MIDDLESTOWN NEWS

Middlestown Primary Academy: March 2024

Headteacher's Welcome… It is lovely to finally feel that Winter is behind us and Spring is on its way. We started off this half term with History Day with all the children dressing up with their creative ideas of people from history. The Year 1 children enjoyed their sessions on the balance bikes and Year 2 had a fabulous day at Yorkshire Wildlife Park. We then moved on to World Book Day, with some children dressing up and others sharing their favourite stories with their friends. The EYFS enjoyed a visit from the Fire Service and Year 5 had visitors from the Coal Mining Museum and the Science department at the High School. I was also lucky enough to join Year 3 and the choir at the Young Voices concert at Sheffield arena, which was enjoyed by all. A special mention to the Y6 children (with some Y5s) who attended the Year 6 residential to Robinwood. Some of them really battled with their fears to take on some of the challenges and I was really proud of how they represented the school. I can't believe that it will be the Summer Term when we return to school on Monday 8th April. It will be another term full of extra activities that the children enjoy including sports days, sports week, trips and afternoon teas. We will share more details with you when we return after Easter. Happy Easter to you all and I hope the Easter bunny comes to visit!

Summer 1 PE Days

UF— Friday

Year 1— Tuesday & Thursday

Year 2— Thursday

Year 3— Monday & Thursday

Year 4— Monday (swimming) & Thursday

Year 5— Monday & Wednesday

Year 6— Tuesday

Music Lessons Year 3 – 6

Would your child like to learn a musical instrument? We still have spaces available in the following music lessons which take place in school hours:

- Brass
- Woodwind

If your child would be interested, please contact the office.

Fundraising

Thank you all for your support in raising funds towards Coeliac UK, a total of £400 was raised.

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Staff Profile: Get to know our staff better… Mrs Ashcroft

When did you start at MPA?
I started at MPA in September 2015. I was Senior Teacher, SENDCo, Music Leader and Year 1 teacher.

What do you do at MPA?
My role at MPA has changed over the (almost) 9 years. After being Assistant Head for 4 years I am now the Primary MAT SENDCo. I am still part of SLT but now work at Horbury Primary for 3 days a week as their SENDCo and SLT and then Middlestown for 2 days as SENDCo, Safeguarding Lead, SLT and Upper Foundation Teacher.

What is your favourite thing about your job?
I really enjoy working with a variety of people. In my role as SENDCo, I have to liaise with a number of different professionals. I love to learn from others about how we can best support pupils in our schools.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
Spending time with my family is certainly my favourite thing, I have 2 girls who are now 10 and 15. At home we love a good board game night, film night or kitchen disco! I am a dance mum so spend many weekends ferrying my younger daughter to dance competitions. I also really enjoy holidays and travelling therefore my summers are usually spent with some time in a villa somewhere sunny with lots of my family. I love to spend my weekends exploring new walks with my dog Digby, particularly if there is a refreshment stop on route! I have played netball since I was at school and am still playing now. My team are called 'Mix-Ups', I play in defence and I love to catch up with my team mates each week. I also love reading and eating nice food!

Favourite moment at Middlestown so far?
I have so many lovely memories of working at Middlestown but I think my favourite day was the day children were back in school after lockdown!

Favourite food?
I love all types of food so it is difficult to choose a favourite! I think my favourite would be seafood eaten outdoors in the sunshine!

Foundation Stage Foundation have had a very busy and productive half term! The children enjoyed celebrating pancake day. They made pancakes and read the story 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes'. The children enjoyed making gingerbread men, linked to the story 'The Gingerbread Man' and retold the story using role play masks. The half term was rounded off with a focus on Easter. The children learnt Easter songs, read and talked about the Easter story and went on a variety of Easter Egg hunts, some involved numbers! Foundation enjoyed a visit from West Yorkshire Fire Service who talked them through how to safely respond to a fire and they showed them the different parts of a fire engine. Foundation were introduced to our 5 pet stick insects. They have given them names, drew lots of pictures and they have written facts about them and have learnt how to keep them safe and healthy. Next half term, the unit will welcome their new Lower Foundation New Starters to Middlestown Primary Academy. Our topic for the half term is, 'Down at the Bottom of the Garden' and there will be lots of learning around growing, planting, life cycles and animals.

