



Cherry Blossom

End of Term 5 Newsletter



Dear Parent, Carers Families and Friends

Welcome to our Term 5 Newsletter. In keeping with my communication to you all at the end of Term 4, I am responding to comments on our recent parent survey that suggested a briefer newsletter should also be considered. Hence this condensed version is supplied now and the same will be produced in Terms 1 and 3. Terms 2, 4 and 6 will provide you with a more expansive version of this newsletter.

In addition to all the wonderful work that is captured in this newsletter, some key points I wish to note are as follows:

- The Governors are pleased to announce that 3 Milestone colleagues (following a National advert and a rigorous interview process led by Chair of Governors Theresa Davies) have been appointed to Assistant Principal Posts at Milestone from September. Congratulations therefore goes to; **Claire Woolmer, Janet Tidmas and Michelle Hilton**. I look forward to these colleagues joining the Milestone Senior Leadership Team and taking a crucial role in shaping Milestone's future.
- We are taking the exciting steps of relocating the majority of our current FE setting to substantial buildings that currently exist at the front of a fellow Leigh Trust Academy located at Wilmington. Most importantly this unique development will help prepare our young people with their transition into adulthood and will also give them the chance to use some of Wilmington Academy's state of the art facilities including the sports hall and food technology room. I have already had an initial, excellently attended, meeting with parents, families and pupils and we are now ensuring all parties will have a chance to see these facilities before they start in September. Many thanks must be given to Neil Willis, Deputy Chief Executive of the Trust, for relentlessly searching in the local area for such FE premises for Milestone and

then for finally securing these premises at Wilmington. The same thanks needs to be accorded to Tracey Trusler, Principal of Wilmington Academy, for ensuring we will have the future use of this building. This move is a great example of the benefit of Milestone being a member of The Leigh Trust.

STOP PRESS - The Summer School is taking shape! Stuart Norris, Milestone's Business Manager has been working closely with an external provider to ensure this occurs. This will be held during the two weeks of our August Holiday 11th to 15th and 18th to 22nd August. I wish to note that The Trust have been absolutely instrumental in sourcing this provider – a company who I know have previously delivered summer camps in similar settings to Milestone. As these dates have just been established during the past few days, an information letter to parents/families will be sent out during week 1 of our next Term.

Finally I wish to thank Kelly Maleed and the Friends of Milestone who led the organisation of an excellent Spring Ball for pupils and their families this past Wednesday evening. It was a pleasure to attend and it was an undoubted success thoroughly enjoyed by all – staff, pupils and families.

Also many thanks to Ami (on Reception) for compiling this newsletter.

May I wish you all a restful Whitsun Week's holiday and see you again on Monday the 2nd June.

Secondary – A Date for your diary for Post 16 families is Wednesday June 11th for visits to the satellite provision at Wilmington Academy at 2.15pm & 6.30pm.

Congratulations to those pupils who have received the Art Award.

Gill Whitlock and I were fortunate to visit Vienna from May 5th – 7th to complete the Comenius project on non-verbal communication and gesture. This project began in 2012 and will result in an online

tool that will help everyone from our partner countries, Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Italy, Portugal, Turkey & UK communicate better. We will be able to give you the link to this online tool once the book has been edited. Best Wishes for a happy half term to all families. **Berenice Frith**

Early Years - A quick note from Early Years. The focus this term has been 'Bears', through traditional tales such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears and a favourite sensory story, We're Going on a Bear Hunt. This whole topic was rounded off by a Department visit to the park for a Teddy Bears Picnic. The children have enjoyed learning the stories and fully immersing themselves in the sensory and challenging activities around the various indoor and outdoor learning areas. **Claire Woolmer**

Key Stage 1 - The topic this term has been "animals" and all of the classes have enjoyed learning about them and their habitats. River Class are visiting Kent Life Museum where they will be able to meet and interact with lots of animals at the farm. Lake Class have had a vet's surgery set up in their role play area and the children have enjoyed making the toy animals better.

As usual the term has flown by and we are now looking forward to our KS1 activity week which will take place on week beginning 16th June. Our theme is "on the farm" where we will take part in a range of activities including digging and planting our own seeds. There will be a key stage trip where we are all going to the Hop Farm and I'm sure a fun day will be had by all! **Nicky McCarthy**

Key Stage 2 - This term the juniors have been learning all about 'Countries and Cultures'. They have been using their senses to explore and have enjoyed going on interactive journeys to many wonderful places such as the French Alps, Turkey, Iceland, Africa and India. Next term we will be learning all about 'Living Things'.

