MIDDLESTOWN NEWS

Middlestown Primary Academy: October 2023

Headteacher's Welcome…

Well, the first half term has flown by, even though it has been a full 8 weeks. The children are back into the swing of the new school year and it is lovely to see them settled into the new routines. I have also been impressed with how many of them are keen to take on leadership roles in school including school council, digital leaders and subject ambassadors. They provide a voice for the whole school and support the teachers in improving teaching and learning.

It has been lovely to be able to see so many parents joining us in school for various different events. These have included Activity Day, Class assemblies, Breakfast with books in EYFS, Year 3 lunch, not forgetting our Harvest celebrations at church. The children were very excited for the Halloween Disco (organised by the FOMs team) and I hope some of the children are practising their acts for the up-and-coming Middlestown's Got Talent on Thursday 9th November. I hope you have a fun (and spooky) half term break and we look forward to seeing you back on school on Monday 6th November when the countdown to Christmas starts!

Autumn 1 PE Days

UF— Friday

Year 1— Tuesday & Thursday

Year 2— Thursday

Year 3— Monday & Thursday

Year 4— Monday (swimming) & Wednesday

Year 5— Wednesday & Thursday

Year 6— Tuesday

Fundraising

Thank you for your generosity this half term, we raised **£148.90** on Hello Yellow Day for the YoungMinds charity.

YOUNGMiNDS

Staff Profile: Get to know our staff better…

Mrs Meggitt

When did you start at MPA?
I started at Middlestown Primary Academy on the 4th September.

What do you do at MPA?
I am a Teaching Assistant in the Foundation unit at Middlestown Primary Academy.

What is your favourite thing about your job?
My favourite thing about my job, is seeing the children's faces every morning, it is the best way to start the day. I love to be able to interact with the children, singing songs and counting. They're such a pleasure to work with.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
In my spare time, I love to spend time with my son, my mother and extended family. I love to go for long walks and explore nature with my chihuahua Jasper. In the spring and summer, I love to be able to spend time in the garden planting seeds and watching them grow. I also love to learn languages, for many years now I have been learning the Greek language, so much so that I can now read in Greek. I also like to be creative, I'm particularly fond of working with clay.

Favourite moment at Middlestown so far?
It's hard to pin point one favourite moment as I love them all. I really enjoyed listening to them sing the song Mr Scarecrow, but most of all when they sang Happy Birthday to me, it was wonderful!

Favourite food?
I love a roast dinner, my favourite part is roasted parsnips and where I can I love to grow my own. I also love all the trimmings!

Foundation Stage

Foundation have had a fantastic half term! They have settled in so well and learnt the routines and how to play in provision. Their topic was 'Marvellous Me'. They read some lovely texts linked to this topic, 'What makes me a me?' and 'Starting School'. The children in Upper Foundation have made a great start to their phonics learning, they now know many of the phase 2 sounds and are beginning to apply them in their writing. Lower Foundation have taken part in lots of lovely mark making activities and they enjoyed telling adults and each other all about the marks they have made. In Maths, the children learnt about repeating patterns and numbers to three through lots of interactive activities in provision. During Black History Month, the children enjoyed learning about the composer Florence Price and listened to the music of Bob Marley. The children also really enjoyed taking home and filling up their Autumn Treasure bags and sharing their findings with their teachers and friends in class. Next half term, Foundation will do a mini topic about Bonfire Night and learn all about Diwali. They will also learn about Christmas, The Nativity story and perform the Nativity story for parents.

