MIDDLESTOWN NEWS

Middlestown Primary Academy: December 2023

Headteacher's Welcome…

This has to be the best half term to work in a primary school. It has been lovely to see the children getting excited about Christmas with all the exciting events that have been going on. Taking the children to the pantomime was my particular favourite. The staff at the theatre commented on the impeccable behaviour of the children but also for being a fantastic audience, responding when they needed to (during the usual pantomime saga) as well as being quiet and enjoying the show. I am so proud of all the children who have performed in the Christmas plays and I thank you all for coming to support them at the many different performances. I also wanted to mention the children who sang in the choir for the Carol Concert at St Luke's. You sang beautifully and I am sure you are looking forward to the Young Voices concert in the new year. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Autumn 1 PE Days

UF— Friday

Year 1— Tuesday & Thursday

Year 2— Thursday

Year 3— Monday & Thursday

Year 4— Monday (swimming) & Tuesday

Year 5— Tuesday & Wednesday

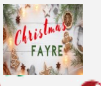
Year 6— Tuesday

Fundraising

Children in Need: £202.52

Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day: £120

Wakefield Hospice (Reindeer Run): £120



Christmas Fayre: £1453.90

Staff Profile: Get to know our staff better…

Mr Andrews

When did you start at MPA?
I officially started Middlestown in September 2019 but trained here as a student teacher in 2018.

What do you do at MPA?
I am the Year 1 teacher but I do have other roles in school. I am part of the Senior Management Team, Safeguarding Team and subject leader of English and French.

What is your favourite thing about your job?
I absolutely love my job and the best part of it is seeing happy children around school which makes me smile. I also love the funny stories that the children love to tell and lots of them tell some hilarious jokes!

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
When I am not in school, I enjoy spending time with my friends and family as they are a huge support to me. I also enjoy going to the gym, going on lots of walks in the countryside with my dog and eating tasty food!

Favourite moment at Middlestown so far?
There are so many moments that could be my favourite but I have favourite moments every week! I love dancing in iMoves where we all get our groove on and Friday celebration assembly where we celebrate all the great things that happen during the week. The list could go on!

Favourite food?
I love food so this is a very hard decision! My perfect 3 course meal would be Moules Mariniere, Steak (with all the sides!) and sticky toffee pudding with custard. Having said that, I love all foods except olives!!!

Foundation Stage Foundation have had such a busy half term! They started off with a mini 'Construction Topic' where they enjoyed lots of activities relating to collaborative building within provision. They read 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'Dig, Dump, Roll', these books inspired some great creative writing both as focused writing tasks and independently within provision. The children in Foundation really enjoyed our Christmas topic, learning the story of the Nativity and they enjoyed performing this for parents. They also developed their fine motor skills decorating mini Christmas trees using tweezers and loved learning how to wrap presents in Santa's Workshop! Upper Foundation enjoyed a fantastic trip to Eureka, they loved exploring all the different galleries and a hands on Science Show. Both Lower and Upper Foundation enjoyed going for a walk around the village, looking at different types of housing. Next half term, the children will experience our 'People who help us' topic. We have lots of visitors planned including a paramedic and a police officer from within our local community.

Upper Foundation trip to Eureka

Foundation learning all about construction

Year 1 Year 1 have had another great half term. They have thoroughly enjoyed the lead up to Christmas and have produced some great Christmas cards and calendars. In English, they have read lots of books including Funny Bones, The Leopard's Drum and Owl Babies and produced some fantastic work from these books, including their very own owl puppets! In DT, the children have been designing, making and evaluating their own windmills and have tested them in the classroom and outside. In Science, the children have been learning all about the Human Body and carried out some fantastic experiments to test the 5 senses, including trying sour lemon and smelling blue cheese. The KS1 production was a huge success, all the children performed so well and made us incredibly proud! Year 1 have a very exciting start to the New Year with their new topic, London's Burning. They will learn about the causes of the Great Fire of London and discover how this affected London. In English, the children will be reading texts linked to the Great Fire of London and writing pieces of work on this. In Art, the children will develop their skills by creating sculptures out of paper. In Science, the children will learn about different animals and sort animals into their respective groups.

Year 2 This half term, the children have really enjoyed the frozen lands topic. In Geography, they learnt all about the conditions in the polar regions and the animals that live there. They contrasted this with rainforests and deserts and were able to locate the different areas on a map of the world. In Science, the children were interested in how animals are adapted to live in their habitats. They read books based on the theme of frozen lands and their stories, letters, diaries and descriptions were inspired by these. The KS1 performance, 'The Innkeeper's Breakfast' was huge success and the children all worked incredibly hard to learn their words and the songs. The children also enjoyed working to create lanterns which were then used in the parade at the National Coal Mining Museum Light Up event at the end of November. The topic for next half term is, 'To Infinity and Beyond'. In History, the children will be learning about the race to space and the astronauts who finally landed on the moon. In English, our book will include 'The Man on the Moon', 'The Way Back Home', 'Alien's Love Underpants' and 'Laika the Space Dog'. Also a mobile planetarium will also be visiting and the children will learn about the solar system and space travel.

