MIDDLESTOWN NEWS

Middlestown Primary Academy: February 2025

Headteacher's Welcome… It has been another busy half term and it feels like Christmas is a distant memory. As the days start to get longer, let's hope that the temperatures start to get warmer with no more snow on the forecast. Thank you for joining us for the Year 3 and Year 4 assemblies. Year 2 will share their learning next half term and then Year 1 and UF will invite you to join them for their assemblies in the Summer Term. The Year 3 children and the choir had a fantastic experience at the Young Voices concert at Sheffield Arena. I think this is one of the favourite trips where the children get to sing alongside other children, but also experience live music and dancing from famous artists. The Year 6 children visited the Coal Mining Museum for an immersive experience into coal mining through the ages. Thank you for joining us for Breakfast with Books and modelling to the children the importance of reading. We will continue these into the Summer term. We have also had another careers day where the children listen to people from the world of work. This time they learnt about a career in marketing and being a waste water engineer, learning about sewage (surprisingly this was a big hit with the children) as well as EYFS having a visit from the police (we apologise to our neighbours as the children wanted the siren setting off on numerous occasions). Thank you to the parents for giving up their time to share their careers with the children. I hope you have a lovely half term break and we will see you back in school on Monday 24th February.

Spring 2 PE Days

UF — Friday

Year 1 — Tuesday and Thursday

Year 2 — Thursday

Year 3 — Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 4 — Monday (swimming) & Wednesday

Year 5 — Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 6 — Wednesday

Number Day CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

On Friday 7th February we held 'Number Day' to raise money for the NSPCC. We thank you for your support, you helped us raise an amazing …… **£160.21**

Reminders

Please make sure that your child brings a school water bottle to school, it's important that they keep hydrated.

Staff Profile: Get to know our staff better…

Mrs Gray

When did you start at MPA?
I started here at Middlestown Primary Academy on 4th November 2024.

What do you do at MPA?
I am a Teaching Assistant Apprentice in Early Years. I support Upper and Lower Foundation.

What is your favourite thing about your job?
The favourite part of my job is being part of a fantastic and caring team, whilst being able to be part of young children's learning and development. Whether it's helping them to make new friends, supporting them through new challenges and being on hand to help them achieve their creative goals. It's extremely rewarding to see a happy child.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
Outside of school I'm a busy parent of 2 brilliant children who love an active lifestyle. We explore our local outdoors and further afield we love beach days. I also have a love for indoor plants and gardening (on warmer days). I also love to meet up with friends, eating good food and listening to music.

Favourite moment at Middlestown so far?
I have already had so many happy moments, so it is difficult to choose. However, seeing so many proud faces between the children and parents at the Christmas singalong was magical. It was a joy to be part of this experience.

Favourite food?
I love a take out treat occasionally and will always opt for a curry! I love anything with a bit of flavour and spice and will happily try new dishes.

Foundation Stage This half term EYFS have been learning about 'People Who Help us'. The children learnt about the roles of doctors and nurses in hospitals, the emergency services including; police and paramedics, vets and those who help us to cross the road safely outside school. As part of this they had a visit in school from PC Firth, who talked about his very special job and what exactly he does in order to help people. The children have also really enjoyed learning about 'Lunar New Year', they enjoyed tasting noodles and prawn crackers and learning about the traditional ways Luna New Year is celebrated. Lower Foundation welcomed their new starters who have settled in so well and are enjoying exploring provision and our focus learning opportunities. Both Lower Foundation and Upper Foundation enjoyed a fieldwork trip into the school grounds to look for signs of Winter, we had muddy wellies galore! Next half term, the topic will be learning about 'Traditional Tales' and the Christian celebration of Easter. The children will read a selection of different Traditional Tales and use this as a basis for writing tasks. The children will also spend some time learning about the traditions of Easter. We still intend to have a visit from the fire service, this just couldn't be accommodated this half term.

