

Welcome to



Mill Rythe
JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learning – Laughing – Achieving

Parents
Handbook
September 2022



Mill Rythe
JUNIOR SCHOOL

Welcome to Mill Rythe Junior School, a place where excellence, effort and happiness are valued in equal measure.

At our school, each child is valued and their unique set of skills and talents developed so that they can 'be the best that they can be'. Our belief is that learning should be exciting and engaging. We want every child to leave our school ready for the next stage in their education and with a real appetite for learning.

We have high aspirations for every child who attends our school and a strong track record of achieving academic success. Equally, we ensure children at Mill Rythe are able to explore their full range of talents and interests. Alongside a stimulating and varied curriculum, we offer a range of sporting, musical and artistic enrichment activities including successful sports clubs, gardening clubs and music lessons.

We place great emphasis on developing children's personal skills and believe in the importance of developing kind, caring and courteous individuals. Behaviour in our school is very good and we offer children high quality care and pastoral support. We have strong systems in place to support children with additional learning needs and have a fully qualified Special Needs Co-ordinator.

I am incredibly proud to be the Headteacher of Mill Rythe Junior School and of the children and staff who contribute so much to the life of the school.

I look forward to working with you and your child as welcome you to the Mill Rythe Family.

Mrs Donna Maxwell
Headteacher

School Motto

Our school motto is: Learning – Laughing – Achieving

Learning – Above all else, we come to school to learn. Children's learning can take many forms, it can be learning a new idea or concept, a new skill or it can be learning more about themselves as individuals and their place in the wider world. We want every member of our school community to develop a real appetite for learning and develop the skills to be life-long learners.

Laughing – Childhood should be a happy time full of laughter. Learning is at its best when it is fun and exciting. Whilst we work extremely hard and have high expectations of everyone, we aim to do so in a happy, caring environment and with a positive attitude. We believe that strong relationships between children, staff and parents are key to creating a happy school.

Achieving – We want children to do as well as they possibly can so they are ready for the next stage in their education. This means ensuring that children make excellent progress in the core subjects of reading, writing and maths and achieve their full potential. We also celebrate children's wider achievements both in and out of school.

Celebrating Success

At Mill Rythe Junior School we believe that every child should be valued and their unique set of talents and abilities celebrated.

We celebrate children's achievements in many ways. This includes:

- A weekly Learning Value Star of the Week award for each class.
- Great Citizen awards for children who have contributed something to either the school or wider community.
- Regular opportunities in whole school assemblies to celebrate achievements out of school i.e. sporting or musical successes.
- Recognising children who are making a super effort with their reading journals by awarding them with certificates and book tokens.
- End of year awards for year 6 children leaving the school.
- Termly and annual attendance awards.
- Care the Cheeky Monkey for children who have displayed kindness.

In addition to this, we believe that simply saying 'well done' or 'thank you' to members of our school community who have exemplified the school values is a powerful way of promoting a positive school culture.

A place of excellence

We consistently challenge ourselves to 'be the best that we can be.'

We set high standards and expect the best of ourselves and each other. All of our children benefit from the school's excellent facilities. We are one of only a few schools in Hampshire with our own indoor swimming pool. We also have a large playing field and purpose-built computer suite. We have our own school farm where children have the opportunity to engage with our animals. We have achieved success in a range of sports at both district and County level.

A caring and nurturing environment

We provide a happy, caring environment where children can thrive. We have a nurturing ethos where children work together.

From time to time children may need extra support or guidance. We have a strong pastoral support structure in place to ensure children are given the help they need in a timely fashion. This includes access to ELSA, TALA and Thrive support within school. The aim is that the children who require this are given bespoke support for a designated period of time in order to equip them with the skills to be successful.

We value good manners and place a strong emphasis on 'the little things that matter.' Whether saying please and thank you or holding the door open for others – acts of kindness are celebrated and promoted.

Our School Council ensures that children have an important role in the running of the school.

Where learning, progress and achievement come first

At Mill Rythe Junior School, learning is at the heart of everything we do.

We work incredibly hard to ensure that all children make good progress during their time with us and will achieve consistently high academic standards in reading, writing and maths and across the broader foundation curriculum. We believe that children should leave our school with a strong body of knowledge and skills across all subjects so that they are ready for the next stage of their education.

We also ensure that children are offered a rich and diverse extra-curricular programme, including a range of artistic, musical, creative and sporting opportunities.

