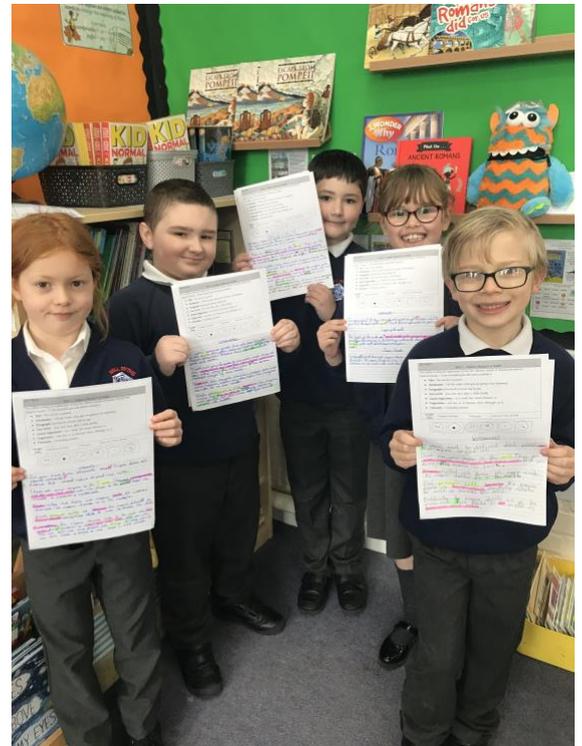


3AT

I know we were all feeling a bit apprehensive about coming back to school but it is safe to say we all had beaming smiles by break time on Monday morning! It has been lovely having all of the children back in class this week. They have looked out for each other and shown true friendship and kindness. I am so proud of all of them.

They have settled back into all of the routines like they have never been away. They even reminded me about systems that I had forgotten! We have applied everything we have learnt about volcanoes from home and written an excellent explanation text about how a volcano erupts.

Well done and thank you to all of the parents for the hard work that has taken place at home. This has enabled the children to start this week with confidence. I am so lucky to be able to teach such an incredible group of children.



4IC

It has been lovely to all be back in school this week and see everyone happy to be reunited with friends and able to learn in the classroom once more. On Monday, we welcomed Mrs Wintle to our class, as she will now be teaching 4IC every Monday and those children who are just back to school also got to meet our TA, Mrs Denny. The children quickly settled back into their routine and continued their learning about the story of Beowulf in English, focussing on how to develop their use of modified nouns and prepositional phrases in their writing. In Maths they have been developing their understanding of decimals and fractions and working hard at recalling their times tables with speed and accuracy. Our afternoons have been filled with new scientific knowledge all about electricity and we have had fun creating our own circuits and switches.

One of our favourite parts of the week has also been getting back in the swimming pool, which we all loved. Everyone has worked so hard this week and have been an absolute pleasure to teach. It is truly good to have the 4IC family back together again.



4JS

Well done 4JS, what a fantastic first week back! Everyone has settled so well back into our usual routines. This week we have been exploring the 'Beowulf' story further and on Thursday we role-played a part of the story when King Hrothgar comes to tell Beowulf that there is another monster. We were surprised to find out that this was Grendel's mother! The children's acting skills were superb. In Science, we have been having lots of fun making circuits and learning about electricity. In Computing, we enjoyed experimenting with Scratch to create some music. We have been really proud at how 4JS have adapted to all being back at school together.



5MC

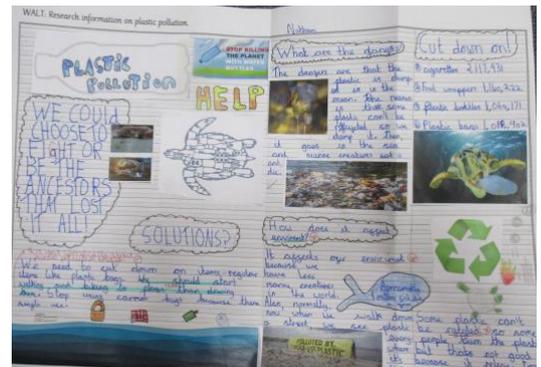
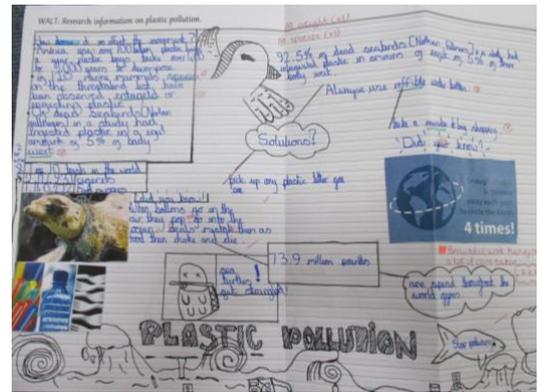
It has been brilliant to be back together as a class! Excitedly, we enjoyed a brief few minutes fully together before we unfortunately had to say goodbye to Mrs Neale until next week but we carried on like the amazing class we are and have had a brilliant week. In English, we have been learning about the awful damage to the world caused by plastic pollution and different ways that we can help. We will be continuing this topic for the next few weeks. In maths, we have started our final fractions unit for this term. We can now multiply unit fractions and non – unit fractions by an integer. Luckily, all our hard work throughout lockdown has really helped us dive straight in and be successful.

