

OCTOBER 2022



REQUESTS

A reminder to please:

- Ensure that you keep to the school speed limit of 5mph - this is for the safety of all our children.
- Covid is still with us. If your child is unwell, please keep them at home. We are able to test pupils in school (with your permission only). If children test positive, they should stay at home for a minimum of 3 days.
- Please do not bring dogs onto the school site. Some of our pupils are afraid of them, and just hearing a dog bark can make pupils anxious.
- Children should only be absent for holidays as a last resort. Holiday absence forms should be submitted as far in advance as possible, and the child's attendance record will be taken into account when holiday requests are considered.

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to a new academic year, especially to our new pupils and parents. I am getting out to the classes to meet the new pupils and meeting them on the playground, and all seem to be settling in well and making friends. As I write this, it is a beautiful, sunny day, but it is definitely getting colder.

This is the first newsletter of the year - we will be sending newsletters out at the end of every term. We are at the end of Term 1, and the pupils have settled well to their new classes. Walking round the school this morning, I have seen some fantastic lessons, lovely displays and pupils happily engaged in their learning. It has also been good to see Foundation Dept parents arriving for the first of the Harvest Assemblies. The others will take place between now and the Half Term break.

Those of you with children in Middle Dept may have heard that Kara, Head of Middle dept fell a couple of weeks ago and broke her kneecap. She is healing well and is still working from home despite some discomfort. I know you will join me in wishing her a very speedy recovery. We look forward to welcoming you into the school for parents evenings. Have a very happy Half Term Break.



10 YEARS OF THE SPACE

This year we celebrate 10 years of The Space!

We thank all of the staff for their hardwork and dedication. Our aim is for all students to enjoy learning, make progress and achieve and The Space's self-contained unit, along with it's staff, make this happen.

Happy Birthday to The Space!

KEY DATES

School breaks up : Fri 21st Oct
School resumes : Weds 2nd Nov
Parents Evening : Weds 9th Nov

Winter Fayre :
Sat 19th Nov, 12pm until 3pm

REMOVING OBSTACLES AND ENABLING ACCESS TO LEARNING



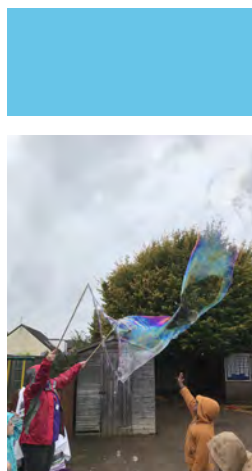
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FOUNDATION

The Foundation Department would like to welcome everyone back after the break, and say a special hello to our new pupils, families and members of staff.

We had a fantastic day with Cheryl, and her bubbles, whose visit had to be postponed in the summer due to the heatwave! This week we have celebrated Harvest festival and would like to thank everyone for their kind donations for the food bank.

It's been a great start to the term.
The Foundation Department Team



MIDDLE

It has been a busy, albeit fun, Term 1 in the Middle Department. Our 'Soldiering on' topic has facilitated opportunities for all of the pupils to persevere in tasks and activities, at their individual level. From supporting physical development to academic classroom work, we are so proud of the pupils' determination to 'try their best' and 'keep going'.

We welcomed many pupils moving up from Foundation Department and new pupils from other schools, into Middle Department, this September. A special trip to the circus, to welcome our new pupils to The Milestone, was thoroughly enjoyed. Everyone has settled in brilliantly – making new friends, and adapting to the Middle Department's Curriculum:

'Practising my skills to support me to learn'

You can see more on what we've been doing on page 3.

The Middle Department Team



SENIOR

We have had a very busy start in the senior department this year. The pupils in KS4 have been working away on their qualifications and visiting their prospective colleges for next year. Pupils in KS3 have begun work on their new topic 'Ancient Civilizations' and have been learning about the Ancient Greeks and Egyptians. We have also been focusing on careers and pupils have had employer encounter experiences and work experience opportunities.

Our football teams have also started their fixtures against other special schools, organised by our own Joe Page. This is a great opportunity for them to play regular fixtures and they are thoroughly enjoying it.

The Senior Department Team



REMOVING OBSTACLES AND ENABLING ACCESS TO LEARNING



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SUPPORT FOR LEARNING

The Support for Learning team at The Milestone School consists of three members of staff: Dan Tyreman, Kerrie Mason and Jo McCalla. With a combined experience of over 60 years, the team have a wide range of experience and knowledge within the education profession.

