MIDDLESTOWN NEWS

Middlestown Primary Academy: May 2024

Headteacher's Welcome… I want to start off by praising all the children who have taken part in assessments this half term (Y6 & Y2) with a special mention to Y6 for coming into school early for breakfast and revision and then trying their best over the 4 days of testing. Y1 and Y4 will have their statutory assessments next half term with the phonics test and multiplication test. It has been lovely to finally see some sunshine and we have been able to get out onto the field and have PE lessons and clubs outside. I hope it continues and that you all have a lovely May half term break. Next half term will see a range of activities including trips, sports days, sports week, art events and transition days for the children leaving us. We will keep you well informed of these events and hope that the weather is kind to us, especially for the family picnics that we hope to run on sports days and for the Summer Fayre. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you in school (or on the school field) next half term.

Summer 2 PE Days

UF— Thursday

Year 1— Wednesday & Thursday

Year 2— Thursday

Year 3— Monday & Wednesday

Year 4— Monday (swimming) & Wednesday

Year 5— Monday & Tuesday

Year 6— Tuesday or Wednesday

Rainbow Day

Thank you all for your continued support in fundraising for the school. Our recent fundraiser for the Foundation Rainbow Day raised an amazing amount of……..

£861.40

Summer

As the nice weather is now setting in, here are some reminders for the Summer 2 term.

- Please make sure your child brings a school water bottle to school.
- Please make sure suncream is applied before your child comes to school.
- Please make sure your child brings a sun hat (labelled with their name).

Staff Profile: Get to know our staff better…

Mrs Ashurst

When did you start at MPA?
I started here at Middlestown Primary Academy in April 2021.

What do you do at MPA?
I am employed as an SEN teaching assistant. I support children with their learning through small group and individual interventions.

What is your favourite thing about your job?
The incredible job satisfaction! I love to see children thrive and enjoy learning.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
I love Music, it is my passion. I play various musical instruments and I sing in two local choirs.

Favourite moment at Middlestown so far?
There are two equally favourite moments at Middlestown so far. The Y6 residential trip to Robinwood, which was fantastic and the Y3 trip to Sheffield arena for Young voices, which was also an amazing experience.

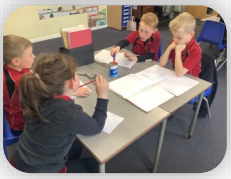
Favourite food?
You can't beat a Sunday roast!

Foundation Stage In Foundation this half term, we have been learning all about growth and life cycles in the topic 'Down at the Bottom of the Garden'. The children have enjoyed an array of stories, including 'The Hungry Caterpillar', 'Farmer Duck' and 'A Seed in Need'. The children planted their own sunflower seeds that they can take home and nurture over half term. The children talked about where food comes from and the life cycles of butterflies and frogs. The children also learnt about the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. They wrote Eid party invitations and talked about the things in their life that they are grateful for. The children in Upper Foundation have been extending their understanding of number to 20, looking at different representations and ordering the numbers. The children in Foundation loved watching our 10 eggs hatch into chicks. They were fascinated to learn about the lifecycle of a chicken in real time, right in front of their very eyes! The children enjoyed watching the chicks grow and they receive updates about how they are getting on their new home (a local small holding with lots of other animals). Next half term, the children will be embarking on a journey, as the topic will be 'All around the World'. They will be tasting foods from other countries, reading texts that expose them to a variety of different cultures and listening to music from all around the world.

Year 1 Year 1 have had another busy half term. Year 1's topic this half term has been The United Kingdom. In Geography, they have been learning about the four countries that make up the UK and key features of them such as capital cities and famous landmarks. In English, the children have been reading stories from each of the UK countries including 'How to Catch a Leprechaun', 'Paddington Bear' and 'Dragon Post'. The children have written a plethora of genres linking to the texts including writing instructions on how to make Paddington's marmalade sandwiches. The children have also made traps on how to catch the naughty leprechaun that visited their classroom. In Science, the children have been looking at the changes in seasons from Winter to Spring. They also went on a 'plant hunt' to discover the different parts of a plant. Year 1 were amazing during their class assembly presenting all they had learned about 'The Victorians'. Next half term, the children will be starting their new History topic, 'How Seaside's have Changed'. They will be exploring the historical figure, 'Grace Darling' and what the seaside's looked like in past. There will also be a trip to the Scarborough to link with their topic and complete activities on the Middlestown Passport. In English, they will be reading lots of stories about the seaside including 'Snail and the Whale', 'Lucy and Tom at the seaside' and 'Storm Whale'. In PE, they will be looking at Striking and Fielding. The children will take part in a cricket session each week. As part of our new Geography topic, 'Local Area', we will be visiting Coxley Woods and walking around Middlestown to create a map of our local area.

