

TERM 3 NEWSLETTER 2016/2017

Milestone Academy



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Dear Families,

The Term that started with dark mornings and evenings is suddenly drawing to a close yet paradoxically delivering more 'light' all round as we embrace British Summer Time. A personal highlight for this term was the privilege of accompanying 7 of our secondary pupils to the Commonwealth Service in Westminster Abbey. With the Queen walking just 10 metres away from us as we sat in the congregation our pupils fully acknowledged the importance of the occasion and represented Milestone Academy superbly. I would like to thank Kyle Marsh for organising the day and for Natalie's efforts in also ensuring the pupils had a unique experience. I hope you all enjoy the Easter break.

Thank you.

Nigel Jones – Principal

We have waved goodbye to Michelle Hilton for a short while wishing her all the best for her maternity leave. In the interim I am really pleased to be in Phase 2 acting as the Phase Director. I already know many of the children and their families, as they have moved through the school from a very young age, I look forward to working with you all again.

I wish you all very happy Easter and look forward to the exciting terms we have planned for the rest of the academic year.

Best Wishes

Claire Woolmer - Assistant Principal.

NEWS

PHASE 1

Phase 1 have a very exciting term following our topic of "To infinity and beyond"! Pupils have enjoyed taking part in space adventures as well as building their own solar systems. We have also been learning about different modes of transport and Giraffe class even visited Ebbsfleet station. The children were met by the duty station manager Danny Hawkins who directed us to the viewing point to watch the 10.18am Euro star from Paris enter the platform on its way to St Pancras.

BTP officer PC Nelligan came to greet the children who then radioed for the duty van to come down. It entered with lights flashing and the class were allowed to explore the inside. We even had the sirens going!

May I wish you all a wonderful sunshine filled Easter holidays and we look forward to welcoming you all back in term 5.

Nicky McCarthy – Interim Assistant Principal and Phase 1 Director

PHASE 2

This term our focus has been on the 'Senses' and we have been able to take advantage of the good weather and explore the outside environment, stimulating our senses.

We currently have the Phase 2 residential at Kingswood and all reports have been that all children and staff are immersing themselves in all of the physical activities and challenges.

Within Cubs the children are continuing with their work on their Naturalist badge and enjoying the activities associated with this.

Claire Woolmer – Phase 2 Director



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: 10th Jul

Bank Holidays: 1st May

DATE FOR THE DIARY

Just a reminder that the Careers Fair this year is on 26th April 2017 from 9:30-2:30.

MEDICATION

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.

Please ensure that any medication sent to school is passed from Adult to Adult and not in your child's school bag. Thank you.

REPORTING PUPIL ABSENCE

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

PHASE 3

Phase 3 have had a fabulous term 4! We have had a variety of special events alongside our curriculum which have provided exciting and inspiring learning opportunities including, World Book Week with a focus on Sci-Fi, special Holi and Easter assemblies. And this term we have been working towards our creative challenge and faith and celebration badges in Scouts.

We hope you all have a great Easter and thank you for your ongoing support.

Noleen Donaghy-Parkhouse - Phase 3 Leader



PHASE 4

As part of work based learning at Milestone our 3 groups of Construction Land Based Studies have had a very productive term. The phase 4 construction group are well on the way to completing their projects ranging from a picnic table, benches, a circular shaped sand pit, a wooden chest and a concrete and wood bench. They have used all of their skills from English and Maths which they have learnt through the years and put it all into practice as part of their vocational learning experience. I cannot put into words how hard all 3 groups have worked this term, well done.

As usual this has been a very busy term for Phase 4 and with the improving weather has come more access to the local community for all class groups.

Upnor Class have continued to learn to use public transport to access local towns and their facilities such as public libraries.

Canterbury Class have visited the Café and the Co-op in New Ash Green and Bluewater, where students have been learning about sharing, using money and waiting their turn whilst developing their communication skills.

Dover Class have also been accessing the local Co-op to purchase ingredients for the egg based dishes they have made this term, with quiche and scotch eggs both being interesting for the students to make.

Rochester Class has had a busy and exciting term, including an excellent trip via public transport to Chislehurst Caves. Six students took part in the Wilmington Academy/Milestone Academy Science Fiction Competition, winning medals in all categories entered.