Upper Foundation making repeating patterns and counting

Autumn Tressure bags

Lower Foundation enjoying mark making

Year 1

Year 1 have had a fantastic start to the year and have really challenged themselves in their learning. They have been reading lots of traditional tales in English and have written some fantastic pieces of writing based around the books. In Science, the children have been learning all about the Human Body and the five senses. They particularly enjoyed the Science experiment, where they tasted different foods and described the taste. In Art, the children looked at mark making and different lines used to make full pieces. They created a whole class piece of artwork and carried out some observational drawing. The children had a great time at Secret Garden, they used teamwork to help each other around the equipment. In Autumn 2, the children will read a variety of books in English including Funny Bones, Owl Babies and Meerkat Mail. In Science, the children will move onto their new topic animals. They will explore different types of animals such as omnivores, carnivores and herbivores. In DT, they will be creating moving pictures by designing, making and evaluating their work. In Maths, the children will continue their work on addition and subtraction and move onto geometry. They will also be learning to identify different shapes and their features.

Year 2

The children have settled really well into Year 2 and have adapted well to the new ways of working, which is a real change from Year 1. We have read some lovely books that have helped us to be inspired to write. The main theme of all the books has been friendship, kindness and linked to the topic 'If you go down to the woods…'. In Maths, the children have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes and have also been ordering numbers to 100 and starting to use 2 digit numbers to add and subtract. In Science, they have been learning about habitats and the animals that live in woodland habitats. In DT, they have learnt about what makes a balanced diet and then designed and made their own healthy wrap, which they enjoyed eating. In Geography, they have learnt all about the seven continents of the world. The children enjoyed a walk to Coxley Woods, where they looked closely at the habitat to decide if it would make a good home for a hedgehog and badger. They found places where the animals could make their shelters and searched microhabitats to find food that a badger and hedgehog could eat. Back at school, they used natural objects they collected in the woods to work collaboratively on a piece of art. Next half term, our topic is hot and cold places, in Geography the children will be learning about Antarctica, the Arctic and the deserts that are on the equator. This will link closely with their work in Science on world habitats and the animals that live there.

Year 2 Art from the woods

Year 3 In their first half term in Year 3, the children stepped back in time to the Stone Age! To kick off their topic, they had a visit from artist and historian Jeffrey Andrews who led an Early Civilisations workshop. The children completed an archaeological dig, created some replica Iron Age jewellery and had a go at making some cave paintings. To learn more about the life of a hunter-gatherer, Year 3 went on a trip to Coxley Woods; they made their own shelters using materials they could find in the there and looked at what materials could be found and used for different purposes.

In Science, Year 3 have been learning about rocks and grouped them based on their appearance and properties. They made 'dirt pudding' to represent the different layers of the Earth and had a go at making their own mould fossil. Year 3 have been working with Premier Education as part of their PE lessons this half term. They have been focussing on invasion games and practising skills such as dribbling, passing, attacking and defending. Teams of boys and girls in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 attended a Cross Country Festival at Horbury Academy. The Year 3 boys team came first. Next half term, in History, Year 3 will be learning about the Romans and they will be reading 'Escape from Pompeii' to inspire their writing in English. In PE, Year 3 will be moving onto gymnastics and in Science, the children will be learning about Animals and Humans; they will learn about their skeleton, muscles and what type of nutrition we need.

Stepping Back to the Stone Age

Fun at Coxley Woods making Shelters

Year 4 This half term, Year 4 have enjoyed reading the book, Malala's Magic Pencil. They have written a setting description, diary entry and letter based on the book and its characters. Year 4 especially enjoyed celebrating Black History Month, by learning about Harriet Tubman. They used a range of texts, websites and videos to gather information, before writing a detailed biography. Year 4 have also enjoyed studying Sound in Science. The children completed multiple experiments to test their theories on the effects of length on pitch and the inner workings of the ear. Did you know, sound cannot travel in space? Year 4 have also learnt all about Anglo-Saxons in History. They compared what life was like during Anglo-Saxon England, with what life is like in modern day England. They also discovered the impact of the Anglo-Saxons on our current language, religion, and trade. In RE, Year 4 enjoyed exploring the values that are important in Hinduism. They learned about the key features of a Mandir, Hindu's beliefs of Karma and Reincarnation and performed a drama on how Hindus would act if they followed Dharma. A success of this half term is a group of 10 children from Year 4 helped Middlestown come second place in the Cross-Country Festival, at Horbury Academy. Next half term, Year 4 should look forward to reading 'The Island' by Armin Greder, a gripping mystery book with interesting illustrations. In History, Year 4 will be expanding their knowledge on the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings and in Science, they will complete experiments using real circuits to help them learn about electricity. Year 4 will also be involved in the Christmas production!

