



Newsletter #5 December 2024

Update from Stephen

Dear Families,

As we fast approach the festive season, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the resilience and dedication of our school community during what has been an exceptionally busy term. The first week back after half-term brought an Ofsted inspection, and the Good outcome was a testament to the hard work and commitment of our incredible staff. The inspection highlighted many areas of strength, particularly the care and support we provide for our pupils, and I couldn't be prouder of how our team rose to the challenge with professionalism and positivity.



This came on the back of a term that started with significant challenges, including the continued flooding that disrupted parts of our site. Despite these difficulties, our staff have worked tirelessly to create a safe and supportive environment for our pupils, ensuring their routines were re-established as quickly as possible. Their dedication and teamwork have been nothing short of extraordinary, and I am deeply grateful for their efforts. Together, we have truly embodied our ethos of **Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Safe**.

Christmas is always a special time at The Milestone School, and the festive spirit is already in full swing. It was so great to see so many of you at our Winter Fayre. The build-up to the holidays is filled with joy, and it was wonderful to see everyone embracing the magic of this time of year. Looking ahead, we are committed to ensuring continued stability and progress. Plans are well underway to repair the areas affected by flooding, including the Atrium and EY Hall. We have explored innovative solutions like temporary classrooms to make sure our pupils continue to thrive in a safe and supportive environment.

Thank you for your ongoing trust and support, particularly during what has been a challenging but rewarding term.

On behalf of everyone at The Milestone School, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Department Updates

This term **Foundation Department** has been extremely busy and seen our pupils manage exceptionally well given lots of changes. As we move through the year and start to access an increasing amount of trips, I want to celebrate how brave our pupils were by accessing new things.



Red class were *brave* and *safe* when accessing the ice rink at Cheltenham and Mauve class were *brave* when competing against other schools in a multi-sports tournament at Hartpury college. A huge well done to both classes! As we move into the New year, we look



forward to many more exciting opportunities for our young people.

Middle Department had a great time at the pantomime last week...oh yes we did!! The pupils all enjoyed singing along with Kara and Ruby when they were called onto the stage for a singing competition! The pupils were a credit to the school. There were lots of laughs, cheers and applause for what was a fantastic show.



Classes have enjoyed attending the Christmas Tree Festival at Longlevens Church where they were able to look at a range of decorated trees from different community groups including our very own Middle Department Christmas Tree which won the competition overall!

As we approach the end of term, the pupils are busy practising for their Xmas Showcase. The last week of term will be full of festive fun that's for sure.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Term 2 in the Senior Department has been very busy. Our pupils have been giving the entrepreneurs from Dragon's Den a run for their money by making and selling items as part of the enterprise projects. S8 have been making Christmas decorations and S9 made some fantastic badges. They have both made money for charity and we are very proud of their efforts.

Many classes have completed ASDAN work and S1 have been working together to make an amazing scarecrow using different fabric and textures. S6 and 7 have been learning about the Planets and made some great Papier Mache models. One of our topics has been 'water all around me' and classes have been learning all about water and have visited rivers and lakes in the local area. In KS3 pupils have been learning about magnets and know lots of facts about them, including how they attract or repel and how strong some magnets can be. S4 and 5 have been accessing the community lots more this term and it is great to see them out and about working on important life skills ready for the next stage in their lives.

We also had another football fixture against Heart of The Forest special school and won 7-3. This match was for some of our less experienced players, and they played fantastically well and gained confidence throughout the match.

With Christmas fast approaching our two older classes have cooked their own Christmas lunch and it was very tasty indeed!



Our Curriculum



We have been thinking about the vision for our school curriculum this term. Please see below.



Personal Development

The holiday season is a time for celebration, relaxation and spending well-earned time with loved ones. While this period will hopefully be calm, it's important that parents and educators acknowledge there are still things we can do to make these weeks as safe as possible for the young people in our care. Please see the 'Top 10 Tips' for safety over the festive period which include some of the following:

- * Monitor digital activity—balance screen time and ensure that children are accessing appropriate content.
- * Practice fire safety protocols—ensure smoke detectors are operational and teach children how to respond in an emergency.
- * Create safe travel plans—be prepared for more extreme weather and busier roads, pack emergency travel kits and ensure children are wearing seatbelts.
- * Be aware of allergies—communicate allergy information when out in cafes and restaurants.
- * Prevent the spread of illness— emphasise good hygiene including hand washing with children.

Please take a look at the full document here—
<https://milestone.sandmat.uk/safeguarding-team/>

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 The Milestone School
 Registered Charity No. 1173333

School Council

This term began with our School Council reps hosting the Children in Need assembly featuring our very own gladiators and contenders. It was a great success with lots of laughs! We also hosted our annual Christmas Market. It was fantastic to see so many pupils taking part and making choices, counting money, waiting and talking to new peers and adults. Thank you for your support with this.



Careers

We have been very busy with My Future- Careers.

- 30 of our year 11 pupils took part in internal mock interviews. They were fantastic!
- S11 have completed another session of work experience at Gloucester Quays learning about customer service and management, which included a sample of a Krispy Kreme doughnut!
- We have our own Festive Postie 'Ashdon' from Hawk class who is doing a great job of sorting and delivering all the festive post across the school for his work experience. I am enjoying being delivery-elf support!
- 10 pupils in Year 10 and 11 went to Bridge Training to be models for the hair, beauty and photography students. This had such a positive impact for all involved using communication skills, raising awareness of disability and positive wellbeing.
- Singing and Signing lunch time club is super busy and we have over 27 pupils who turn up on a Thursday to participate and have fun. We love our senior pupils supporting and encouraging the middle and foundation children.



Diary Dates

December

20th—Finish for Christmas

January

23rd—Family Disco Night

February

5th—Parents Evening
 5th—Family Workshop
 3rd—7th—Children's Mental Health Week
 13th—Pupils finish for half-term

March

27th—Family Support Coffee Morning

April

9th— Foundation Department Easter Event
 10th—Middle Department Easter Event
 10th—Senior Department Easter Event
 10th—Pupils finish for Easter