



Learning – Laughing – Achieving

Dear Mill Rythe Family

A message for Year 6

What an amazing journey you have had since joining MRJS in September 2017. When I first met you, you resembled a gaggle of meerkats; some of you struggled to sit in your chairs for any length of time and I have no doubt that Mrs Brydon, Miss Lewis, Mrs Wintle and Mrs Chessell often appeared to be working significantly harder than you! What did shine through from the beginning was your care for each other. In the last 4 years, I have watched your growth and development with great pride and you leave us as fantastic children who are ready for the next step in your life and education.

Since September, you have all made incredible progress with your learning despite having to contend with a school closure and classes having to self-isolate. You have a passion for seeking out and applying new knowledge; I have loved reading the writing that you have produced in English – your attention to detail and passion for writing is inspiring; seeing your confidence and pride in the accuracy of your maths improve markedly has been wonderful and your knowledge of grammar is significantly better than mine. Your achievements beyond the classroom are a constant source of joy – your achievements this last week at Calshot were wonderful to share; the quality of your artwork; your fascination in science and questioning of why and what if...the joy you take in being in each other's company. I'm sorry that we have not been able to compete in sport or come together and sing as we normally would but I know you will continue to pursue these passions in year 7 and beyond school.

I couldn't be prouder of each and every one of you, as well as the teachers, teaching assistants, parents, carers and family who have guided you along the way. Leaving year 6 and preparing for life in secondary school is a significant moment in your life at any time, let alone during a pandemic. Some of you have had to overcome serious obstacles along the way; whilst others of you have been there to help each other through these challenging times. Keep supporting and caring for each other please.



As you know, I worry about the world that you are growing up in but I also believe completely in your ability to change our world for the better. Don't let anyone tell you that you are too young to understand or that things have always been done in a particular way. Do what you think is right for others and yourselves – don't make the easy or convenient decisions. Think about the values that mean the most to you – kindness, respect, responsibility, honesty and ambition – demonstrate these through your actions each and every day. You will make mistakes along the way – learn from them and become part of the solution and not the problem. Listen to people with different opinions to you. Learn from them and work alongside them. Recognise each other's strengths and weaknesses. Challenge people whose aim is to divide us and work together to build bridges with people who have been treated wrongly. Learn from the mistakes of my generation and be the force for change in your world.

Take all of the opportunities that are presented to you – think about the choices that Aaron Phipps made when he woke up as a 15 year old having lost his fingers and legs. By grasping everything that life had to offer him he has achieved the most incredible feats. You can all do the same. Put down your phones and talk to your family and friends face to face. Surround yourselves with good people; listen to their advice and thank them for sharing it with you.

Many of you are already making your mark on the world – you make me optimistic about our future.

Keep making us proud year 6!

Mr Bessant

SATs Results 2021 (unofficial)

When we consider the impact that Covid-19 has had on children's time in school and therefore the quality of their education, the results achieved by our year 6 children this summer are simply exceptional.

The results highlight:

- ✓ The very good attainment of our children despite the two school closures and periods of self-isolation for both classes and individual children in the last 18 months.
- ✓ The continuing upward trend in results achieved as a school from July 2016 to July 2021.
- ✓ Our children have achieved above the national averages for ARE+ in all areas that were assessed.
- ✓ That school closures appear to have impacted on writing attainment more than reading and maths and that perhaps this was harder to deliver and learn remotely.

The table below shows the proportion of year 6 children achieving age related expectations in each of the subjects assessed:

	Reading ARE +	Writing ARE +	Maths ARE +	Combined* ARE+	EGPS ARE +
MRJS 2016	65%	77%	57%	44%	67%
MRJS 2017	78%	86%	84%	70%	89%
MRJS 2018	87%	87%	81%	79%	79%
MRJS 2019	87%	90%	88%	80%	88%
MRJS 2021	85%	79%	89%	73%	84%
National 2019	73%	78%	79%	65%	78%

*Combined figures refer to the percentage of children achieving age related expectations or higher in reading, writing and maths.

The table below shows the proportion of year 6 children achieving the greater depth standard in each of the subjects assessed:

	Reading Greater Depth	Writing Greater Depth	Maths Greater Depth	Combined* Greater Depth	EGPS Greater Depth
MRJS 2016	10%	22%	9%	4%	
MRJS 2017	27%	14%	25%	6%	32%
MRJS 2018	27%	26%	25%	14%	31%
MRJS 2019	28%	10%	32%	4%	42%
MRJS 2021	45%	11%	38%	9%	37%

It is also important to remember that the tests capture what our children were able to do during an assessment on a given day. The assessments cannot capture the amazing characters that we work with every day; the way that our children support and care for each other; their abilities in art, dance, music or sport; or that sometimes life can be challenging and present them with obstacles that they do not expect to face at the age of 10 or 11.

