

TERM 3 NEWSLETTER 2016/2017

Milestone Academy



Ash Road, New Ash Green, Kent DA3 8JZ
www.milestoneacademy.org.uk T: 01474 709420



Dear Families,

Term 3 has certainly been a short yet action packed term. This included my first experience of snow enveloping Milestone – yet with excellent cooperation of staff, pupils and families we successfully managed to open as usual. On a practical note, **can I draw your attention** to the information about the Individual Healthcare plans in this newsletter.

Thank you.

Nigel Jones – Principal

NEWS

PHASE 1

Phase 1 have had a lovely term where we have been focusing on our topic of “food glorious food”. Phase 1 classes have been learning all about the different foods and what is healthy and unhealthy. They have also enjoyed planning different meals and cooking their favourite foods in their cooking lessons.

Next term our topic is “to infinity and beyond” where we will be going on a variety of space related adventures and learning all about our solar system. May I wish you all an enjoyable half term and I look forward to seeing you all in term 4.

Nicky McCarthy – Phase 1 Leader

Events at Bore Place

Baking bread (intermediate level)

Saturday 11th February 9:30am - 4:00pm

For home bread makers who want to improve their bread making with practical experience and theoretical knowledge.

Astronomy evening in March

Friday 3rd March 7:00pm - 9:00pm

An evening of night sky gazing at Bore Place... Join the [Edenbridge and District Astronomers](#) for an evening looking at the night sky.

Street food from around the world

Thursday 16th March 9:30am - 4:00pm

Enjoy a day making some of the tastiest street foods from around the globe.

Patchwork for beginners

Thursday 30th March 9:30am - 4:00pm

No sewing machine? No problem! Learn two fascinating and creative patchwork techniques in one workshop.

Saturday and holiday club for 8-17 year olds with additional needs

Saturday 11th February, Tuesday 14th February, Wednesday 15th February & Sat 11th March 10:00am - 2:30pm

Fun, hands-on activities to help develop skills, confidence and self-esteem.

Bake organic cow cookies in February half term

Tuesday 14th February 9:30am - 1:00pm

It's all about the dairy! Make fun Friesian cow cookies to enjoy with a cup of warm milk after visiting our real herd and their calves.

Nature discovery day in February half term

Thursday 16th February 9:30am - 3:00pm

Enjoy a day getting up close to nature at Bore Place! Explore the wonderful habitats of Bore Place, searching for signs of spring.

For more information please visit www.boreplace.org or call 01732463255.

TERM DATES 2016/2017

Term 1 Thurs 8th Sept – Fri 21st Oct

Term 2 Mon 31st Oct – Wed 21st Dec

Term 3 Tues 3rd Jan – Wed 8th Feb

Term 4 Mon 20th Feb – Fri 31st Mar

Term 5 Tues 18th Apr – Fri 26th May

Term 6 Mon 5th Jun – Fri 21st Jul

Staff Dev Days: 5th Sept, 6th Sept, 7th Sept, 9th Feb, 10th Feb, 10th Jul

Bank Holidays: 1st May

SPEECH & LANGUAGE

A warm welcome to Laura Williams, speech & language therapist who has joined our Therapy Team. Thanks and congratulations to Maddie Atkins, who completed her final placement here with us and is now a qualified speech & language therapist.

The signing and PECS workshops were well attended. We hope you found these useful. Jamie plans to run a follow-up signing session in the Spring Term.

It would be really helpful if families could inform the class teacher if wheelchair services are coming into school to service or repair your child's wheelchair.

Moving & Handling Risk Assessments are currently being reviewed and updated. Two copies are sent home. Please sign and return one copy to school.

DATE FOR THE DIARY

Our annual Careers Fair this year will be held on Wednesday 26th April 2017 from 9:30am - 2:30pm. There will be a host of local and specialist colleges and local service providers available for families to talk to on the day.

PHASE 2

I am pleased to say all pupils (and staff) have been working exceptionally hard in term 3 both on their academic and personal targets. The majority of pupils in Phase 2 participate daily in washing their face and brushing their teeth after lunch.

Mountain class have been reading stories all about princesses! They have read stories from Snow White to Cinderella. In science they have been learning all about first aid and have all learnt how to make a sling and put plasters on! In cooking Mountain pupils have been making healthy snacks and drinks.

Forest class have been attending horse riding weekly this term, they have gained new experiences in brushing the horses and riding them through the fields. They have also been exploring light during sensory science.

