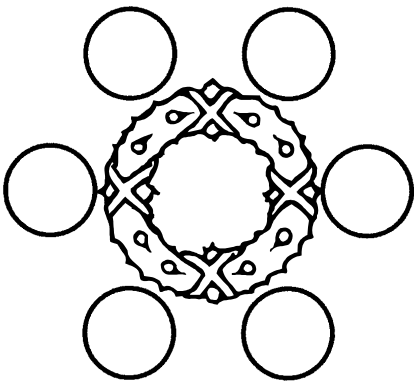


Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at The Milestone

Milestone



Autumn Term: Issue 4

19th December 2003

Newsletter

Diary dates for next term

Break for Christmas	19th December
Spring term starts	5th January
Parents' coffee morning workshop	8th January
Friends committee meeting	13th January
Parents' coffee morning workshop	5th February
Break for half term. Friday	13th February
In service training for staff	23rd February
School starts for pupils	24th February
End of term. Easter holiday	2nd April

Milestone School Web site

Don't forget you can find school dates, pictures of school events, news and information about the classes on our website.

The address is:
www.themilestoneschool.ik.org

Message from Ms Shea

Traditionally Christmas is a busy time of year and school life has certainly reflected this with 2 discos, 5 concerts and several parties. I hope those of you who managed to attend concerts enjoyed them as much as the children did!

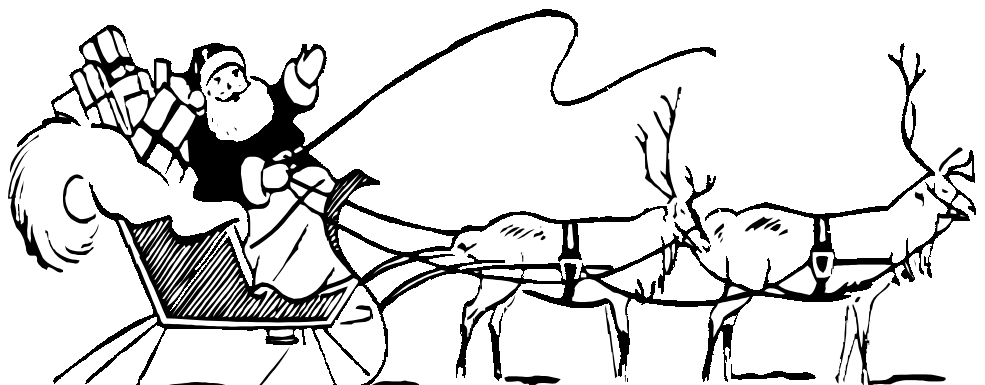
I'm sure you will join me in thanking the staff for all their hard work this term and especially for making the lead up to Christmas such fun for the children.

I am delighted to tell you that our swimming teacher – Alan Brinkley - has been awarded the Gloucestershire Disabled Coach of the Year award. This is well deserved and we are very proud of him.

The school has to say farewell to two highly valued members of staff who will be missed. Ben Bishop leaves Early Years to become the special needs coordinator at Forest View School. Pam Dickerson leaves the nursing team at the end of the first week back to commence full time nursing training. We wish them luck and say a big thank you for the commitment they have shown over the years.

In the New Year we will welcome Paula Jones as a class teacher in Orange Group, Sarah Watters as a learning support worker in 3T and Debbie Hadden as a new member of the nursing team.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.





BRITISH COUNCIL
International School Award

19th December 2003
Autumn term. Issue 4

Contact address and numbers:

Longford Lane, Gloucester.
GL2 9EU

Phone: 01452 500499

Fax: 01452 500602

Email: admin@milestone.gloucs.sch.uk

Website: www.themilestoneschool.ik.org

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Course for volunteers

We have been asked to let you know about a new course being offered free of charge by J and C Training, for people working as volunteers.

The Certificate in Community Volunteering is a level 2 accredited qualification being offered at the White City Community Project in Gloucester, Whaddon Community Project in Cheltenham and the Painswick Inn in Stroud from week starting 12th January.

It is a one year, part-time course delivered by qualified tutors with personal experience of volunteering.

