MIDDLESTOWN NEWS

Middlestown Primary Academy: October 2024

Headteacher's Welcome… This 8 week half term has absolutely flown and I can't believe that we are already at the half term break. September flew by with the Harvest celebrations and now we are celebrating with the Halloween disco. The children have settled into their learning in their new classes and we look forward to seeing you on Parents' Evening, where we will share with you their progress so far and how you can continue to help your child(ren) at home. At MPA, we strongly believe that the best way to way to support your child at home is to hear them read their reading book. We also promote sharing stories and books together with any family member. There is plenty of evidence to suggest what a positive impact reading has on children, not only at a younger age but as they continue their education and onto employment. When we return after the break, we will start planning Christmas activities and we will let you know about Christmas plays, the fayre, lunches and parties as well as our annual trip to the pantomime. I hope you have a lovely half term break and we get a few nice, sunny days so we can get out and about.

Autumn 2 PE Days

UF— Friday

Year 1— Tuesday & Thursday

Year 2— Thursday

Year 3— Monday & Tuesday

Year 4— Monday (swimming) & Wednesday

Year 5— Monday & Thursday

Year 6— Thursday

Fundraising

Thank you for your generosity this half term, we raised **£159.20** on Hello Yellow Day for the YoungMinds charity.

YOUNGMiNDS

Staff Profile: Get to know our staff better…

Miss Meadows

When did you start at MPA?
I started at MPA in September 2024.

What do you do at MPA?
I am the Year 4 class Teacher and leader of School Council.

What is your favourite thing about your job?
I love seeing the children everyday and getting to do fun things, such as activity day.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
Outside of school I love eating nice food, spending time with my friends and family and especially enjoy spending time with my Miniature Schnauzer, Lottie. I also love to read.

Favourite moment at Middlestown so far?
My favourite moment so far has been playing rounders as part of the Activity Day. It was lovely to be able to experience this with the children and their families. It was so much fun!

Favourite food?
This is a tricky one! I love Italian food but I think Thai food has to be my favourite.

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 and 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 enjoy 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 and the Nativity story.

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 tested their hearing skills on a sound walk around school. 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. In Geography, the children have been learning about the seasons of the year and have even learnt a song to remember the months of the year! The children had a great time at Secret Garden and used teamwork to help each other around the equipment. Mrs O'Connor joined the Year 1 team this half term and is really looking forward to teaching Year 1 on a Thursday and Friday. 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: 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 be learning to identify different shapes and their features.

Year 2 The children have settled really well into Year 2 and have got used 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 place value and we have been adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers. 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. They found places where the animals could make their shelters and searched microhabitats to find food that a hedgehog could eat. The children worked with staff from the National Coal Mining Museum to create lanterns for the light up festival. They will be invited to take part in a parade, more details to follow. The children in Year 1 and 2 took part in a live Lyfta lesson with children from other schools across the country. They learnt about Artificial Intelligence, the things it can be used for and how it might change life in the future. They weren't too sure about robot teachers! 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. The children will be taking part in another live Lyfta lesson, this one will be about disabilities and protected characteristics. The children will be bringing home their lines to learn for our Nativity too.

Year 3 This half term, Year 3 have read the book 'The Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura and 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' to inspire their writing in English. They have participated in drama activities including; freeze frames, acting out their own adverts, as well as writing character, setting descriptions, letters, diary entries, product reviews and play scripts all based on the stories. In History, the children have been learning about early civilisations. So far, they have used a timeline to order events, learnt about hunter gatherers and experienced life as a hunter gatherer in Coxley Woods. They have also learnt about the tools used in the Stone Age and how they were different in the Iron and Bronze age. In Science, the children have completed their topic on rocks and soils. They have learnt about igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks and how they are formed. They have completed various practical activities in this topic including; testing rocks for different purposes, creating 'dirt puddings' to represent the different layers of the earth and testing the permeability of different soils. As part of the invasion games PE topic, the children have learnt different skills including chest passing, dodging and dribbling and applied them in different game situations. The children's Art topic has been focusing on prehistoric art. The children created cave paintings based on animals native to England using charcoal and experimented with natural materials. In French, the children have been learning different greetings and feelings. To practice these, the children have participated in role play to perfect the vocabulary. The children have completed two workshops this term one being an art workshop with the Coal Mining Museum and a Stone Age to Iron Age workshop linking to their History topic. A selection of children attended the cross-country festival at Horbury academy, they took part in racing against children their ages from other schools. Next half term, Year 3 will be learning about the Romans in their History topic. In Science, they will be learning about animals, including humans. The children will also be visiting the Pantomime on 10th December and will be watching Dick Wittington.

Year 4 This half term, Year 4 have been learning all about the Anglo-Saxons in History. They have learnt about how the Anglo-Saxon period started, including the key figures, the seven kingdoms and what life was like during that time. The children have created their own Anglo-Saxon warrior passport, as well as a Venn diagram comparing Anglo-Saxon Britain to Britain as we know it now. In English, Year 4 have used the books 'Malala's Magic Pencil' and 'Anglo-Saxon Boy' as stimuli for their writing. They have produced some fantastic character descriptions, diary entries and letters. In Science, the children have enjoyed learning about sound. Through working scientifically, the children have used practical experiments to understand how sound is created through vibrations and how a sound wave looks different depending on the pitch and amplitude of the sound, they even made their own musical instrument that produced a range of pitches. During this half term, Year 4 have worked with members from the Coal Mining Museum and local artists to create their own pieces of art that will go on display at the museum. The children worked independently and collaboratively to create artwork that will be turned into an animation, they even got to see how artwork can be scanned and turned into a moving image with sound. Next half term, Year 4 will be learning about the Vikings in History. This will be supported by a range of chosen texts used in English, such as 'Arthur and the Golden Rope'. In science, the children will be learning all about electricity and alongside this they will be making their own electrical systems in design and technology.

