Lower Foundation Welcome Information



Middlestown Primary Academy
Together we learn

Accord
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Welcome



The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) staff warmly welcome you and your child to Middlestown Primary Academy Foundation Unit. We look forward to working in partnership with you. This booklet has all the information you need to help us to support you and your child on the start of their learning journey.

Staff



Mrs Young

Headteacher

Mrs Ashcroft

SENDCo/ Designated Safeguarding Lead
Upper Foundation Teacher (Thursday AM /Friday)





Mrs Sholi

Assistant Headteacher, Early Years Lead
Upper Foundation Teacher (Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs pm)



Mrs Thompson

Nursery Nurse/ Nursery Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Staff



Mrs Jones

Higher Level Teaching Assistant

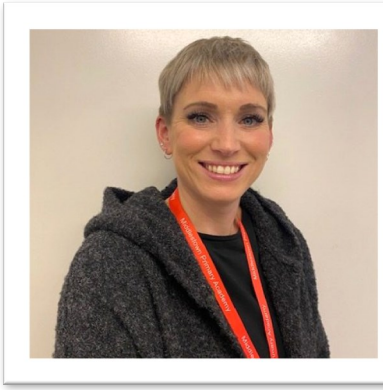


Mrs Centeno

Teaching Assistant

Mrs Johnson

Teaching Assistant



Mental Health

At Middlestown Primary Academy, we aim to promote positive mental health and wellbeing for our whole school community and recognise how important mental health and emotional wellbeing is to our lives in just the same way as physical health.

We are very proud to say that we have **7** Mental Health First Aiders trained on school site available to speak to all children about any worries they may be having, at any time.



Mrs Young

Headteacher and Senior Mental Health First Aider



Mrs Asquith

Teacher and Mental Health First Aider



Miss Rooke

Teacher and Mental Health First Aider



Mrs Thompson

HLTA, Nursery Nurse and Mental Health First Aider



Mrs Smith

Teaching Assistant, Learning Mentor and Mental Health First Aider



Mrs Byard

Teaching Assistant, Breakfast Club leader and Mental Health First Aider



Mrs Murphy

Hi-5 Club Leader and Mental Health

About us



It is our aim in the unit to foster independence and confidence in our children, who are happy in their play and learning.

All our children are encouraged to develop emotionally, physically and intellectually through a variety of well-structured provision and adult-led focused activity sessions.

As part of the journey through Foundation, children learn via our exciting and engaging topics that link to the children's interests including Dinosaurs, Minibeasts, Fantasy, and Fairies.

All our activities are differentiated and used to provide challenges to achieve the next step in the children's learning and development.

Beginning School



Every child is different and some children take longer than others to settle, we aim to support you and your child in this process.

We appreciate all children develop at different rates and would encourage parents to promote the following before starting their journey with us:

- Independence in your child's toileting, putting on their coats and speaking to an adult when they want or need something;
- Fostering an interest in stories and singing by sharing books and rhymes with your child;
- Talking about feelings and encouraging your child to be able to say how and why they are feeling a certain way;
- Encouraging early communication skills by talking about the things you can see and are doing, giving your child space and time to respond to questions.

...Beginning School

Please complete the 'All about me' booklet as well as the other paperwork you have been provided with and return them to the school office before your child starts school as this will help us get to know your child and ensure a smooth transition into nursery.

If you have any concerns please discuss them with a member of the team as we are always here to support you.



Uniform



In Lower Foundation we ask that all of the children to wear school uniform as this makes them feel part of the school.

- Named coat in school every day—children will have a named peg;
- Red sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo or a red jumper or cardigan (without logo);
- White or red polo shirt (available with or without the school logo) or a white shirt could also be worn;
- Grey trousers, a grey skirt or a grey dress;
- Summer dresses/ jumpsuits (red check) or grey shorts can be worn from Easter to October half-term (weather permitting);
- White/ grey socks or grey/red tights;
- **Black** shoes—no trainers;
- Red bookbag (available with our logo at the stockists listed below, or school will provide a cheaper alternative);

...Uniform

- PE kit is not required in Lower Foundation.

If you would like items with our school logo on, these can be purchased from our two approved suppliers:

The Box
13 Towngate, Ossett, WF5 9BL. Tel: 01924 263030 or

Rawcliffes
18a Crackenedge Lane, Dewsbury, WF13 1PU. Tel: 01924 465510.

It is essential that you clearly label ALL items of your child's school uniform. We also ask that you dress children appropriately for the weather conditions as we use our outdoor play area come rain or shine. So hats and caps are essential for the warmer months.

Session Information

Monday to Friday
(term time only)

Full day: 8.45am—3.15pm

Morning session: 8.45am—11.45am

Afternoon session: 12.15pm—3.15pm

We aim to be as flexible as possible when setting your child's hours, but we do ask that you please stick to your chosen session times.

