

# The Extra Mile

Term 2 2013/2014



Seasons Greetings from all at  
Milestone



## End of Term 2 – Message from Milestone Principal, Nigel Jones

Dear Milestone Families,

As we move towards the end of Term 2 of this 2013-14 Academic Year, the busy productive pace set in Term 1 has been built upon by staff and pupils.

In terms of activities, you will see many examples in this newsletter of how we look to get our pupils into experiences both beyond the classroom and beyond the school itself. These often take pupils into contexts where we give them new experiences in terms of reacting to new surroundings but also an opportunity to reinforce newly learned personal characteristics.

It was great for instance to personally join the pupils when they were part of the congregation with three other schools - Hartley Primary, Fawkham Primary and Steep Hill School at the Nine Lessons and Carols held at Milestone Academy on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. This wonderful occasion inspired all pupils from all of these schools to listen to the message of Christmas expertly delivered by the Reverend Jim Fletcher of All Saints' Church, Hartley. Equally it was a personal privilege and a pleasure to deliver one of the Nine Lessons as a Bible reading at this service. The service also brought both the outgoing Chief Executive of the Leigh Trust, Mr Frank Green CBE as well as the Chief Executive Designate of the Leigh Trust Mr Simon Beamish to attend the service and I wish to thank them for taking time out of their very busy schedules to join us.

The Christmas theme of gathering as a community was continued on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December where all students attended one of two Christingle Services again consummately led by the Reverend Jim Fletcher who asked us all to consider the meaning of Christmas. He did so by representing this meaning of Christmas via the use of an orange, a ribbon, four skewers laden with fruits/sweets and a lit candle. These stand for the Global World; the Blood of Christ; The Fruits of the Earth/The Four Seasons and The Eternal Light of Christ. I have to say that pupils certainly responded excellently to his address.

In terms of the daily work that has occurred in Term 2 we have strived to continuously build our community as a highly effective school in the 2013/14 era. Part of this drive has seen me introducing two highly credible external school improvement partners namely Peter Hare and Anne Massey.

Peter has already helped us in beginning to review our current position as a school. In turn Anne is working across the school in helping us produce a sharper data collection and analysis system in relation to tracking each pupil's progress.

The position of our school needs to be set against what is a newly introduced and far more exacting school evaluation schedule. This schedule has certainly 'raised the bar' of what is expected from schools across the land no matter what the age group being served or type of designation e.g. Special, Grammar, Comprehensive etc. Peter will work with us throughout this academic year on this front offering both support, challenge and advice across our school.



Anne's work has already seen us make great strides into placing a Termly i.e. six times a year data collection schedule and process. This will provide standardised information on each pupil's academic progress. I am pleased to say we are already into our second round of doing this. In turn we will then be able to accurately respond with appropriate interventions should any pupil not be making the expected progress.

Like any new system undertaken across our large school, we are learning how to refine this work and I am aiming, by Term 4, to deliver more robust information on this system to parents and families once it is fully embedded as part of our working culture.

As ever the school works on all fronts with the support of the Leigh Trust. An excellent example of this rich collaborative approach is the work that I know is currently occurring behind the scenes, led by the Trust, on how we can improve our car parking and drop off and pick up system across the site. More on this in the New Year!

In terms of Milestone staffing news, I wish to first of all thank Ros Little who left us as Business Manager to take on a promoted post within the NHS at the start of this term and we wish to thank her for her dedicated work here as well as wishing her all the very best in her new career path.

Of course I also want to deliver a huge thank you and good luck for the future to Sam Perryman for her 10 years of dedicated work in all areas of Teaching, Management and Senior Leadership for our pupils and staff at Milestone Academy. We wish her well as Oakley School receive Sam in January as their new Deputy Headteacher.

In turn I wish to welcome Stuart Norris into Milestone as our new Business Manager and in turn to congratulate Michelle Hilton who will now take on Sam's role as Interim Assistant Headteacher for Terms 3 and 4 whilst still overseeing Key Stage 3.

We also of course extend our full congratulations from Milestone to Mr Simon Beamish as he has now been appointed as Chief Executive Designate of the Leigh Trust. Simon will be taking on the substantive role in the New Year in succession to Mr Frank Green, CBE, who takes up his prestigious new role as Schools Commissioner for England.

On a personal level I wish to publicly thank my staff and colleagues who have, as usual, sought to deliver the very best educational service to your sons and daughters each and every day of the past Term.

Finally can I wish all Milestone families a restful and Happy Christmas.

