



End of Term 1 Newsletter

Check our website for new pictures of this term's events under the News Tab



Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends

What a great start this term has been! We have successfully managed the truly innovative move of most of our 6th Form pupils to a new site at Wilmington Academy. The pupils are enjoying their new location, and have told staff that they feel they have more independence and choices.

Please rest assured we are also working very hard in fulfilling our plan to move all students' statements to EHCP's before the end of the academic year. We look forward to seeing you at your child's pre-EHC meeting in November.

I always welcome feedback so could I ask that you visit the Ofsted Parent View website. You can do this via Googling "Milestone Academy Parent View" or using the link on our website. Once in this easy to use site you can register and then respond to a 12 point questionnaire.

There is also the opportunity below to respond to the Trust SEN&D policy consultation and again I would welcome any contributions to this.

I hope you all enjoy your half term break, and look forward to welcoming the pupils back on Monday 3rd November. **Nigel Jones, Principal**

DfE Changes to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Provision for Children and Young People

As you are aware, the system for supporting children and young people with SEN and Disability is changing.

Statements of Educational Needs and Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDA) are being replaced with a single Education, Health and Care plan (EHC) for children and young people with complex needs. The EHC plan will place much more emphasis on personal goals and will describe the support your child will receive while they are in education or training.

A new SEN&D policy is currently in development and this should be available by December 2014. The draft policy is available for consultation via the Leigh Academies Trust website. There is also a link to the policy on our website www.milestoneacademy.org.uk

The consultation process closes on Friday 21st November 2014 and we would welcome your feedback. Once all comments and feedback have been analysed the final policy will be published.

Primary - We have had a wonderful start to the school year in the Primary department.

All of our new children have made an excellent transition to us and I see them come into school and leave at the end of the day happy. As I walk around the department I see our children learning in so many different ways and their enthusiasm for their learning is wonderful to see. One of the big excitements this year has been the Primary fish tank. It has long been my ambition to reintroduce a fish tank to the school, and thanks to Nigel's agreement and the support of Kerry at Heaver Tropics we now have a wonderful fish tank which is a really popular place to visit for all our children and staff. Each of our Primary classes was able to send some children to choose a fish for the tank and each class then chose a name for their fish. Some of the names are very interesting!



Thanks for so many of you who were able to come to Harvest Festival. I'm sorry I was unable to be there. It is one of my favourite events so I was really sorry to miss it. We do love to see you when you are able to get to our events and we also understand that you may not be able to be there. I hope to see many more of you at

our Nativity as that time of year is fast approaching.

I wish all of you a happy half term break. It has been a long term and I'm sure your children are tired. I hope you all get some opportunity to relax over the week off and I look forward to the children returning with their news. With very best wishes.

Dee Pickerill, Primary Vice Principal

Secondary - The secondary department welcomed sixteen new Year 7 pupils at the start of Term 1 and wished "Good Luck " to thirty three post sixteen pupils as they transitioned to new satellite provision, led very successfully by Janet Tidmas and her team within the grounds of Wilmington Academy. Three Key Stage 4 classes moved into the classrooms which were vacated by the move to Wilmington along with one 14-19 class. A third class for pupils who benefit from a sensory curriculum delivered on TEACCH principles was also set up in Jurassic. All the pupils have settled well into their classes and embraced the challenge of learning in new environments with different peers and staff.

The department welcomed four new teachers and welcomed back Lucie Featherstone who re-joined us after the birth of her daughter. The four new teachers are - Simon Stanton who is teaching Norman class, Suzannah Hall who is teaching Viking class, Tremaine Banks who is teaching Millennium and Angie Bunyan who is teaching Victorians for three days a week with Julie Crothall. The department said "Good-bye" and "Good Luck" to Michelle Hilton as she started her maternity leave. Lucie Featherstone was appointed to her Assistant Principal position until Michelle's return.

Lucie's temporary promotion has meant we immediately advertised for an outstanding teacher to teach Jurassic class with Liesl Andersson. Unfortunately we have not been able to recruit the high quality professional we are looking for yet. In term 2 therefore Liesl will continue to teach the class two days a week as now but



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her days will change to Monday and Tuesday from 3rd November. Specialist teachers will teach some lessons on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. When the class is not being taught by specialist teachers Michelle South, one of our very experienced senior teaching assistants, with a wealth of experience and skills, will lead the class. This arrangement will give the students continuity in their education as Michelle knows the students well and has been leading the class recently with Liesl. All lessons will be planned by Liesl and the students will continue to follow their personalised and highly individualised curriculums. The Academy meanwhile is continuing to advertise for an outstanding teacher and will update you once we have made an appointment.

