



Newsletter #6 February 2025

Update from Stephen

Dear Families,

As we fast approach the half-way point of the school year, I would like to share some updates from our school community.

Celebrating Pupil Success:

Our pupils have been working hard, and their dedication is paying off! Whether it is through learning in the classroom, extra-curricular activities or sports, we have seen great progress across all areas. We are particularly proud of the recent achievements with our football teams.



 S  D
Stephen Dowell



Flood Recovery & Facility Improvements

We are continuing our efforts following the recent floods. Here is the latest update on our recovery work:

Modular Classroom Installation:

Modular Classrooms: Modular Classrooms are due to be installed in front of Reception to house the classes displaced by the flooding.

Fencing Installation: To create a secure compound around the Modular buildings, work on a fencing installation is scheduled to begin the week commencing 10th February.

Cabin Delivery & Installation: The first-floor cabins are due to be delivered the week commencing 17th February. The second-floor cabin installation and final fit-out is expected to be completed by the second week of March.

Timeline: In the best case scenario, modular classrooms will be in place and ready for access from 17th March, with a move-in date of 24th March.

Parking Adjustments:

Starting 10th February, the first 10 car parking spaces on the right at the front of the school (as you turn right when driving in) will be reserved for parents and visitors. If there are no available spaces on site, please use the parking facilities at the Rugby Club.

Please note that this timeline is subject to change and I will keep you updated as soon as I have more information.

Reception Block Flooring:

In addition to the modular classroom installations, I'm happy to report that the flooring in the Reception Block has finally been replaced.

As we prepare for the remainder of the school year, our focus remains on nurturing curiosity, resilience, **Bravery**, care, **Kindness** and excellence. We are committed to providing a **Safe** and inspiring environment for every pupil and appreciate your ongoing support and involvement.

Thank you for being a vital part of our school community. Your dedication and partnership truly make a difference. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Department Updates

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning (ODL) has come on leaps and bounds this term, evolving into a much larger part of our educational approach. The children have been thoroughly enjoying the increased opportunities to spend more time outdoors, engaging with nature in a hands-on way while simultaneously learning in a more interactive and immersive environment. Whether it's sunny, rainy, or even snowing, we are out in all weathers, and this approach allows the children to witness first-hand the dramatic changes that occur throughout the seasons. They explore a wide variety of ecosystems, learning about the different types of flora and fauna that inhabit our environment. In addition, while exploring, they continue to learn valuable lessons related to their current topics.



Middle Department

We have been really lucky this term to have had lots of visitors to Middle Department. Rabbit Class along with some pupils from across the school took part in The River - A Sensory Theatre Experience. It was a wonderfully immersive multi-sensory experience.



Our topic this term has been "Let's Remember" and Longlevens Junior School kindly allowed classes to visit their air raid shelter in their outdoor learning area. The pupils listened to real world war 2 aircraft sound effects and ate corned beef sandwiches which really brought the topic to life for them!

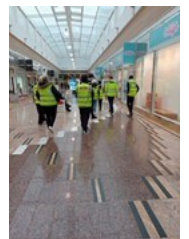


A huge well done to all the pupils who took part in the swimming gala at Tewkesbury pool and our football team who perform brilliantly at every match!

Senior Department

It has been yet another busy term in Senior Department with many trips out and lots of hard work in the classroom. Our approach to practical learning has been very much on display in S1 and S9 where they have been giving the pupils the chance to buy items from a shop. They have been learning about money and also debit cards and using them to buy things they like.

Pupils have also been on fantastic trips to Gloucester Quays to experience all of the different jobs on offer. Recently, they have joined the security team to learn what the security officers do. They have taken part in patrols, learnt how to help people who are lost and now know what to do if they see a shoplifter!



Our Y11 pupils are getting ready to leave us at the end of the year and in preparation for that they have attended college link days. These are valuable experiences and help with the sometimes-stressful transition onto P16.

Our Curriculum



Communication is an essential part of everyday life and in developing and maintaining relationships, for our pupils. It involves all forms of communication and finding the right communication methods for each individual; depending on their needs and abilities. Different methods and resources of communication can be used in combination and will vary from child to child. For more information please contact our Communication Team.

Read Write Inc. Phonics

We are very proud of the success of RWI in school and the amazing achievements and progress our pupils are making with their reading. Our Family Portal, on the school's website, has resources which can be accessed at home. Please do take a look— [Family Portal - The Milestone School](#)

Talk for Writing

Talk for Writing (T4W) is in its infancy at The Milestone School; however, we have already seen great benefits from the programme for our pupils. With a focus on speaking and listening, and enabling pupils to bring 'stories to life' through actions, pictures, props, and text, the programme ensures our pupils are successful in their learning. We recently had a visit from Pie Corbett himself (Founder of the Programme), and some of the words he used were:

"calm" "lovely moments" "concentration"
"pupils feel good about them themselves"

Personal Development

This term, the focus in Personal Development has been on setting up Sensory Circuits to support sensory needs. These circuits include a variety of activities designed to alert, organize, and calm, helping individuals manage sensory input more effectively. These activities can be easily incorporated at home to support emotional and sensory regulation. If you're interested in learning more about these techniques and accessing additional resources, please feel free to contact us for further information and support.

Personal Development has also been the focus of learning walks this term, we have seen some great practice happening in classes in regards to regulation and readiness to learn.

In addition, there is an upcoming face-to-face digital safety talk specifically designed for parents, which is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, the 25th of February, at 4:00 PM.

School Council

The School Council Reps have been busy planning the upcoming events they would like to undertake over the coming terms. Look out for our annual Easter raffle, this year supporting James Hopkins Trust with every ticket sold. We will also be supporting Red Nose Day.

In school, the pupils will be designing a dinner again, and organising Easter egg decorating. Thank you to our reps for their hard work and fantastic ideas!

Careers



I Can I am Bus visit to school

We were super lucky to get a converted old London double decker bus called Darcy to visit Milestone... for two days.

Pupils in S10, S3, Otters, Badgers, Hawks and Mauve made their own pizzas from scratch and they were cooked on the bus.



We took part in mental health wellbeing sessions about being positive, what we are grateful for and how to keep our inner balloon inflated and motivated.

This is a charity and free for us. Hopefully with more funding and the provider receiving feedback they will come to us again and I can offer to more classes.

Pupils have the recipes on a card so can re-create pizza making in class or a home.

The Dogs Trust

We have had Employer Encounter talks with the Dogs Trust visiting S10, Mauve and Fox class. We found out about dogs, how to keep safe around them and about working for a charity.



Diary Dates

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

May

- 23rd— Pied Piper Pyjama Day