Year 5 This half term, Year 5 have loved studying Mountains in Geography. They have learnt about the climate of mountains and discussed what they believe life living on a mountain might be like, focusing on the challenges and how they might be overcome. They incorporated this into their Samba practise, turning some of the facts they have learnt into rhythms. They are very excited about performing this for their parents in an assembly in December! To celebrate Harvest this year, Year 5 decided to compare past Harvest Festivals to how people celebrate today, suggesting reasons for the changes and writing it up as a formal text. During the service at the local church, they presented some of the artwork they had produced and discussed the differences between past and present festivals in the form of a drama. In Science, the children have been learning about the parts of a flower. They had great fun dissecting lilies to find the different features and discussed the role of each feature in reproduction. Some of the pupils from Year 5 took part in a cross-country competition in October and performed amazingly well, Gracie even managed to come in first place out of the Year 5 girls! What an achievement! Year 5 also hosted a class assembly this half term to showcase their learning to the Year 5 parents. They based the assembly on the book 'Room 13', which they have been studying in English. They acted out parts of the book, displayed some artwork and sang two songs for their audience. What a super assembly it was! In December, Year 5 will perform a Samba assembly for the school and Year 5 parents. They are incredibly excited to show the result of the hard work they have put into their Music lessons this year and the fantastic progress they have made. They also have an indoor athletics competition coming up, where they will compete against the other schools in the area. We wish them luck!

Year 5 Art work

Year 6 This term, year 6 have been reading 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne, they have produced some excellent pieces of writing. They have written a letter and a diary entry and have enjoyed using drama to inspire their ideas on what the different characters would say to each other. In Maths, they have consolidated and extended their understanding of place value and the four written methods and have used these to answer various problems. In Art, the children have studied the paintings of different graffiti artists and are currently producing Winter scenes, based on a style they have chosen themselves. In History, the children are loving learning about World War II and understanding the events that led to this moment in history. The children have enjoyed coming together once again for assemblies and to share their work in the Harvest festival. They have also completed the Bikeability course on how to be safe on the roads. Next Term, the children will continue reading the 'Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' as their class book and learn about key events in World War II, such as 'The Battle of Britain' and the attack on 'Pearl Harbour'.

Dates For Your Diary

November 2023

Tues 7th—Year 2 Art Workshop

Wed 8th— Makaton Assembly @ 2:45pm

Thurs 9th— Talent Show at MPA @ 6pm

Fri 10th— Year 6 Height and Weight checks

Mon 13th—Year 5 and 6 Boys indoor athletics at Horbury Academy

Tues 14th— EYFS Open Day & Parents Evening 3:30pm to 5:30pm

Wed 15th—Year 5 Health and Wellbeing Workshop & Parents Evening 4:45pm to 6:45pm

Friday 17th—Children in Need

Mon 20th— Year 5 and 6 Girls indoor athletics at Horbury Academy

Tues 21st— Maths open morning

Thurs 30th— UF Eureka Trip

December 2023

Fri 1st— Non-uniform day for Christmas Fayre & Christmas Film night

Tues 5th— Samba Assembly

Thurs 7th— Christmas Jumper Day and Reindeer Race

Mon 11th— Y1 to Y6 Pantomime

Tues 12th— KS1 Performance to Parents 9:30am & 2pm

Wed 13th— Y3 and Y4 Performance to Parents 2pm & 6pm

Thurs 14th— Christmas Fayre

Mon 18th— EYFS production for parents at 9:15am & Christmas Lunch for children

Tues 19th— Y5 and Y6 Performance to Parents 2pm & 6pm

Wed 20th— Carol service

Thurs 21st— Last Day of Term