Regards,

**Nigel Jones**



### Message from Sam Perryman

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during the past 11 years whilst I have been at Milestone. It has been my privilege to have worked with your very special children during this time and I have many fond memories to take with me to my new school.

I would like to wish you and your families the very best for the future.

**Sam Perryman**

### Primary Department

As the end of the Autumn Term approaches I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on pupils' achievements.

All of our Primary pupils have made really successful transitions to their new classes. We have welcomed Katy Morez, Katie Flint and Linda Richardson as new teachers into Primary, and in addition Tizz Read has led Meadow class. In January Nina Dipple is joining us as a new teacher leading Meadow and Tizz Read will return to Early Years. We have also welcomed some new TA's to the department and everyone has settled very well.

Our new Key Stage Leaders Claire Woolmer and Nicky McCarthy are settling well into their new posts. We are all busy looking at curriculum development in line with the launch of the New National Curriculum in September 2014.

I am delighted that all children in the Primary Department have made progress since September and we continue to set challenging targets for our children to make the best progress possible.

On a lighter note, our classes have enjoyed their class trips. Poor Father Christmas must be worn out with the number of Milestone visitors he's had! Thank you for all your support in making sure these very important events go ahead. Coast and Woodland class even braved the ice at Bluewater. I'm not sure who was more nervous – staff, parents, pupils or me waiting back at school for their return! This again was a really memorable event for the children in those classes.

Our Early Years Department and the Academy as a whole have had a very sad loss this term with the death of one of our pupils – Emily Kay. The support for Emily's family and our staff who were very close to her has been wonderful and we will all be thinking of Emily's family at this time of year.

We wish Sam Perryman, Assistant Head Teacher much happiness in her new role at Oakley School. Sam was the Primary Deputy a few years ago prior to having her children and moving to a new role. Her impact on, and support for the Primary Department in her years at Milestone cannot be underestimated in both past and current roles. Staff and pupils will miss her greatly and I will also miss an inspirational colleague who has brought huge talent, warmth and humour into our lives. Good luck Sam.



I wish all of you a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and look forward to seeing all the children and many families in the New Year.

Very best wishes to you all.

**Dee Pickerill, Primary Deputy Head Teacher**

### **Secondary Department**

This term has been yet another busy one for the Secondary Department. All pupils have been engaged in a wide variety of learning experiences both inside and outside the Academy.

The pupils in Years 10-14 celebrated their achievements at a Prize Giving and received awards and certificates for achieving nationally accredited courses. Four pupils passed Edexcel's Level 1 Unit exam in the Environment and Land Based Studies, two pupils passed their BTEC Level 1 in Hair & Beauty, three pupils achieved a BTEC Level 1 certificate for Health and Social Care, ten pupils achieved the Bronze Arts Award and fifteen pupils achieved two or more modules from OCR for Communication, Numeracy and the World of Work. In addition, one Year 13 pupil received awards for passing Functional Skills at Entry Level 2 for English and Maths. Four of last year's leavers also passed Functional Skills exams at Entry Level 1 and Entry Level 2 and a further eight leavers gained Entry Level 1 Awards or Certificates from ASDAN for Pupil Progress.

Two pupils from Years 10 and 12 met with Molly Mattingly from the When I Grow Up

project to give feedback on the last workshop and to devise questions to be put to future employers. Early in Term 3, families of pupils in Years 10 and 11 will be invited to participate in a second workshop at school in February 2014.

The enterprise group (IMPACT) made up of Year 12 students have been very busy making and selling Christmas merchandise. To date they have made over £350 which is excellent. A group of work experience students have been spending two hours a week at Gay Dawn farm in Fawkham carrying out gardening and landscaping. They have completely cleared an overgrown area, planted shrubs and put shingle around the shrubs. The area has been completely transformed and Billings Group, who provide us with this work experience, have been very impressed by the work ethic of our students.

Other students have been carrying out work experience activities in school, such as cleaning out the chickens and one student has begun work experience at the Oxfam shop in New Ash Green.

We would like to thank you for sending all the Sainsbury's tokens into school earlier in the year. The 16-19 Department were able to purchase food technology and outdoor equipment from the vouchers. Morrison's vouchers are now being collected so if you get any of these please send them into school.

The students took part in a Christingle assembly led by the Reverend Jim Fletcher and a Nativity assembly led by Vikings Class and FE1. All students enjoyed the Christmas dinner this week and Secondary Classes had great fun at the 'disco' ably



led by 'DJ Tim'.