Eynsford class have also enjoyed their trips out to the community, developing their independence skills, and working on their ASDAN modules. They were also delighted to win the Phase 4 prize for World Book Day - their interactive sensory spaceship went down a treat and the students all enjoyed their prize of a pizza party!

Leeds Class have enjoyed their interactive story about Pirates this term and have also managed to use some sunny days to access the local village.

Hever class have once again returned to Dragons Retreat each week, giving everyone functional skills in the home as well as choosing and cooking meals that everyone will enjoy. World Book Day (or in their case fortnight!) based on the theme of sci-fi when the class made a landscape, housing, transport and food and translating their ideas into 3D models. They started World Book Day with a visit to the Planetarium in Greenwich and also had the very main school later in the week. The students have been hard at work preparing for the projects groups involved in script writing as well as making props and costumes.

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

SPORTS NEWS

Our students from phase 2 and 3 took part in a Boccia competition against other special schools at Ifield last week. They enjoyed taking part in the event and finished third overall on the day.

Students from phase 3 and 4 will be taking part in a Cross Country Event at Mote Park in Maidstone next term. We will also be representing Team Dartford at this years Panathlon Challenge where students will take part in a variety of multi-sports.

Following on from the after school football sessions, Kent FA will be leading a girls only lunchtime sports club on Friday afternoons initially for students in phase 3 and 4 from next term.

Thank you,

Steve Devereux - PE Subject Leader

Plant and Animal Vocational Learning group.

The group has continued to be involved in gardening at Gay Dawn Farm in Fawkham, which is part of the Billings Group that support our work experience students each year. This term they have been planting up the hanging baskets and getting the beds ready for spring. The group visited Trosley Country Park to learn about animal habitats, leading to the students making a 'Bug Hotel'.

When I Grow Up visit to the Palace of Westminster

This month, three Sixth Form students visited the Palace of Westminster for the launch of the When I Grow Up project which as stated on their website 'was a four-year programme run by the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities and funded by the Big Lottery Fund, which aimed to increase work expectations, aspirations and opportunities for students with learning disabilities at three schools and colleges in West Berkshire, Kent and the London Borough of Redbridge.' The launch was hosted by Iain Duncan Smith (MP) and gave the students the opportunity to learn about the history of Westminster Hall. The students, Chris and Rhys who are currently completing Supported Internships and Jordan who is completing a work placement answered questions about their experiences and their aspirations for the future.



THE THERAPY NEWS

Wheelchair Services now come under Millbrook Healthcare. Phone lines will be open from 1st April. 03301244485 or email kentandmedwaywcs@millbrookhealthcare.co.uk Please notify school if wheelchair services are due to visit in school.

I CAN, in partnership with the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, is undertaking an independent review of the state of provision for children's speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), entitled *Bercow: Ten Years On*, which will be published in early 2018. It is really important that families' views are represented. Follow this link if you would like to have your say <http://www.ican.org.uk/What-we-do/Bercow.aspx>. Please note this is not asking you to rate our speech & language therapy provision at Milestone but rather to capture your experiences and views of services over time.

Staff and children took part in a quiz and had fun making a display as part of European Swallowing Awareness Day. It was great to raise the profile of children's eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties and to celebrate our good practice here at Milestone in supporting children to keep them safe and help them to develop their skills.

There was much excitement in school last week as researchers from CBeebies visited our school. They were in Kent for 4 days looking for potential filming locations and children for a new series of *Something Special*.



Liz Skilton & Therapy Team

Friends of Milestone

Friends of Milestone met for their AGM on 2nd March and were very pleased to welcome some new members.

Events coming up

Following the success of our last Pamper Evening we are busy contacting people and setting up another evening in May. Flyers will come out soon, confirming date, time and details.

We will be holding a Summer Disco on Friday, 23rd June - details will be published next term. And for those of you that enjoy a spooktacular time we are holding our Halloween Disco again this year, on 13th October 2017.

Our Summer Fete is booked for Saturday, 8th July. It will be our best yet.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the above events, and if you would like to get involved with the Friends, please contact me at school.

Lyn French
Secretary - Friends of Milestone

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

