

The Star Centre at Milestone Academy



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Dear Families,

We've had such a busy term at the Star Centre! The students have all really enjoyed their topic 'The Wild Woods' and worked really hard. We celebrated a fabulous World Book Day, with lots of great costumes and great, engaging activities where we nurtured our love of reading.

Our corridor is looking bright and we have some lovely celebrations of the students' work up on display. We are also very excited about our new 'Galaxy Suite,' where we have set up all our cooking equipment for our Food Technology lessons.

We have a lovely selection of new outdoor equipment, which we have been putting to good use on the playground now that the weather is brightening up. It has been wonderful to see children of all ages playing and interacting so nicely together.

We had a fantastic trip to Wildwood on Wednesday, where the students were able to see a lot of animals native to the UK. Who knew that we once had bears living here! We loved 'meeting the wolves' and learnt a lot about their diet and behaviour from their keeper. Everyone had a fantastic day and really made the adults feel very proud of their super behaviour and engagement.

Our topic for next term is "Let's Go on an Adventure!" and I know the teachers have some exciting work and visits up their sleeves for this one. So get your bags packed and binoculars ready, we're going to leave "The Wild Woods" behind, and see what other exciting treasures we can find in the world...

Wishing you all a Happy Easter!

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: 10th July

Bank Holidays: 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.

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.

PEGASUS CLASS NEWS

Pegasus Class have really enjoyed working on the topic 'Wild Woods' this term. Our class trip to Hesketh Park was a great success, the children really enjoyed finding pine cones, different leaves, twigs, making bark rubbings and we even found a rabbit hole! The children have been working hard on the stories 'The Gruffalo' which saw the children doing some great role play, 'Owl Babies' thinking about speech bubbles and what the baby owls were saying, 'Guess how much I love you' which tied in also with our maths and measuring, lastly 'Let's go home little bear' found the children using some great describing words which they recorded in their English books. We have had some wonderful art work produced which has stemmed from our stories and topic, the owlets at night on their branch was a particular favourite and were put on display in the corridor.

We have now got some super indoor and outdoor equipment for the children to use, we have a new house/cafe/shop in the classroom, new accessories to go with it ranging from food to cook or purchase, new dinner service and cooking pots and pans, chef and waiter costumes, shopping tills and sweet shop weighing scales. In the playground we have a lot of new equipment that the children are enjoying at playtime and lunchtimes, the children particularly like the balance bikes, talking telephones and the chalk house.

We hope you all have a great Easter break and look forward to seeing the children next term ready for our new topic 'Let's go on an adventure'.

**DRACO CLASS NEWS**

In Draco this half term, we have enjoyed reading and responding to different texts based on the 'Wild Woods'. We have been reading and acting out the stories of 'Superworm' and 'Into the Forest'. We have enjoyed having the opportunity to become the characters in the story and wrote a letter to 'dad' and story mapped the journey the boy went on in 'Into the Forest.' We have also looked at the characters and wrote a diary entry using the story of 'Superworm.'

We have also enjoyed solving maths problems using addition and have used this when we have been cooking. We have enjoyed making lots of different things during our cooking sessions, including scented play dough, Easter nests and fruit salad.

Draco class also went on a trip to Trosley Park to enhance their learning of the 'Wild Woods'. The children had great fun exploring the woods and doing tree rubbings. They also enjoyed creating their own seesaw using tree branches and a tree.

I am looking forward to next term's topic of "Let's go on an adventure!" and I have some exciting activities planned for this topic.

I hope you have a lovely Easter break 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 the Wild Wood this term. They have researched the animals that you find in British woods and created a PowerPoint about their chosen animal. They also enjoyed role-playing 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of The Dark', predicting Hansel and Gretel's struggle in the woods and retelling the journey Into the Forest with all the fairy tale characters we have visited before.

They also drew a map of the pond habitat and searched for mini-beasts in microhabitats. They also enjoyed making rain sticks and wind chimes for sounds of the woods.

The boys loved visiting Shorne Country Park where they tried their hand at bark-rubbing and hunting for Pokémon. We also had a great fun seeing all the woodland creatures at Wildwood this week.

Well done Hercules, keep up the good work, enjoy the holidays and next term we will go on even more adventures.

Catherine Bled – Hercules Class Teacher