Our science topic this half term is about living things with the focus being on animals. We looked at the life cycles of a sea mammal (a dolphin) and a land mammal (a goat) and compared them to our own human life cycle. We discovered that there are many similarities. For example, we discovered that all mammals give birth to live young, all mammals feed milk to their young and all mammals breathe through their lungs. We are looking forward to learning about the life cycles of insects and amphibians next week. In computing this week, we started our new coding unit using the programme called Scratch. Throughout this unit, we will be learning to make our own Crab Maze game as well as all the coding techniques to create a virtual game of our own.

In RE, we have started our new unit around the concept of stewardship. We have created some beautiful artwork this week based on a story about how we should look after our planet. We will continue to look into this throughout the unit and develop our understanding of what stewardship means.

Unfortunately, our swimming session this week got cut short as some children and staff had to self-isolate. We can't wait to get back in the pool on 26th March.

I just want to say another well done to 5MC for this week. It has been a pleasure to be back as their teacher; they have been amazing and have made my first week back a brilliant one. They have dealt with disappointment well and have had a really successful first week back. Well done and thank you again 5MC.

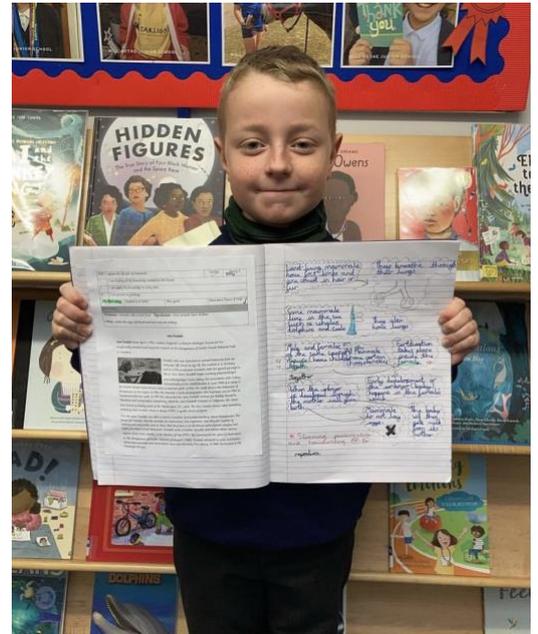


5SG

5SG settled really well back in to school life and it has been so lovely being together as a class again.

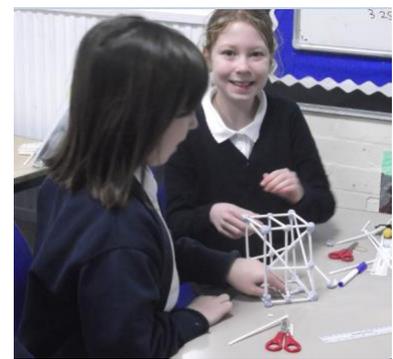
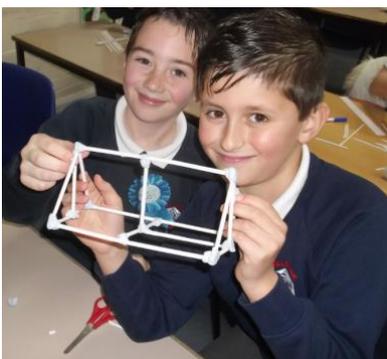
We've already completed lots of work, learning about the artist Van Gogh in art and how to use paint to create tint and shade. In science, we have been learning about life cycles of mammals and how they are very similar. Did you know that dolphins only close one eye when they sleep; the left eye will be closed when the right half of the brain sleeps, and vice versa! We certainly didn't.

Maths has seen us revisit fractions which we are getting really good at now and in English, we began a new unit starting the week with researching whether plastic is fantastic before learning facts about plastic pollution and showing this learning creatively. The children are all excited by our computing unit using the programme Scratch to create a game. To begin with, we decomposed a maze game to see what different elements we would need to create and instructions that would be needed to make our own. The class were very amused that I wasn't very good at getting the crab round the maze on the example game!



5SH

It has been amazing to have 5SH back together again and to see so many smiley faces all enjoying being reunited as a class. I am very proud of every member of 5SH – for those who were at home isolated from their friends who displayed an inner resilience to complete the learning given independently and for those who continued to come to school, missing their friends at home - learning new routines and a curriculum 2 metres apart from each other. It has been challenging for everyone but the kindness and respect I have seen from 5SH, from helping each other to read tricky words in class reader time to building sculptures in DT, has been a wonderful reminder of why I am so proud to teach all of your children. I can't wait to spend the rest of the year together (fingers crossed!). Here are some pictures of us doing some brilliant learning in DT.



