

Term 3 Newsletter 2017/2018

Milestone Academy



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



TERM DATES 2017/2018

Term 3 Thurs 4th Jan – Thurs 8th Feb

Term 4 Mon 19th Feb – Thurs 29th Mar

Term 5 Mon 16th Apr – Fri 25th May

Term 6 Mon 4th Jun – Tues 24th Jul

Staff dev days: 9th February, 25th July, 26th July.

Bank Holidays: Monday 7th May 2018.

Dear Families,

As you will read, despite this term being our shortest, a lot of activity has occurred. This has been rounded off this week by many classes enjoying external visitors leading storytelling to pupils.

Have a good break.

Nigel - Principal

PHASE 1

Phase 1 have had a lovely busy term learning all about pirates and adventures of the sea! Our topic has been "beware pirates!" and the children have enjoyed learning about Peter Pan in literacy as well as using maps to try and find the hidden treasure!



Our topic next term is "do you believe in magic?" and I'm sure the children will be excited to share their work with you - as well as some magic tricks! We are very much looking forward to spring where we can get into our forest school area a bit more and enjoy the changing of the seasons (and hopefully some "sunnier" weather!)

Thank you for all your continued support and I hope you all have a lovely half term.

We look forward to welcoming you all back in term 4!

Nicky McCarthy - Assistant Director/ Phase 1 Leader

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.

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

What a fantastic start to 2018 from Phase 2! Firstly, there is the success of the Phase 2 at Milestone and the Star Centre's production of 'Stars in Their Eyes' for which I have to thank all the staff and parents involved across both sites for their support and to the pupils for being even more amazing than usual. We are still receiving lots of wonderful comments about this and are very pleased you all enjoyed it.



As difficult as it was to follow that, Phase 2 have been enjoying a term filled with exciting learning opportunities and lots of chances to develop and practice skills across the curriculum. In Woodland and Coast class, pupils have been learning about different countries around the world actively participating in some wonderful, well resourced, sensory journeys. In Forest class children have been following instructions through action songs and developing turn taking skills in games and shared activities.

Pupils in Ocean and Meadow Class have been immersing themselves in their topic work, through science they have learnt about the skeletal system, recognising and naming bones, studying x-rays and even looking at a life model of the digestive system! Mountain and Field class, along with other Phase 2 classes have been thinking about the Romans, where they came from, who they are, where they lived and how they differ to us today - this led to us having our Roman celebration day where pupils dressed in Roman Costumes and enjoyed re-enactments of battles in the playground and a special assembly.



Also this term we celebrated National Storytelling Week with visitors from the local community coming in to read for the pupils and pupils from Phase 4 coming to read, act and share sensory stories which they had created.



We would like to welcome Nicola Thatcher to Mountain Class and look forward to the half term break in preparation for another exciting term!

Michelle, Simon and the Phase 2 Team.

THERAPY TEAM NEWS

The Therapy team have been supporting National Storytelling week. We have run a few sensory stories including "Going to the Circus" and "My Many Coloured Days" by Dr Seuss. They were very interactive and enjoyed by everyone.

We would also like to give a warm welcome to Amy Craig who has recently joined the Therapy Team as a Speech and Language Therapist.

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 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 3 in Phase 3 as described by the staff and students

Sparta Class - "I liked playing football in lunchtime club on Friday. I have enjoyed Swimming and also playing with my friends on the playground." **Jack**

Norman Class - "I like and school and working in my class, I like Bore Place too, we help Cathy at the farm." **Bobby**

Tudor Class - This term Tudor class have been helping with the class duties. We have been setting up the lunch hall, washing up, clearing up and helping at breakfast club.

Viking Class - "I enjoyed learning how to paint my name in Japanese." - **Violet**

Roman Class - This term we have been visiting different countries and exploring their culture and festivals through our senses. The countries we have explored are Mexico, China and India. We have been dancing to music, smelling and tasting different foods and drinks and exploring costume and props.

Empire Class - "This term we learnt about a story by Roald Dahl called 'The Twits' In our lesson we described Mr Twit's beard using similes and adjectives. Then we discussed Mrs Twit and gave each other compliments. Then we thought about the silly tricks the twits did. Then Sam did a funny Mr Twit impression." – **Shayden**



Work based learning at Bore Place



Exploring culture



Helping with class duties

Noleen Donaghy-Parkhouse - Phase 3 Leader

Milestone @ The Leigh Academy

Milestone @ The Leigh Academy students and staff have had an exceptionally busy Term 3. Our new satellite site celebrated its Official Opening on 23 January. We were proud to welcome Julie Ely, Head of Assessment and Placement for Kent, to cut the ribbon for us. Students also had the chance to sit with some special guests and tell them some of the triumphs and challenges they have experienced since moving to Milestone @ The Leigh.