Year 1 This half term, Year 1 have thoroughly enjoyed their Kings and Queens topic. In English, they have read a variety of books including 'The Queen's Knickers', 'Yoki and the Parno Gry' and 'Prince Cinders'. They have written a range of genres linked to the books, which has helped them develop their writing. In History, the children have enjoyed our Victorians topic and loved the Victorians workshop at the start of the half term. In Science, the children have been exploring everyday materials and deciding what they are made out of. The children have also taken part in British Science week and explored the conditions plants need to grow and learnt about George Washington Carver. Year 1 had a brilliant Victorians workshop delivered by Jeffrey Andrews. Year 1 came 2nd for the 'Move the ball' activity in the Year 1 Multi-skills Competition. Next half term, the children will continue with their Victorians topic and find out about old and new toys. In DT, the children will design, make and evaluate their very own puppet. They have been practising their sewing skills and then they will apply this learning to their own puppet. In PE, the children will learn some different athletic sports in the lead up to Sports Day. In Geography, the children will learn about the 4 countries that make the United Kingdom and will read books related to this topic in English.

Year 2 This half term, our topic has been 'On Safari' and the children have been reading lots of stories about animals in Africa. They learnt about animal life cycles in Science. In Geography, they learnt about the Zambian village of Mugurameno and they compared it to Middlestown. In Maths, the children were learning about money and fractions. To support our work on animals, the children visited the Yorkshire Wildlife Park, where we had a fabulous day and learnt about animal habitats. The children even got the chance to handle some live animals, including a giant African land snail and a hissing cockroach. Next half term, the topic will be 'Katie and the Artists' and the children will read the Katie story books by James Mayhew. In History, the children will learn about Barbara Hepworth, her artwork and what Wakefield was like when she was born in 1903. In Art, they will look at the work of Rachel Whiteread and use her sculptures as inspiration for their own clay tiles.

Year 3 This half term, Year 3 have been learning about North America in Geography. They learnt about human and physical features and explored the landscape and popular attractions there. They took part in drama activities, in which they described the different features and created radio adverts for the Rocky Mountains. The children learnt about lines of latitude and longitude and found these lines on maps and in atlas'. In English, the children read 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs'. They took part in hot seating activities and conscience alleys and baked cupcakes, like the ones the wolf made in the story for his Granny. They wrote diary entries, descriptions and discussions based on the book. In Science, the children have been learning about forces. They investigated which surface has the most amount of friction and which materials are magnetic. Bronte, Archie, Oliver, Austin and Jenson attended the West Yorkshire Cross Country Finals at Temple Newsam to represent Year 3 for Wakefield. They competed against 100 other children from across the district. Well done to these children for their fantastic efforts at the event! After rehearsing as a single choir, Year 3 and the school choir attended Young Voices to join lots of other choirs to become one single choir for the performance. Next half term, the children will continue learning about forces in Science and will start learning about Ancient Greece in History. They will compare the Ancient Greek Olympics to the modern Olympic games and will learn about the influence the gods had on Ancient Greece.

Year 4 Year 4 have had a very exciting half-term! They have celebrated World Book Day, Red Nose Day and performed in the Easter Service. They have worked very hard in Maths to understand analogue time, digital time and 24-hour time. They have also really enjoyed their class book, 'The Iron Man' and have written gripping newspaper reports and instructions from multiple perspectives. Ask Year 4 what they would do to catch the pesky Iron Man, they created a whole set of instructions to help you! In Science, Year 4 have been learning about all the different parts of the digestive system and were particularly intrigued at how teeth contribute to digestion. In Geography, Year 4 have been learning about the water cycle and the features of rivers. In DT, Year 4 have been working carefully to create their own slingshot car. In French, Year 4 made their own clothes catalogue, where they described the colour and size of their beautiful clothes. Year 4 had their first school residential at Nell Bank in Ilkley. On the first day of their trip they developed their team work skills after playing lots of competitive games, such as ball and pipe and the floor is lava. That evening, Year 4 enjoyed delicious fish and chips and had a hot chocolate party in the dark! On their second day, Year 4 explored the forests during orienteering and built their own dens. They finished their wonderful trip with an awards ceremony and played on the adventure playground. Next term, Year 4 will be learning about area and perimeter in Maths and states of matter in Science. In Geography, they will be exploring rainforests and should look forward to a trip to a mosque in RE.

