MIDDLESTOWN NEWS

Middlestown Primary Academy: April 2025

Headteachers Welcome … This half term is always my favourite, with the days getting longer and the signs of Spring emerging all around us. This newsletter will highlight all the lovely things we have done throughout this half term including; trips, residentials and Easter activities. The Year 4 and Year 6 children had a fantastic time at Nell Bank and Robinwood and put 100% into all the activities. I think Year 4 just need to work on going to sleep and channelling their excitement! Year 2 enjoyed their day out at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park (teaming up with the Year 2 children from South Ossett). Year 4 and 5 also enjoyed their trip to the Hindu temple. We have had visitors in school as well including; sports coaches, history experts and parents sharing their different careers. We also had a long awaited visit from HMI Ofsted and we will have the report with you after the holidays once we have received it. Thank you for also joining us for the Easter services and your continued support. I wish you all a lovely Easter break.

Summer 1 PE Days

UF — Thursday

Year 1 — Tuesday & Thursday

Year 2 — Thursday

Year 3 — Monday & Tuesday

Year 4 — Monday (swimming) & Wednesday

Year 5 — Monday & Thursday

Year 6 — Wednesday

Reminders

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

Fundraising

Thank you all for your support in fundraising this term.

Rainbow Day we raised **£1140.40**

Epilepsy Action we raised **£150.10**

Staff Profile: Get to know our staff better… Mrs O'Connor

When did you start at MPA?
I started teaching at Middlestown Primary Academy in October 2024.

What do you do at MPA?
I teach Year 1 alongside Mr Andrews. I teach at Middlestown on a Thursday and Friday. At the beginning of the week I teach Year 1 at South Ossett Infants Academy.

What is your favourite thing about your job?
I absolutely love being a teacher, so it is very tricky for me to choose. I love the creativity of the job, how different it is every day, seeing the children's smiles and being able to teach so many subjects. I think my very favourite thing is teaching children to read, because it opens up a world of amazing stories that they can discover.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
Outside of school, I love spending time with my boys who are 10 and 12, walking my dog Oreo (especially when the sun is shining), running, reading and painting. I can be found at Wakefield Crossfit most days trying to work on my strength, fitness and gymnastics – there is always a new challenge to work on.

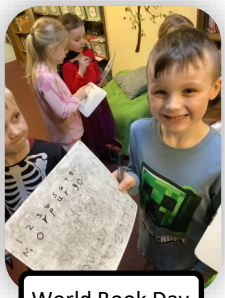
Favourite moment at Middlestown so far?
In Year One, we created a giant spider out of newspaper. The children all worked together to make the parts out of newspaper, assemble it, paint it and display it. They were so proud of their final creation and I loved how well they all worked together. It is currently hung on the wall in our classroom, so we can remember how much fun we can have and what we can achieve when we work together.

Favourite food?
I love spicy food and seafood; Thai food is my absolute favourite.

Foundation Stage Foundation have had a very busy and productive half term! The children enjoyed celebrating pancake day, they made pancakes and read the story 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes'. The children enjoyed making gingerbread men linked to the story 'The Gingerbread Man' and retold the story using role play masks. The children learnt about Ramadan and Eid and Mrs Hurairah came to speak to the children about her experiences of fasting and her faith. The half term was rounded off with a focus on Easter. The children learnt Easter songs, read and talked about the Easter story and went on a variety of Easter Egg hunts, some involved numbers! We held a very successful 'Rainbow Day' and raised our highest ever total - £1140.40! Thank you so much to all of those who helped us fundraise and contributed personally, we are so grateful and it will make a massive difference to the resources we are able to provide in provision. Next half term, the unit will welcome their new Lower Foundation starters to MPA. Our topic for the half term is 'Down at the Bottom of the Garden' and there will be lots of learning around growing, planting, life cycles and animals.

Making pancakes

Year 1 This half term, Year 1 have thoroughly enjoyed their Kings and Queens topic. In English, they have read a variety of books including; 'The Queen's Knickers', 'The Queen's Hat' and 'Prince Cinders'. They have written a range of genres linked to the books, which has helped them develop their writing. In History, the children have enjoyed their Victorians topic and loved the Victorian workshop, which gave them an opportunity to find out what life was like for school children in those times. In Science, the children have been exploring everyday materials and deciding what they are made out of. The children have also taken part in British Science week and explored the conditions plants need to grow and learnt about George Washington Carver. Year 1 had a brilliant Victorian workshop delivered by Jeffrey Andrews. The Key Stage 1 Bench ball team came first in their tournament at Horbury Academy which we were incredibly proud of. Next half term, the children will begin their 'United Kingdom' topic. They will be finding out about the 4 countries that make up the UK and reading books linked to each country in English including; 'Paddington Bear' and 'How to Catch a Leprechaun'. In Science, the children will begin their new topic, 'Plants'. They will learn about the parts of a plant and what a plant needs to grow. In DT, the children will be looking at fruits and vegetables and will be creating their very own fruit salad. In PE, the children will learn some different athletic sports in the lead up to Sports Day.



World Book Day

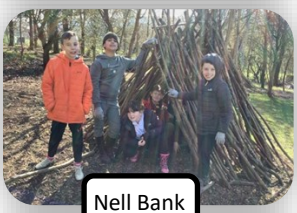
Year 2 This half term, the children have really enjoyed our 'On Safari' topic. A particular highlight was the visit to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park, where they saw lions, rhinos, giraffes and many other wonderful animals. They used this visit as inspiration for some factual writing. In DT, the children learnt all about levers and linkages and designed and created their own moving monsters. They were so excited to take them home. In Geography, Year 2 have used atlases to locate Zambia and they have compared life in the village of Mugurameno to life in Middlestown. Also this half term, the Key Stage 1 Bench ball team came first in their tournament at Horbury Academy which we were incredibly proud of. The topic for next half term will be 'Katie and the artists' and it is very much art based. The children will be reading books by James Mayhew and will learn about the different artists Katie meets. In History, we will be learning about Barbara Hepworth, her life and works and we will be comparing Wakefield today with Wakefield when Barbara Hepworth was a child.

