MIDDLESTOWN NEWS

Middlestown Primary Academy: December 2025

Headteacher's Welcome… I hope that you have been as amazed, as I have, at the extraordinary performance from all are children at the various Christmas performances. The talented children that we have at Middletown were well and truly showcased and it was a pleasure to see all the children involved in celebrating Christmas in this way. I also want to give a special mention to the choir. They performed for some local residents at Fieldhead Care Home and also at St Luke's Church for the carol service, what a wonderful show they put on for everyone. Thank you for joining us for the Christmas Fayre and the carol service; these are other traditional events that we look forward to every year. It has been an eventful half term with the lead up to Christmas with an Ofsted inspection thrown in. The children and staff have been amazing and we have all pulled together as the fantastic team that we are. There are plenty of things to look forward to next term with trips and residentials starting for some of the classes. We thank you for your continued support and we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Spring 1 PE Days

UF— Thursday

Year 1— Tuesday & Thursday

Year 2— Thursday & Friday

Year 3— Monday & Tuesday

Year 4— Wednesday & Thursday

Year 5— Monday & Friday

Year 6— Wednesday

Fundraising

Children In Need: £186.53

Save the Children: £142.50

Reindeer Run: £142.50

Thank you for your continued support!

Staff Profile: Get to know our staff better…

Miss Hayes

When did you start at MPA?
I started at Middlestown in September 2025.

What do you do at MPA?
I work as the Year 6 Teacher at Middlestown.

What is your favourite thing about your job?
I love that I get to work with colleagues and children who make me smile and laugh every single day. I am very proud to work with my wonderful class in an environment where no two days are the same, and I love getting to teach such a wide range of subjects.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
I love playing sport and being active, as I am a Hockey player and coach outside of school, so you will usually catch me running around a pitch on a weekend. I also love to read and bake, so I often spend my free time snuggled up with a book and a cup of coffee.

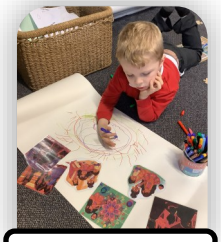
Favourite moment at Middlestown so far?
My favourite moment so far has to be the Year 6 Class Assembly. They did such an amazing job with very little preparation time, and it was so lovely to see them all performing and singing to their parents.

Favourite food?
I love Thai food, Chicken Pad Thai is my favourite meal!

Congratulations

We are delighted to share with you that Mrs Hurairah has welcomed a beautiful baby girl, named Haya. Both herself and baby are doing well. I am sure you will join us in sending her and her family our warmest congratulations.

Foundation Stage Our topic this half term was 'Construction' and 'Christmas'. The children found out lots about Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day this term, the children made some wonderful artwork which was then displayed in the unit. All children in Foundation Stage found out about Diwali and the Nativity story over the term to link with the Christmas theme. Lower Foundation practised sprinkling and scooping up grains of rice to further develop their fine motor skills and had fun when learning about alliteration. They also practised counting to 10 and recognising numerals. Also in Lower Foundation, the children have really enjoyed their dough disco routine in a morning when they first come into school. This term, Upper Foundation learnt gymnastic skills in P.E and kept themselves active taking part in the daily mile each week. Upper Foundation also went on an exciting festive visit to Eureka too. One of the highlights of this term has to be our Nativity 'Whoops A Daisy Angel' it was a huge success, despite some technical issues and having to sing acapella! We were very proud of all the children and they loved performing for you together as a class family. The children loved the EYFS Christmas party and when Santa came to visit us to kindly give the children a gift. The absolute highlight of the half term though was when the reindeers 'Comet' and 'Cupid' came to Middlestown Primary Academy to visit the children. Both Lower and Upper Foundation enjoyed stroking/feeding the reindeer and finding out lots of facts about them. It was such a wonderful, magical experience for the children to enjoy. Our topic next half term is 'People who help us'. So far, we have arranged for a paramedic and a solicitor to come in to visit us. If your job helps others in the community or you know someone who does please let us know. We will also recall our learning from this half term on Diwali and learn all about Chinese New Year. Both year groups will further develop their responsibilities through certain class roles and will be taking part in lots of other exciting activities throughout the term. Upper Foundation will embark on a dance unit in PE and explore a new story world through our Lyfta sessions.