I would like to say a special thank you to Miss Gray, Miss Furlong, Mrs Brydon, Mrs Lewis, Miss Lewis and Mrs Howard for their work alongside our children this year and also to our parents and carers who provided support with remote learning and home learning – you are clearly cut out for a career in education!

Citizen of the Year

This young lady is our Citizen of the Year! She is a quite remarkable young lady who we are feel very fortunate to have had the chance to work with. She demonstrates our school values of kindness, respect, responsibility, honesty and ambition in everything that she does. She grasps everything that life offers her and sees the good in everyone and every situation. This year she has made a huge difference to another young person in our school and her interactions, understanding and interest in this person belies her age. I couldn't be proud of this young lady and know she will go on to achieve incredible things in life - keep changing the world for the better 😊



Fond Farewells

Today we are saying goodbye to Mrs Haldenby, Miss Wright and Mrs Denney. Mrs Haldenby has been a great addition to our teaching team in the last two years; the children in her care have made very good progress academically but more importantly grown as people under her guidance. Jo, I am going to miss your outlook on the world and our shared passion for all things sport. You are going to be a great addition to the team at Horndean in September.



Miss Wright joined us in September as a SCITT trainee and leaves us 10 months later as a qualified teacher who is going to make such a difference to the children she joins at Padnell Junior School in September. Madison, your commitment and kindness mark you out as a really special person and your 'second' class are very fortunate to be working with you. Enjoy them!

Finally, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Denney who has been working alongside Mrs Chessell in 4IC since January. Sarah, you are a cracking teaching assistant who we would have loved to keep with us in September. Your relationships with children and staff alike are exemplary. Horndean Infant School are very lucky to be adding you to their team.

Miss Gilchrist

On Thursday, Miss Gilchrist joined us in school for her baby shower. We can't wait to meet Baby Gilchrist next term and wish Sharon and Mark an exciting time as they start their new family. 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 vision 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.



So what do your teachers really think...

6GR

We can't believe that we are finally at the end of junior school... and what a way to finish with our year 6 fun afternoon, Paultons Park, Calshot and a water fight. How lucky are we!?

This year has been epic. Though Miss Gray and Mrs Lewis have had us work our socks off, we have definitely had lots of fun along the way. Some of our favourite memories of this year are Art Day; making Christmas cakes with Mr Bessant; dissecting eyeballs; dissecting a heart and sticking our fingers in the aorta; the slow bike race; playing games on google meet during lockdown; Paultons Park, Calshot... we could go on and on. We are really sad to be leaving such an amazing school where we have achieved things that we never thought we could whilst making special friendships along the way. Whilst we leave with a heavy heart, we are excited for our next journey.



A message from Miss Gray:

6GR, what a class! I can honestly say this has been one of my favourite years to teach. Every single one of you have made Mrs Lewis and me so proud this year – whether that's through making excellent progress in your learning; growing in confidence; challenging yourselves; or through surviving Mr Bessant teaching you for 6 weeks (I am truly sorry about that!) It has been an absolute pleasure teaching you all and I hope you treasure your memories from our time together for years to come. After all, you did have the best teacher and teaching assistant in the world... 😊 Good luck in secondary school. Laugh, work hard and be kind to yourselves and others. You will go on to achieve great things.

6AF

6AF, what a journey we've been on over the past two years. Being your class teacher has been an absolute privilege. I couldn't have asked for a kinder, funnier or more caring group of people to spend all day every day with - how lucky I have been! Collectively, you have been a pleasure to teach but it's your individual personalities that have put a smile on my face each morning. As much as I have tried, I can't keep you to myself any longer and it's time for you all to embark



upon a new chapter. I know that each and every one of you will thrive at secondary school and I look forward to hearing how you're getting on. You have worked so incredibly hard over the last two years; despite all the disruption you have shown great resilience and ambition. 6AF, thank you for all the joy and wonderful memories that you have given me. I am so proud of you and I will miss you all lots. You have to promise to come back and visit please! Good luck - you've got this. Remember, you can achieve anything you set your mind to.

6SB

6SB you lovely lot. I'm going to try not to cry while I'm writing this but it's going to be a challenge! You are, by far, the loveliest class I've ever taught. You are kind, thoughtful, generous and hardworking and your parents have raised some wonderful, WONDERFUL human beings.

This year has been really hard for all of us, but you've shown me how resilient and adaptable you can be which will set you up for future challenges that await you in secondary school. I've been so proud to see how hard you've worked, and your end of year results are amazing.