Year 5 This half term, Year 5 have been reading 'Room 13' to inspire their writing in English. They have written some fantastic newspaper reports, informative texts and diary entries based on the book and taken part in a variety of drama activities. In Geography, the children have learnt about Mountains. They located the highest mountains in the world, learnt about the different types and how they are formed and imagined what life would be like living on a mountain. The children have designed and made their own pop-up books as part of their DT topic. They learnt that structures use the movement of the pages to work and that mechanisms control movement. Once completed, they shared their books with children in Year 1. In Science, Year 5 have been studying the life cycles of different animals and comparing them. They carefully dissected flowers to observe their parts and gain an understanding of their process in reproduction. Year 5 have also enjoyed their Samba lessons, in which they have practised with new instruments and worked together to create a harmony. Teams of boys and girls in KS2 attended the cross country festival at Horbury Academy on Wednesday 9th October. They raced against children from other schools in the local area and some children were successful in gaining a place at the Wakefield Finals. These took place on Thursday 17th October and all children performed brilliantly. We are awaiting the results of this event to see which children have qualified for the West Yorkshire finals which will be held in Spring next year. Year 5/6 took part in a tag-rugby festival on Monday 14th October. They played games against other schools and came 2nd overall! Next half term, Year 5 will be learning about Ancient Islamic Civilisations in History. They will learn what the House of Wisdom was and why it was important and why learning was important to the people of Baghdad. In Science, Year 5 will be learning about properties and changes of materials; this includes comparing and grouping materials based on their properties and know how a material dissolves to form a solution. The whole school celebrated World Mental Health Day and recognised this day by taking part in Hello Yellow Day in which they came to school in bright, yellow clothes, by doing this the children raised awareness of mental health and they had lots of discussions regarding how to support their own mental health.

Year 6 This half term, Year 6 are reading 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne and have produced some excellent pieces of writing. They have written a letter and a diary and have enjoyed using drama to inspire their ideas on what the different characters would say to each other. This links very well with their History topic, the Second World War, in which they have been learning about Britain's involvement in the fight against Nazi Germany. They used this to inform their writing, artwork and class assembly. In Maths, they have consolidated and extended their understanding of place value and the four written methods and have used this to answer various problems. The children have particularly loved their Science topic, Electricity, where they have been trouble shooting circuits and investigating how to alter the brightness of a bulb. The children have enjoyed coming together once again for assemblies and enjoyed sharing their work in the Harvest assembly. Year 6 have also completed the Bikeability course on how to be safe on the roads. They performed a fantastic class assembly on World War II, showcasing their learning to their parents. Next half term, the children will be reading 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo and continuing to learn about key events in World War II such as The Battle of Britain and the attack on Pearl Harbour. They will also take part in some sporting competitions, including Rugby and Indoor Athletics.

Dates For Your Diary

November 2023

Tuesday 5th— Parents Evening 3:20pm to 5:20pm

Wednesday 6th— Parents Evening 4:45pm to 6:30pm

Friday 8th— Wear it Wild Day

Monday 11th— EYFS Open session 2pm to 3:00pm and Year 3 to Year 5 Sportability at Horbury Academy

Tuesday 12th— Year 6 WW2 Workshop

Friday 15th— Children in Need

Monday 25th— Year 5 and Year 6 Girls Sports Hall Athletics at Horbury Academy

Tuesday 26th— EYFS Breakfast with Books at 8:45am

Thursday 28th— Careers Day

Friday 29th— Film night from 3:15pm and Christmas light switch on at 4:45pm.

December 2023

Monday 2nd— Year 5 and Year 6 Boys Sports Hall Athletics at Horbury Academy

Thursday 5th— Christmas Fayre at 3:15pm to 5:00pm

Tuesday 10th— Year 1 to Year 6 trip to the Pantomime and Year 1 & 2 Christmas performance at 2:15pm

Wednesday 11th— Year 1 & 2 Christmas performance at 9:15am, Year 3 & 4 Christmas performance at 2:15pm & 6:00pm

Thursday 12th— Year 5 & 6 Christmas performance at 2:00pm & 6:00pm

Friday 13th— Second Life Uniforms at 3:15pm

Monday 16th— Upper Foundation Christmas performance 9:15am & 2:00pm and Christmas dinner

Thursday 19th— Lower Foundation Christmas performance at 9:15am, Upper Foundation trip to Eureka and 6:00pm Carol Service at St Luke's

Friday 20th— Christmas party dinner and last day of Autumn 2 term

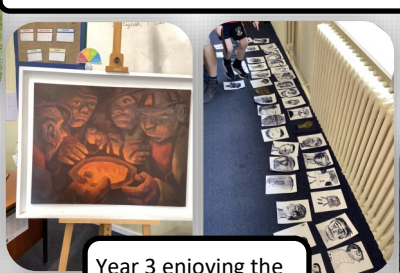
Gallery

Foundation enjoying mark making

Cross Country finals

Hello Yellow Day

Year 3 enjoying the Stone Age Workshop



Year 3 enjoying the Art workshop

Year 2's lantern creations

Year 1 fun at The Secret Garden

Activity Day

Year 5 enjoying Science