



## Update from Stephen

As we reach the end of another academic year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible achievements and the positive, nurturing environment we have cultivated here at The Milestone School. Our pupils, who face significant challenges, have shown remarkable **Bravery**, growth and resilience. Their successes are a testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire school community.

Throughout the year, we have seen our pupils thrive in an environment that prioritises their individual needs and development. From our successful sports fixtures, like Milestone Athletics' victory against Alderman Knight School, to the heart-warming Harvest celebration and the impressive money raised for Children in Need and our Autism Acceptance Week, our school has demonstrated both excellence and a strong sense of community spirit.

To our pupils, your hard work and enthusiasm inspire us every day. You have shown us what it means to overcome challenges with bravery, **Kindness**, courage and determination.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our amazing staff, whose unwavering commitment and passion have made such a positive impact on our pupils. Your tireless efforts do not go unnoticed, and I am deeply grateful for each one of you. Their commitment to keeping every pupil **Safe** has been truly commendable.

A special thank you goes to all our stakeholders – families, LAB members, Trustees and community members – for your continued support and involvement in our school. Your partnership is invaluable, and together, we create a supportive and inclusive environment where our pupils can flourish.

I am thrilled to share the wonderful news of the amazing charity concert organised by the Wakeman family. Their efforts have raised a substantial amount of money that will benefit all 327 pupils at our school. This generous contribution will enable us to enhance our resources and provide even more opportunities for our pupils to learn and grow.

As we look back on this year, let us take a moment to celebrate the milestones we have reached and the bonds we have strengthened. It is through our collective efforts that The Milestone School continues to be a place where every child and staff member is valued and supported.

Wishing you all a restful and joyful summer break. I look forward to welcoming you back for another year of learning, growth, and success. With gratitude and best wishes,



 Stephen  Dowell  Headteacher

## Department Updates



This term, each class in the **Foundation Department** has enjoyed a Summer term trip to one of the following: Bournstream, Rugrats and Halfpints, Slimbridge Wetlands or Cotswold Farm Park. The children all had a fantastic time!

Sara Watters has been successful in getting a new role for the MAT and so we will greatly miss our longstanding Senior LP. We are however pleased to announce that Kayleigh Hennessy will be taking over for the next academic year.



**Middle Department** have been taking their learning outside of school during the Spring and Summer Terms, supporting our pupils' learning, personal

development and life skills; as well as having great fun of course! Classes have been to Cattle Country, the Willow Boat, Pittville Park, Gloucester Cathedral, The Big Health Check, the Forest of Dean, taken part in sporting events and competitions, as well as our own Sports' Day and our whole Department trip to Beechenhurst.

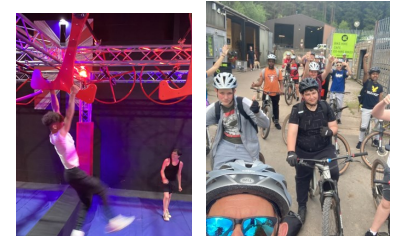


Some pupils in Middle Department were part of the INCFEST festival, where special schools from across the county joined together to put on the most fantastic music performance. The schools came together for many weeks, facilitated by the Music Works, to practise for the event and the hard work really paid off! The performance was thoroughly enjoyed by families, friends and school staff whom attended the evening show at the Bacon Theatre. We were very proud of our wonderful 'stars'!



Alongside our usual activities and hard work, the **Senior Department** has had its first Opportunities Week. The pupils have had the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of activities from mountain biking to paddleboarding, to visiting Slimbridge Wetland Centre. Other activities included Tubing, Ninja Warrior, Go Ape, Archery, Go Karting, Rounders, and **FUNDamentals**. The pupils enjoyed every minute and were a credit to themselves and the school. They fully embraced the opportunities and got so much out of the experience!

Some KS4 pupils have also completed their D of E award by taking part in an expedition and an overnight camping stay at school. Again, this was very successful and an experience they won't forget!



