MIDDLESTOWN NEWS

Middlestown Primary Academy: May 2025

Headteachers Welcome … I would like to start by saying a huge 'WELL DONE' to the Y6 children for working so hard in the build up and throughout SATs week. They all came into school full of positivity and they took the tests in their stride and we were really proud of them. Another mention to Y2 who completed their tests as well. Some of the children were really excited to complete them! Year 1 will have their phonics screening test in June, Year 4 will carry out their multiplication test too and Upper Foundation will be assessed against the Early Learning Goals. One more mention would be to Year 3 who have won the SAM Award (School Attendance Matters) again. This time their attendance for this this half term is 99% which is absolutely incredible. Thank you for joining us for our VE Day celebrations. Even though it was a bit chilly, it was still lovely to see so many of you wearing red, white and blue and celebrating with us. We look forward to welcoming you into school next half term for sports days, afternoon teas and picnics (more details to follow). The children have sports week to look forward to and some classes will be going out on school trips. I hope you all have a lovely half term break!

Summer 2 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 — Monday & Wednesday

Summer

As the nice weather is now setting in, here are some reminders for the Summer 2 term.

- Please make sure your child brings a school water bottle to school.
- Please make sure suncream is applied before your child comes to school.
- Please make sure your child brings a sun hat (labelled with their name).

Staff Profile: Get to know our staff better…

Miss Lafferty

When did you start at MPA?
I started working at Middlestown Primary in January 2025.

What do you do at MPA?
I am a Teaching Assistant in Early Years Foundation Stage.

What is your favourite thing about your job?
I love a few things about my job. I enjoy spending time with the children, there is never a dull moment! I also love seeing the progress they make. I also love the team I work with and being part of a team.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
I love spending time with my family outside of work, especially my children. I love to go on days out, go out for meals, go to the cinema and running.

Favourite moment at Middlestown so far?
My favourite part so far at Middlestown was hearing one our SEND children speak for the first time.

Favourite food?
My favourite food has to be Italian.

Foundation Stage This half term, we have been learning all about growth and life cycles, in the topic 'Down at the Bottom of the Garden'. The children have enjoyed an array of stories, including: 'The Hungry Caterpillar', 'Farmer Duck' and 'A Seed in Need'. The children planted their own sunflower seeds that they can take home and nurture over half term. The children talked about where food comes from and how farmers use animals and crops to create different foods. The children in Upper Foundation have been extending their understanding of numbers to 20, looking at different representations and ordering the numbers. The children in Foundation loved watching our 10 eggs hatch into chicks. They were fascinated to learn about the lifecycle of a chicken in real time, right in front of their very eyes! The children enjoyed watching the chicks grow and they will receive updates about how they are getting on in their new home. They now live in a local small holding with lots of other animals. We also received a special visit from Matt, a HART paramedic, who brought his ambulance for the children to explore and talked all about how he helps people. Next half term, the children will be embarking on a journey, as the topic will be 'All around the World'. They will be tasting foods from other countries, reading texts that expose them to a variety of different cultures and listening to music from all around the world. They will be also be going on their trip to the Tropical Butterfly House.

Foundation seeing an Ambulance

The chicks

Planting sunflower seeds

Year 1 This half term has been another busy one for Year 1. The topic this half term has been, 'The United Kingdom'. In Geography, they have been learning about the four countries that make up the UK and the key features of them such as capital cities and famous landmarks. In English, the children have been reading stories from each of the UK countries including: 'Paddington Bear' and 'Dragon Post'. The children have written a plethora of genres linking to the texts including, writing instructions on how to make Paddington's marmalade sandwiches. In DT, the children have been tasting, designing and making their own fruit smoothie. They really enjoyed tasting all the different fruits to see which would work best in their own smoothie. In Science, the children have been learning about 'Plants'. They dissected plants to split them into parts and also went on a plant hunt to discover different types of wild and garden flowers. Year 1 were amazing during their class assembly, presenting all they had learned about 'The Victorians'. Next half term, the children will be starting their new History topic, 'How Seaside's have Changed'. They will be exploring the historical figure, Grace Darling and what the seasides looked like in past. There will also be a trip to The Deep to link with their topic so that the children can explore some creatures that they may find in the Sea. In English, they will be reading lots of stories about the seaside including: 'Snail and the Whale', 'Clean Up!' and 'Storm Whale'. In PE, they will be looking at striking and fielding. As part of our new Geography topic, 'Local Area', we will be visiting Coxley Woods and walking around Middlestown to create a map of our local area and learn the symbols in an ordinance survey.