The purpose of the Support for Learning team is to support the behaviour and pastoral needs of pupils across the school, as effectively as possible. This is a rewarding role, as allows us to build positive relationships with pupils of all ages and support their progression throughout their time at school. We have regular meetings with class teams, parents and external agencies to agree strategies and ensure our collective approach is as consistent as possible.

Within the Support for Learning team, there are some individual roles and responsibilities, for example, Kerrie is the school Attendance Officer and DSO, and Dan is the lead Team Teach trainer. Further roles, shared between the team, also include: delivering nurture groups, electing and overseeing School Prefects, assisting sports clubs and class trips, and overseeing behaviour related documentation/online systems (we won't bore you with this!). The team also has an open-door policy for all staff, who often choose to come in and reflect on their day. We are available for parents to come and see us on Parents' Evening if you want to discuss anything with us.

In the Support for Learning team, every day is different, which makes our role good fun. The best part about our job has to be seeing our amazing pupils happy and thriving at school.

FUNDRAISING

Parents, Guardians & Carers you are all now automatically members of our Friends Association – further details will follow. Our next big event is the Winter Fayre on Sat Nov 19th – please do come along and support – it will be a fun day with stalls selling gifts and games for the children to play...we're expecting a visit from a special seasonal guest too! Table space is available, simply email: fundraiser@milestone.sandmat.uk

Our big fundraising project this year and next is to improve our outdoor spaces particularly in Early Years and the Middle School. To complete all the desired work will cost upwards of £75,000 your support and that of local businesses and charities is vital to this project – if you know of anyone who can help us, please let us know. Earlier in the year, Felix Thompson (Class S6 & Neil Teague both overcame huge physical challenges to complete the Bourton 1k and raised us well in excess of £3000 thank you both. Have you joined our Friends School Lottery yet... £1 could win you £250 and 50p of every ticket comes back to the school. <https://www.onelottery.co.uk/support/the-friends-of-the-milestone-school> - join us now

Look out for the posters opposite for more information!

WORK EXPERIENCE

Nicky doing his work experience at The Chamwell centre



Miles doing his work experience in the front office

KEEP AN EYE OUT



REMOVING OBSTACLES AND ENABLING ACCESS TO LEARNING



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FAMILY SUPPORT

Louise, Mel and Karla make up the Family Support Team. They are here to help, support and signpost to Early Help Services, housing referrals, transport and anything you feel you and your family need support with.

They run a parent support page on Facebook named The Milestone School Gate so please join us on there. We also hold monthly coffee mornings, often with guest speakers so please look out for dates.

Call us at anytime on 01452 874045.

ROOM HIRE

*Do you run a club or plan events
and need a space to hire?*

We have various spaces available,
contact us to enquire :
bookings@milestone.sandmat.uk

NEW MENU

New School Menu next term!
Visit our website for details.

'SOLDIERING ON' IN MIDDLE DEPARTMENT



We introduced our 'Soldiering On' topic with some fun topic launch days. 'Soldiers' from M.A.D (Military Activity Days) were a 'great hit' with the pupils – everyone experienced being a soldier, and challenged themselves by having a go at completing the accessible obstacle course; some even with heavy army rucksacks on their backs!

We were also very fortunate to have welcomed Chris and Roy from the Gloucester Community Network, sharing their work of the 'War out Reach in Schools' (W.O.R.S) programme. Pupils had the opportunity to try on army clothing, hats, rucksacks and engage with a variety of artefacts. Chris shared stories of his adventures and videos of WW1, to bring 'history to life'.

I know many of you have enjoyed seeing these wonderful events on ClassDojo, and how your child is really enjoying their experiential learning. If you have not signed up to ClassDojo yet, please do so – it really is a fab way to keep in contact, and most importantly for class teams to share your child's achievements with you.

Some classes have started to enjoy trips out into the community, such as community walks, GL1, the airport and our amazing trip to the circus. I know there are many more exciting trips planned for next term, as well as a visiting Pantomime for the whole Department to enjoy.

We hope you have a lovely half-term and we look forward to seeing the children for what always is a busy Autumn Term 2, with all the Christmas activities and events.

We look forward to seeing you on Parents' Evening (9th November) and at our Christmas event on the 19th December. Kara and The Middle Department Team.