

# TERM 2 NEWSLETTER 2017/2018



## Milestone Academy



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### TERM DATES 2017/2018

- Term 2** Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Nov – Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec
- Term 3** Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Jan – Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Term 4** Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Feb – Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Mar
- Term 5** Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Apr – Fri 25<sup>th</sup> May
- Term 6** Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Jun – Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Jul
- Staff dev days:** 9<sup>th</sup> February, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 26<sup>th</sup> July
- Bank Holidays:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

Dear Families,

As Christmas is now suddenly approaching I wanted to say this has certainly been another very busy term.

A unique start was made to the term with the opening of the 3rd satellite provision - Milestone@The Leigh Academy (M@TLA).

More follows in the newsletter from Kyle, the Satellite Director. Thank you to one and all for bringing M@TLA into being, the result of a true collaboration between KCC, the Leigh Academies Trust and ourselves.

A second unique event was our unplanned snow closure day on Monday 11th December. To evacuate safely and effectively the entire site plus 3 satellites in the middle of the day is a tribute to the way in which families, staff, pupils and transport services can all work together. Thank you all very much for your assistance.

We have also had our traditional seasonal events of concerts, pantomimes and parties. A huge thank you to staff and pupils who have worked so hard. Also, a special note of thanks to the Rev. Jim Fletcher who led our combined service with Hartley Academy, Fawkham Primary and Steep Hill School.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.  
**Nigel - Principal**

### NOTICE

Please could all parents and carers dropping their children off at school in the morning return to their cars and vacate the space as soon as possible. This will enable the traffic to keep flowing so we can get the children into school quickly.

Thankyou for your co-operation.

### Phase 1

Phase 1 have had a lovely busy term, following their topic of "Saturday Night at the Movies!" They have enjoyed learning about different film genres and also having a sensory experience of visiting the cinema (during Assembly). Pupils have enjoyed learning about their favourite film characters and investigating how popcorn is made during science lessons.

Phase 1 finished the term with their Christmas production of "A Snowman at Sunset", where all the classes performed a song from the story. All of the children did very well and I was so proud of them. Thank you so much to all the families that came and watched the show, as well as supporting us with the costumes. Huge thanks to the staff as well, their hard work was evident and the show was a real success!

Thank you all for your continued support and I look forward to welcoming you all back in term 3.



Wishing you a wonderful Christmas  
**Nicky McCarthy - Assistant Principal, Phase 1**

### REPORTING PUPIL ABSENCE

Please remember that if your child is absent from school, you must call as early as possible to let us know. Dial 01474 709420 and select Option 1.

### MEDICATION

Please ensure that any medication sent to school is passed from adult to adult and not in your child's school bag. Please be aware that KCC provide the school transport. Please ensure that the driver and escort know of any medical needs that your child may have.

## Phase 2

Phase 2 have had a busy second term. There has been plenty of fun and learning occurring both in and outside of the classroom!

Pupils in Mountain class have been swimming this term and Forest Class went horse riding, Ocean class have been accessing Forest Schools and Meadow and Mountain class enjoyed external visits to Ruxley Garden Centre and to visit Farmer Christmas.

Pupils in Woodland and Coast attended a fantastically well planned sensory Christmas party and pupils in Field Class enjoyed their Christmas Lunch with peers from Phase 2 including crackers and Christmas songs!



We were very fortunate this term to also host the '9 Lessons in Carols service' where local primary schools gather together to perform and share Christmas carols and the lessons they offer with Reverend Jim, we were also joined by pupils from the Star centre for a wonderful celebration.

We wish you a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

P.S. Watch this space early next year for 'STARS IN THEIR EYES' production to burst away the January Blues!

**Simon Stanton - Phase 2 Leader**



## KCC TRAINING

KCC training next term is Family English which is starting on 10<sup>th</sup> January for 20 weeks from 9:30am to 11:30am. If you would like any more information please contact Claire Woolmer and please apply to Reception if interested.

## THERAPY TEAM NEWS

It has been wonderful to be involved in so many events with families this term. We were so pleased to see so many of you sharing books and reading with your child at the reading brunch. This was our first event of its kind. The feedback was great so we will be looking to hold more events like this in the future.

Then we hosted a coffee morning to wish Carolyn Parker, Physio well as she retired. Carolyn has worked with children and families at Milestone for more than 25 years. It was lovely that so many families were able to join us.

