MIDDLESTOWN NEWS

Middlestown Primary Academy: July 2024

Headteacher's Welcome… It only seems like yesterday when we were welcoming everyone back after the summer holidays to start a new academic year and now we are coming to the end. It has been another successful year at Middlestown where the children have continued to amaze us with all that they can do. These include academic achievements, but also we love to celebrate the sporting, creative and technology based successes as well. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all the encouragement and support you show us throughout the year, as well as you taking the time to join us for so many of the different events we have in school. Many of these will continue next year including assemblies, breakfast with books, activity day, parents' evenings, sports days and we will also include workshops for parents on children's mental health and phonics. I hope that you all have a lovely summer holiday and that the sunshine will finally make an appearance. We look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 3rd September. If you need anything during the holidays, please use the admin or head of academy email addresses.

Autumn 1 PE Days

UF— Friday

Year 1— Tuesday & Thursday

Year 2— Thursday

Year 3— Monday & Tuesday

Year 4— Monday (swimming) & Thursday

Year 5— Monday & Thursday

Year 6— Wednesday

Penny Wars

Thank you for all your support in raising money for school through our exciting Penny Wars competition.

Winner — Upper Foundation

We raised a total of **£363.39!**

This will go towards new reading books.

Music Lessons

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
- Guitar
- Strings

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

Staff Profile: Get to know our staff better…

Mrs Asquith

When did you start at MPA?
I started at Middlestown Primary as a newly qualified teacher in September 2013.

What do you do at MPA?
I teach Year 3 and I lead PE and PSHE. I am also a mental health first aider and a member of the safeguarding team.

What is your favourite thing about your job?
I love that everyday is different—you never know what might come up! The children and staff are great to work with.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
I do Pilates every week and have done this for 10 years. I love to read, go out for walks and really like going to the theatre. My favourite musical has to be Moulin Rouge.

Favourite moment at Middlestown so far?
I love Sports week every year! It's great to have so many different coaches in school and to take part in some of the activities the children do too.

Favourite food?
I have a massive sweet tooth, so anything with chocolate! My favourite meal has to be Spaghetti Bolognese.

Foundation Stage This half term our topic has been 'Around the World'. We have been finding out what it is like to live in other countries and also learnt about which animals live in these different countries too. In Maths, the children have explored repeating patterns and directions/plotting a journey. The children also enjoyed taking part in Field work activities, exploring our school grounds using their senses. We enjoyed a fabulous class trip to Cannon Hall Farm, they got to see lots of different animals including meerkats, lizards, turtles, as well as many different types of farm animals. The children also loved playing on the play equipment and going on a tractor ride! Foundation also enjoyed hosting an afternoon tea for families, our annual sports day and trying out new sports during sports week. We recently took part in Art Day where we looked at portraits by the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo. He was an Italian Renaissance painter best known for creating imaginative portrait heads made entirely of objects such as fruits, vegetables, flowers, fish and books. The children enjoyed creating their own portraits using fruit and vegetables. We have enjoyed welcoming our new starters for September for stay and play sessions and we look forward to welcoming them into the unit fully in September. After the summer holidays we will be beginning our 'Marvellous Me' topic where we really get to know all about the children and their families.

Year 1 Year 1 have had a very busy last half term of the year. They have been reading books related to their topic 'Seaside'. They completed writing based around 'Snail and the Whale' and 'Winnie at the beach'. They visited Scarborough and had a great time building sandcastles, eating ice cream and paddling in the sea. They wrote postcards to share what an amazing day they had! In History, Year 1 have learnt all about how seasides have changed from Victorian times. They discovered what Punch and Judy is and even bathing machines! As part of their Geography topic, Local Area, they visited Coxley woods and created their own map of Middlestown using ordinance survey symbols. In Art, the children explored colour and mixed primary colours to make secondary colours. They then used this knowledge to create a piece of artwork inspired by Jasper Johns. The children have worked incredibly hard in Year 1 and are ready for the challenges of Year 2. To start the year in Year 1, the children read 'Ruby's Worry' to help them discuss feeling scared or anxious about change. The children then read a variety of traditional tales including, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Jack and the Beanstalk. The children will complete lots of drama activities so that they are fully immersed in the stories which will give them a good understanding of the characters. The children will start their 'Weather and Climate' topic in Geography and learn about the seasons of the year and different weathers we experience, this will link closely to their Science topic all about the Autumn Season.

Year 2 Our topic this term has been 'Secrets of the Sea' and in History we have learnt all about Titanic. The children have loved learning about the disaster and debating who was to blame. For their homework, the children created their own Titanic projects, we were amazed by the fantastic work they produced. We had models, pictures, posters, paintings, timelines and presentations. In English, we read stories linked to the seas and oceans and wrote diaries, stories and persuasive letters. In Art, the children learnt about colour mixture and creating texture with paint. They used these skills to create their own textured papers, which they made into a collage based on Romare Bearden's work. The children hosted an afternoon tea for their parents and carers and they made and served homemade sandwiches and sweet treats. The money they raised on the raffle they chose to spend on ice creams and ice lollies for the class, as well as some of their favourite books which they will take into Year 3 with them. The children also went on trip to Coxley Woods where they had so much fun enjoying our local area.

