

## Learning – Laughing – Achieving

Dear Mill Rythe Family,

Hasn't it been lovely to see the sunshine and some blue sky in the last few days of this half term. Watching our children playing with each other on the field has been wonderful and they have clearly rekindled friendships from across their year groups as they enjoy games of tag, make bug hotels and test their speed and endurance on the track. I can't wait for our sports days next half term – there are going to be so many wonderful achievements to celebrate.

As many of you already know, Miss Gilchrist is expecting her first child later this summer. I feel incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunity to work alongside Sharon; she is an exceptional person, teacher and leader and she deserves huge credit for the transforming our approach to the teaching of English at Mill Rythe. Sharon's curriculum and expectations of everyone, alongside her support for our teachers has ensured that our children leave us having developed the knowledge, understanding and skills required to thrive in key stage 3 and more importantly they leave us with a love of all aspects of English. After half term, Miss Gilchrist will be continuing to work in school but in line with the current Covid-19 guidance, she cannot resume her role as class teacher. I am delighted that Miss Wright will become 5SG's class teacher through to the end of the Autumn term. Miss Wright will continue to work closely with Miss Gilchrist and I know that the children in her class will have a successful and memorable end to term alongside her and Miss Tondeur.



Mr Blake returned to MRJS in the autumn term and he has played a critical role in ensuring that any disruption to our children's education due to staff being affected by Covid-19 has been minimised. Matt is a really talented and experienced class teacher and through the last four half terms he has stepped into the shoes of teachers and teaching assistants alike to ensure that in class provision for our children has not been affected by staff absence. As we prepare for a new leadership structure from September, Mr Blake will be working 4IC's as the class teacher on a Monday for the rest of the summer term and he will be teaching 5SG alongside Mrs Tondeur each Wednesday morning when Miss Wright is at university or visiting her new school for September. I know both classes will enjoy working with him.

## Assembly – Japan

Konichiwa! This week the children have marvelled at the incredible country of Japan, the land of the rising sun. It was my very happy home for nearly 7 incredible, fun filled years and it was a joy to share my experience with the children. Japan is a place of constant wonder, from the stunning cherry tree filled vistas of the countryside to the hustle and bustle of some of the most vibrant cities in the world. We learned all about the wild and varied cuisine from sashimi to yaki-soba, and ramen to Hashimi (raw horse - delicious 😊). Japan is also home to the majestic Mount Fuji, an active volcano which despite its jaw dropping beauty could destroy the surrounding area and cities in minutes. We also looked at how Japan is located on several fault

lines making it one of the most earthquake prone countries in the world. I was in a few during my time there and they are terrifying, but they are an accepted way of life there and the innovations they've made to survive them are inspiring.

I was made incredibly welcome during my time there, and I made many great friends whom I hope to see again some day. It was humbling to be treated with such kindness and respect as a foreigner and stranger in another land and I couldn't recommend a nicer place for anyone to visit or live. Take care everyone and have a great half term. Sayonara!



### Assembly – Tokyo

With only two months to go, the countdown to the 2021 Olympics has begun! In our assembly time this week, we learnt all about the country hosting the upcoming Olympic games – Japan! Japan belongs to the continent of Asia and is an island nation made up of 6,852 islands. We journeyed to the city of Tokyo, where the games will be held this summer. Did you know Shibuya Crossing in Tokyo is possibly the world's busiest road crossing? At busy times, as many as 2500 people cross the road at the same time! We also visited the Imperial Palace, home of the Imperial family and Emperor Naruhito. Much like Queen Elizabeth II, Emperor Naruhito is a constitutional monarch.

COMMON GREETINGS IN JAPANESE	
Konnichiwa (kon-nee-chee-wah)	Hello/Good afternoon
Ohayou gozaimasu (oh-hi-oh-go-zai-mas)	Good morning
Konbanwa (kon-bahn-wah)	Good evening
O-genki desu ka? (oh-gain-kee-des-kah)	How are you?
Genki desu (gain-kee-des)	I'm fine
Arigatou (ar-ree-gah-toh)	Thank you

Tip: Bowing is a sign of respect—keep your back straight, and bend at the waist at least 15 degrees with your eyes downward.

The Olympic Games, in Tokyo, will feature 33 different sports and 22 sports in the Paralympic Games. Karate, sport climbing, surfing and skateboarding will be introduced in the Olympic Games for the first time. A new National Olympic Stadium has been built in place of the previous National Stadium. It has a larger capacity and will host the opening and closing ceremonies, in addition to hosting athletics, rugby and some football matches. Did you know that Tokyo were set to hold the games in 1940, but it had to be cancelled because of the second World War?

## **Cressida Cowell**

On Wednesday, children from Years 5 and 6 had the opportunity to meet the famous author and Children's Laureate, Cressida Cowell, in an exclusive live stream organised by The Hayling Bookshop.

Cressida was a very lively character, and she spent time sharing some of her work, reading extracts from some of her *Wizards of Once* books and *How to Train Your Dragon*. She was so enthusiastic about writing, explaining how she got her inspiration for her books. She carries out a lot of research as she writes, with a book taking between 1-2 years to create from start to finish. Cressida loves many parts of the UK and she shared that visits to Kingley Vale had inspired some of her drawings and homes of the characters in her books.



