

TERM 5 NEWSLETTER 2016/2017

Milestone Academy



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Dear Families,

Welcome to Term 5 newsletter. On reading it I trust you can see how adventive, enquiring, intrigue and excitement are big themes running through all the phase activities. Themes which I am proud to have as part of the planned experiences and wonderful pupils.

May I thank all of my colleagues for their imaginative efforts in bringing these themes alive.

I wish all families a restful term 5/6 break.

Thank you.

Nigel Jones – Principal

We have been working hard to improve the information we share with you about your child's progress in their end of year reports. Reports will be shared with you later in the year in a new format with more information across a wider range of areas of development. We hope you will feel well informed when you receive them and I welcome feedback from you if there is other information you would like to see included.

Dee Pickerill – Vice Principal

NEWS

PHASE 1

This term in Phase One we have been very adventurous with our topic "Let's Go On An Adventure". Leopard class have been having fun exploring the new forest school area, and Oscar has had his own adventure taking his first independent steps and walking unaided!!

Tigers had a fantastic trip to Springhead Park and learning valuable shopping skills. Ademola has also excelled himself by overcoming his fear of the water and starting to swim independently. Flamingo class have been having adventures using Maps, and very cleverly managed to navigate their way to the local park using a directional map using the instructions 'Left, Right, Forwards and Backwards' to guide them - very smart! Giraffe have worked very hard and have also had great success with their swimming - now being able to swim every other week, and seeing Alfie being brave and manage to go for a full swim in the pool, which is much better than just paddling on the side. And finally Zebras, after a long stay in hospital it has been wonderful to welcome Ruby, and her smile back to class. Next term we will be working on the topic of "When I grow up" and our activity week focus will be titled "I want to be" where the children will have an opportunity for plenty of role play and dressing up as we explore a range of exciting jobs!

I hope you all have a lovely half term and I look forward to seeing you all in term 6.

Nicky McCarthy – Interim Assistant Principal and Phase 1 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

DATE FOR THE DIARY

12th-16th June – Phase 4 Residential.

27th June – Phase 1&3 Parents Consultation.

28th June – Phase 2&4 Parents Consultation.

4th July (5th reserve date) Phase 3&4 Sports Day.

11th July (12th reserve)Phase 1&2 Sports Day

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 2

Phase 2 have been enjoying their Activity week this term based around the theme of Our Prehistoric World.

After the discovery of a dinosaur egg in an old wooden crate, pupils were inspired and engaged across classes in the phase in exciting enrichment activities, from hunting for dinosaurs to being palaeontologists and excavating dinosaur remains out of various materials including ice and sand. Pupils were treated to a wonderful display by our visitors from Eagle Heights who brought eagles and lizards for the pupils to not only see but in some classes to have hands on experience with. Pupils also completed many prehistoric based activities in class in English and Maths and then finished the week with a bouncy castle, dinosaur cake competition and picnic.



Phase 2 Team.

PHASE 3

What a busy term for Phase 3! Our year 8's and 10's returned from the Easter holidays and attended the Phase 3 residential at Arethusa. This was a hugely successful trip, and all the students gained a lot from the experience. I would like to thank Noleen for organising such a wonderful school journey and the staff who gave up their time to make it so successful.

Classes have worked hard on their performances for the MTV concert at the end of this term. Each class has chosen to learn about a particular decade, focussing on key events and of course the music. We hope you all enjoy it.

Our classes following PMLD and TEACCH curriculum, have continued to work hard on their individualised targets with sensory learning experiences. Viking, Sparta and Norman Classes have been exploring ancient civilizations with particular focus upon the civilisations and customs of their class' namesake. Tudor class have studied the work of Roald Dahl in English and have done some fantastic descriptive writing. Tudor and Viking Class have also benefited from swimming lessons at North West Kent College.

In Scouts this term Roman class have been working towards their hiking badge via weekly community participation visits. The rest of the Milestone Scouts have continued to work towards their skills badge via a range of fun and interactive sessions.

Lucie Featherstone & Noleen Donaghy
Assistant Principal Phase 3 Leader

PHASE 4

Term 5 has been a short but as always packed term for Phase 4 class groups.

Upnor Class have continued to consolidate their cooking skills, accessing a food technology room at Wilmington Academy. Canterbury Class have accessed Bore Place as their work related learning each Thursday this term and the weather has been very kind to them. Dover Class have had swimming lessons at North Kent College and have shown great progress in their swimming skills over the term. Rochester Class accessed Dragons Retreat over the term to consolidate their daily living skills knowledge and Leeds Class have been to the Orchard Theatre to see Babe, The Sheep Pig. Eynsford Class have been creating exciting recipes involving cheese, including macaroni cheese and cheese on toast. Hever Class and their peers at Milestone@Wilmington have been making props for the end of year production 'Tainted Blues' which you will hear more about in Term 6.

Janet Tidmas - Phase 4 Director

FRIENDS OF MILESTONE

The friends would like to thank you all for your continued support. You have helped us to raise money at the Mother's day sale and Pamper Evening, and this has paid for a Pantomime Performance at school. The pupils and staff really enjoyed this. We have also raised money from our 'Bag2School' collection, thank you so much for your donations. We have the Father's Day sale coming up soon, and then we will be working on our Summer Fete on 8th July.

Thank you again for your support.

Ruth Doodney – Chair of Friends of Milestone

THERAPY NEWS

Signing stations are up and running. There are 7 stations dotted around the main school for easy access for staff and pupils to use. Students entered a competition to design a poster for each of the signing stations. Congratulations to the winners.

With the end of year fast approaching, for some of our older students this means preparing to move on to new placements. We like to provide communication passports for all students who need one. If this applies to your son or daughter and you have not managed to provide us with the information required, then please do so at the start of next term.

As always, please do get in touch if you have any questions about your child's speech, language and communication skills or any physiotherapy or occupational therapy related matters.

Liz, Laura, Tim, Jamie, Terri & Anne

MACMILLAN FUNDRAISING DAY: JUNE 16TH

On Friday 16th June we will be holding a fundraising day in school to raise as much money as we can for Macmillan. The theme will be either Disney, or Wear Something Green and Cucina will very kindly be providing a special Disney-themed lunch. We will hold a cake sale at morning break for pupils and staff and would welcome donations. We will send out reminders nearer the time. In the meantime, if you have a quiet few minutes over the half term break some of you may like to get baking and freezing cakes or biscuits and preparing costumes for the day! Thank you very much in advance for all your support for a very worthwhile cause which touches so many lives.

**Dee Pickerill
Vice Principal**

