MIDDLESTOWN NEWS

Middlestown Primary Academy: December 2024

Headteacher's Welcome… It has been lovely to see so many of you in school over the last few weeks celebrating Christmas with us. The children have done so well to perform in their plays as well as enjoying the annual trip to Huddersfield for the pantomime. It was fantastic to see the children enjoying this performance with the singing and dancing as well as the cheering and booing of the characters. The final week has been focussed on Christmas dinner (always a favourite among children and staff) and parties where the children play games and show off their dance moves. The Spring Term (even though it is still winter) is personally one of my favourites. The children always seem to make the most progress in this term and are already settled into the routines of their class. Of course, we welcome new children into our Lower Foundation after Christmas and after the Easter break as well as some new staff to work with these new children.

I hope that you all have a happy Christmas and I look forward to continue work with you in 2025.

Spring 1 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— Wednesday

Fundraising

Wildlife World Fund: £156.45

Children In Need: £190

Save The Children: £150

Reindeer Run: £150.61

Thank you for your continued support!

New Website

Our new website is now live! Follow the link below to check it out!

https://middlestown.accordmat.org/

Staff Profile: Get to know our staff better…

Miss Thornhill

When did you start at MPA?

I started at Middlestown in September 2024, however in 2023 I was a student teacher in Year 2.

What do you do at MPA?

I am the class teacher in Year 3 and the leader of French.

What is your favourite thing about your job?

My favourite thing about my job is getting the see the amazing children everyday!

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

Outside of school, I enjoy exercising . This can be done at the gym, attending different fitness classes or simply walking my dog, Ted.

Favourite moment at Middlestown so far?

My favourite moment so far at Middlestown has been the Christmas performance. I enjoyed watching the whole performance coming together perfectly because of all the children's hard work.

Favourite food?

My favourite food is steak, especially with peppercorn sauce.

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 creating snowflakes and decorating Christmas trees. Upper Foundation enjoyed a fantastic trip to Eureka, they loved exploring all the different galleries and a hands on Science Show. Upper Foundation enjoyed going for a walk around the village and looking at different types of housing. Lower Foundation also enjoyed a walk around the perimeter of the field, where they looked for landmarks and talked about what they could see and hear. 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.

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 being blind folded whilst carrying out every day tasks. The KS1 production was a huge success! 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 hot and cold places and conditions in the polar regions. They also learnt about 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. The children were interested in how animals adapted to live in their habitats which we looked at in Science. 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 Sleepy Shepherd' 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'.

Year 3 This half term, the children have read the book 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit and have also read the book 'Ossiri and the Bala Mengro' by Richard O'Neill and Katharine Quarmby, to inspire their writing in English. They have participated in drama activities, including freeze frames to portray characters feelings and also role play to explain what is happening in the story. The children have written a story opening, diary entries, a non-chronological report and a setting description. The children have enjoyed learning about the Romans in History. So far, they have looked at why the Romans invaded Britain, why the Roman army was so powerful, including the different tactics used by Emperor Augustus and compared a Roman city to a Celtic village. In Music, the children have enjoyed learning and performing the Roman songs as well as learning and creating different motifs to perform on chime bars. Eating seasonally, is the topic the children have been learning about in DT. The children designed and made a seasonal tart. First, they have learnt where different foods come from and the air miles associated with importing food to the UK. They have also learnt how to safely prepare food by using the claw and bridge grip when cutting food and how to safely peel foods. They then designed, made and evaluated their seasonal tarts using ingredients seasonal to the UK. In Science, the children have been learning about the human body, including animal's bodies. They have learnt the names for different bones and the roles of their skeleton, they have also learnt about the roles of their muscles. The children carried out an investigation to understand if our bones affect what we can do. As a class, we will be attending Young voices on the 28th January at Sheffield arena. Our topic next half term will be Climate zones, where the children will learn about the different climate zones in the World. Our book to inspire writing in English will be 'Ellie and Cat'.