She shared some tips useful tips for story writing:

- Draw a map before you write - it makes the imaginary feel real
- Base writing and description on the 5 senses to make your characters come alive
- Writing is like telling a really big lie - start with a tiny grain of truth and add lots of detail

Cressida also went on to give some advice to readers:

"Reading is not a race. If you're not quite there yet, go at your pace. Wish (a character in *Wizards of Once*) is dyslexic and she has all the ideas. That's what is important - the ideas."

The children had asked lots of questions, and Mill Rythe questions featured heavily in the Q and A session! The children really enjoyed seeing a real-life author (almost) in the flesh and hopefully it has inspired some future story-tellers to weave their own writing magic!

If parents would like to buy Cressida's books, please call Colin at The Hayling Bookshop or visit their website.

## **Sports Days and Swimming**

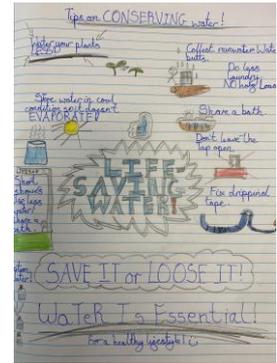
We are yet to make a decision about whether sports days will be run in lower and upper school groups or whether we need to move to a year group format this year to preserve the integrity of our year group bubbles. We will also need to consider whether parents are going to be able to attend in light of concerns about the latest variant of Covid-19. I will be talking to other schools about how they plan to manage this and will share this decision with you asap.

If your child is not able to swim with their class as part of PPA, please send them to school in their PE kit with a letter explaining why they cannot participate. It may be possible for them to join in with a PE lesson alongside another class in their year team.

## A week in the life of...

### Year 6

It's been another busy week for Year 6 as we make a final dash towards half term! We are coming to the end of our science unit on the Human Body and this week our focus has been on exercise and its impact on the body. This involved some very strenuous exercise as we dashed across the playground and then measured our heart rates. We input our data into a table and then produced a graph to show the effect of vigorous exercise on our heart rate. This term we have learnt so much about our bodies and keeping healthy and this week has taught us how to ensure we live healthy lives with our bodies working at an optimum level.



In geography, we've learnt that Mexico is the 11th biggest exporter of both crude oil as well as providing nearly a quarter of the world's silver. Mexico is also suffering from a severe water shortage, caused by the sheer numbers of people living in Mexico City, and it all started when the Spanish conquered Mexico and destroyed their sustainable ways of living. We've explored ways of conserving water so if your child starts to nag you about leaving taps dripping or suggests you share your bath water, you'll know why! We are so proud of them for understanding that our actions today will affect future generations in a positive or negative way.

### Year 5

At the beginning of this term, Year 5 took delivery of a special package. Each class were given 5 caterpillars to nurture and observe the fascinating life cycle of the Painted Lady Butterfly. This week, we finally witnessed the miracle of metamorphosis and 5MC, 5SH and 5SG all welcomed the arrival of their butterflies. It has been a busy week in Year 5. On Wednesday, we took part in a zoom call with Children's Laureate Cressida Cowell, the famous author of 'How to Train Your Dragon' and 'The Wizard of Once'. She shared with us the secrets of her success and showed us the diary where it all started. We have some budding authors in year 5 and can't wait to see what them putting her techniques into practice after half term.



### Year 4

We have had a fabulous time in year 4 this week. In English, we have been writing our own descriptions of the Chocolate Room from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We had a lovely lesson watching video clips for inspiration and planning all of the wonderful things we might see and be able to eat. We would all love to visit a room where there was a delicious chocolate river and trees with colourful candy cane branches!

We have been really challenging ourselves in maths this week by looking at money. We have been working out amounts represented by coins, we have been investigating different combinations of coins and we have been converting amounts from just pence to pounds and pence (and sometimes back again). Some of us have also been looking at problems involving money and working out the most efficient way to answer a question.

We finished off our drawing unit in art by using pens to create a sketch of the Victorian wing. We really enjoyed using a different medium and using our knowledge of cross-hatching to create shade and tone. You have all worked extremely hard this half term Year 4, have a fantastic break and enjoy the rest.

### **Brass Lessons and Cello Lessons**

Brass lessons (Trumpet, Trombone, Tenor Horn and Euphonium) and Cello Lessons are available in school now! Lessons can be delivered on a 1:1 basis or in groups of 2 depending upon demand. 1:1 lessons can last for 20 or 30 minutes. Group lessons are 30 minutes in duration. If you would like to take advantage of this musical opportunity, please enquire at the office.

### **Winning House**

Congratulations to Victory House in winning this half terms House Point Competition. They will return to school on the Tuesday after half term in non-uniform and can have an ice bun at break time.

### **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 2**

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

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

**9<sup>th</sup> June Dell Quay 5JH and 5MC**

**10<sup>th</sup> June Dell Quay 5SG and 5SH**

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

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

5<sup>th</sup> July Bikeability week for Year 6

12<sup>th</sup> July Year 6 Assessment Week

**15<sup>th</sup> July Year 6 Leavers Party**

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

19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July Calshot

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

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