Yorkshire Wildlife Park

Year 3 This half term, Year 3 have studied two books in English, 'Journey' by Aaron Becker, which is a wordless book which inspired lots of imaginative thinking prior to writing. We also studied the true story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. These books inspired a variety of excellent work including; character and setting descriptions, a diary entry and a story opening. Alongside this, the children participated in drama activities to further their thinking. In Science, the children have enjoyed learning all about magnets and forces. They particularly enjoyed testing materials to see if they were magnetic or not and investigating the friction experienced on different surfaces. Year 3 have also learnt about North America in Geography. They have learnt about the different places in North America and labelled them on a map, as well as comparing the landscape to our landscape. In DT, the children have enjoyed designing and creating their own castles, using nets and junk modelling. A team of Year 3 boys and girls participated in the West Yorkshire cross country finals, they took part in races on a difficult course at Temple Newsome, against children from across West Yorkshire. Next half term in English, the children will be using the books 'Sulwe' and 'The Owl Tree' as a stimulus for their writing. Their writing will include; poetry, a balanced argument and descriptive writing. In Maths, they will be carrying on with the time topic, particularly looking at digital clocks and comparing these with analogue clocks. In History, Year 3 will be learning about Ancient Greece and, in Art, the children will be learning about sculptures. The next PE topic will be athletics, in this the children will be participating in both track and field sports.

World Book Day

Science



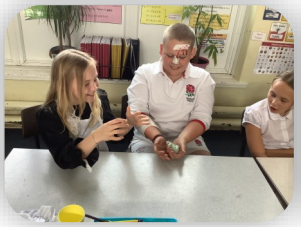
Nell Bank

Year 4 This half term, Year 4 have been reading 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. They have enjoyed reading all about the character and writing in lots of different styles including; a character description, instructions and a newspaper report. Year 4 have also been learning all about rivers, which they have found really interesting! A key event from this half term is their first residential trip to Nell bank! They had a fantastic time taking part in lots of team building activities such as; den building and orienteering. They even enjoyed fish and chips for their tea! Year 4 also joined Year 5 on a fantastic trip to the Hindu temple. They spent time exploring and understanding how Hindu's use the temple and why it is important to them. They also enjoyed going to Bombay Stores and seeing how traditions and clothing are different in different cultures. This linked with Year 4's RE learning from this year. Next half term, Year 4 will be learning all about the Amazon Rainforest! It will be really interesting to see how this learning links to what they already know about rivers, climate zones and their Lyfta story, worlds. The children will also be starting their new book in English called 'The Girl who Stole an Elephant'. In science, the children will be learning all about states of matter.

Year 5 This half term, Year 5 have had a joyous time reading 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. Using inspiration from the text, they wrote diary entries, setting descriptions and poems. Additionally, they acted as Stanley's father's assistants and created their own inventions, with their fantastic creations, they wrote a persuasive leaflet, selling their product to their target audience. In Geography, Year 5 took a virtual trip to Ecuador to explore the volcano, Cotopaxi. They listened to interviews from the local people and explored the benefits and disadvantages to living near a volcano. To observe a volcano in live action, Year 5 also created their own using baking soda and vinegar to explode them. During Science Week, Year 5 researched Katherine Johnson, a well-known female mathematician who overcame adversity and worked for NASA. They wrote a detailed biography on her inspiring life. Year 5 had a fantastic time on their visit to the Hindu temple and Bombay stores. At the temple, they observed the features of a Hindu temple and watched prayer in real-time. At Bombay stores, they searched for cultural items and discussed the significance of the items displayed. Year 5 performed in the Easter service. They confidently explored why Christians enjoy visiting Church during special times and displayed their beautiful stained glass windows. Next half term, Year 5 will be learning about the Tudors. They will learn what caused the Battle of Bosworth and learn how Henry VIII changed England with the English Reformation. In Science, Year 5 will be exploring forces such as: water resistance, air resistance, gravity and friction. In Maths, Year 5 will be focusing on answering reasoning questions and in English, they will be reading 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan.

Hindu Temple

Year 6 This half term, Year 6 have been working hard on all different kinds of skills. They have been writing diary entries, narrative recounts and balanced arguments based on the book 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo. In Maths, Year 6 have honed their mathematical skills by interpreting different types of data such as; pie charts and line graphs and they have been busy revising different topics for the SATs assessments in May. They also began studying algebra and have loved it! In Geography, they have looked at the local area surrounding school and identified the local, regional, national and international impacts. Year 6 had an unbelievable time at Robinwood! All the children thoroughly enjoyed the challenges that they were presented with, whether it was flying down the zip wire or manoeuvring their way through the twists and turns of the Robinwood caves. Next half term, the children in Year will be sitting their SATs assessments in May and will continue to learn about local area and will complete some fieldwork.



Dates For Your Diary

April

Monday 21st —Easter Monday

Tuesday 22nd— First day of Summer Term 1

Wednesday 23rd— Tuck shop at breaktime for the children

Monday 28th— Individual school photographs

Tuesday 29th— School Nursing to visit UF for height and weight screening at 9:15am

May

Friday 16th— EYFS Breakfast with Books

Thursday 22nd— Meditation sessions in school (all classes)

Friday 23rd— Last day of Summer Term 1