

# TERM 2 NEWSLETTER 2016/2017

## Milestone Academy



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

### Dear Families

The contributions that follow from Phase 1 to 4 capture much of what occurs at Milestone in addition to the planned, focused, purposeful daily activities. I have had the pleasure and privilege of attending many of the 2016 Christmas celebrations and all readers can be rest assured that the "Greatest Story Ever Told" was given the full Milestone production!

Thank you to Lucie Featherstone who for the last two terms has been so admirably leading Milestone at the Star Centre satellite setting at Dartford Academy, until Charly Hills returned from her maternity leave. Charly is now leading Milestone at the Star Centre through taking up her substantive role of Director there. ~Equally can I thank Katie Collinson for leading Pegasus Class at this setting but who is now returning to lead Dover Class from January 2017.

I want to say farewell and thank you to Ami Hawkins who has religiously formatted this newsletter as well as being our front of house receptionist. Ami is returning to London to undertake a new role and I want to wish Ami all the very best with her new venture. I also would like to say thank you and farewell to Zoe Webb who has lead Dover Class and we wish Zoe well with her future endeavours within teaching.

Can I also remind you that we have two training days on 9th and 10 February 2017. I wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year, and we will return on Tuesday 3rd January.

**Nigel Jones**

## NEWS

### PHASE 1

Phase 1 have had a lovely festive term, full of lots of exciting trips and experiences. Many classes have visited Broadditch Farm where they met "Farmer Christmas" and classes have also been out for lunch and to visit parks and garden centres. We have also been working hard on all of our subjects and have enjoyed the topic this term "a very special time of year".

The whole phase worked very hard to produce their Christmas performance of "Shine Star Shine" and every child in the department took part, which was wonderful to see.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in January where the topic of the term will be "food glorious food!" Merry Christmas.

**Nicky McCarthy – Phase 1 Leader**

### PHASE 2

Phase 2 pupils have had the opportunity to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities in Term 2. Pupils in Meadow and Ocean class represented Milestone Academy at our 9 Lessons and Carols Concert, with Jack singing a solo of Once in Royal David's City and Shayden reading from Luke 2 St Luke tells of the visit of the Shepherd to the Manger. We were joined by local primary schools Fawkham, Hartley and Steephill.

Pupils also performed at the DASCO Choral Project at Longfield Academy to a packed audience. Pupils sang a variety of Christmas songs with Rocking Robin being their favourite. These pupils will continue weekly singing practice and perform at the Orchard Theatre in July 2017. Well done to all the pupils involved and families for supporting on the evening.



## TERM DATES 2016/2017

**Term 1** Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Sept – Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Oct

**Term 2** Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Oct – Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Dec

**Term 3** Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan – Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Term 4** Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Mar

**Term 5** Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Apr – Fri 26<sup>th</sup> May

**Term 6** Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Jun – Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Jul

**Staff Dev Days:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sept, 6<sup>th</sup> Sept, 7<sup>th</sup> Sept, 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10<sup>th</sup> Jul

**Bank Holidays:** 1<sup>st</sup> May



## SPEECH & LANGUAGE

### PECS – WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS/FAMILIES

I will be running a PECS workshop for families on Thursday 26th January 10.00-12.00. A letter will be sent out separately soon.

**Tim Sibson**

This year we held two Christingle assemblies. Reverend Jim Fletcher delivered a traditional service to Ocean, Field, Mountain and Meadow class and Angie Frost delivered a very sensory service to Coast, Valley and Forest. All pupils were fully engaged and made beautiful Christingles with oranges and candles kindly donated by Waitrose in Longfield.

All Phase 2 pupils have been successfully invested as Cub Scout and this term they have been working on their Sports Activity badge with a focus on teamwork.

**Michelle Hilton – Phase 2 Director**

### PHASE 3

During this term Jurassic class have enjoyed shopping on a weekly basis as part of their functional Maths skills development. We ended the term with a visit to Hawley garden centre to feed the reindeer and look at the Christmas lights.

Saxon and Sparta class have enjoyed completing the sensory story 'The BFG' this term. Saxon class have created their own dream jars using bottles and glitter and used nets to capture our bubble dreams. Whereas, Sparta class we have done lots of creative writing and even made their own Snozzcumbers. We also enjoyed our Diwali assembly this term where we made our own diyas.

Saxon and Norman class enjoyed going to AMF bowling and pizza hut in Gravesend and have gone to see the decorations & lights at Millbrook Garden Centre.

Roman class have continued their sensory journey and had great fun performing the Nativity, 'The Less Grumpy Shepherd.' They have also had great fun with food technology, water fun in Aqualearn, and art using natural materials like leaves, sand and twigs!

Phase 3 have had a fantastic term full of excellent learning opportunities. We will conclude the term with a Magical Winter Wonderland in the Drama Studio and Gym. Thank you for all your support across the year and wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and start to your New Year.

**Noleen Donaghy-Parkhouse - Phase 3 Leader**

### PHASE 4

Term 2 has been full of community based learning opportunities for the pupils in Phase 4 including visits to Christmas Tree Farm, McDonalds and Polhill Garden Centre. Canterbury Class have been developing their independent living skills, this included shopping in the Co-op, a visit to Bluewater, the local cafe and planning and cooking meals. Dover Class have been budgeting, finding out about the prices of ingredients and making cakes, which have culminated in making a Christmas cake each.

At Milestone@Wilmington Rochester Class enjoyed a Christmas outing to Bluewater, where students accessed leisure and community activities with a lot of independence. The students have been visiting Dragon's Retreat every Thursday, developing their life and living skills, including cooking a meal for the whole class, cleaning bedrooms and bathrooms, ironing, and of course enjoying some exercise and fresh air outdoors. Upnor Class have been learning to travel in the local community, both on foot and using public buses. They have enjoyed visits to the local Farmers Market which has enabled them to practice using money to purchase drinks and cake. Hever Class have been focussing on travel training this term. The students have caught the bus into Swanley each week to access the supermarket to buy ingredients for food technology. The highlight of the term was the Christmas outing, having put aside money each week from their weekly contributions everyone had saved enough to go bowling followed by lunch at the Harvester.

This term we say goodbye to Zoe Webb, class teacher for Dover who has decided to take on new challenges. From Term 3 Dover Class will be led by Katie Collinson who has worked at Milestone for many years and knows the students in the class well. We wish you all a good Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing the students in 2017!

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

On 9<sup>th</sup> November we attended the Level 2 Boccia qualifiers. Two teams of students attended - The team from Dover class included Jessica, Liam and Isobel competing in the U19 category. We also took a team of students from Meadow class including Tracey, Kieran and Ellessio competing in the U14 category. Both teams performed really well and both qualified for the next round of the competition early next year.

On 30<sup>th</sup> November two teams of students attended the Level 2 learning disability indoor rowing qualifier (U19). The team from Dover comprised of Katie, Ben, Reece and Liam. The team from Sparta comprised of Mia, Luke, Claire and Christopher. Both teams performed really well and it was tough competition. Dover class finished in 12<sup>th</sup> place and the team from Sparta class finished in 21<sup>st</sup> place. Well done to all the students who competed.

**Katy Morez – PE Leader**

