



End of Term 3 Newsletter



Dear Families and Friends

We were proud to host some important guest speakers to Milestone this term, to support Story Telling week. We had visits from the Mayor of Dartford, Lord Roberts and one of our Governors, Mike Brown, to join in with storytelling and debates across the school, and we wish to thank our visitors for their support. Thank you to Kyle Marsh for organising such a very successful event.

As always, thank you to all the staff and pupils for their hard work this term, and we look forward to the challenges ahead in Term 4!

Enjoy your half term break – **Nigel Jones**

Primary – Our Primary children were very pleased to come back after Christmas to a newly refurbished playground. We now have lots of new equipment such as a low wooden bridge, stepping stones and tyres set into the ground to climb on. The most exciting piece of new equipment is a wheelchair accessible roundabout. This is flat to the ground so all our children are equally able to access it and they have been having lots of fun. There is new safety flooring too so everyone can play safely. **Dee Pickerill**

Secondary – Term 3 seems to have come and gone so quickly but nevertheless been very eventful. We are pleased to report that three new teachers have or will be joining the Secondary department. They are as follows:

Geeta Hepton – leading Vikings

Zoe Masters – will be leading Jurassic

Donna Ludlow – will be joining us in Term 5 in Tudors

Sarah Brown is going to teach at our Satellite provision at Wilmington Academy in FE1 and as an interim arrangement Lesley Chilvers will lead in Jurassic until Donna Ludlow joins us.

The highlight of this term for the pupils was undoubtedly Storytelling Week where different classes listened to stories from both familiar and unfamiliar people. Our thanks go to Kyle Marsh for organising such a successful event.

The “Friends of Milestone” also arranged for the classes to see “Sinbad the Sailor” performed by the West Midland Theatre Company which was enjoyed by all.

We hosted another Police Cadet from Kent Police who joined several classes to learn about the ways in which our young people communicate and the challenges they face on a daily basis.

Happy half term to you all. **Berenice Frith**

Early Years - It was good to welcome back the pupils after the Christmas holidays with a new environment for them to explore and learn in. We have now opened our new Jungle Room which is a multi-sensory learning environment promoting learning for all of their senses. In addition to this exciting area we have been using the local area to learn about the people who help us in our local community. The children have visited the shops and exchanged their money for different items. They have also visited the people who help them in school.

We took part in the Chatterbox Challenge, the children learned a song and took part in activities inside and out – looking for ducks and being part of the ‘big song’ with the Speech and Language Team singing and signing ‘Five Little Ducks’.

Key Stage 1 - Our Topic in KS1 this term has been ‘Toys and Games’ and the children have had a great deal of fun exploring old and new toys and even making different puppets.

In Science we have been learning about Forces, which has involved experimenting with ‘pushing and pulling’ various wheeled items around the school and has also given

the pupils even more chance to take advantage of our lovely new playground equipment.

Beach and **Woodland** Classes have continued to work hard on their individually tailored learning programmes.

Field Class hosted a really enjoyable special assembly to celebrate the Chinese New Year, during which the pupils were able to show us all the masks and lanterns that they had worked so hard to produce especially for the event. It was great that so many of the pupils’ parents were able to come along and see the pupils re-enact the story of The Great Race.

Congratulations from all the Key Stage to Nicky, who gave birth to her daughter Imogen at the end of January.

Many thanks to everyone in KS1 for all their hard work and support this Term.

Nina Dipple (Maternity cover)

Key Stage 2 - This term the juniors have been learning about ‘Looking after ourselves’. As well as working hard on their Maths and English skills, they have been looking at morning, evening and school routines and how we should do everyday tasks properly such as washing our hands. Some classes have been learning about road safety whilst others have been meeting people who help us around school and in the community. We enjoyed a visit from Tim the fireman in a special assembly. Please keep your eye out for photos on the website. Next term we are learning about ‘The Senses’. **Emma Wilkinson**

Key Stage 3 - **Viking** class have enjoyed continuing to study the work of Charles Dickens and this term they have been focusing upon Oliver Twist.

Roman class have ‘followed the yellow brick road’ and flown to Neverland using both Peter Pan and the Wizard of Oz to support sensory learning.



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The school Governor Mike Brown came to visit the key stage three department and visited **Norman** class to read a story in celebration of storytelling week.

Tudor have been exploring the moon, earth and sun in science and Saxon class are going to Ifield School to take part in the Sporthall athletic event. They have been training hard for the event during their P.E lessons. **Noleen Donaghy**

Key Stage 4 - KS4 have had a busy term. **Jurassic** Class have continued their community participation and **Sparta** Class worked well on their return to Bore Place as part of work related learning. **Victorians** Class have welcomed back Emma Mason from maternity leave who is now leading the class on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. **Millennium** Class have been learning about life in World War II and have also participated in a visit to Dickens' World. All pupils enjoyed taking part in activities as part of Safer Internet Day this week.

Sixth Form - The Enterprise group held a successful Valentine's Day sale this week, making over £100 profit which they were very pleased with. The Year 14 students have settled well into their work experience placements. We currently have students placed at Oxfam in New Ash Green, Tuck by Truck in Erith, Milestone Early Years Department, Cucina Catering at Milestone, Maidenhead Aquatics in Hawley Garden Centre and Billings in Fawkham. We would like to thank all these employers for their continued support. Other Year 14 students are completing internal placements, learning new skills such as office management and grounds maintenance.

All sixth form students attended a talk by All Directions, a day service supporting adults in Dartford, who shared the activities and holiday sessions that they deliver. Some students also chose to attend an interactive 'Career Crowd

Workshop' delivered by Cragrats looking at different career paths. **Janet Tidmas**

Art - It has been a busy term in the arts department as we are once again involved with the INSPIRE project. Three schools from Maidstone and Dartford were invited to Milestone to join us for a Big Arts Day with the Propeller Theatre Company. Meanwhile the other classes in KS3 are involved in a sculpture project whilst KS4 are exploring Picasso as part of the Bronze Arts Award. **Liesl Andersson**

Dance – Over this term students from KS2 and KS4 have had opportunities to share their dance sessions with pupils from other schools. This has been an enjoyable activity and a way to meet new friends and learn from different experiences. Victorian class participated in two Hip Hop workshops, one being at Milestone and one at Ifield School. Pupils from Hartley Academy also visited our school on three occasions to work together with Mountain class. Children enjoyed a working time together and also had a chance to socialise with new friends. **Jenny Garwood**

Therapy News – Children in the Early Years had fun joining in the "I Can Chatterbox Challenge" during the morning of 5th February. Children, staff and therapy team explored their inside and outside environments by going on a duck hunt. Back in the class room children counted their ducks in exchange for a named rubber duck and had fun singing and signing '5 little ducks went swimming one day'.

I Can, the children's communication charity aims to raise funds and promote the work of the charity to help children with speech, language and communication difficulties. There is a wealth of information for families on their website and I would encourage you to look if you can <http://www.ican.org.uk/>.

On Friday 6th February the therapy team hosted a coffee morning for staff. This was our contribution to National Storytelling Week. The idea was to promote the importance of communication. It was lovely to have a chat with colleagues over a cuppa and slice of cake and I trust the feel-good factor went back to the classrooms to benefit the children. The 'icing on the cake' was that we also raised £54.07 for Macmillan Cancer Care.

Please contact Liz Skilton directly if you would like to discuss any speech & language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy related matters.

Friends of Milestone

Please see the attached Letter from the Friends of Milestone.