Year 3 This half term, Year 3 have been learning about Ancient Greece in history. They have learnt about the different Greek Gods and created informative PowerPoints in groups about different aspects of Ancient Greece. In Geography, the children have learnt about South America and compared their local environment to Brazil. In English, Year 3 have used the picture book 'Quest' by Aaron Becker a stimulus for their writing. They produced some excellent role plays and freeze frames linked to the book and wrote brilliant setting descriptions and stories based on the book. In Science, the children have enjoyed taking part in lots of experiments as part of their light topic. They tested different materials to see which were the most reflective and investigated how shadows change over the course of a day. As part of their RE topic, Year 3 and 4 visited a local Mosque. They had a fantastic day and learnt about the features of a Mosque, tasted lots of different foods and made their own gratefulness beads. A team of Year 3 and 4 children took part in a tag rugby festival at Wakefield Trinity. They took part in multiple games against children from other schools in Wakefield. In September, the children will be learning about Early Civilisations as part of their history topic. This includes the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. In English, they will read a number of texts linked to their history topic such as 'Stone Age Boy' and 'How to wash a woolly mammoth'. In Science, the children will learn about rocks and fossils.

Year 4 This half term, Year 4 created beautiful pieces of writing for their class book, 'The Explorer'. They thoughtfully wrote information leaflets and created their own narratives. In RE, Year 4 had a fantastic time on their trip to the Mosque and wrote detailed letters describing the experience and thanking the Mosque teachers for their generosity. On their trip, they were treated to a feast of sunnah foods and enjoyed a picnic in the park. In Maths, Year 4 interpreted and presented data in bar charts, line graphs and pictograms and in Geography they explored their local area through fieldwork and created a sketch map of Middlestown. In DT, Year 4 worked together to bake, design and package their own biscuits. They carefully chose ingredients that would excite their target audience. Year 4 were visited by Mrs Turner during their Geography lesson to discuss her participation in prohibiting a company to build a solar farm on a green belt in Overton. Mrs Turner passionately explained the harmful effects of solar panels on animals and their habitats, as well as the negative impacts on humans and their lifestyle. Year 4 were amazed that their cause reached TV and newspapers. They understood that together they can also make a difference to their community.

Year 5 Year 5 have absolutely LOVED continuing their History topic: The Tudors! They finished learning about life in Tudor Britain and moved on to the Battle of Wakefield, exploring the struggles of Queen Margaret to hold on to the English throne and what happened at Sandal Castle in 1460! The children created a news report to record the events of the battle, which included an eyewitness account, a brief description of the backstory, and all sorts of gruesome details. To finish the topic, they went on a school trip to Temple Newsam where the children were allowed to explore the great Tudor house and had the opportunity to dress as Tudor lords and ladies, discovering how and why fashion has changed from then to now. In DT, Year 5 made spaghetti Bolognese. They found lots of different recipes online and, after learning about the importance of healthy, locally sourced food, adapted the recipe to create a nutritious, delicious meal. They loved the making process and finished by designing packaging labels for their edible creations. Year 5 have moved on to 'The Arrival', which is an usual 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. They also read and studied 'The Highwayman', using this sad romantic poem to influence their own poetry, descriptions and narratives. Year 5 took part in 'The Big Sing', an amalgamation of music from a range of schools in the Wakefield area. They loved performing at Wakefield Cathedral and enjoyed inviting their parents to watch. The children also took part in a Horbury Primary Taster Day, where they went to High School for the day. They liked the English and PE lessons, but particularly enjoyed Science, where they got to complete some experiments and use some of the lab equipment. They will be moving into Year 6. The first half term will be getting settled into their new year group and their new way of learning. They will have their class assembly and begin practising for the Christmas play, as well as celebrating Harvest in the local church and going on a school trip to Eden Camp!

Year 6 Year 6 have had a busy half term, they have been continuing their topic on the Industrial Revolution and Coal Mining. They have used a range of sources in history to find out about the different jobs in the Victorian times and how terrible the conditions were – especially for children! In English, they have written descriptive narrative, designed a poster for a pizzeria, wrote a set of instructions on how to make a waistcoat (which they then made) and wrote a diary from the perspective of a zoo animal. They have also been on different transition visits to their new high schools and completed transition work based around a zoo. For the end of the year celebrations, Year 6 have performed their Leavers' Assembly, played the teachers at rounders and have been to Capri for a meal. Next half term, it will be a new school year with many fun and interesting lessons. The new Year 6 class will be learning about World War II and reading the book 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas'. The first topic in Science is Electricity and of course they will continue with Maths and English lessons. There will be a variety of summertime activities put on Teams for the new Year 6 children to have a go at over the summer.

Dates For Your Diary

The winner this half term is...

New Year 3

September 2024

Monday 2nd— INSET day (staff only)

Tuesday 3rd— Return to school, first day of Autumn Term 1

Thursday 26th— Year 5 & 6 open evening at Horbury Academy

October 2024

Monday 14th— Bikeability (all week)

Wednesday 16th— Upper Foundation to Year 6 Flu vaccines

Wednesday 23rd— Year 6 trip to Eden Camp

Thursday 24th— Halloween Disco

Friday 25th— INSET Day (Staff only)

Gallery

Foundation enjoying the bouncy castle

Fun on Sports Day

Foundation taking part in Sports Week

Foundation at Cannon Hall

Year 1 and 2 enjoying Coxley Woods

Year 4 Geography lesson with Mrs Turner

Year 3 doing freeze frames

Year 3 trip to the Mosque

Year 6 Leaver performance

Year trip to Temple Newsam

Year 5 taster day at Horbury Academy