# Physical Development

At the Milestone School we are dedicated to providing opportunities for all of our pupils to be physically active and enjoy sport in a way that is appropriate for them. This academic year our pupils have had the opportunity to take part in a lots of events including a sensory dance festival, table cricket competition, swimming gala, tag rugby tournament and athletics event, to name just a few.



In addition, this term we have held our most inclusive sports days ever with over 90% of our pupils accessing events over the 2 days. Whilst some of our pupils have engaged in more traditional sports day events including a relay race, hurdles, javelin and a tug of war on Longlevens Rugby Pitch, other pupils have explored parachute games, boccia, new age curling and a sensory obstacle course in different locations across the school site.



# Personal Development

Many of our pupils have sensory processing needs and need to have access to various activities and environments that support the regulation of their senses.

We have various sensory spaces and places around school, which aim to create a safe, calm and nurturing environment which enable our learners to regulate their emotions and achieve a calm, alert state so they are 'ready to learn.'



Do you have similar spaces and activities used to regulate senses and emotions at home during the Summer Holidays? Activities could include: going



for walk, using different materials to create a calm environment, lights, colours to hang from a frame to explore, read a sensory story, a comfy place to chill to some music, do an experiment, bubbles, cooking or doing sports or have a relaxing home yoga session!

**Come & join**  
**The Friends of The Milestone School**  
**Have you time**  
**you can give**  
**to our PTA?**

**VOLUNTEER & MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**  
**Contact us today to see how you could be the difference...**  
**fundraiser@milestone.sandmat.uk**  
**07585 059448**

**BE THE CHANGE**

**Friends of Milestone School**  
 Registered Charity No. 1173333

# School Council & Eco School

School Council Reps launched a 'design a dinner' competition this term, where-by pupils can put forward suggestions for a school lunch. The votes have been cast, and the winning meal options will be cooked by our chef Michelle in the last week of term. See the school website for further information.

Eco-Reps have continued supporting the environment by recycling a further 3 bags of crisp packets at our local Co-op. They have also been undertaking litter picks in our local community. Fantastic work!



# Careers

In Careers we have been very busy taking part in lots of experiences with employers.



Visit to Cheltenham Animal Shelter - a group of 8 young people went to visit the Animal Shelter. We met some of the animals, found out about all the different job roles working for a charity and made some tasty treats for the rabbits.



Work Experience Session at Gloucester Quays - S10 worked with Securitas and discovered the world of security. Our young people had a try on the radios talking to the control room, had security high viz jackets on and got to explore some of the secret hidden exclusive areas of the Quays. They finished off with a Wagamama experience, learning about the restaurant and an amazing taste testing lunch buffet!



Milestone Rocks Concert  
 We did it! We ROCKED!

This opportunity involved over 50 pupils performing to over 100 audience members. We had singing, signing, jokes, guitar and Taiko performances. This enabled pupils to gain confidence, showcase hidden talent and share the positive inclusive spirit of being part of the school community. They were all super brave and felt safe to step out of their comfort zone to deliver an amazing show!

Thank you to all of those involved and for all our supporters.



# Diary Dates

## September

4th—Back to School

## October

8th—Middle Dept Harvest Assembly

8th—Senior Dept Harvest Assembly

10th—World Mental Health Day

10th—Foundation Dept Harvest Assembly

11th—Foundation Dept Harvest Assembly

25th—Finish for Half Term

## November

4th—Back to School

11th—15th—Anti-Bullying Week

14th—Parents Evening

14th—Where Next? Evening

14th—Family Workshop

15th—Children in Need

20th and 21st—School Photographs

21st—Family Cinema Night

27th—Family Support Coffee Morning

## December

7th—Friends Winter Fayre

10th—Foundation Dept Christmas Performance

11th—Foundation Dept Christmas Performance

12th—Christmas Jumper Day

17th—Foundation/Middle Christmas Dinner

18th—Senior Christmas Dinner

19th—Senior Dept Christmas Event

19th—Middle Dept Christmas Event

20th—Whole School Christmas Disco

20th—Finish for Christmas