

The Star Centre at Milestone Academy



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Dear Families

The Star Centre has had a very busy term - it feels like only 5 minutes ago I was writing the Christmas newsletter! We've had a lot of hard work from all the staff and children this term, and as a result, some excellent learning has been taking place.

I've enjoyed teaching in each of the classes once a week and getting to know all the students really well. I've been reading my favourite ever book 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers this term with all the students. It is a story about a boy who finds a penguin at his door, and tries to help him travel home to the South Pole. All of the students have been really passionate about the text, and we've had some fantastic discussions about the characters and their feelings in the story. Hercules Class wrote some wonderful similes for me, and worked out how far it was to the South Pole using an Atlas and some very skilled measuring. Draco worked hard on finding interesting vocabulary (synonyms), and solved maths problems - counting in twos to work out how many penguins there were if they counted ten feet. Pegasus Class use the Beebots to try to trace a journey across the seas to the South Pole, and worked very hard to create a collaborative art project to display in their classroom.

We have an exciting term after the break; starting our new topic 'The Wild Woods.' I'm looking forward to some great outdoor learning opportunities, and the teachers have already picked some wonderful texts to share with the children in English. We have invested a lot of money into new music and science resources, which will be arriving shortly, and I am very excited to be developing our outdoor area for Pegasus Class with some fantastic new equipment. We have welcomed some new students to the Star Centre this term, and they have settled in really well - so many thanks to theirs, and all the Star Centre families for your ongoing support. We'd like to wish you all a lovely half term, and we'll see you again on 20th February.



Charly Hills
Star Centre Director



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 to take pupils on holiday during term time– these **must** be in writing and addressed to Nigel Jones.

PEGASUS CLASS NEWS

Pegasus class have enjoyed working on 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea' and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' this term. The children have particularly enjoyed acting out the stories! We have enjoyed our topic 'Food! Glorious Food!' We are growing red peppers from seed and they are coming along nicely.

In maths we have been developing our number skills and have enjoyed setting up a shop in class, with pupils taking it in turns to manage the till. We have participated really well in PE lessons with the Dartford Primary Academy children, and been co-ordinating movements in gymnastics and dance.

Liza Smith – Pegasus Class Teacher

**DRACO CLASS NEWS**

In Draco this term, we have enjoyed reading and responding to different texts by Julia Donaldson. From reading the texts we have been acting out the stories and enjoyed making props to use during our acting sessions. We have also had the opportunity to write our own version of The Gruffalo which the children enjoyed doing, especially creating their own Gruffalo character.

We have also enjoyed solving maths problems using money and we were able to put this into action during our recent trip to the cinema and McDonalds in Greenwich. The children were a real credit to the Star Centre whilst on the trip and really enjoyed having the opportunity to go out of school as a class.

I am looking forward to next term's topic of 'The Wild Woods' and I have some exciting activities planned for this topic. I am planning on using the texts 'Into The Forest' and 'Hansel and Gretel' as part of this topic.

I hope you have a lovely half term and I look forward to seeing all of the children again on their return.

Faye Downing – Draco Class Teacher

**HERCULES CLASS NEWS**

Hercules have been very busy learning about Ancient Egypt this term. We have loved exploring how mummies were prepared for the afterlife; creating our own cat mummies.

Hercules explored instructions in English. We role-played our story instructions with the boys directing their class mates through a route. This linked nicely with maths as they directed Bee bots through a maze on the floor. They used directional language to explain how they moved their Bee bot; Some even used clockwise and anticlockwise rather than left and right to describe their work.

Hercules then focused on 'Where the Wild Things Are' and became super stars presenting their role-play to an audience. I know, I will get nightmares after they created their own wild thing that ate teachers and smelled like vomit!

We are looking forward to our new topic Wild Woods after the holidays. They will have a part of a poem called 'A walk through the woods' to learn over the holidays and recite when they come back.

Catherine Bled – Hercules Class Teacher