Year 4 This half term, Year 4 have written lots of different pieces of writing, including a setting description, newspaper report and a balanced argument. They even took part in a live debate! The book we focused on was called 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' and it linked to our history topic, the Vikings. The children have also been designing a torch as part of their DT project. They had to consider the needs of a target client to make sure it was suitable and they evaluated existing products to ensure they included all the necessary features. It was a lot of fun! The children worked really hard with Year 3 to put on a fantastic Christmas performance. They have loved getting involved and learning all the songs! Next half term, we will be starting our Egyptian topic in History. We will be learning all about the tombs and the pyramids. Our book in English will also link to our history topic. It is called 'The Ancient Egyptian Sleepover'. The children can't wait to explore the book and see how it links to their history learning. In science, Year 4 will be learning all about living things and their habitats. In DT, Year 4 will be exploring mechanical systems by making their own sling shot car!

Year 5 For the first 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 in Autumn 1. 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! Year 5 took part in a mental health and wellbeing champions workshop. All children learnt about the benefits of looking after their mental health and 4 'champions' were chosen afterwards. These children will work with the current Year 6 wellbeing champions to promote positive mental health and wellbeing across the school community. 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. 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 also 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.

Year 6 In English, Year 6 have been reading their new book: 'Race to the Frozen North', based on the life and travels of Matthew Henson, the first man to reach the North Pole. They loved discussing the hardships and challenges associated with travel to the North Pole and the type of character Matthew must have been to have made such a perilous journey. These discussions fed into their writing, producing an instruction text, setting description, 'tall tale' (exaggerated recount), balanced argument and narrative. In Maths, the children have moved on to percentages and have been using their knowledge to find percentages of amounts, along with percentage reductions. Year 6 love being challenged in Maths and enjoy the 'YES!' feeling of when they reach the answer. The children have enjoyed competing in different sports hall athletics events with the boys' team coming 4th and the girls' team coming 1st. We came 2nd overall! Miss Doorduyn is very proud of Year 6 this half term; the children have worked extremely hard towards their individual targets and are becoming very reflective, driven learners. Next half term, Year 6 will be reading 'Digging a Hole to Heaven' as they begin their next history topic: Mining Disasters. 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

The winner this half term is… **Year 3**

January 2025

Thursday 9th — Year 6 trip to the Coal Mining Museum

Thursday 16th— Upper Foundation to Year 6 Flu Immunisation mop up session

Tuesday 21st— Year 1 & 2 Breakfast with Books at 9am

Tuesday 28th— Year 3 and Choir trip to Young Voices

Wednesday 29th— EYFS Breakfast with Books at 8:45am and Nell Bank parents meeting at 3:15pm

February 2025

Tuesday 4th— Year 3 & 4 Breakfast with Books at 9am

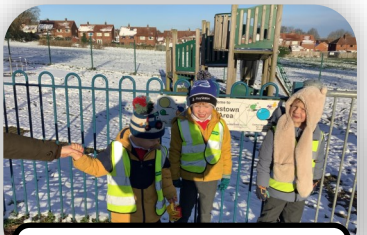
Thursday 6th— Year 3 Class Assembly at 9:05am

Friday 7th— Second Life Uniform at 3:15pm

Thursday 13th— Last day of Spring term 1

Friday 14th— INSET day

Gallery



Upper Foundation enjoying their walk around the Village

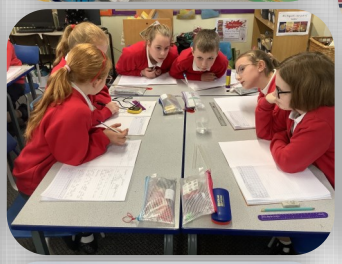
Foundation Art Work

Year 1 & 2 Christmas Performance

Year 3 & 4 Christmas Performance

Christmas Dinner

Indoor Athletics Year 5 & 6 Girls



Year 5 & 6 Christmas Performance

Year 5 Reindeer Run

Year 6 Role Play