Special events this term included a Space Day where students had the opportunity to visit a mobile planetarium and learn about propulsion and space exploration, a visit to the UTC by Norman and Saxon classes to learn about the Bloodhound group who are engineering a 1000mph car with the hope of breaking the land speed record and a Harvest Assembly led by Tudor class.

On Friday 24th October students will have the opportunity to join the Halloween Disco organised by the Friends of Milestone Academy (PTA) to celebrate the end of term 1 and start of the half term holiday. If we do not see you at this event please accept our best wishes for a happy half term holiday. **Berenice Frith, Secondary Vice Principal**

Early Years – It has been lovely to welcome back the Nursery pupils and families into their Reception Class along with a few new pupils and their families. The Foundation Stage has been very busy exploring 'Where I live', both Desert and Oasis classes have been out exploring their community with walks to the local park. The children have been buying their ingredients for their cooking lessons.

The weather has been very good and all areas of the outside have been utilised to the maximum without having to don on

our waterproofs and wellingtons. The outside construction area has a building site with large boxes, hard hats and tools where the children have been building houses.

Both classes have been enjoying topic based books and are currently enjoying the 'Three Little Pigs'. Their learning has taken them out into the forest area where they have been role playing the story with great enthusiasm.

We would like to say a big thank you to parents who have contributed to our 'Wow Wall'. The wall is full of great developments our children have achieved both at home and at school. Please keep them coming!

We have welcomed new staff into the Foundation Stage – Nicola Bailey, Meryl Marshall and Sam McIntyre. We are all looking forward to an exciting new year and we hope to see many of you at our 'stay and play' sessions as well as the many coffee mornings throughout the year. **Claire Woolmer**

Key Stage 1 - We have nearly reached the end of Term 1 and the weeks seem to be flying by!

KS1 have enjoyed following the topic of "My School" and learning about the school through lots of different lessons and themes.

We have introduced a new class to Key Stage 1 – Cove Class which takes us up to 6 classes and the class has settled in well.

Beach Class led on the harvest festival and it was a pleasure to see so many of you there supporting the department, so thank you for all of you that were able to join us. **Nicky McCarthy**

Key Stage 2 - Children in the Junior Department have enjoyed learning about 'Transport and Holidays' this term. They have been exploring what it is like to visit different places around the world and investigating the different ways we can get

to places. We also had Earth and Space week which was a great opportunity for us all to focus on our Science work. The Cubs and Brownies loved visiting the Planetarium. Each class in the Junior Department have been out to choose a class fish to go in our new Primary tank. Please watch out for more exciting news on this! **Emma Wilkinson**

Key Stage 3 - It has been a busy and exciting start to the academic year in KS3!

Viking Class have welcomed some new students in to the department, some from primary and others from different schools! Viking class have really enjoyed weekly swimming lessons at North West Kent College in term 1. - **Suzannah Hall**

Roman Class have spent the term "Under the Sea". Our sensory story has been "Rainbow Fish" and we have explored shells, water, seaweed, sand, and have had real fish to smell and taste! - **Natalie Snuggs**

Norman Class have had a great first term. We have linked our History and English work this term to cover aspects of WWII and really delved into the past to make inferences and develop our own opinions. - **Simon Stanton**

Saxon Class had the opportunity to take part in the Bloodhound experience at UTC with Norman class. We designed our own car as part of the project and Jessica Green won the design competition so her name will be featured on the Bloodhound car which will try to break the land speed records in the Kalahari Desert in South Africa - **Joanna Pieslak**

Jurassic Class have made a great start to new academic year. The highlight so far has been Space Day when we experienced the sensory side of space with moon dust and moon rocks, we also made planets and moons and some of us visited outer space in the planetarium.- **Liesl Andersson**

Tudor Class presented a brilliant assembly on the topic of Harvest this term and they



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did some gardening; collecting pumpkins to use for the harvest display. - **Sarah Brown**

Well done Key Stage 3, keep up the great work! **Noleen Donaghy (KS3 Leader)**

Key Stage 4 - Three Key Stage 4 classes moved to the previous 'FE' building in September. This has enabled the students to have more independence and to begin incorporating life skills into their curriculum, for example having the use of a small kitchen at all times. Sparta class have taken part in work related learning at Bore Place this term, Millennium Class have been learning about World War II and Victorian Class have been thinking about working as part of a team. Empire Class have enjoyed their sessions in the Aqualearn pool and sensory room and have settled well into their new classroom.