This week has been busy with a PECS and a signing workshop. There seemed to be lots of discussion around how your children are using sign and PECS to support their developing language and communication skills. We hope this was helpful and do keep us posted about how you have got on with trying new things out over the holidays.

I am looking forward to welcoming another speech and language therapist to our team next term. This is a new post which will enhance our work. I am thankful to the senior leadership team and the Governors for their continued support and commitment to children's speech, language and communication development.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas from us all in the Therapy Team

**Liz, Anne, Laura, Terri, Jamie and Tim**

## INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE PLANS FOR PUPILS - UPDATED

There is now a dedicated email address for changes/amendments to IHPs. We are asking parents/carers to please email: [pupilhealthplans@milestoneacademy.org.uk](mailto:pupilhealthplans@milestoneacademy.org.uk) with any changes or amendments to their child's IHP. If you do not have access to emails, then please write to Nigel Jones, Principal, with any changes or amendments needed to your child's IHP.

This new system will ensure that any changes can be logged and recorded, ensuring that all Individual Healthcare Plans are correct and updated effectively.

Thank you to all those parents who have signed their child's IHP on the new signable online system. This has been a great success so far, and we hope to send all IHPs to parents for signing in this way in future.

### Phase 3

Term 2 has been yet another exciting term! I saw some of our students move to our new satellite provision based at The Leigh Academy (please see the section on Milestone Academy @ The Leigh Academy for further information). The classes have enjoyed learning both within their classrooms and beyond, through community participation and lots of exciting trips throughout the department.

**Tudor class** have been exploring how water changes substances. These are drips caused by corn flour and water, it changes from hard to runny when stirred then back to hard.

**Roman Class** have travelled back in time with the mad professor to the musical 50s and chill out 60s. We have explored the smells, tastes, textures and sounds of the past had lots of fun sensory learning experiences. We conclude the term with a trip to Ruxley Manor to experience ice skating, meet the reindeer and explore the Christmas stalls.

**Sparta class** have enjoyed taking part in Functional Skills and History lessons where they have been exploring what life is like across different decades and taking part in games and activities from that era.

Thank you for all your support and wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and start to your New Year.



George experimenting



Connie tasting

**Noleen Donaghy-Parkhouse - Phase 3 Leader & Lucie Featherstone - Assistant Principal Phase 3**

### Milestone @ The Leigh

From 6<sup>th</sup> November, sixteen students and six staff from Milestone Academy's main site in New Ash Green moved into their new home in the Leigh Academy. This specialist space is one of Milestone's three "satellite provisions" and aims to provide Milestone Academy students with access to inclusion opportunities, independence skills, and social experiences they might not otherwise have the chance to experience. Over time, Milestone @ The Leigh will grow to accommodate approximately thirty students in three classrooms.



Milestone @ The Leigh students were not afraid to admit that there was some anxiety about their first day at the Leigh, but those feelings soon disappeared. They were especially impressed by the amazing lunches provided by Cucina, as well as the dignified Remembrance Day assembly attended by all Leigh Academy students.



**Kyle Marsh - Satellite Director**

### SPORT NEWS

We have had a very successful term in regards to our competitive sports fixtures which we have taken part in. Students from Phase 3 and 4 took part in the West Kent Boccia finals in Sevenoaks. Our under 14s team eventually won their group overall and have qualified for the Kent final later in the year.

Students from Dover, Georgian and Stuart class formed our Phase 3 and 4 football team which took part in the annual Kent Special School Football Tournament at Three Hills Sports Park in Folkestone. It was a very successful day for our mixed team of boys and girls. Milestone won all five of their games and eventually saw off a strong challenge from Meadowfield School to secure our first ever win in this competition.

Well done to the Boccia and football teams!

**Steve Devereux - PE Subject Leader**



## Phase 4

This term has definitely been a busy one in Phase 4! We have had 12 pupils each week attend Bore Place, learning about all of the different winter plants, sowing different vegetables and even witnessing a calf being born! We were then given the additional privilege of naming him, the students decided to call him 'Midnight'. As well as this, a number of our 6th form pupils have continued their excellent work at MEAPA gym and swimming pool.

Phase 4's Team enterprise have also been working tirelessly this term making the products and items for their Christmas sale, which went extremely well by all accounts.