A special mention this term must go to Bonnie Maugey from FE1 who participated in a Cross Country Event at the Leigh Academy and came 5th out of 38 students from a number of Secondary schools in the local area. Bonnie, who runs for Dartford Harriers, will be taking part in a County Cross Country event in January, representing Dartford schools – well done Bonnie!

On behalf of the pupils and staff in the Secondary Department I should like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best for a happy and healthy 2014.

**Berenice, Secondary Deputy**

### Early Years

This has been a very busy term, as the Christmas term always is. MEY joined with Key Stage 1 and we put on our 'Annual Concert'. This year the theme was Disney and all the classes in early years performed together, enjoying 'It's a Small World'. The children and staff really worked hard on this and we hope you had fun watching it.

Our interests and focus this term has been food which fitted in very well with the concert as we explored and experienced foods from around the world. The children enjoyed role playing in the Chinese Restaurant, using dry and wet foods in craft and sensory activities as well as tasting hot, cold and spicy foods.

This term the children have also been very interested in shape, finding them around both the inside and outside environments,

using them in their play and designing work. The children have enjoyed making their decorations and cards for Christmas and are looking forward to Christmas dinner and our party.

We all wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Claire and all the staff in the Early Years Department**

### KS1

Term 2 has been a very busy term for KS1 and the weeks have flown by! Towards the end of term we put on our production of "Milestone Goes to Disneyland". The concert went really well and the children were all fantastic! Thank you to all those families who were able to make it and support us. We must add a big "thank you" to Robert who helped us with the technical side and to Dee who was our Narrator.

The topic this term has been "The Weather" and the children have enjoyed learning about different types of weather as well as dressing in a variety of clothes and sorting them into the correct category.

We are now coming to the end of our Christmas celebrations and all classes have been knee deep in glitter, sequins and tinsel! All KS1 classes have been out on visits to Father Christmas either at Ruxley Manor Garden Centre, Bluewater or Broadditch Farm. We will be having a visit from Father Christmas at our party and are looking forward to our Christmas dinner. Beach class will lead the Nativity



at the end of the term.

We wish all our families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank them for their support they have given us throughout the year. I would also like to thank all class teams for their hard work and enthusiasm this term.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Nicky McCarthy, KS1 Leader**

### KS2

The Juniors have had a very busy Term 2 working hard on their topic 'Changing Materials'. As we are approaching the end of the term, our attention has been taken with all things Christmas! The children have enjoyed festive themed visits out to either Millbrook Garden Centre, Monkey Bizz, Broadditch Farm, Shorne Country Park, Pizza Hut or Bowling. They have enjoyed a special Christingle assembly and are looking forward to a party with a visit from Father Christmas, Christmas dinner and the Nativity assembly which will be hosted by Forest and Valley classes on Thursday.

Next term we will be working towards the production of our annual concert - 'The Little Mermaid', please watch out for further information. Our topic will be 'People in our Lives' and the children will be learning all about themselves, their families and also about famous people throughout history!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. I will look

forward to seeing you in 2014!

**Emma Wilkinson, KS2 Leader**

### KS3

Term two for Viking class has been busy as usual! Pupils have been working extremely hard to achieve their individual targets. Pupils have a wide vocabulary of words associated to measure. Pupils have been using rulers to measure millimetres, centimetres and metres and applying our knowledge in a functional setting. As such pupils have spent time in the market garden growing peas. Each week they kept a diary of how much the peas have grown. Pupils are also trying hard to tell the time and improve their phonic knowledge. Pupils are working through Sounds Write and have all moved at least two levels. Well done Vikings! As a treat for all their hard work this term, pupils were rewarded with a trip to Ruxley Garden Centre to go ice skating!

Victorian class have been incorporating the topic of a Victorian Christmas into English and Maths. Pupils have been working hard to transition between buildings during visits to the library where they listened and responded to The Nativity and the Night before Christmas story. Pupils have been using Numicon to assist their number knowledge and apply it to the Twelve Days of Christmas. Victorians have also been very busy cooking Christmas treats such as mince pies and shortbread biscuits. During their cookery lessons pupils have shown how sensible and careful they can be when working in a kitchen. Well done Victorian class!



Sparta class have been applying their multiplication knowledge in a class contest. Pupils were all very motivated to show off their multiplication abilities. The contest is ongoing and I look forward to hearing from the winner in the New Year! Their design technology project was to design, build and fly kites, which they did during their visits to New Ash Green. During these visits pupils were able to apply their road safety and stranger danger knowledge. Pupils have demonstrated that they know how to behave and are setting an example to younger pupils.