Year 1 Class Assembly

Year 2 The topic in Year 2 this half term been, 'Katie and the Artists' and the children have enjoyed reading the Katie story books by James Mayhew. They also created wanted posters to help find the thief who stole a sculpture from The Hepworth. In History, the children have learnt about Barbara Hepworth, her artwork and her life. In Art, they have looked at the work of Rachel Whiteread and used her sculptures as inspiration for their own clay tiles. They have developed their rolling, joining and imprinting skills when working with clay and can explain all about negative space, score and slip. The children have also worked really hard on their SATs tests this half term and we are incredibly proud of them all. Our topic for next half term will be, 'Secrets of the Sea' and in History, we will be learning all about Titanic, which is always a very popular topic. The children will learn about the events leading up to the disaster. They will also make comparisons between first, second and third class passengers. In English, we will be reading a variety of stories based around the ocean, such as, 'Dougal's Deep Sea Diary'. There will also be an afternoon tea for parents, where the Year 2 children will serve homemade sandwiches and sweet treats.

Year 3 This half term, the children have read the book 'Sulwe' by Lupita Nyong'o and 'The Owl Tree' by Jenny Nimmo to inspire their writing in English. They have taken part in drama activities such as: role play and freeze frames and have written setting descriptions, poetry and a balanced argument based on the story. In History, the children have been learning about Ancient Greece. So far, they have used a timeline to see where Ancient Greece fits in with World History, they decided which Greek god was the most powerful and why and learnt about different Greek mythological characters. The children have completed a range of activities in PE as part of their Athletics topic. They have learnt how to throw a javelin and a shot put, and have applied their running skills in sprints and relay races. As part of their Art topic, the children designed and made a structure. They learnt how to shape materials in different ways and combined the shapes to make an interesting, free-standing sculpture. In PSHE, the children have been learning about the importance of being present and also the importance of positive relationships, as well as the impacts of negative relationships. Next half term, the children will be completing their topic on the Ancient Greeks, in this topic the children will compare the Ancient Greek Olympics to modern Olympics and also understand how the Ancient Greeks influenced Britain today. 'Quest' and 'Harriet vs The Galaxy', will be the books that will inspire their writing in English. In PE, the children will be participating in striking and fielding sports including, Cricket and Rounders. Light will be their topic in Science, in this the children will know that dark is the absence of light, know that light is needed to see and how shadows are formed.

Year 4 This half term, Year 4 have learnt all about the rainforest. They have explored the different species of animals that live there and the different layers of the rainforest such as: the emergent layer, understory, canopy and forest floor. In English, they have also been reading our fascinating book called 'The Girl who Stole an Elephant'. They have written a setting description, letter and persuasive text. In Art, Year 4 have looked at using paint to create different tints and shades, as well as investigating states of matter and particles in science. Year 4 had a fantastic time celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE day. They wrote a letter in English from the perspective of an evacuated child and explored the work of Georgia O'Keeffe to inspire their own flower creations to make a remembrance wreath. They really enjoyed the VE day picnic and seeing their family and friends. Next half term, Year 4 will be starting their new book called 'The Explorer'. This text will link to all their learning about rivers and rainforests. In Geography, they will also be conducting a study of their local area.