The highlight of this term has definitely got to be 'Once upon a Christmas Panto'. Every pupil in the Phase got up on stage and performed with their classes which was an absolute triumph for each individual. The success of the production was largely down to the monumental effort put in by all of the staff involved, so it seems right to publicly thank each and every one of them. School productions are never a stress free affair, however all of the lovely feedback we have received from many of you has proven that the stress was definitely worth it! Let's just hope that next year, snow doesn't get in the way of our dress rehearsal!

**James Doddington - Phase 4 Leader**



## Milestone@Wilmington Newsletter Term 2

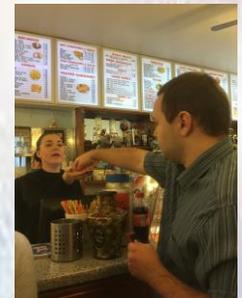
Despite the changing weather and the usual build up to Christmas, nevertheless the students and staff based at Milestone@Wilmington have continued to work extremely hard. The permanent wall is now in place in the hall and so we have been able to arrange the space to suit the different groups who access it at lunchtime.

In following our ASDAN Healthy Living module, Rochester class students have looked at a variety of usual meals, including omelets, spaghetti bolognese, chicken curry, and chili con carne, adapting each to their own tastes and making them healthy.



The **Further Education Enterprise Team (FEET)** attended the Christmas Fayre on Tuesday 12th, to sell a range of products they had been working on this term. Thank you to everyone who purchased something; all proceeds will go towards further projects and parent/staff Shareholders who have donated.

Students in **Upnor** class have been focussing on travel training and have accessed different locations by bus looking for landmarks along the route. They have explored high street shops and used their money skills to buy lunch. As Christmas approaches they are all looking forward to their trip to the pantomime in Gravesend ('Oh no they're not!').



This term **Hever** students have accessed the community, all students have had the opportunity to use their bus passes and are getting proficient in recognising that a bus timetable is something to understand but that things can go wrong, buses are often cancelled, they have all coped very well.

The **work experience group** are currently engaged in a variety of Work based tasks, students are working in rotation to tend the gardens at Gay Dawn Farm, Fawkham. Jamie Garland is working alongside the IT team at Wilmington. David Hernandez has been accepted on a work Experience programme in a motor parts shop in Dartford and will be starting next Tuesday, and of course Sammy Stone in successfully working alongside Richard Allwright at New Ash Green as a trainee T/A.



**Liesl Andersson - Satellite Director**

## FRIENDS OF MILESTONE

The Friends of Milestone would like to thank the parents, staff and friends for their fantastic support over the past year.

The Halloween and Christmas Discos were extremely popular and we plan to organise more in the coming year. Huge thanks to our lovely DJ Jason and to everyone who helped put the evenings together.

All funds raised go towards 'fun stuff' for the students. This year we have funded the Immersive Dome Experience, a bouncy castle for activity week, and a special panto for next year. We are now helping to furnish a life skills 'flat' for the Further Education unit.

We are a friendly bunch and welcome new members. If you would like to get involved, please contact Lyn French - Secretary FOM - to be added to our mailing list.



Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

**The Friends of Milestone**

**Registered Charity No. 278677**

## ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

The aim of the academy is that all students achieve at least 95% attendance and arrive to school on time. Parents and carers of any child who is absent must notify us before 9am by telephone on each day of absence. Once a student returns to school the absence needs to be supported by a letter, accompanied by medical evidence where applicable.

Any pre-booked medical appointments should be registered with the academy office before the event happens. This will prevent any unnecessary phone calls or unauthorised absences.

### Term Time Holiday Requests.

The Academy's Attendance Policy confirms that:

- The Academy may not grant any leave absence during term time unless there are very exceptional circumstances. These should include: service personnel returning from tour of duty, absence of leave recommended by a health professional as part of a parent's or the child's rehabilitation, the death or terminal illness of a person close to the family, to attend a wedding or funeral of a person close to the family.
- Applications for leave of absence must be made in writing to the Principal of the Academy. The Principal will make the decision of acceptance or refusal. The fundamental principles for defining 'exceptional' are 'rare, significant, unavoidable and short'

*Ref KCC Education Penalty Notices Code of Conduct, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016.*