Sixth Form – All students settled well into their new classes, including the students from three classes that are now based at the Wilmington Academy site. FE1 have begun completing modules related to 'Healthy Living' as part of their accreditation work, FE2 have embraced learning about Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet, including role play, and FE3 have been making snacks as part of an accreditation module titled 'Making Food for an Event'. FE4 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and this week they visited the students based at Wilmington for an assembly. **Janet Tidmas**

ELBS – the secondary students at Land Based Studies have worked extremely hard. The new group have been working on communication in all its different forms. In this they have discussed and designed the primary pond area and have begun their hard work at weeding the pond, setting up areas for wildlife to live and looking after tools. My second year students have been looking at the care of tools, the care of plants and the potting up of seedlings, plugs and cuttings. They have planted independently garlic, onions and runner beans and they have harvested squash, petit pans and pumpkins. They

have also maintained the existing pond area in the garden. I am delighted with the progress they have all made so far this term and look forward to as much success in the year to come. **Richard Allwright, Land Based Studies Co-ordinator**

Music - Term 1 has been particularly busy in the Music department at Milestone. With the arrival of lots of new instruments including a full set of class hand bells and Suzuki tone chimes, every class have been having fun learning how to play them in groups and as a class.

The Junior Choir meet on Mondays and the senior KS3&4 Keyboard Group meet on Thursdays. Some pupils have reached the level of playing the keyboard with two hands. Well done.

Preparations are in place for Christmas and the Summer Singing Festival at Longfield Academy. Well done to all. **David Walker**

Dance - Have you heard of 'Squash the Bug' or 'The Wave'? No? Well some of the students in Key Stage 4 are exploring different Hip Hop moves like these to create cool dances of their own. This will form part of their Arts Apprentice Bronze Award which all the Arts contribute to over the year. It's very fast and great fun! **Jenny Garwood**

Therapy News - The Speech & Language Therapy Team works collaboratively with the teaching staff to support all children's speech, language and communication needs. Speech and language therapy goals are integrated into the classroom. Progress is monitored closely together with teachers. Training is provided for staff and advice is always available for parents upon request. We very much value your contributions. We have enjoyed getting to know the new children and supporting others to transition to new classes.

Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy is provided by our colleagues at Kent Community Health. We also employ an OT on a consultancy basis for a few days per

term. Do contact any member of the team if you have any questions or concerns.

Therapy Team

Find a Voice – Resource/Toy Library
7th November 2014 11.00 am – 12.30 pm
Any enquiries speak to Tim Sibson

Friends of Milestone – Dates for your Diary



Please send in your unwanted clothes etc. during the first week after half term.

School Photographer

The school photographer will be in school on Monday 3rd November, the first day back after the October half term. Early years will not be included as they use a different photographer.

Dinner Money Reminder

It is school policy that dinners are paid for in advance and it is important that dinner money accounts stay in credit in order for pupils to remain in receipt of a meal. School meals are £2.20 per day with the weekly cost being £11.00. If you would like to pay termly, the cost for Term 2 is £74.80.

When sending in dinner money please can you ensure that it is in a sealed envelope with your child's name, class, the amount and 'Dinner Money' written on it. This will help ensure that the money is correctly allocated to your child's account. The securest method of payment is by cheque which should be made payable to 'Milestone Academy' and we encourage parents to use this method rather than send in large amounts of cash.

Dinner money is run as an account system at Milestone Academy. A charge will only be made on the days that your child has a school meal and money will be credited to the account as soon as it is received. Any money left on the account at the end of a



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week is automatically carried over to the next week where it can be used against the meals for that week. This is the same for money left on the account at the end of a term and school year. It is the responsibility of parents and carers to send in the amount they would like credited to the account. We do not operate a change system. We want to avoid sending home money with the pupils as it may go missing.

If you would like to check to see if your child is entitled to free school meals, you can find the relevant information on the website www.kent.gov.uk under Education and Children or telephone 03000 416464. This cannot be arranged by the school. Free school meals cannot be back dated.

Donations – Arrow Riding Centre

A huge thank you for all your kind donations today. With your help we have raised the massive sum of c.£500 which we know the Arrow Riding Centre will be thrilled with.