Year 5 This half term, Year 5 have enjoyed reading 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan and have written letters, journal entries and character descriptions, inspired by the characters in the picture book. This term, they have also been focussing on their fractions and arithmetic skills in Maths, and in science, they have been studying forces such as, air resistance. They had a fantastic time completing their own investigation, where they created parachutes of different sizes and investigated whether the surface area of the parachute would affect the air resistance and therefore the time taken to reach the ground. In RE, they learnt about Islamic beliefs and prayer, and in History, they began their study on the Tudors. Year 5 have especially enjoyed improving their skateboarding skills this term. Year 5 wrote a poem inspired by Brian Moses on the exciting celebrations that take place on VE day. They used multiple sources of information such as: authentic diary entries, interviews and artwork to investigate how people celebrated on 8th May 1945. Year 5 were amazing in their Samba assembly, working as a team to create their own composition. Next half term, Year 5 will be focussing on developing their reasoning skills across all topics in Maths. In science, they will be learning about the stages of life in animals and humans. In RE, they will be learning about Green religion and the effects of climate change. Additionally, to broaden their knowledge on the Tudors, Year 5 will be visiting Temple Newsam (Tudor-Jacobean house in Leeds, West Yorkshire).

Year 5 Art Work

Year 6 This half term, Year 6 have been busy revising for their SATs, in Reading, Maths and GPS – they have worked extremely hard. In English, they have practised answering a huge range of questions in Comprehension and in GPS have honed their skills using the passive and active voice. In Maths, the children having been attempting some tricky percentage, fractions and ratio problems and have consolidated their understanding of co-ordinates and reflection. In PSHE, they have continued the topic 'the power of now', focusing on enjoying life to its fullest and using every moment effectively. To celebrate finishing SATs, Year 6 enjoyed completing an Art project 'Graffiti Art' and they baked scones to celebrate VE day. It is going to be a busy final half-term for the Year 6's, as they will be preparing their Leavers' Assembly! They will also be preparing for High School by attending multiple transition days to prepare them for the upcoming changes, and completing their transition project. They are also looking forward to Sports Week and Sports Day!

Dates For Your Diary

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

June

Monday 2nd— First day of Summer Term 2

Tuesday 3rd— Year 5 Fire Safety talk

Wednesday 4th— Year 5 Temple Newsam trip

Monday 9th— Year 1 Phonics Screening (all week), Class Photographs & Year 4, 5 and 6 Cricket at Horbury Bridge Cricket Club at 10am

Wednesday 11th— Year 4, 5 & 6 Sports Day at 12:30pm

Thursday 12th— Year 4, 5 & 6 Reserve Sports Day & EYFS Tropical Butterfly House trip

Friday 13th— Year 6 transition day at Horbury

Monday 16th— Sports Week (Monday to Friday)

Monday 23rd— World Music Day

Tuesday 24th— Year 1, 2 & 3 Sports Day at 12:30pm, Year 6 taster day at Horbury Academy & Year 6 information evening at Horbury Academy

Wednesday 25th— Year 1, 2 & 3 Reserve Sports Day, Year 6 taster day at Horbury Academy & Year 6 taster day at Ossett Academy

Thursday 26th— EYFS Sports Day at 9am, Year 6 A Star Athletics at Thornes Park at 10am & Summer Fayre at 3:15pm

Friday 27th— Year 5 taster day at Horbury Academy

Monday 30th— EYFS Breakfast with Books at 8:45am

July

Tuesday 1st— Year 1 The Deep trip and UF Class Assembly at 9:05am

Thursday 3rd— EYFS Reserve Sports Day

Tuesday 8th— Year 5 Samba Assembly at 2:30pm

Friday 11th— Second Life Uniforms at 3:15pm

Tuesday 15th— Year 6 Leavers Assembly to Parents at 6pm

Wednesday 16th— Year 6 Leavers meal at Capri at 5:15pm

Thursday 17th— Year 6 Rounders Match at 3:15pm

Friday 19th— Last day of Summer Term 2