We will also look forward to activity week, sports day and Maths week. Please watch out for further information. **Emma Wilkinson**

Key Stage 3 - All pupils have worked extremely hard in term five and teachers continue to closely monitor pupil's progress and celebrate their achievements. Pupils have enjoyed participating in and learning about May Day, St George's Day and Sweeps festival. We are all very much looking forward to learning more about particular artists during Shape, Space and Measure week in term six. **Michelle Hilton**

14-19 Department - FE1 have spent this year focusing on the show Les Miserables as part of their art carousel. As a culmination of their work they recently took part in a workshop at the Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Lane and then watched a matinee performance of the show. All the students thoroughly enjoyed their experiences and have not stopped talking about it since!

Saxons Class have worked hard during their work related learning sessions at Bore Place this term. They have mostly been lucky with the weather and have spent time clearing the rapidly growing weeds.

Millennium class have taken part in swimming lessons this term and many students are showing much more water confidence over time.

Choices 14+ Event - Thank you to all the families who attended the Choices 14+ Careers Event held at school on Wednesday 7th May. The number attending was almost double that of some previous years and feedback has been very positive from both families and providers regarding this valuable event in the school year. **Janet Tidmas**

ELBS - Land based studies students have been busy in the garden, especially now that spring has most definitely sprung. The 'Introduction to Horticulture' group are continuing to develop skills such as potting up, planting seeds straight into the garden and erecting runner bean frames. It is great to see the maturity which this group has developed throughout this year,

enabling them to become much more independent with their horticulture work.

The Land based studies group have their exam approaching, they have all been revising very hard and completing mock examination questions very successfully. This group have their exam on 6th June, and we wish them all well. **Kathy Charman**

PE - Milestone linked up with Valence School and won the West Kent Multi Sports Panathlon. They will join up again for the all Kent Final on June 11th at Sevenoaks School.

Our Under 14s Boccia team won a Kent School Games gold medal last week. The under 19s team finished runners up in their category and received a silver medal.

We have started running some 'Change for Life' Sports clubs/lunchtime activities to increase participation in sport and increase fitness levels of students within the school. These clubs are run by staff and supported by young sports leaders at the school and will take place every day at lunchtime.

Sports Day - 9 & 10 June (one day will be a reserve day). **Steve Devereux**

Music - Well done to all of the pupils at Milestone for completing their work in music. At all key stages this has included class performances of various kinds, using the classroom instruments e.g. we played some famous British Marches, Land of Hope and Glory, Dam Buster's March and the Proclaimer's March 500 Miles. Jurassic excelled themselves by using the Boom Wacker's with their pop piece, whilst key stage 1 & 2 classes learned some new action songs that involved singing and using instruments - a fantastic term of music making from all. Dates for the diary Primary Choir at the Longfield Music Festival Wednesday 2nd July 2014. **David Walker**

Dance - Over the term students from Milestone Academy have participated in shared dance sessions with pupils from other schools. FE1 travelled to Northfleet School for Girls to conclude their Hip Hop workshop by showing their finished class sequence they had produced while children from KS2 in Ifield School came to

share a session on travelling action words. Both lessons provided wonderful experiences, not only to improve dance skills but also to work together and be inspired by other people. **Jenny Garwood**

Therapy News - Jamie is running a parent signing workshop on 25 June 10.00-12.00. Letters will be sent home in the first week back. Places are limited so book early. He will run another session in the autumn term.

There will be an annual signing concert. Dates to be confirmed.

Find a Voice will next be in school on Friday 13 June at 11.00. Do have a look at their website to see what is available. Equipment and toys can be borrowed free of charge for six weeks.

Therapy Team

Contact details for Lesley Tannock, our Careers and Transition Advisor are 07718 268739 and lesley.tannock@latrust.org.uk. She often has her phone on silent when in meetings but parents should leave their details on her voicemail and she will return their call.

Friends of Milestone – Dates for your Diary

Summer Fete – Sat 12th July 11am – 2pm

Father's Day Gift Room – Tues 10th June