If your circumstances change, or if you need any ad hoc sessions booking then please contact the school office and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Funded hours

- 15 hours a week is available to all;
- For those eligible for extended hours, the additional 15 can also be utilised at our setting;
- A full week is 32.5 hours (6.5 hours a day). 30 hours entitlement therefore runs to 12.45pm on the Friday afternoon. You can either pick up at this time, or pay for the additional 2.5 hours;



- We offer flexibility within the 30 hours should you wish to take up part of them;
- Payment for any chargeable hours will be invoiced on a half termly basis. We accept online payments as well as childcare voucher payments;
- Changes to hours can only be made on a half termly basis unless otherwise agreed with the office. Any increase in hours is also subject to availability.

Medical and Personal Information

It is very important that you inform us of any medical issues and allergies that your child has and that the contact information you provide us with includes accurate information and that you contact the school office should any of your details change.

Remember that if your child is unable to attend their sessions, please contact the school office.



The EYFS Curriculum

We work in accordance with the Statutory Framework which was published in March 2021.

There are **seven areas** of learning and development-

1) Communication and Language;
2) Physical Development;
3) Personal, Social and Emotional development;
4) Literacy;
5) Mathematics;
6) Understanding the World;
7) Expressive Art and Design.



Underpinning the areas of learning are the **Characteristics of Effective Learning**: playing and exploring, active learning, creating and thinking critically.

Phonics

All our children in the EYFS follow the ELS phonics programme. This begins in Lower Foundation with sound discrimination and awareness. This supports the development of your child's listening and attentions skills as well as learning the sounds required for reading.

In EYFS we hold parent information sessions about phonics and how phonics is taught within school.

Communication

There are a number of ways in which we communicate with you:

- **Seesaw:** all children will be given a log in for the Seesaw app. This will be used as our main means of communication with you as parents allowing us to share news, important information and photos of your child's achievements. As parents you can also use the app to send us information about any achievements at home or get in touch with any questions. We will also occasionally

...Communication

send stories or activities via Seesaw for you to enjoy with your child. Seesaw is free to download and can be used on any device such as a mobile phone or tablet.

- **Class overview:** this is published on a half-termly basis;
- **Website:** https://middlestown.accordmat.org/lower-foundation-2

We believe that building a strong partnership between school and home is key to supporting your child and enabling them to progress in their learning and development.

If you have any questions or concerns when your child starts school we will always make time to talk to you. The beginning of a session can be a very busy time but the Foundation team are always there to help. If more time is required, meetings can be arranged at a mutually convenient time.

The first few days

There can be a lot to remember in the first few days, but please do not worry as your child will quickly be teaching you all the routines!

- **Named water bottle**— you can buy these from the school office;
- **Packed lunch**—please refer to the lunchbox policy later in this booklet;
- **Label** all clothing;



- **Coat**—must be brought into school every day. We play outside in all weathers;
- **Fruit** is provided, by us, for your child every day.

School Packed Lunches

Your child will need to bring a packed lunch with them if they are staying for the full day. Please note that only WATER is permitted in their bottles. Our policy is as follows:

Packed lunches should include:

- Fruit and Vegetables - at least one portion of fruit **and** one portion of vegetables or salad.
- Non-dairy source of protein - meat, fish, egg, beans or pulses (lentils, kidney beans, hummus and falafel).
- A starchy food like bread, pasta, rice, couscous, noodles or potatoes
- Dairy foods such as milk, cheese, yoghurt, fromage frais
- Drinks - the school provides water.

Packed lunches should not include:

- Confectionery such as chocolate bars, chocolate-coated biscuits, sweets and anything containing chocolate for example mousse.
- Chocolate spread, honey, jam or marmalade as a sandwich filling.
- Fizzy / sugary drinks or fruit flavoured squash. This includes diet drinks and energy drinks which can contain high levels of caffeine and other additives and are not suitable for children.
- Any form of nuts because of the danger to other children with allergies.

Packed lunches could occasionally include:

- Meat products such as sausage rolls, individual pies, corned meat and sausages / chipolatas should be included only occasionally due to their high fat and salt content.
- It is recommended that children have oily fish once every 3 weeks.
- Cakes and plain biscuits are allowed but children should be encouraged to eat these only as part of a balanced meal.
- Cereal bars and fruit bars (try and make sure these are 1 of your 5-a-day)
- Children are allowed to bring in crisps **on a Friday** as chips are served on lunchtimes and as a treat on school trips.

Our Library

To encourage a love of reading, each week your child can chose a library book to take home and share with family and friends. We ask that this is then returned the following week to be changed.

School office contact details

Email: admin@middlestown.accordmat.org

Tel: 01924 278290

Thank you!

Many thanks for taking the time to read our information booklet. We look forward to welcoming your child into our Foundation Unit.