We value and celebrate children's individual progress from their personal starting points.

School Values

At Mill Rythe Junior School, we are committed to developing great characters with the associated values that will set our children up to be successful for life. We do this through developing and promoting our school values in all aspects of school life.



Our School Values

 **Bee Kind**
Show kindness to ourselves and each other - always.

 **Bee Aspirational**
Set high standards and persevere to achieve excellence.

 **Bee Respectful**
Show respect for ourselves and each other as well as our local and global environment.

 **Bee Responsible**
Take Responsibility for our actions and be a responsible person.

 **Bee Honest**
Be honest with yourself, others and have the courage to do the right thing.

Useful Information

The School Day

We open the gates to our playground each day at 8:35am and the school day begins promptly at 8:50am. Break time lasts from 10:30am until 10:50am and the morning session finishes at 12:15pm. The afternoon session begins at 1:10pm and concludes at 3:30pm when the children will be dismissed. Pupils should not be on the premises earlier than 8.35am, when the front gates will be opened. The school office is normally open from 8:30am until 4:30pm. Pop in and say hello to Mrs Williamson and Mrs Murphy when you get the chance – it is nice to put faces to names.

First Day at School

The first day of term for our children is **Monday 5th September 2022** (Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September are inset days for all school staff). Children need to bring a named plastic water bottle to school. They may also bring a fresh or dried fruit snack for break time. We will provide all of our children with the equipment they need for learning in class. When it is their day, pupils should come to school in the morning wearing their PE kit. Pupils will need a plastic bag to put their trainers in if they get muddy and some spare shoes to change into. Pupils will need to have their swimming kit in school for their swimming day. The timetable will be shared with you in the newsletter at the start of term.

These are the arrangements for your child's **first day at school**:

- Please bring your child to the allocated area on the school playground where they will be greeted by a member of staff and taken to their classroom to meet with their class teacher.
- Bring bags, coats and water bottles into school on the first day. Please ensure that all items are clearly named, including school uniform and PE Kit.
- At the end of the day, we will open the gates to the playground at 3.25pm. Children will only be released to the adults identified on their collection arrangements form, or allowed to walk to the carpark, if this is your arrangement. It is important to keep this form up to date with the office.

Communication

We enjoy positive working relationships with our families. Good communication plays a key role in this. There are a number of ways we keep in touch:

- For a quick chat, please feel free to catch your child's teacher after school
- For a more detailed chat, you are welcome to make an appointment to meet your child's class teacher at any time in the year.
- Our weekly newsletter is emailed to parents each Friday.
- We use a texting system for short messages or to notify you of emergency school closures – you can reply to these (please note, the system cannot receive emojis or images).
- Curriculum overviews will give you an outline of what your child is learning each term.

- We hold an informal 'Meet the Teacher' drop in in September.
- We offer more formal parent evenings during the Autumn and Spring terms.
- There are lots of other opportunities for parents to come into school; details of these appear in the newsletter.
- At the end of the summer term, a written school report and attendance report will be sent home.
- Our school website: www.millrythejunior.co.uk is full of useful information and our latest news.
- Our school Instagram account, [millrythejuniorsschool](https://www.instagram.com/millrythejuniorsschool) and Facebook account is where parents and family members can keep up to date with the events taking place in school.
- School policies are available on our school website but if you would like a paper copy please contact the school office.
- This year we are introducing a new method of communication with parents. This will be via an app called 'Marvellous Me'. You will receive further details.

Reporting Your Child's Absence

If your child is too unwell to attend school please let us know as soon as possible—you can leave a message on our answer machine, or text 07786 207 779. We need you to contact school for each day of absence, for example, if your child is ill for a four day period we will need you to phone school on all four mornings. If we do not hear from you by 9.30am, we will contact you to ensure that your child is safe at home. If we are unable to contact you then we will inform the Police that we have a child missing from education.

Late Arrivals

Children arriving at school late must sign in at the school office and should inform staff of their lunchtime arrangements (whether they are packed lunch or need to order a school meal). School meals for the day must be ordered by 9:30am. Please note, we are unable to guarantee a school meal for any child arriving after this time, however we will try.

Money Sent to School

Our preferred method of payment is 'SCOPay online' and the details of this system will be sent after your child has started.