Pupils in Roman class have been achieving their individual targets by participating and experiencing a Thunder Flash sensory story all about the fun fair. Pupils have enjoyed tasting, smelling, listening and touching a variety of fun fair foods such as burgers, popcorn and cola. They have also experienced a ghost train and responded to a variety of UV lights and toys. Pupils in Roman class have been especially active this term during Aqua Learn sessions and using their new standing frames. Well done Roman class, keep up the great work.

Norman class have been introduced to OCR Level one Learning Towards Work, which they will continue next academic year in Key Stage Four. Pupils have participated in a variety of new activities including horticulture and caring for animals. Pupils have made huge progress during their swimming lessons and have enjoyed researching and making slippers as part of their design technology project. Their class teacher was keen to express how polite and keen to learn the pupils are. Fantastic news, keep up the positive

attitude.

Tudors are striving to achieve their personal targets and are becoming increasingly independent. Pupils are using their functional skills to use the photocopier, sweep the floor and hang and fold clothes. Pupils continue to benefit from the TEACCH approach and are using numicon to sequence numbers and complete addition and subtraction sums to twenty.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas.

**Michelle Hilton, Key Stage Three**

### **14-19 Department**

The students in the 14-19 Department have been very busy this term.

Students in Empire Class have enjoyed their first term of Work Related Learning at Bore Place, an organic dairy farm near Chiddingstone each Tuesday this term. They have carried out activities such as cleaning out the chickens, raking leaves and shovelling manure!

This term Saxon class have been busy. They have had sixth form PE students from Welling School teaching them football and rugby skills as well as having two artists from Animate Arts taking a morning workshop with the class about leadership. The students have made photo frames in Design and Technology and designed and printed Christmas cards in ICT.

Millennium Class have been learning the vocabulary for different French foods in French and during history lessons the students have been researching famous



people of their choice to complete projects on. Millennium Class visited the Leigh Academy to take part in a Remembrance Service in November and last week they enjoyed visiting Rowhill School to watch their pantomime of Cinderella.

Jurassic Class enjoyed a recent trip to the Parents Consortium and McDonalds. They spent time exploring the sensory resources available including the soft play area and the outside spaces.

All members of the 14-19 Department wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Janet Tidmas, 14-19 Leader**

### ELBS

Another brilliant term in the land based studies department.

Year two students have been studying the impact that humans have on the environment. We have looked at pollution; fossil versus clean fuels and waste management systems. We have had some very interesting fact finding visits to Pinden Ltd, Pepper Hill Household Waste Centre and to a local house which has installed PV panels as a clean method of producing energy.

All of the students have worked very hard to produce a leaflet on each area we have studied this term.

The Year one students have been learning about recycling. They took part in a waste audit at Shorne Country Park and came up with some interesting results. They have also been preparing garden beds for the

winter, and learning how to plant seeds to give them the best conditions for growing.

Now all we need is the spring!!

**Kathy Charman, LBS Co-Coordinator**

### Dance

Pupils from Ocean class had a wonderful opportunity to share some of their dance sessions this term with students from Hartley Primary Academy, who joined us on three occasions. We enjoyed working together to create dances using different actions and words, as well as having time to explore moving with the elastic ring. The mornings culminated in a social time with drinks and biscuits, which were especially enjoyed by all!

**Jenny Garwood, Dance teacher**

### Creative and Performing Arts Team

#### MILESTONE AT THE MOVIES

The FE 'Production' for the parents/carers of students in FE1, 2, 3 and 4 will be at 6pm on Wednesday July 9th 2014. This will be a black tie occasion for students and audience alike! More details will be given nearer the time, but do save the date!

The first round of projects for the FE Film Evening in July 2014 has been completed. FE3 are particularly proud of their 'L'Histoire du Cafe' and are looking forward to the official premier showing of it in July!

## MUSIC

The choir sang at Bluewater on Wednesday 27th November to an amazing audience of supporters and shoppers! For some of the younger students this was the first time they had sung with the choir in public but the audience containing familiar faces was reassuring to them. Thank you so much for coming along to support the children. They were fantastic!

Viking and Meadow class participated in a Nine Lessons and Carols Service organised for a small selection of children from within our local Parish. On Monday 2nd December, 150 children and staff squeezed into school to participate in this lovely service led by the Reverend Jim Fletcher. Our students presented a reading which was filmed and recorded in advance. They also sang a carol as a school 'solo' item. Meadow class provided some music with David for people to listen to as they arrived. Afterwards our students had the opportunity to socialise with the participating children from Hartley Primary, Fawkham and Steep Hill schools. A traditional way to start the Christmas season.