Visit from PC Firth

Field Work

Year 1 enjoying paper play

Year 1 Year 1 have had a jam-packed half term. The topic for this half term has been the 'Great Fire of London'. The children have learnt lots about this topic in History and have looked at different sources of evidence to answer: How the fire started? Why did it spread so quickly? How was the fire put out? In English, they read 'Vlad and the Great Fire of London' which linked well with our History topic. The children wrote a diary entry from the perspective of 'Vlad the Flea' and how horrific the fire was. In PE, the children came up with a dance that represented the events of the Great Fire of London, which consolidated their understanding of chronology. They have also thoroughly enjoyed their Art topic, 'Paper play'. The children have been experimenting with paper to create 3D shapes, which has helped them create a forest themed piece of artwork. Next half term, Year 1 will begin their new History topic, 'The Victorians' where they will begin to understand the difference between old and new toys and Queen Victoria. The children will participate in a full day workshop to immerse themselves in their new learning. The children will also start their new Science topic, Materials. They will look at everyday objects and decide what material it is made from. In English, the children will read 'Lost in the Toy Museum' by David Lucas to link with their History topic. In PE, the children will be focussing on Net and Wall skills, looking at sports like tennis and football. They will also complete their Balance Bike training.

Year 2 Year 2's topic for this half term has been, 'To Infinity and Beyond' and the children have really enjoyed learning all about the race to space and the moon landing. They have looked at photographs and newspaper articles to find clues about the past. They mimed the things Neil Armstrong did on the moon and for homework they created amazing projects, which they then shared with the class. In English, the children have read a variety of space themed stories including; 'Man on the Moon' and 'Look Up'. In Science, the children have investigated the properties of materials. Next half term, our topic is 'On Safari' and the children will be reading lots of stories about animals in Africa. They will learn about animal life cycles in Science. In Geography, they will learn about the Zambian village of Mugurameno and they will compare it to Middlestown. In Maths, they will be learning about time and fractions. To support our work on animals, we have planned a school visit to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park, where the children will learn about habitats and animal adaptations.

Number Day

Year 3 This half term, the children have read the book 'Ellie and the cat' by Malorie Blackman to inspire their writing in English. They have participated in a range of drama activities including re-enacting parts of the book and being a reporter. They have also written a letter, a newspaper report and a list poem. Our overarching topic for this half term was climate zones. In Geography so far, they have used atlases to identify the lines of latitude and understand what they are, they have examined different climate zones to recognise the characteristics of each, as well as interpret graphs in relation to the temperature and precipitation in two contrasting climate zones. In Science, the children have completed their topic on plants. They identified what a plant needed to grow and conducted an experiment to see if plants could survive without either light, water or heat. They learnt how water moves through plants, to visualise this they carried out a whole class investigation, to examine how the water moves into the flower. This half term's topic in PE was dance. The children have used various techniques, including cannon, unison and improvisation to create motifs based on the stimulus of a natural disaster that could occur in different climate zones. As part of their Art topic, the children have focused on sketching and shading. They were encouraged to find the shapes in the objects before sketching them. They have produced amazing abstract pictures based on the artist Georgia O'Keeffe. Year 3, alongside the choir attended the young voices concert at Sheffield arena. They were joined by over 4000 children from different schools as far away as Middlesbrough. Their singing and dancing was absolutely amazing! To showcase the children learning, Year 3 were lucky enough to be able to perform their class assembly to their families and the other children in school. In the assembly, the children explored the different climate zones and the characteristics of each, as well as singing a song which linked. The children enjoyed inviting their families into their classroom for breakfast with books. They were enthusiastic about picking their favourite books from school to share with their loved ones. Next half term, the children will be reading two new books in English to inspire their writing. They will be learning about forces in Science and their main topic is North America, which the children will be studying in Geography. In PE, the children's topic is wall and net games, there are two specialist coaches in school to support the teaching of these, specifically tennis and cricket.