People will meet for a class once a week for 2 hours, followed up once a month with a small group session to help them build a portfolio for assessment.

Anyone who is currently volunteering within the school or who is interested in this training should contact Colette O'Neill or Jacqui Rivers at the following contact details,

www.jandctraining.co.uk <<http://www.jandctraining.co.uk>>

colette@jandctraining.co.uk <<mailto:colette@jandctraining.co.uk>>

Telephone number: 01452 544063

Future Staff In Service Training days.

Here is a reminder about the remaining Staff In Service Training days during the current academic year.

Please note that **the school will be closed for pupils on these days.**

Monday 23rd February 2004

Friday 28th May 2004

Thursday 10th June 2004 (Local Elections Polling Day)

All these dates (and others) are available on the school website.



Christmas visits

Several classes have been out on Christmas visits—many to local restaurants for Christmas meals. Places visited include The New Inn, The Longford Inn, Hazlefield Garden centre, The Greyhound and the Hungry Horse pub.

We are pleased to report that we have received many complementary comments from the staff in these establishments, praising the good behaviour and politeness of the pupils.

Alternative Christmas cards

We thought you might be interested to know that many of the school staff have donated money to help people in third world countries, rather than send Christmas cards to people they see every day.

A whole range of alternative gifts have been ordered, including buckets for water wells, chickens for families to rear, apple trees for families to grow and books for school children to use.

Early Years Lucky Number Club

The winning Lucky Number for the month of November was

79.

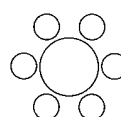
The Winning Lucky Number for December is

37

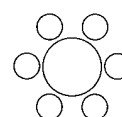
and was drawn at the Early Years Christmas performance on December 10th.

The Newsletter is compiled and edited by Mike Williams: Communications Manager.

Next issue of the newsletter will be on Friday 23rd January 2004



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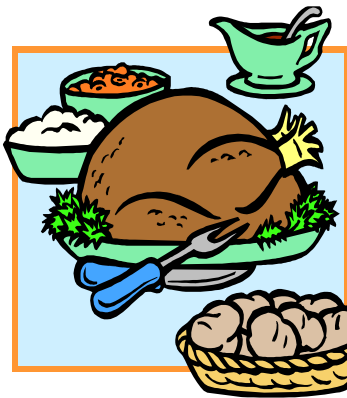


Christmas lunch

Everyone enjoyed a traditional Christmas lunch at school on Wednesday 17th December. We had to use the two school halls and the gym to accommodate everyone!

Thanks very much to all the Caterhouse staff who worked so hard to get everything cooked on time.

In the Main hall, the Key Stage 3 staff all dressed up as characters from The Wizard of



Oz—we had lots of 'Wicked Witches of the West', a 'Dorothy', 'Glinda, good Witch of the North', 'tin men', 'lions', 'scarecrows' and a 'Wizard'!

After the meal we all sang some favourite carols.

School Concerts

There were several different concerts or performances in school this year.

The Early Years department sang 'Carols around the Christmas tree' in the Early Years hall.

Key Stage 1 held a carol service in the Early Years hall and Key Stage 2 presented their Christmas Concert in the Main Hall.

Key Stage 3 hosted friends and parents for mince pies in the classrooms and then joined together in the Main Hall for carols and readings. There were brilliant solo performances from Lee Colledge (Key Stage 2) and Thomas Chilton and Nico Zimbalati (Key Stage 3) as well as superb singing from everyone.

Key Stage 4 held a carol service at Gloucester Cathedral.

Thanks to all parents and friends who attended the various performances and well done to everyone who took part.

Parents' Questionnaire

Thanks to everyone who returned the Parents Questionnaire. Forty-seven forms were returned from parents of current pupils, out of a possible 268 families: 11 from EY, 5 from KS1, 15 from KS2, 11 from KS3 and 5 from KS4. Almost all the responses were very positive. Some parents/carers also wrote about particular concerns or questions and we intend to reply to these individually.