Merry Christmas everyone!

**Caroline Wilkinson and David Walker**

### News from the Nurse

Year 10 students will be offered the Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio combined vaccine in March of next year. If your

child has not had this and is in years 11, 12 or 13 and you would like them to have it done at school, please contact me and we can arrange for it to be done on the same day. Alternatively you can get this organised with your GP Practice Nurse.

Many thanks and wishing you all a very Merry Christmas.

**Joyce Chick, School Nurse**

### Therapy Team

Thank you to parents of new pupils who have completed and returned the Therapy New Pupil Questionnaire. The background information you provide helps us to get to know your child and helps us to liaise with other services involved in supporting your child so that we can continue to meet their additional needs in school.

We have enjoyed working alongside Karen Al Khina, Occupational Therapist over the last term. Karen is helping us to look at our school environment and the resources that we already have in school to help us better meet the sensory needs of so many of the pupils. Karen's work will start to focus on individual pupils next term so if you have received a consent form, please return it to school as soon as possible. Karen's list of pupils is long so please do not worry if you have not yet received a form. I trust she will be in touch one way or another.

Danielle Cotton, Physiotherapist, new to the Kent Community Health Team will be working in school along with Carolyn



Parker to support our pupils.

The new contact numbers for wheelchair services is:

03007900128 for Wheelchair Clinics

01304 842321 for Maintenance

Please remember it is the families' responsibility to maintain home equipment. Should repairs need to be carried out at school, please provide the appointment details to Anne Cherriman.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas from

**Liz, Julia, Tim, Jamie, Terri and Anne**

### PE Department

A qualified coach has been coming in each week to work with students in our PMLD classes. He has been working on physical development targets which have been set after meeting with myself and each of the class teachers. We have been really pleased with how the students have been progressing and how well the coach has interacted and helped develop their skills. The coach will be employed one day per week for the rest of the school year and this will be paid for from the Primary school Sports premium.

Alongside the physical development targets, one of our STA's, Charlotte Trevett, is doing some great work with PMLD students in developing them physically in a more sensory way in a weekly rebound therapy session. Some of the students taking part in this programme are making excellent progress.

Our school has applied to become a

member of the Youth Sports Trust which will open up some really good contacts and offer staff an opportunity to enhance their skills in order to improve the standard of sports and PE at Milestone.

Students from Meadow class have been taking part in a weekly sports enrichment programme at the Cyclopark in Gravesend. The students have really enjoyed it and four of the students can now ride a bike independently after taking part in the five week programme.

Have a great Christmas

**Steve Devereux**

### Site News

A short piece from us this issue as Rosalyn Little has recently moved on to a new challenge outside of Milestone and the Trust, leaving the position of Business Manager, where she has worked with the team to make a number of improvements to the Academy site in the last year.

I have recently joined the team as her replacement and intend to continue the improvements, building on the good foundations that have been put in place to make the site safer, friendlier and easier to use.

Whilst on the subject, we are reviewing the traffic situation in the car park, trying to reduce congestion at peak times and ensure the safety of the students. We appreciate everyone working with us on this and could we just remind people that there is a 5 MPH limit on site for the safety of all.



I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

**Stuart Norris, Business Manager**

**Friends of Milestone**

Congratulations to the following winners of the Grand Prize Draw.

**Mrs Deal – 1<sup>st</sup> Prize (TV)**

**Mrs Dennis – 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (Sat Nav)**

**Mr and Mrs Ley – 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize (Hamper)**



## TERM DATES 2013-2014

### Term 3

School opens Monday 6th January 2014

School closes Wednesday 12th February 2014

**Staff Training – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

### Holiday

Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2014

### Term 4

School opens Monday 24th February 2014

School closes Friday 4th April 2014

### Holiday

Monday 7th April to Monday 21st April 2014

### Term 5

**Bank holiday Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

School opens on Tuesday 22nd April 2014

School closes Friday 23rd May 2014

### Holiday

Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2014

### Term 6

School opens Monday 2nd June 2014

School closes Wednesday 23rd July 2014

### Holiday

Thursday 24th July to Monday 8th September 2014 (subject to change)

### **Staff Training 2013-2014**

*Monday 2nd September 2013*

*Tuesday 3rd September 2013*

*Wednesday 4th September 2013*

*Thursday 13th February 2014*

*Friday 14th February 2014*