Year 2 This half term, Y2 have had an art focus and their topic was 'Katie and the Artists'. The children read books by James Mayhew in their English lessons and used them as inspiration for their writing, producing lovely conversations, descriptions and stories. In History, they learnt about Barbara Hepworth, her life and her work and made comparisons between Wakefield when she was born in 1903, with Wakefield today. In Science, the children investigated the conditions that plants need for healthy growth. In Art, the children have been exploring clay and how to create shapes using their hands and texture using a variety of tools. They learnt how to join clay pieces together using the score and slip method and designed their own houses that they recreated in clay using their new knowledge and skills. The children all worked really hard in the KS1 SATs tests and we are all very proud of them. Next half term, out topic will be 'Secrets of the Sea' and in history the children will be learning all about Titanic, which is always a favourite in Year 2. The children will learn about the events that led to disaster and will compare facilities for first and third class passengers. They will also be asked to complete a homework project based on Titanic.

Year 3 This half term, the children have read the book 'Sulwe' by Lupita Nyong'o to inspire their writing in English. They have taken part in drama activities such as role play and freeze frames and have written setting descriptions, diary entries and their own narrative based on the story. In History, the children have been learning about Ancient Greece. So far, they have used a timeline to see where Ancient Greece fits in with world history and have researched different areas of Ancient Greece including the start of the Olympics, Greek Gods and who Alexander the Great was. In Science, the children have completed their topic on Forces and Magnets. They identified different magnetic materials and conducted an experiment to see which magnet was the strongest. The children have completed a range of activities in PE as part of their Athletics topic. They have learnt how to throw a javelin, discus and shot put and have applied their running skills in sprints and relay races. As part of their Art topic, the children designed and made a structure. They learnt how to shape materials in different ways and combined the shapes to make an interesting, free-standing sculpture. Years 1-6 took part in a Rollerbikes competition, each year group competed to have the fastest average time and these times will then be compared with other schools in the Wakefield district. The winners will be announced after the holidays. As part of our RE topic, Years 3 and 4 will be visiting Batley Mosque to learn about why people pray. Y3/4 Breakfast with Books will be Monday 1st July – all parents are invited to come into school at 9am to share a book with their child.



Year 4 This half term, Year 4 read the exciting adventure story 'The Girl Who Stole an Elephant' and wrote emotive letters, newspaper reports, playscripts and more. In In Maths, Year 4 have been focusing on answering 2 step and 3 step word problems to improve their reasoning skills. In Science, Year 4 have been experimenting with solids, liquids and gases. They have experimented by melting chocolate and observing the process of evaporation. In Geography, Year 4 have been learning about rainforests around the world. They passionately wrote persuasive letters against deforestation to the Brazilian Embassy. In RE, they investigated how religious and non-religious communities celebrate Christmas and created a questionnaire for Year 5 to answer. Year 4 worked very hard on their art skills this term, throughout the term they learnt how to create tints and shades to make a painting look 3 dimensional. By the end of the term, they created a still life painting with an interesting composition. Year 4 participated in the Wakefield Council rollerbike competition, they cheered each other on and nearly beat their teacher's speed. Next half term In English, Year 4 will be reading the 'Explorer' by Katherine Rundell. This thrilling story will help them to strengthen and apply their knowledge of the rainforest. In Maths, Year 4 will learn how to interpret bar charts and graphs and will be taking the Multiplication Table Check. In Geography, they will be exploring their local area and creating maps of Middlestown.