Going to secondary school is going to be scary but you're totally going to love it - making new friends, learning new things and just growing up and experiencing that next stage in your lives. I will miss you, so please do come back and see me.

Keep working hard and keep being kind, to others and to yourselves.

5MC

I'm not really sure what to say 5MC except thank you for being my class throughout lockdown and this year because you have been truly amazing! You work incredibly hard and you are extremely chatty - I mean you are lots of fun! Despite the lockdown disruptions, I've really enjoyed Year 5 and the topics we studied. My favourite topics have been learning about the ancient Egyptians and building the fairground rides. You guys are brilliant at sawing wood accurately and even more amazing at getting electrical circuits working! The fairground rides turned out brilliantly this year so well done to you all! I don't feel like I had to help with much while you made them! I am very sad our time in Year 5 has come to an end but I feel very lucky to be moving up to Year 6 with you all so I can continue to watch you grow into the amazing



learners that you have shown you are. Make sure you have an awesome summer in preparation for Year 6 - it is going to be great!

5SH

In the final week of the term, the behaviour bee was awarded to... the whole class! I can't believe the time has come to say goodbye. I have been incredibly lucky to work with this group of amazing individuals, some for 2 years in a row. The last 18 months have been tough, with a pandemic no-one could have anticipated, yet my class have demonstrated significant resilience and continued to shine in a world that turned very scary. We have laughed so much together as well as challenged ourselves every day in our learning and achieved so much despite the multiple lockdowns. I wish everyone in 5SH all the success for year 6 and beyond. I will cherish our time together and memories made forever!



5SG

What a year it's been! 5SG it has been a pleasure teaching and getting to know all of you. I feel incredibly lucky to have been able to spend my training year with such a fabulous bunch! Despite having missed such significant time in school during the last 18 months, your hard work and determination has shone through – you should all be proud of what you have achieved this year. I wish you all the best for Year 6 and look forward to hearing about the wonderful things you get up to.



5JH

As we move into the final week of Y5, we have been putting our design and engineering skills to good use. In history we have been studying the Egyptians and over the past couple of weeks have been moulding canopic jar out of clay. This week they finally dried out enough so we could paint them and they looked fabulous. As part of Design and Technology we designed and built a motorised fairground ride. It was tricky and it required concentration and focus but was well worth the effort. It's been a funny old year but we got through together and we're all looking forward to a well-earned holiday!



4JS – Final Farewell

Well 4JS, what a year it has been! We wanted to start by thanking you all for being an absolutely amazing class, your courage and resilience throughout an extraordinary time has really blown us away. Whatever was thrown at you, you held your heads high, took a deep breath and soldiered on. If grown-ups around the world could see the care and consideration you have showed one another on a day to day basis then they would absolutely agree, that you are not only the best class in the school but the best class in the entire world! We know that some of you will be feeling nervous about moving into your new classes in September because the majority of you have spent the last two years together. However, you are wonderful human beings and take such good care of one another, that it will be difficult for your new classmates not to love you. We are excited to see how you continue to flourish in year 5 so please make sure you come and say hello if you see us around. Keep on working hard, having fun and looking after each other. We will miss you all very, very much.



4IC

Well we finally made it to the end of the year 4IC and what a year it has been. We started out with 2 teachers but Miss Ifould left early in October, then Mr Price left us in December and Mrs Denney joined us in January. We have worked in school together, at home on our own, had zoom calls and phone calls and lived in our own little bubble and just when we thought the end was in sight half of our class had to isolate. It's not the way we all wanted to end the year and I'm sad that we didn't get to spend our last week having fun together. However, I want you all to know that you have been an amazing class to teach for the last 2 years and you have kept me going and made me smile a lot during that time. You are a fabulous group of children and you have shown such bravery and resilience during our time together, I couldn't be prouder. I hope you all have a wonderful summer with family and friends and return to school in September ready to impress your new teachers in Year 5.



3AT

What a whirlwind of a year it has been! In school, home school, google classroom and video calls we have done it all. I am so proud of everyone and the maturity you showed when dealing with so many changes. You didn't let it phase you and you all came back to school having learnt so much at home. It has been an absolute pleasure teaching you this year. I have loved getting to know you all and listening to your interesting stories, likes, dislikes and hobbies. I have seen each and every one of you grow, mature and learn over the year. From joining our class as nervous year 3s, you are leaving as confident young people ready for the challenges that await you in year 4. I hope you all have a fabulous summer with friends and family and I will see you around school in September.