We had the first of our community access outings earlier in the term, which saw a group of students use their bus passes to access public transport (some of them for the first time ever!). M@TLA students will continue to access the community every Monday, steadily increasing their knowledge of local bus routes, how to read timetables, and how to use journey planning software.

We were very pleased to welcome Brenda Ogden as our special Guest Storyteller for National Storytelling Week. Brenda was Keren's English teacher a few years ago, and regaled our staff and students with a passage from The Hobbit. Brenda also spoke of her favourite hobby, amateur theatre.

We have been getting to know the plot of William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, which we will be performing live on 23 April. All are welcome at this special event, so please do come and join us. The performance will take place at 7:00 pm on 23 April at the Leigh Academy Lecture Theatre.

Kyle Marsh – Satellite Director

SPORTS NEWS



Kent Cricket hosted a Kwick Cricket tournament on Tuesday 1st February. The tournament was held at Milestone with students from Empire class and Viking class taking part against teams from Bower Grove and Ifield.

Phase 3 Football club started back this week. 15 students from Phase 3 took part with the sessions being led by qualified football coaches from Dartford District FA.

Steve Devereux – PE Subject leader

PHASE 4

All students in phase 4 this term have managed to access learning outside the classroom opportunities, even if the weather has been rather chilly at times.

Scotney Class have continued to have successful visits to Asda, with the pupils showing more independence when finding products using visual support.

Deal Class have been exploring cheese products in food technology, structures in DT, French artists in art and xylophones in music.

Dover Class have used their problem solving skills to put together furniture for the newly developed living skills area in the Castle building and have learnt to prepare a range of healthy foods including ratatouille and guacamole.

Eynsford Class have also accessed Asda weekly and have continued to progress well when selecting snacks and paying for them with some independence.

Canterbury Class have continued to access the adapted bikes and learning to cycle safely on the tennis courts.

Leeds Class and the enterprise group are continuing to develop the outside area and we are looking forward to seeing the bulbs grow over coming weeks.

Milestone @Wilmington Academy

This term Rochester class have accessed Dragons Retreat every Thursday. The students have worked together to learn, practice and hone their independent living skills, coming together and working as an outstanding little community.

In Hever Class this term travel training has been very successful, one member of staff has shadowed two students on a familiar bus journey and all students have shown great understanding and maturity in their approach.

Upnor class have also focused on travel training this term. In small groups, they have accessed different locations using more than one bus. En route they have been looking out for landmarks and recognising where to get off. Communication lessons have focused on making choices and this has carried over into food technology lessons, trying and choosing different flavours and toppings.

Jordan Roberts and Tyler Jenman have completed their Supported Employment Placements which they accessed with support from Kent Supported Employment. Jordan is working at the Royal British Legion village in Aylesford making a range of products for sale and Tyler is working in the Cafe at Asda in Swanley. Both students are travelling to their placements independently using public transport which is a huge achievement for them.



Janet Tidmas – Assistant Principal, Phase 4 Leader

NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK

During the last week of term, Milestone Academy celebrated National Storytelling Week which celebrates the ancient tradition of storytelling and sharing experiences. Classes were visited by external speakers and enjoyed listening to their original stories, the SALT team delivered multi-sensory story sessions and Dover Class had their own timetable to visit many classes across the school and deliver a story that they had written collaboratively. Students have very much enjoyed the chance to pair up with different students from around the school to be supported and encouraged to read stories and share experiences.



FRIENDS OF MILESTONE

A huge thank you to Katie and Sophie Allen for their donation of £400 to the Friends. This was raised at their Festive Fundraising Event in December where everyone 'enjoyed digging deep for such a worthy cause'

Sophie Allen presenting the £400 donation to Ruth Doodney, our Chair of Friends.



Lyn French – Secretary of Friends



Registered Charity No. 278677

2018 TRUST SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to Milestone Academy for winning the 2018 Trust Spelling Bee! Thanks to you all for helping to arrange it! Lisa and Kyle were wonderful judges and the parents mentioned how much they had enjoyed the Spelling Bee as they left.



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. **If emailing requests, please email them to info@milestoneacademy.org.uk.** 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 1st January 2016.

Raising achievement by involving parents and carers in the work of our school

Involving yourself in your child's education is an exciting challenge, with excellent benefits for your child, for you, for the school and for the local community.

We are using the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) to help strengthen our school's partnership with parents. LPPA is a national award that will provide us with a valuable school improvement tool and also give us recognition for our commitment to working with parents.

The LPPA will help us achieve these long-term benefits:

- contribute to improved pupil attendance, punctuality, behaviour and progress
- increase parent participation and involvement
- enhance parents' support in their children's learning
- improve communication between home and school.

A meeting has been arranged for Thursday 1st March at 1:30

**If you would like to become more involved and attend the meeting, please contact
Nicky McCarthy .**