Year 5 This half term, Year 5 have continued learning about Space and the Earth! They have loved acting out the Solar System and identifying the phases of the moon, along with identifying pieces of equipment that an astronaut might find useful when trying to survive the harsh conditions of space. During Science Week, the children learnt about Katherine Johnson, famous 'computer' that helped radicalise space travel. They used the book 'Hidden Figures' to learn about the trials Katherine faced when working for NASA and produced pieces of writing based on her life. In English, Year 5 have been studying the book 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. They used this as inspiration to write a setting description, diary entry and letter. They have really enjoyed getting into character and carefully considering what life in such a place might be like. Some children even dressed as Stanley for World Book Day! Some of the Year 4 and 5s took part in a Hockey tournament in February this year. They did incredibly well and ended up coming in fourth place! Next half term, Year 5 will move on to a new topic in history: the Tudors! To accompany this, they will be going on a school trip to Temple Newsam to experience a Tudor house and dress, delving into what life might have been like for the people living in the sixteenth century.

Year 6 This half term, Year 6 have been working hard on all different kinds of skills. They have been writing diary entries, narrative descriptions, information leaflets and newspaper reports based on the book 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo. In Maths, Year 6 have honed their mathematical skills by interpreting different types of data such as, pie charts and line graphs and they have been busy revising different topics for the SATs assessments in May. in History, they have started to understand the importance and impact that the Industrial Revolution has had on modern day life. Year 6 had an unbelievable time at Robinwood! All the children thoroughly enjoyed the challenges that they were presented with whether it was flying down the zip wire or manoeuvring their way through the twists and turns of the Robinwood caves. Next half term, the children will be sitting their SATs assessments in May and will continue to learn about the Industrial Revolution and the importance that coal mining has played in our local area.

Dates For Your Diary

April 2024

Tuesday 9th— Year 5 Samba Assembly at 2:30pm

Wednesday 10th— EYFS Rainbow Day

Wednesday 24th— Makaton Assembly at 2:45pm

May 2024

Wednesday 1st— Year 1 to 6 Rollerbike competition

Friday 3rd— EYFS Breakfast with Books at 9:00am and Year 4, 5 & 6 Cricket at Horbury

Tuesday 7th— Year 1 Assembly at 9:05am

Friday 24th— Clothing Bank at 3:20pm

The winner this half term is... **Year 5**

Term Date Reminders

Monday 6th May— Bank Holiday

Friday 24th May— Last day of Summer 1 break up for 1 week

Monday 3rd June— First day of Summer 2

Friday 19th July— Last day of Summer 2 break up for Summer holidays

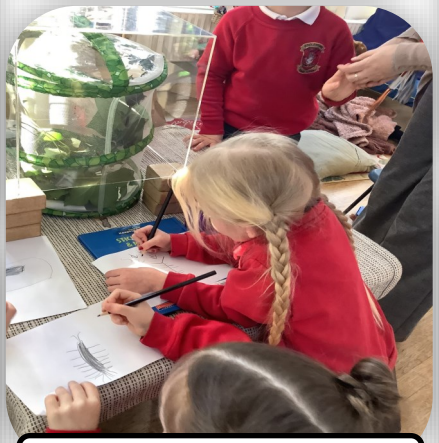
Monday 22nd July— INSET day staff only

Gallery

Year 2 pupils who took part in Bench-ball at Horbury Academy and came

Year 3 at Young Voices

Cross Country finals

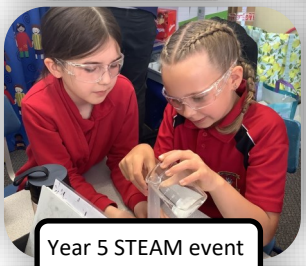


Foundation learning about stick insects

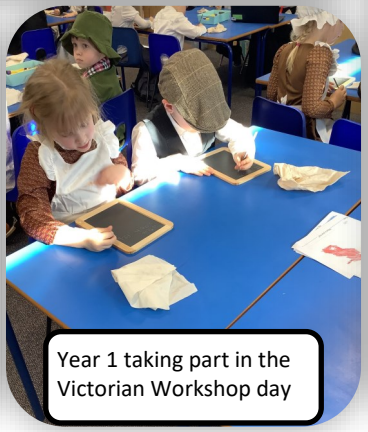
Upper Foundation meeting the Fire Crew

Year 4 fun at Nell Bank

Year 6 fun at Robinwood



Year 5 STEAM event



Year 1 taking part in the Victorian Workshop day