Year 2's lantern creations

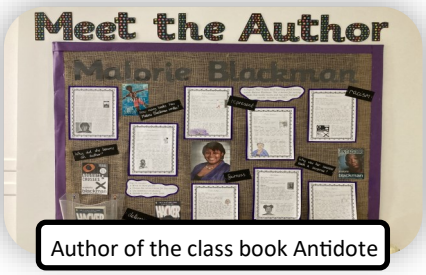
Year 3 This half term, Year 3 have been learning all about the Romans. They studied why the Romans invaded Britain and what made the Roman army so powerful. They also compared Roman settlements to Celtic villages and discussed what changes occurred after the Iron Age ended. In English, Year 3 read 'Escape from Pompeii'. They wrote some fantastic diary entries and reports based on the text. In Science, the children's topic was Animals Including Humans. They took part in an investigation to answer one of the following questions: Do people with longer arms throw further? Do people with longer legs jump further? They planned and executed the investigation then discussed the results afterwards. As part of their PE lessons, the children practised and applied their gymnastic skills by creating and adapting sequences, using both large and small apparatus. In DT, the children designed, made and tasted their own savoury tart. They used seasonal ingredients and considered the taste, texture, smell and appearance of their dish. Next half term, in Geography the children will be learning about Climate Zones. They will compare temperate and tropical climates and explore the differences between the northern hemisphere and the southern hemisphere. In English, Year 3 will be reading 'Ellie and The Cat' by Malorie Blackman to inspire their writing. When learning about plants in Science, the children will explore the requirements of plants for life and growth and how they vary from plant to plant.

Year 4 This half term, Year 4 have loved studying 'Electricity' in Science. They used bulbs, wires, motors, batteries and switches to create circuits, which aided their understanding of electrical currents, conductors and insulators.

In History, they enjoyed learning about the Vikings and at the end of the topic confidently presented their knowledge in their Year 4 assembly. The topic of the Vikings also linked to our class book, 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' where Arthur was forced to seek help from Thor, a popular Norse God. Year 4 wrote amazing narratives based around this book and Miss Chichangiri was blown away! In French, they have enjoyed learning French nursery rhymes and poems and performing these in front of the class. They have helped us to learn new vocabulary and improve our accents. Year 3 and 4 took part in a brilliant Christmas Performance, on the importance of love and family during this special time of year. They impressed everyone with their incredible singing and perfect comedic timing. Well done Year 4! At the beginning of February, Year 4 will travel to Nell Bank, where they will take part in problem solving activities, scenic walks and adventure play. They will use their map skills and science knowledge to help them. They are incredibly excited!

Year 5 Year 5 and 6 have teamed up this half term to rehearse and perform a Christmas Play, based on the theme: James Bond. They have thoroughly enjoyed re-enacting the famous story (with a twist), taking part in auditions, singing practises and focused acting sessions to bring it to life. They even came up with a dance routine themselves! This half term, Year 5 have been studying the Ancient Islamic Civilisations, focusing on Baghdad and the 'Golden Age' of Islam. They enjoyed researching some of the famous pioneers of medicine and compared this way of life with that of the Anglo-Saxons. In English, they finished reading the book 'Room 13' by Robert Swindell and started 'ANTIDOTE', a novel written by famous writer and Children's Laureate: Malorie Blackwell. They produced some fantastic work including a biography, newspaper report, comparison text and a poem. In late November, Year 5 performed a Samba assembly for the school and Year 5 parents! They were incredibly excited to show the result of the hard work. The assembly was a success and many of the children and parents commented on how much progress they had made in such a short space of time. Some of the children from Year 5 took part in an athletics competition at Cathedral, forming a team with some of the Year 6 children. Four girls and eight boys took part in a number of indoor athletics events, including javelin, chest push, relay, long jump and triple jump. Individually the boys came in 2nd place and the girls came 3rd, however combined the team came in 2nd place! A huge well done to everyone who took part! Next half term, Year 5 will be learning about Space and the planets in our Solar System. They will have the opportunity to experience the 'Planetarium' which will be coming to school in January. They will also continue with their SAMBA and move on to 'Mechanisms' in DT.