However, if you send money into school with your child please ensure that the money is placed in **a sealed envelope with your child's name and class and the amount enclosed written clearly on the front**, together with an explanation of where the money should be paid eg dinner money, school trip, club fees etc

Medical Information

When pupils join our school, parents are asked to supply full details relating to any medical conditions on the registration form.

Children must not keep any medicines, creams, cough sweets etc in their school bag. All medication should be brought to the school office by an adult where it will be labelled

with your child's name and class, and stored securely. We will ask parents to complete and sign a consent form giving instructions of how to administer medicines. When medicines are no longer needed in school they must also be collected by an adult.

School Dinners

These are cooked on the premises and the current cost is £2.60 a day. All meals must be paid for in advance. Our preferred method of payment is through our on-line system. New parents will be given an on-line access code when their children join the school.

As long as dinner accounts are in credit, your child can sign up for dinners daily —there is no need to commit in advance to a whole week or term. However, you can preload the account and dinners will only be deducted on the days they are ordered. There is a varied menu which changes weekly, and can be viewed on line at <http://www.millrythejunior.co.uk/school-dinners/>

Packed Lunches

If you prefer, you can provide your child with a healthy packed lunch which should not contain sweets, chocolate bars, sugary or fizzy drinks etc.

Free School Meals

Children from families in receipt of certain benefits may qualify for Free School Meals. You can check if you are eligible on line at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals> Please let the school office team know if you need any further support with this.

Break Time Snacks

Children may bring fresh or dried fruit snacks to eat at morning break.

School Uniform

Our children wear their uniform with pride and look very smart in school. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards and know you will support us with this. Uniform can be ordered directly from Skoolkit at www.skoolkit.co.uk/skoolkit_havant or by visiting the Skoolkit shop in Havant (Meridian Centre). Uniform is also available from Brigade (free delivery into school, approximately fortnightly) at www.brigade.uk.com

Please ensure that you name all uniform clearly – 270 blue jumpers look very similar! All named lost property is immediately returned and is not held in school. Any unnamed lost property is photographed and shared on our second Instagram account: mrjs_lost_property. After a half term it is donated to charity.

We do hold a small number of uniform items for emergencies.

Our uniform is as follows:

White polo shirt with optional school logo

Navy sweatshirt or sweat cardigan with optional school logo

Dark grey trousers, skirt, culottes or shorts (not black)

Black school shoes or plain black, flat, ankle boots which are appropriate for school

Please note: Trainers, Ugg boots, leggings, over the knee socks and hoodies are not to be worn to school. A navy PE hoodie can be worn for days where children are doing PE sessions but should not be worn at other times.

PE kit:

Plain or shadow stripe navy shorts

PE shirt - navy blue, logo optional (<https://serioussport.co.uk/teamwear/stores/mill-rythe-junior-school/>)

Trainers

A dark coloured track suit for outside games

PE hoodie – navy blue, logo optional (<https://serioussport.co.uk/teamwear/stores/mill-rythe-junior-school/>)

Swimming Kit:

Boys: plain blue or black trunks (ie speedos or jammers, not baggy shorts)

Girls: a plain blue or black one-piece swimsuit

All children will need a swimming hat which is available from the office.

Jewellery

No jewellery should be worn other than a small, plain stud earring in each lobe and/or a watch. Earrings must be removed for swimming and PE – children need to be able to do this independently. If ears are newly pierced, studs may be kept in and covered with surgical tape for PE and Games, but children cannot swim until their earrings can be removed and pupils are able to do this independently.

Nail varnish should not be worn at any time.

Long hair (shoulder length and longer) must be tied up at all times.

Homework and Reading

In line with current government guidelines, we set regular maths, spelling and reading homework for the children to complete.

I would like to thank you in advance for the support that you give your child with this homework. Finding them a quiet place to work and getting them into a routine of completing homework regularly will really help them as they move through our school.

They will also have access to Times Table Rockstars (log in details will be shared at the end of this term). Children may also choose to complete different reading challenges from their Reading Journals. Reading books and reading journals need to be in school each day.

In Year 3, your child will be expected to read 5 times per week, complete a spelling activity and practise their times table via Times Tables Rockstars.

In Year 4, 5 and 6, your child will be expected to read 5 times per week, complete a spelling activity, practise their times table via Times Tables Rockstars, and complete arithmetic and SPAG.com homework.