3MD

What a tremendous year we've had in 3MD! From fleeing dragons on the playground to escaping molten lava raining down on us as Vesuvius erupts, we have had a lot of fun! Despite the challenges faced from a national lockdown, we have soldiered on and everyday has been filled with fun and smiles. I will miss this class dearly next year, every child in it has been unique and special, and they have all contributed to creating a fantastic atmosphere for learning and joy! It fills my heart with glee that we have children like this forming the future of our world. To have such kind-hearted, forward thinking souls in my class has been such a privilege. They have worked so hard all year, it broke my heart when on Wednesday, just 1 hour before we were to depart on our FIRST school trip, they all got called into isolation until the end of term. It was a horrible way for our year to end, but from the children I've spoken to on the phone, they weren't going to let that stop them from enjoying life! I have been overjoyed to hear of everyone having fun around the house, in the garden, doing projects and arts and crafts, and generally living life to its fullest. They are a tremendous bunch this 3MD, and I can't wait to see all their lovely smiles again in September. Children like this are the reason I got into teaching! Have a fantastic summer 3MD and stay awesome!

Miss Vousden and Mrs Wintle

When your children return to school in September, they will be greeted at the gate by Miss Vousden and Mrs Wintle as their Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher. Mrs Wintle has a wealth of experience as both an excellent leader, teacher and parent. She cares greatly about your children and our staff team and I know she is excited about the opportunity to lead our school alongside Miss Vousden in September.



Miss Vousden has been central to the growth and development of our school and you couldn't ask for a better person to be responsible for your children's education. She will lead MRJS with integrity and kindness. I know she is really excited about our school being a little more 'normal' in September. She has great plans for assemblies, clubs and the farm and I know she will work tirelessly to ensure all of your children make great progress academically, socially and emotionally.

Stan and Ollie

We made the difficult decision to take Stan and Ollie back to Staunton this week. In the last year, we have not been able to use the farm as we have done in previous years due to our staff team being so stretched at lunchtimes and this has seen Stan and Ollie become increasingly protective of the paddock. Whilst they have continued to provide great entertainment to all of us from outside of the fence, we want our children to be hands on with the care of our animals and decided that this was not something that we could safely manage in September if they stayed with us. The next time you visit Stanton, please go and say hi to them. They have been great members of the MRJS family.



The farm continues to be managed by an amazing team of parents throughout the holidays and weekends. To everyone who has been part of this team, thank you. I would also like to thank Stoke Fruit Farm for their incredible support in the last two years. Their deliveries of logs, hay, straw, pellets, goat food and sharing of knowledge linked to bird flu and



neighbouring foxes make caring for our animals possible. Annabel, Sam, Nette and Jon, thank you for the commitment and time you have given to our school.

And finally...

I am incredibly proud to have been the Headteacher of Mill Rythe Junior School. Throughout this time I have worked alongside a fantastic team of children, staff, parents and carers. Your children never cease to amaze me with their kindness, sense of fun and desire to be their best. They are polite, hardworking and inquisitive about the world they are growing up in and a credit to their parents and carers.

MRJS is an incredibly special school and I would like to thank our parents and carers, who have trusted me and my team with the education of your children. From the first day, you welcomed me to your Island, supported and challenged me as we worked to build a school that met the needs of our community and shared both special and difficult moments with me. It has been a pleasure to work in partnership with you.

I work with a remarkable staff team. I wish you could see the time, energy, care and effort that they put into enabling all of our children to flourish by developing their character, knowledge, understanding and skills through an inspirational curriculum so that they can embrace the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences that await them beyond MRJS. Every term, they go above and beyond what should be expected of them in terms of the amazing extra-curricular provision that is available to our children. In the last 18 months, they have had to respond to a constantly changing educational environment in the face of Covid-19. I couldn't be prouder of them or to have wished to work with better people. I will miss their ambition, commitment, laughter and desire to always do what is right for the children we work with.

My enduring memory of MRJS will be the children that I have had the pleasure to work with. I love starting each day on the gate and being greeted by so many happy faces and excited voices. Their achievements both within and beyond the classroom are a constant source of joy – the attention to detail and quality of work produced every day in school, achieving and overcoming challenges at Calshot; setting new standards with their sporting performances; the quality of their artwork and love of drama, dance and singing and the joy they take in being in each other's company. They are polite, hardworking and inquisitive about the world they are growing up in and a credit to their parents and carers.

I am incredibly proud to have been the Headteacher of Mill Rythe Junior School and am going to miss being part of the MRJS family hugely at the end of this term. In the words of Winnie the Pooh, 'How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.'

Take care of yourselves and your families this summer.

David Bessant

Headteacher

Key Date

Monday 6th September - First day of the Autumn term

20th September Meet the teacher 3.30 - 4pm

27th September School Photos

Inset Days 2021-2022

2nd September

3rd September

1st November

4th January

6th June