Animal testing debate



Author of the class book Antidote

Year 5 Samba Assembly

Year 6 In English, Year 6 have continued reading 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' and learning about WWII – the children have produced some lovely pieces of writing, including a diary entry and a balanced argument. In Maths, the children have been working hard to master their arithmetic, fraction and percentage knowledge and have produced some good results in their end of term assessments. In Art, Year 6 have created some fantastic artwork, producing a range of photo montages and a graffiti tag. The children have enjoyed competing in different sports hall athletics events with the boys' team coming 2nd and the girls' team coming 3rd. Miss Rooke is very proud of Year 6 this half term because of the children working extremely hard towards their individual targets. Next half term, Year 6 will be reading 'Kensuke's Kingdom' and producing a range of writing based on this story. In History, they will be doing a local study on the history and importance of coal mining in the area and how the physical landscape of Britain has changed since the 1800's.

Dates For Your Diary

January 2024

Wednesday 10th— Nell Bank parents meeting at 3:30pm

Wednesday 17th— Flu mop up session, EYFS Breakfast with Books and Planetarium Year 2, 3 & 5

Tuesday 23rd— Year 3 Assembly at 9:05am

Wednesday 31st— Clothing bank 3:30pm to 4pm

February 2024

Tuesday 6th— Year 4 Nell Bank

Wednesday 7th— Year 4 Nell Bank

Thursday 8th— Last day of Spring term 1

Friday 9th— INSET DAY (Staff only)

Monday 19th— First day of Spring term 2

Wednesday 21st— Young Voices trip Year 3 and the Choir

Thursday 22nd— Year 1 balance cycle training

Friday 23rd— Year 1 balance cycle training

Monday 26th— Year 1 balance cycle training

Tuesday 27th— Parents evening at 3:30pm

Wednesday 28th— Parents evening at 4:45pm

March 2024

Monday 1st— Clothing bank 3:30pm to 4pm

Monday 4th— KS1 Benchball at Horbury Academy

Monday 11th— Year 6 Robinwood and Year 4 & 5 Quick sticks hockey at Slazengers 1pm to 3pm

Tuesday 12th— Year 6 Robinwood

Wednesday 13th— Year 6 Robinwood

Thursday 14th— EYFS Breakfast with Books

Wednesday 20th— Individual and sibling photos, Year 5 STEAM event and Clothing bank 3:20pm to 4pm

Thursday 21st— Easter Disco

Friday 22nd— Last day of Spring term 2

The winner this half term is... **Year 6**

Annual Report 2023

We are delighted to share with you, the Trust's Annual Report for 2023, which features exciting news and updates from across the Accord family.

It has been a fantastic year collectively for the Trust, and we hope that by reading this year's report, you can see the continued success that has been secured with the strong support of our parents/carers and community.

Please follow the attached link to read the report in its entirety, or alternatively, you will be able to access this via MCAS shortly too: https://ow.ly/R1vr50Qj8pg

ECO WARRIORS

Hello from the Eco-Warriors! Over the Christmas period, lots of electricity, plastic and paper goes to waste every year. 688,000 tonnes of food, plastic, cardboard and aluminium was disregarded last year alone! We have come up with some creative solutions to prevent waste and look after our planet this Christmas…

Wrapping paper

- Could you use a gift bag instead of wrapping paper when giving a gift? Bags are reusable, so they can be used for any occasion, again and again!
- When purchasing new wrapping paper, check to see if it is recyclable! Some wrapping papers are made with plastic, so they can't be recycled.
- After opening the presents, some people save the wrapping paper to reuse it next year. Rather than destroying it, save it!

Christmas decorations

- Put your Christmas tree lights on a timer so they aren't on all day. This could save you lots of money too!
- Consider purchasing a fake Christmas tree to avoid chopping down trees needlessly each year. Alternatively, could you decorate existing plants in your house or garden?
- Some families choose to use tinsel on their tree instead of Christmas lights as this doesn't use up electricity.
- Consider making your own decorations rather than buying them! You could use egg boxes, milk cartons, baked bean tins, old clothes, towels…and more!

Household energy

- Turn the thermostat down by 2 degrees and wear extra layers where possible. When you go out, remember to turn the heating off to avoid waste!
- Do a Christmas jumper swap with your friends to reuse and recycle clothing!
- Consider using an air fryer which uses 1500W, considerably less energy than a regular oven (2200W).
- Consider using draft excluders, particularly if you have a large or old house. Chimney draft excluders can seriously increase the temperature of your house!

Food waste

- If you have leftover food, you can either freeze it to eat over the next few months or turn it into a festive pie!
- Use the carrot and potato peelings to make a compost!

We hope this is helpful and gives you some tips on how to look after our planet this Christmas!

Have an ECO friendly Christmas