Year 3 Class Assembly

Young Voices

Number Day

Year 4 This half term the children have really enjoyed reading 'The Ancient Egypt Sleepover'. This has inspired a lot of their writing and they have enjoyed linking this text to their learning in History, which has been all about the Ancient Egyptians. They have found this topic fascinating and it has been lots of fun! In DT, the children have been making their own slingshot car. They have discussed why air resistance is important when designing a car and considered how they will make sure the chassis is stable and strong. Showing resilience and perseverance has been essential, as there have been challenges to face but they have really enjoyed the process. In Science, the children have been learning all about different living things and their habitats. They have considered what 'living' means and how they can classify different living things. The children really enjoyed going outside and searching for different vertebrates and invertebrates to classify in their own diagram. Year 4 put together a fantastic class assembly to show their families and friends. They were really excited to show off their hard work and everyone really enjoyed it, Well done! Next half term, the children will be starting a new Art project linking to the Ancient Egyptians. They will look at Egyptian art and make their own scroll. In Science, the children will start a new topic all about animals and they will also start the first Geography topic all about rivers.

Year 5 This term, Year 5 have been immersed in the intriguing topic of space! In English, they followed a Mars Rover called Curiosity on its journey to find alien life. Curiosity inspired Year 5 to design their own Rover and write a persuasive argument to NASA on the benefits of their inventions. In Geography, Year 5 have enjoyed learning about the natural wonders of the world; volcanoes. In Maths, Year 5 have been working with fractions, decimals and percentages and in Music they continue to develop their rhythms through Samba, which has helped with their dance moves in PE. In their Lyfta lessons, Year 5 enjoyed meeting Wei Wei in China, a LEGO Certified Professional who is passionate about building and creating with LEGO. They carefully checked her calculations. Next term, Year 5 will be visiting a Hindu temple as part of their RE learning. They will also continue their topic on volcanoes and should look forward to exploding their own volcano.

Year 6 This half term, Year 6 have enjoyed reading 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty and have produced some excellent pieces of work, including a letter, fact file and recount from a character's viewpoint. This has linked nicely to their current History topic: The Industrial Revolution. The children have loved learning about how life changed so drastically over such a short period of time and about what life was like for working class children. They had the opportunity to go on a school trip to the National Coal Mining Museum to reinforce their learning about coal mining and its importance to the industrial revolution, finding out about how they stayed safe, the use of animals in the mines and the miners' daily routines. Next half term, Year 6 will study the local area and region, undertaking some fieldwork to find out more about the Geography of Middlestown. In PE, they will move on to cricket and in English they will study a new book: 'Digging a Hole to Heaven'. In March, Year 6 will be venturing outdoors to Robinwood where they participate in lots of exciting activities and adventures.

National Coal Mining Museum

Dates For Your Diary

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

February 2025

Monday 24th— First day of Spring Term 2

Thursday 27th— Year 6 Worry / Sleep Workshop

Friday 28th— Tuck Shop for children at playtime

March 2025

Monday 3rd— Benchball at Horbury Academy KS1 at 3:15pm

Tuesday 4th— Parents Evening 3:30pm to 5:00pm

Wednesday 5th— Parents Evening 4:45pm to 6:45pm

Thursday 6th— World Book Day and West Yorkshire Cross Country finals (time to be confirmed)

Monday 10th— Year 2 trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Year 6 trip to Robinwood and Quicksticks Hockey at Wakefield Slazengers for Year 4 & 5 at 1pm

Tuesday 11th— Year 6 at Robinwood

Wednesday 12th— Year 6 at Robinwood

Thursday 13th— EYFS Breakfast with Books at 8:45am and Year 6 Worry / Sleep workshop

Monday 17th— Year 4 trip to Nell Bank

Tuesday 18th— Year 4 at Nell Bank and Year 1 Toys through time workshop

Wednesday 19th— Individual Photographs

Thursday 20th— Year 2 Class Assembly at 9:05am

Wednesday 26th— Year 4 & 5 Hindu Temple trip

April 2025

Wednesday 2nd— Tuck Shop for children at playtime

Thursday 3rd— Easter Service 9:30am to 10:15am Year 1, 3 & 6 then 10:30am to 11:15am Year 2, 4 & 5 and Easter Disco at 3:15pm

Friday 4th— Second Life Uniforms at 3:15pm and Last day of Spring term 2

Monday 21st— Easter Bank holiday

Tuesday 22nd— Return to school for Summer term 1