



Dear Families,

Update from Stephen

We are thrilled to welcome you to the first issue of our new school newsletter!

We hope you are all well and are looking forward to the upcoming Easter Holidays. It has been a great year so far at The Milestone School and it has been a privilege to be trusted to care for, nurture, develop and keep our pupils and staff safe. Our dedicated, passionate, highly skilled, friendly, happy and amazing staff team have worked so hard to provide the very best support for our children this year.

We continue to promote and live our new core values for our school community:

- Be Brave in everything we do.
- Be Kind to everyone we meet.
- Be Safe everywhere in school.

We believe these values foster a positive and supportive learning environment for all, allowing children and staff to flourish and reach their full potential.

We continue to be dedicated to providing your children with the best possible opportunities for learning and personal growth. We encourage you to stay connected with us and look forward welcoming you into school as much as possible so you can experience first-hand the amazing place The Milestone School really is. If you have any feedback on our new newsletter, what it contains or any ideas for the future, please do contact us through your child's class teacher.

Stephen Dowell
Headteacher

Department Updates

To support our topic 'Let's Go To China' the whole of the Foundation department celebrated with our very own Chinese New Year party. All classes contributed fantastic themed decorations and spent the afternoon together in hall smelling, touching and tasting a variety of foods, including noodles, rice, prawn crackers and fortune cookies. Our thanks goes to Faye at Asda for their generous donation to support this event.



Smiles and laughter could be heard all around and we cannot wait for our next whole department celebration!



World Book Day in Middle Department was such fun! Harry Potter was certainly a favourite character for many. Pupils listened to stories read by the Senior Leadership Team, such as Captain Underpants and The Disgusting Sandwich. Some classes visited the local Library and others enjoyed all their favourite books in classes.

We are extremely proud of the Milestone Middle football team – they participated in the Hartpury tournament, played 7 games in total and were the Champions of their group. Excellent football was played by each and every one of the players and such great sportsmanship. Well done Team!



The Senior Department have had a very busy term with so much going on. In KS3 pupils have been busy learning about the Ancient Greeks amongst many other topics. Classes have been out on trips to places such as the Life Skills Centre and Gloucester Quays and KS4 pupils have been busy completing BTEC modules and taking maths exams. KS4 pupils have also been taking part in P16 link days, where they have attended their potential P16 destination to get a taste of what it will be like.



We have also taken part in the Hartpury football tournament, entering four teams. As reigning champions, the KS4 team took the title for a second year, well done all!



Reading

One of the first things you can do to support your child's reading at home is to ask your child's teacher the level that they are working for reading. If you ask your child to read things that are beyond their reading level, this may impact on their desire and motivation to read. Every reading experience your child has should be positive.

Some suggested ideas for supporting reading at home—

- * Share books at home—read stories to your child, using expression and excitement throughout.
- * Use rhymes and familiar songs to engage with children through shared enjoyment.
- * Encourage children to handle books and draw their attention to pictures, pointing to different parts, naming them or what is happening, to tell the story without reading through each page.
- * Provide pupils with opportunities to engage with reading opportunities—magazines, leaflets, shopping lists, signs in the environment .
- * Point out words and labels, signage, and symbols in the environment and in books to help develop children's understanding of what words mean.
- * Put subtitles on the TV to enable pupils to make a link with reading and writing.

Personal Development

Personal development (PD) is a whole school approach that takes priority at Milestone school to ensure that the pupils are regulated and ready to learn.

We are a **THRIVE** school!

Attune – match the child's energy using your body, face and voice

"Oh wow! I can see your face is red and your hands are clenched!"

Validate – let the child know it's OK to have the feeling

"I'm wondering you are feeling cross. If that happened to me I would feel that way too"

Contain – be alongside as a helpful, supportive adult

"I can see this is hard for you. I will keep you safe"

Regulate – soothe or stimulate the child back to social engagement

"Let's breath together until you feel calmer"

Each class does their own version of an emotional check throughout the school day to support self-regulation and awareness of feelings.

Do you have something similar you use at home to support self-regulation and emotional literacy? Speak to your class teacher for more details about Thrive practice and activity ideas to try at home.

Come & join

The Friends of The Milestone School

Have you time
you can give
to our PTA?

Contact us today to see
how you could be the
difference...

fundraiser@milestone.sandmat.uk
07585 057468



BE THE CHANGE

VOLUNTEER &
MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

School Council

The Milestone School Council has representatives from all departments and we meet at least every 4 weeks. In addition, we undertake events across the school that are fun, with some raising money for charities.

Our most recent events include the Pied Piper cake sale where we raised £258 for this fantastic charity!

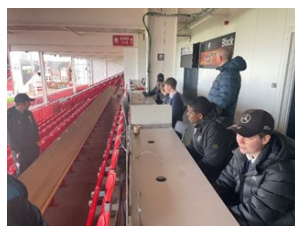
Keep your eyes peeled for what is coming next!



Careers

This term as well as some interactive career lessons in class, we have had lots of additional experiences to help and support the Careers programme and Preparing for Adulthood for pupils in our school. These have included:

- Year 10 mock interviews.
- Visit from actor James Moore (Emmerdale) talking about his job as an actor.
- Hand on experience at ASDA, Gloucester.
- KS4 employee encounter morning—visited by a chef working in a prison, a security officer at Gloucester Quays and various employees from the Cheltenham Animal Shelter.
- Visit to Kingsholm Stadium to find out about job opportunities there.
- Visit to SkillZONE to support the development of a new Preparation for Adulthood programme.
- Work experience at Gloucester Quays focusing on customer service roles.



We would like to thank Gloucester Rugby, The Quays, Cheltenham Animal Shelter, James Moore and ASDA for working in partnership with us to enable these experiences for our young people. We help to also raise awareness of inclusion and accessibility with many of these employers.

Diary Dates

May

May—KS4 Exams

June

06/06—Parents Evening

11/06—Foundation Maths Day

15/06—Friends Summer Fun Day

18/06 + 19/06—Sports Days

22/06—The Mile of Roses Concert

July

04/07—Transition Parents Evening

08/07—Shuffle Up Day

11/07—Leaver's Prom

15/07—Reports Home

16/07—Middle's Got Talent

17/07—Foundation Celebration Assembly

19/07—Leaver's Assembly