



Update from Stephen

Milestone School Weathers the Storm – And are Flooded with Success!

The start of this school year may not have been what we envisioned, but, in true Milestone spirit, we have tackled the challenges head-on! After the unexpected floods, which left us all a little soggy around the edges, our incredible team pulled together to ensure all pupils were back in school just one week later.



Our pupils, as always, have been absolute superstars! Their ability to adapt to the rapidly changing environment and our newly created spaces has been nothing short of inspiring. It goes to show how resilient and **brave** they are in the face of adversity. We have seen classrooms transform and created overnight and staff showing the creativity and determination that make The Milestone School so special.

Of course, this wasn't the start to the year that we had hoped for, but in overcoming this challenge, we have found ourselves drawn closer as a community. The way our staff rallied together, showing **kindness** and unwavering support, combined with the understanding and patience of our families, has reminded us all of the core values that guide our school: **Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Safe.**

We want to sincerely apologise for any disruption this may have caused and are deeply grateful for everyone's cooperation during this time. As we dry off, metaphorically and literally, we look forward to a more settled second half of the term and the festive cheer that Christmas will bring.

Here's to a brighter, drier, and more exciting end to 2024!

Thank you all for your resilience and for being part of our incredible Milestone community.



Department Updates

What a fantastic start back to the new academic year in **Foundation Department**. We have welcomed 20 new children to the department who have all impressed us with how quickly they have adapted to school routines and expectations.

It has been a term filled with lots of extreme weather and changes in conditions. Whilst these changes have presented challenges, they have also helped in providing our pupils with some incredible opportunities to explore the world we live in. Pupils accessing Outdoor Learning have all been able to explore the changes in our environment through highly engaging activities that are then applied and generalised to other tasks within the classroom.



In other news, whilst it was disappointing to have to cancel our Harvest assemblies, it was fantastic to see how many parents joined us for our activity sessions in class. The interaction between, pupils, parents and staff was clear for everyone to see and we thank everyone again for their support in making it such a successful time.

A very busy start to the school year in **Middle Department**. The pupils returned to school in September with some lovely new playground equipment thanks to The Pied Piper Appeal. Pupils have all settled into their new classes really well and it has been great to see lots of learning happening and new friendships being made.



It was great to see so many families at our recent Harvest morning. We all enjoyed preparing and serving tasty Harvest treats for our families attending our Harvest morning.

In Hawk Class pupils have been looking at self awareness and recently been discussing some topic based questions as a class, like, 'All classes should have a pet', 'Boys and girls



should be taught in separate schools' and 'Pupils should be taught cooking in school' - it has sparked some good debates and pupils have been talking it through in small groups before sharing it with the class.

The first term of the 2024-25 year has been an eventful one in the **Senior Department**. As you know, the school experienced floods a few weeks back and the senior department was most affected. We lost seven classrooms and had to relocate them across the school and the Chamwell Centre. It was a credit to the pupils and staff just how well they all Coped and took it in their stride and we are all looking forward to moving to better locations in the near future. Despite all of the above the pupils have been engaged in some great learning, have been out on trips and in KS4 have been carrying on with their qualifications. Well done all!



Our Curriculum



As we settle into a new year, classes in all Departments have been busy ensuring classrooms are conducive to learning and are Total Communication rich environments. We are dedicated in creating safe and supportive environments where our pupils can thrive, and develop the confidence and skills to be **BRAVE, KIND, SAFE**, at their individual ability.

The intent of our curriculum is to enable all of our pupils to:

- ⇒ Enjoy learning and be lifelong learners
- ⇒ Reach their full potential
- ⇒ Live happy, healthy and secure lives
- ⇒ Build positive relationships
- ⇒ Contribute positively to society
- ⇒ Be effective communicators



Through engaging topic themes, our pupils access learning relevant to their needs and progress along their individual Pathways; which are evidenced and assessed using our recording and reporting systems.

Our topics this term are:

Foundation Department: The Magic Carpet Ride

Middle Department: May the Force be with you

Senior Department: Exploring My World

Please do contact us if you would like to find out more about our curriculum, or ask your child's teacher at our Parents' Evening in November.



Personal Development

It's been a busy and exciting first term as we've settled into our new classes, learning new rules and routines along the way.

Senior Department have been very busy with Personal Development this term. They have had a careers event in which they met people from all different occupations, including a security guard and Chef. These members of the public gave an insight into their daily jobs and how they got into their line of work. The pupils were engaged in the day and were able to have their questions answered. The Senior pupils have been thinking about what they would like their future to look like and how they can get there. A number of pupils have been taking part in BTEC enterprise tasks which have incorporated their passions and aspirations for the future, including baking and selling their goods for charity.

Some of the seniors have also been part of a proactive programme of work around raising and tackling the complex nature of Child Sexual Exploitation and being supported by Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership. The play performed for them was called 'Crashing' and provided an opportunity for interaction with the actors helping pupils to see the choices the characters made and how they might have chosen differently.

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



Classes have been holding elections for new representatives and we are excited to meet new reps and well as experienced reps. Over the coming terms, School Council will work with Michelle in the kitchen to plan themed lunch days, hold a Christmas market in school and collect much needed items for Gloucestershire Bundles. Our School Council representatives are a vital part of our school, ensuring the pupils have a voice and can make their school an even more exciting place to be!

Careers

We have been very busy starting off the year with our KS4 pupils taking part in work experience.

- Ben and Edie have impressed the staff at the Chamwell Cafe as cafe assistants, Emma as Chamwell cafe support and Alister as Chamwell reception meet and greet.
- Levi, Rory, Jade and Gabriel are supporting Stephen, Gemma, Josh and Tom as Young Person Assistants to our Senior Leadership Team.
- Sam, Adan, Morgan, Nyah and Kudi have been working as support with site team, admin assistants and lunch time support.
- George is doing a great job ensuring the sensory room is ready to use for pupils and closed at the end of the day.
- Ryan has been making yummy shortbread and raising money for charity and has lots more ideas to deliver.



S11 have started work experience off site at Gloucester Quays. We have been working with the marketing team to produce an advert to promote Santa visiting Gloucester Quays.

We have had an Employer Encounter morning for Year 10 and 11 where we heard about lots of different jobs and had a chance at asking questions. Big

Thank you to Gemma who shared her experience of being a games maker at the 2012 Paralympics, to Tracy for sharing her experience of Norvilles and working in a chip shop. We were lucky to have visitors from Gloucester Quays including Katie, front of house manager at Wagamama, Neil, one of the Gloucester Quays managers and Ed from Securitas.

If you have a job or do some volunteering and you would like to share with our pupils. Please let your child's class teacher know and we can arrange for you to come into school.



Diary Dates

October

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