5JH

WOW! Just wow! I am so impressed with the learning my class have done at home. They have truly hit the ground running and now they are back, I am thrilled with the progress we have made in Maths, Reading and English.

This week we are exploring plastic pollution and the harm it causes to our planet. The whole class have produced wonderful information posters to highlight this cause. In Maths we are

developing our fluency as we move between mixed and improper fractions. A great start, bring on next week!

6SB

6SB have had a fantastic first week and I've loved having us all back together. They've launched themselves back into school work as if they've barely been away and it's been so nice to see them all chatting, laughing and playing together once again. We are all desperate for lockdown to be lifted so that we can play with the rest of our Year 6 buddies. As long as we all stick to the current restrictions then perhaps it won't be long at all!

In English we've been working towards our final writing project of a Greek Myth and this week we've been consolidating speech punctuation and learning how to create mystery, suspense and tension in our writing so that we can apply it to our final piece. We have loved learning about the myths; their gory monsters have been the most appealing!

In science we've developed our work on the eye, and have produced some fantastic information posters that demonstrate our excellent understanding. It hasn't taken long to settle back into excellent learning behaviours and I'm looking forward to seeing what they produce each week. Well done 6SB!

6AF

It was so lovely to see 6AF again this week; we have all missed each other lots. We enjoyed settling back into school routine and being in class together. In English, we continued our learning journey based on Greek myths and we had a go at writing to build suspense:

'Fear hung in the air as Perseus journeyed deeper into the forbidden forest. The titan tears from the weeping clouds cascaded over the brave hero's shoulders. Daylight would soon be gone, just like hope. Ignoring whispers from the bare trees, Perseus entered the blanket of mist.'

Everyone has worked really hard on their pieces and we can't wait to write our own stories soon!

6GR

After a busy couple of weeks anticipating the return to the classroom, the children of 6GR eagerly arrived on Monday morning despite the shock of having to be up, washed and dressed so early. It was wonderful to see smiling, happy children pleased to be among friends again and, for the most part, keen to get on with their learning.

In English, our learning has been focussed on exploring Greek myths and writing our own versions of Perseus and Medusa. So far, we have met Athena, been blessed with gifts to aid us on our quest and are heading towards our fateful meeting with the Gorgon Medusa.

The children have acquitted themselves magnificently and are all keen to demonstrate their developing talents with a renewed appreciation for school, grateful for this part of their lives to be returning to something like normal.

The image shows a student's handwritten work on a worksheet titled 'JOURNEY TO THE LAIR'. At the top, it says 'Apprentice Write: WALT: Create atmosphere & build tension in our writing.' The date is 11.3.21. The student has written a short story in blue ink, using various punctuation marks like apostrophes and exclamation points to create suspense. The story describes Perseus's journey through a misty forest, mentioning Athena's disappearance and Perseus's fear. The student has also written a list of tasks and a list of punctuation techniques used in their writing, such as 'Rhetorical questions', 'Short sentences', and 'Ellipsis'.

Apprentice Write: WALT: Create atmosphere & build tension in our writing. Teacher: Date: 11.3.21

SpaG starter: Edit this conversation, so that it is punctuated accurately.

"Thank you Athena, Perseus began. I will be forever in your debt."

"You're welcome," replied the goddess as she faded back into the darkness.

Task:

- Write your own version of the Perseus' journey to the lair.
- Consider carefully how you are going to create tension and build the atmosphere you want.
- Add success criteria to help you.

"Thank you Athena," Perseus began. Rhetorical questions. Short sentences. Ellipsis. Pathetic Fallacy. Speech. Speech punctuation.

JOURNEY TO THE LAIR

Athena disappeared in a flash of blue light. Perseus set off to the lair. He was travelling through a misty forest clutching his shield as tightly as he could. The branches of bare trees grabbed at Perseus' clothes. He came to a clearing. It was a valley filled with figures. As he slowly he walked forward realising they weren't figures at all, they were stone people. Statues. Some statues had been frozen trying to run; others with their mouths wide open. The scream still on their lips, captured for all eternity.

Perseus was starting to have second thoughts. Would he become a statue as well? Could he defeat this vile creature? His heart was pounding with fear. He knew he had to end this creature once and for all.

He kept walking. He stopped at the mouth of a large cave. It was yawning darkly at him, taking

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.

David Bessant

Headteacher

Key Dates

Summer 1

19th April Parents evening 4-7pm 3AT, 4JS, 5SG and 5SH
20th April Parents evening 4-6pm 3AT, 4JS, 5SG and 5SH
21th April Parents evening 4-7pm 3MD, 4IC, 5JH and 5MC
22th April Parents evening 4-6pm 3MD, 4IC, 5JH and 5MC
3rd May Bank Holiday
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
5th July Bikeability for Year 6
12th July Year 6 Assessment Week
16th July Year 6 at Paultons Park
19th – 21st July Calshot
22nd July Winning House BBQ and Waterfight
23rd July Year 6 Leavers Assembly