

The Star Centre at Milestone Academy



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Dear Families

Hello! It's exciting to be returning from maternity leave at such a lovely time of year... The Star Centre has been full of festive spirit and joy for a few weeks now, and it was a real pleasure to watch the children perform so beautifully in their carol concerts last week.

Lucie Featherstone has now returned to her role as Assistant Principal at the main site, and I would like to publicly thank her for the exceptional work she has done in the Star Centre since September. I am thrilled to be taking on the role of Star Centre Director, and look forward to getting to know all the children next term when I begin teaching in each of the classes to cover the teachers' weekly Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time.

We are looking forward to sprucing up our outdoor area in the new year, and work has already started on tidying the flowerbeds. They have been cleared and re-soiled, and some lovely flowers were planted for the children to enjoy. We have also left a bit of space so that the students will be able to do their own planting in the spring. Our next job will be to decide what exciting new equipment we want to extend outdoor learning and play provision for the pupils... watch this space!

The Annual Review cycle begins again in January, so I look forward to meeting many of you at your child's meeting. In the meantime, I hope you all have a very merry Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year!

Charly Hills - Star Centre Director

Dear Families

It is with great pleasure that I contribute to the first ever Milestone at the Star Christmas Newsletter. I have read with much pride the reflections within the newsletter from the class teachers. Clearly one can see how much purposeful activity goes on within and beyond each class and all staff are to be both congratulated and thanked for this diligent hard work. As ever when one comes to the end of a Term/Year there is a cause to say some farewells' and this term is no exception. Thus I and we say a fond farewell to Mary Evans who has uniquely contributed 25 years(!) of unstinting service to the education of countless generations of Star Centre pupils. Typically Mary is wanting to continue on with her calling of serving pupils and she is now going to work in the St Albans setting of Dartford Primary Academy. I wish Mary well with this next step. I also want to record my thanks to Mrs Collinson who since September has led Pegasus and is now returning to Milestone main site to lead in Dover Class. Thank you Mrs Collinson for all your efforts. I am sure you would want me to also note the wonderful leadership that Mrs Featherstone has delivered to all (staff and students) across the Star Centre. Mrs Featherstone's undoubted legacy is to leave a clear platform for Miss Hills to return from her maternity leave and continue to build on the leadership work undertaken by Mrs Featherstone. So finally I wish everyone, staff and pupils, in the Star Centre a wonderful Christmas and new year.

One diary note I wish to emphasise is that on the 9th February 2017 there is an extra training day whereby the school will be closed to pupils. This is an additional training day and of course there is the longstanding day of the 10th February where all of the Trust has a training day for all staff to undertake training and pupils are also not required to attend on that day. Nigel Jones - Principal

TERM DATES 2016/2017

Term 1 Tues 6th Sept – Fri 21st Oct
Term 2 Mon 7th Nov – Wed 21st Dec
Term 3 Tues 3rd Jan – Wed 9th Feb
Term 4 Mon 20th Feb – Fri 31st Mar
Term 5 Tues 18th Apr – Fri 26th May
Term 6 Tues 6th Jun – Fri 21st Jul

Staff Dev Days: 5th Sept, 9th & 10th Feb, 5th Jun

Bank Holidays: 2nd Jan, 17th Apr, 1st May

REPORTING PUPIL ABSENCE

If your child is absent from school, please call as early as possible to let us know. Dial 01474 709420 and select Option 1.

Please can **ALL** enquiries be directed to the main school and not to the Star Centre direct number. We do not have administrative support at the Star Centre, and it is not always possible to answer your call. If you contact the main site they will be able to pass messages on to us via phone or email. Thanks!

HOLIDAY REQUESTS

Requests for Holiday – these must be in writing and addressed to Nigel Jones.

PEGASUS CLASS NEWS

Pegasus class have really enjoyed reading Roald Dahl's The BFG this term. The children have worked really hard making Dream Jars and filling them with lots of lovely things.

We have also been exploring and learning about 2D and 3D shapes in Maths. Last Wednesday we had our Christmas dinner, which was a huge success. We enjoyed having crackers and Christmas music on in the dining room – it was very exciting! The class are looking forward to dressing up in their finest for the Christmas party on Tuesday. I would like to take this opportunity to say a very fond farewell to all the children and their families. It has been a pleasure working with you all, and I wish you all the best for the future. Have a wonderful Christmas.

Mrs K Collinson

DRACO CLASS NEWS

The pupils have worked very hard in Draco class this term, and have managed their building excitement over the prospect of Christmas well!

In Literacy we have been using various forms of writing, including writing a letter to Father Christmas, and poems and an information text about space. In Maths we have been learning about number and place value as well as time and using pictograms. We have also enjoyed using our Maths 'measuring' skills in cooking lessons, and have made lots of sweet treats including cookies, red velvet cake, cupcakes and shape cookies.

Our Science topic this term was 'Space' and we have enjoyed finding out and presenting information about our solar system. We especially enjoyed the book 'Man on the Moon.' In RE we have learnt about traditions and religious celebrations at this time of year, including Hanukkah, Diwali, Eid and Christmas. I hope you have a lovely break and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Miss F Downing

HERCULES CLASS NEWS

Hercules has been very busy learning about the Solar System this term. We have loved exploring the planets in our solar system and observing how they move. Hercules learnt facts about space and used our knowledge to create poems, posters and information leaflets about the planets. We have enjoyed presenting what we have learnt in different ways...

We have been inspired by our moon in art; using pastels and paint to copy an image of the moon. We have learnt to mix black to white in very small amounts to make lots of different shades of grey.

We have been working very hard on our Computing skills this term. We have been programming ICT equipment to do jobs for us, and now understand that computers need an input, process and output to complete tasks.

Well done Hercules - keep up the good work! Enjoy the holidays and prepare for some exciting learning opportunities next term. Our topic will be 'The Ancient Egyptians.'

Miss C Bled