Coast class have been exploring traditional stories and fairy tales. The whole class specifically enjoyed the Jack and the Beanstalk sensory story and magic bean hunt. Pupils have participated in sensory exploration, celebrating Chinese New Year.

Valley have been working hard to achieve their lunchtime targets and have enjoyed their sensory cooking sessions. Pupils have benefited from 1 to 1 teaching using a variety of manipulatives to engage and motivate their learning.

Ocean class are all accessing Bug Club reading material. Pupils are learning to read for enjoyment and information. They have been learning about the story of The Enormous Crocodile and then answering questions about it. Pupils also enjoyed a trip to Rochester Cathedral as part of RE.

Field pupils have been working on number and shape in maths. Pupils are trying to identify and match shapes with up to four sides. They have also been estimating an amount up to 10.

Meadow pupils have been identifying hazards in the school environment and understanding the importance of keeping themselves safe and making sensible decisions. They have been reading and producing role plays for their story Coming Home by Michael Morpurgo.

In addition to pupils class work they have been working on their Naturalist badge in Cubs. Pupils had the opportunity to make bird feeders working on their fine motor skills and following instructions. Some pupils continue to access Beaming Stars gymnastics, Sports Club, aqua learn and off site swimming and Beanstalk reading intervention. Next term's topic will be Senses: light, sound, texture, taste, awareness.

Michelle Hilton – Phase 2 Director

Individual Healthcare Plans for pupils – Updated system

There is now a dedicated email address for changes/amendments to IHPs. We are asking parents/carers to please email: 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.

Many thanks

Admin Team



PHASE 3

I hope you all had a wonderful start to 2017, Phase 3 certainly did!

This term Viking, Sparta and Norman class delved into the history of space travel, used their DT skills to make planets and rockets and developed their functional skills in communicating with someone far away via phone, email and video call.

Roman class explored India through the story of 'The Elephant with the golden tusks' and a range of resources to engage the senses.

Saxon and Jurassic class continued their hard work on their individualised targets.

Jurassic class have really enjoyed communicating in group resonance board activities full of their favourite things and Saxon class have developed their skills in the community by attending weekly swimming lessons at North West Kent college.

Our Phase 3 Scout patrols have been working on their artist badge this term, creating some colourful and imaginative pieces and the Phase 3 Speech and Language intervention group presented a fantastic assembly to staff and peers about their favourite things.

Tudor class would like to share with you what they have been learning about via a blog written by one of the students so keep an eye out for this in the newsletter and online! I hope you all have a wonderful half term!

Noleen Donaghy-Parkhouse - Phase 3 Leader

PHASE 4

Firstly, we would like to welcome Katy to Dover class. This term the students have been focussing on making breakfast, their text focus is War Horse and for history the students are looking at World War 1.

Eynsford class have been accessing the local community, going to the shops and Asda. They were particularly busy when it snowed and built this great snowman.

This term Canterbury have been accessing Bore Place. They have also visited McDonalds and are learning through the story of The Twits.

The highlight of this term was a trip into London. Students caught the train and spent their time there visiting the Tower of London.

Despite it being such a short term, Hever class have nevertheless been very busy. Students have been learning to cook meals in pairs, using maths to work out amounts of ingredients and travel training to get to the supermarket. Our text focus this term is 'Lone Wolf' by Alan Gibbons and Robbie Gibbons.

This term Upnor class have accessed Dragons Retreat to learn independent living skills. They have been ironing, cooking and cleaning and enjoyed a range of home cooked meals.

Janet Tidmas, Liesl Andersson & Richard Allwright - Phase 4 Leadership Team

SPORTS NEWS

On 9th November we attended the Level 2 Boccia qualifiers. Two teams of students attended - The team from Dover class included Jessica, Liam and Isobel competing in the U19 category. We also took a team of students from Meadow class including Tracey, Kieran and Ellessio competing in the U14 category. Both teams performed really well and both qualified for the next round of the competition.

On 30th November two teams of students attended the Level 2 learning disability indoor rowing qualifier (U19). The team from Dover comprised of Katie, Ben, Reece and Liam. The team from Sparta comprised of Mia, Luke, Claire and Christopher. Both teams performed really well and it was tough competition. Dover class finished in 12th place and the team from Sparta class finished in 21st place. Well done to all the students who competed.

Katy Morez – PE Leader