Please may I ask that you take time to read with your child at home over the holidays.

Requests for Leave of Absence

We expect all children to be in school during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If they are not with us, they will not be able to make progress in so many different areas. Mrs Ginn, our Home School Link Worker, works closely with a number of our families to provide families with a wide range of support.

If you take your child out of school, it may be recorded as an unauthorised absence and you may be subject to a fine. We ask that you notify the school in advance, in writing, so we are aware of where the children are and why they are not in school.

It is not school policy to set work to be completed out of school in these circumstances.

Getting to school

Walking

Wherever possible we encourage families to walk to school as access to car parking is restricted with so many families trying to access the school site at the same time. Walking is also a really sociable and healthy way to start the day.

By Car

There can be considerable traffic congestion before and after school and we ask that drivers exercise patience and consideration at all times.

There are a limited number of parking spaces available outside the school, but we encourage our parents to use the 'drop and go' drive through system or to park at Lidl and walk the final distance. Please note—our PCSOs have advised us that parking on the double yellow or zig zag lines is illegal and, as such, may attract a fine. If you do need to drive to school, please make sure that the gates that provide emergency access to our playground are not blocked.

By Bike or Scooter

We are very fortunate to have a cycle and scooter rack situated at the rear of our school. Children in years 3 and 4 are invited to cycle to school with a parent. All children in upper school are offered cycle training and once they pass they are welcome to cycle to school independently. Prior to this, parents may decide to allow their children to cycle to school independently. Please ensure that your child always wears a cycle helmet. Bikes should be locked up during the day and as a school we cannot be responsible for them. **Bikes and scooters are to be pushed on site and not ridden to keep all members of the Mill Rythe Family safe.**

You can read more about safe cycling routes on Hayling at:

<http://www.cyclehayling.org.uk/projects/safe-cycle-routes-to-schools/>

Clubs

We are able to offer our children a fantastic range of clubs across the year which change from one term to another. These are run by dedicated members of staff and by external providers with whom we work closely.

Details of clubs are shared via a letter with an online application form at the start of each term.

Enriching the Curriculum

Throughout the year, we provide a range of visits for our children which are designed to enrich and enhance their learning in different areas of the curriculum.

When your child joins the Mill Rythe Family, we ask for your permission for your child to be included in all local trips during their time at the school. We do ask for permission for all non-local trips via a separate letter. We will give you detailed information about the trips the children are undertaking and, where transport is required, we will ask you for a contribution towards the cost of the visit.

Currently our Year 6 children enjoy an action packed residential visit to the Calshot Activities Centre, with its climbing complex, dry ski slope and indoor velodrome. We make arrangements for this trip to be paid for over the course of several months.

PTA

All parents are automatically members of the PTA, which runs a wide range of activities including our Christmas Fair, cinema evenings and regular discos. We would welcome your active involvement in these activities. If you would like to become involved, and we hope that you will, please let the office know.

Governors

We have a dedicated Governing Body made up of representatives of parents, staff and members of the local community. They offer both support and challenge to the leadership team of the school and play a significant role in the running of our school. If you think you would like to contribute to the Governance of the school, keep a look out for vacancies in the newsletter.

Data Protection Policy

Mill Rythe Junior School collects and uses personal information (referred to in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as personal data) about staff, pupils, parents and other individuals who come into contact with the school. This information is gathered in order to enable the provision of education and other associated functions. In addition, the school may be required by law to collect, use and share certain information.

The school is the Data Controller of the personal data that it collects and receives for these purposes.

The school has a Data Protection Officer, who may be contacted by calling the school office.

The school issues Privacy Notices (also known as a Fair Processing Notices) to all pupils/parents and staff. These summarise the personal information held about pupils and staff, the purpose for which it is held and who it may be shared with. It also provides information about an individual's rights in respect of their personal data.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

Before and after school wraparound care is offered by Active 8 Minds on 01243 696580. This is available from 7.45am and until either 4.30pm or 6pm.

Our Contact Details

Telephone: 023 92 463 663

Text: 07786 207 779 (does not accept emojis or images)

Email: admin@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk

Website: www.millrythejunior.co.uk

Instagram: millrythejuniorschool

Facebook: Mill Rythe Junior School

Instagram for lost property: mrjs_lost_property

Our postal address is:

Mill Rythe Junior School
Havant Road
Hayling Island
Hampshire
PO11 0PA