One parent put a question mark in the "Disagree" box for one of the questions, but apart from that there were no entries in the "Disagree" or "Strongly Disagree" boxes at all.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know
My child is happy at school	81%	17%	2%
Behaviour is generally good	42%	47%	11%
Teaching is good	81%	19%	
My child is helped to achieve his/her best	72%	28%	
School listens & takes issues seriously	74%	23%*	
School is effectively managed	55%	38%	7%
School keeps parents well-informed	57%	38%	5%
I am happy with the amount of work	57%	28%	13%*

* not everyone responded

While we are pleased that those who did respond feel generally positive or very positive about The Milestone, we recognise that there are issues to address, either in the perception of what happens in school, or in our practice and policies.

If any parent or carer would still like to return the questionnaire, or make any comment on any of the above, please do so.

Again, very many thanks to all of you who were able to return the form – it is always helpful to receive feedback, especially regarding improvements we can make.

RDA Church service

Some of the pupils in Key Stage 3 attended a special carol service at Coates village church, organised by the Riding for the Disabled groups in our area.

Some of the pupils dressed up to take part in the service, which featured local farm animals and pets.

A charming and enjoyable Christmas event.

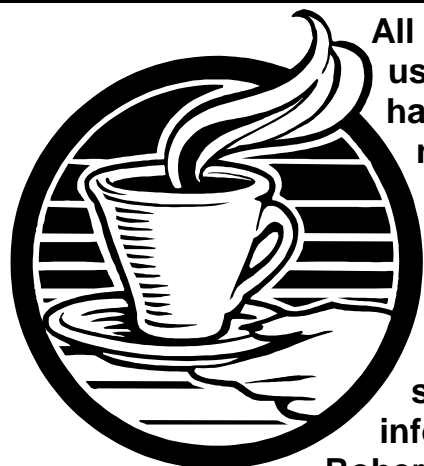


Investors in Careers Award

Rosemarie Butson, Brian Roberts and students Adam Pinheiro-Stevens and Marie Hill attended a presentation ceremony in Gloucester on 27th November to receive the prestigious Investors in Careers Award. This is in recognition of the school's commitment to careers education and its outstanding careers education programme.

The award was presented by Pauline Bailey, Director of Strategic Planning at the Learning and Skills Council. Adam said: "I had a great time and the food was really nice." Marie added: "I enjoyed all of it except having my 'photo taken (many times!)."

Parents' Coffee morning workshops



All parents and friends of the school are most welcome to join us at our monthly coffee-morning workshops. Whether you have a particular interest in the workshop theme or not, why not join us for a coffee, and use the opportunity to meet up and chat with other parents? You will note from the following programme that the first coffee-morning workshop is scheduled for Thursday 8th January at 11.00am. in the school Music Room. If you would like to attend this session please return the slip below to the school office by Wednesday 7th January. For further information about the workshops, please contact Brian Roberts, Deputy Head at the school.

Programme :

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Leaders</i>
Thurs. 8 th January.	Games and Leisure: ideas for children with special needs	Liz Bailey (Assistant Headteacher, The Milestone)
Thurs. 5 th February.	Early Communication	Amanda Attwood (Speech & Language therapist)
Thurs. 4 th March	Coping with Disrupted Sleep Patterns.	Val Porter (Community Nurse)
Thurs. 1 st April	Social Use of Language Programme (S.U.L.P.)	June York (LSW – The Milestone)
Thurs. 6 th May	Total Communication & Signing	Jane Thompson (Advanced Skills Teacher – The Milestone)
17 th June	The Role of the Educational Psychologist	Teresa Bliss and Tina Lythgoe (Educational Psychologists)
8 th July	Stress Relief : stress management techniques	Sue Williams (LSW – The Milestone)

Venue : School Music Room (Early Years Centre).

Please return to the school office at The Milestone School by Wednesday 7th January

Coffee-morning Workshop – (theme...Games and Leisure : ideas for children with special educational needs) – Thursday 8th January at 11.00a.m.

I/we,(name), parents(s)/guardian(s) of (name of child) wish to attend the coffee morning workshop on Thursday 8th January at 11.00 a.m. in the school Music Room.

Signed : Date :

Colour in these Christmas pictures.