Year 5 This half term, Year 5 have started a new topic: The Tudors! They started off by learning about Henry VIII and the other Tudor rulers and moved on to learning about life in Tudor Britain, comparing it to their lives today. They completed a fantastic piece of writing in English on this topic, writing as if they were a time traveller that had gone back in time to Tudor London. They had great fun discussing the Tudor way of life: food, clothes, diseases, punishments…and more! Year 5 have finished studying the book 'Holes' by Louis Sachar and moved on to 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan, an unusual novel in that it doesn't have any words. The children used their knowledge and inference skills to figure out what was happening in the pictures and used it to inform their writing, including reverse poetry about refugees in the UK, narratives, farewell letters and journal entries. They thoroughly enjoyed discussing the struggles and emotional turmoil of being a refugee and came up with some fantastic ideas. Year 5 experienced a STEAM day, hosted by Miss Major from Horbury Academy. They loved learning about the different careers in 'STEAM' and had a go at a number of different activities and experiments. Next half term, Year 5 will continue their Tudor topic and will visit Temple Newsam, a real Tudor building packed full of history and legacy. This incredible experience will allow the children to link their learning in class to 'real life' through observation of how wealthy Tudors lived and discovering some of the furniture, ceramics, textiles, silver and wallpaper used by historical figures such as Henry VIII and Mary Queen of Scots.

Year 6 Year 6 have had a busy half term revising for SATs in Reading, Maths and GPS – they have worked extremely hard. In English, they have practised answering a huge range of questions in Comprehension and in GPS have honed their skills using the passive and active voice. In Maths, the children having been attempting some tricky percentage, fractions and ratio problems and have consolidated their understanding of co-ordinates and reflection. In Art, the children have been completing research of two different artists: Fiona Rae and David Hockney and produced a detailed artist's profile. The children produced some excellent times for the Roller Bike competition with our head boy achieving a time of just over 28 seconds to complete 500 metres. It is going to be a busy final half term for the Year 6s as they will be preparing for their Leavers' Assembly.

Dates For Your Diary

The winner this half term is... **Y2 & Y6**

June 2024

Wednesday 5th— Year 3 & 4 trip to the Mosque

Thursday 6th— Foundation trip to Cannon Hall Farm

Monday 10th— Class Photographs and beginning of Year 1 phonics screening week

Wednesday 12th— Year 5 trip to Temple Newsam

Monday 17th— Year 4 & 5 OAA event at Horbury Primary Academy

Tuesday 18th— Year 2 trip to the Library

Monday 24th— Year 1 & 2 Breakfast with Books at 8:50am and New Lower Foundation starter meeting

Tuesday 25th— Year 1 & 2 trip to Scarborough and Year 6 transition day

Wednesday 26th— EYFS Sports Day (AM) and Year 6 transition day

Thursday 27th— Year 1, 2 & 3 Sports Day (PM)

Friday 28th— Year 5 taster day at Horbury Academy

July 2024

Monday 1st— New Lower Foundation home visits, Year 3 & 4 Breakfast with Books at 8:50am and New Upper Foundation starter meeting at 5pm

Tuesday 2nd— Year 5 The Big Sing and EYFS reserve Sports Day

Wednesday 3rd— Year 4, 5 & 6 Sports Day (PM)

Thursday 4th— Year 1, 2 & 3 reserve Sports Day

Monday 8th— EYFS Breakfast with Books at 9am

Tuesday 9th— New Lower Foundation Stay & Play 10am to 11am and Year 2 afternoon tea at 2:30pm

Wednesday 10th— New Lower Foundation home visits, Year 4, 5 & 6 reserve Sports Day and Clothing Bank at 3:20pm

Thursday 11th— Upper Foundation afternoon tea at 2:30pm

Tuesday 16th— Year 6 Leavers assembly (time to follow)

Wednesday 17th— New Lower Foundation Stay & Play 1:45pm to 2:45pm and Year 6 Leavers meal (times to follow)

Thursday 18th— Year 6 rounders match after school

Friday 19th— Last Day of Summer 2 Term

Monday 22nd— Inset Day (Staff only)

Monday 22nd to Friday 26th — Summer Holiday Club (please book if you require a place)