Learning about Diwali

The Nativity

Firework Mark Making

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. They performed very well in 'The Grumpy Innkeeper' and had a great time at our Christmas party! In English, they have read lots of books including: 'Funny Bones', 'Meerkat Mail' 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 Animals and the features of different animal groups. The children loved going to the pantomime and loved talking about it after our visit. 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 continue to learn about different animals and sort animals into their respective groups.

Children in Need

Year 1 testing out their windmills

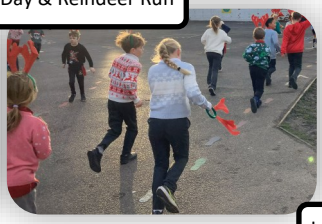
Year 1 & 2 Christmas Party

Year 2 This half term the children have really enjoyed the frozen lands topic. In Geography, they learnt all about Antarctica. They located it on a map and learnt about its main features. They also learnt about life at the Union Glacier Camp and made comparisons with life at home. In Science, the children completed our learning about habitats and looked at various food chains, using the iPads for research. In English, 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 Grumpy Innkeeper', was a 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 'The Dog that Saved Christmas' by Nicola Davis 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, non-chronological reports, poetry and setting descriptions. 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. They loved acting out being Romans and practicing the formations on the playground. In Music, the children have enjoyed learning and performing the Roman song, as well as learning and creating different motifs to perform on chime bars. 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 people with longer legs can jump further. Next half term, 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. In English, we will be reading 'Ellie and the Cat' to inspire our writing.

Visit from the Reindeers

Christmas Jumper Day & Reindeer Run



Learning facts about Reindeers

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. They hope that you enjoyed it as much as they loved performing it! The children also took part in the annual Reindeer Run to raise money for Wakefield Hospice. With their antlers on, they smashed the challenge all for a great cause. Finally, the children had a visit from Santa's reindeer! Comet and Cupid visited the children to spread the Christmas magic and the elves told them all about Santa, the sleigh and the other reindeer. Next half term, we will be starting our Egyptian topic in History. We will be learning all about the tombs, pyramids and mummification! 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 This half term, the children have read the book 'Holes' by Louis Sachar as inspiration for their writing. They have written diaries, letters and persuasive arguments and have taken part in some drama activities, too. They enjoyed getting into character and debating issues raised in the book. In Geography, Year 5 have been learning about mountains, including the different types of mountains there are and how they are formed. They used actions to remember the different types and looked at what life is like living on a mountain in different areas of the world. The children took part in lots of practical experiments in Science linked to their topic 'Properties of material and change'. They compared and grouped materials, looked at what is a good thermal insulator and conductor and investigated dissolving and separating mixtures. As part of their learning in DT, the children created their own pop-up books! They looked at the different mechanisms used in pop-up books then created their own based on popular nursery rhymes. To celebrate their work, they then shared these stories with the children in Year 1. A team of boys and a team of girls in Years 5 and 6 took part in a Sports Hall Athletics festival. They entered events such as javelin, long jump, speed bounce and relay races. When the scores were combined, Middlestown placed 3rd overall! Next half term, in Science, the children will be learning about Earth and Space. They will learn about the different planets, the phases of the moon and demonstrate how day and night are created. Their learning about space will also continue in their English lessons as they will be reading the book 'Curiosity: The Story of a Mars Rover' by Markus Motum as a stimulus for their writing. In Geography, the children will learn about Volcanoes and Earthquakes; they will learn about the structure of the Earth, learn about the key features of a volcano and consider the possible effects of an earthquake.

Science Experiments

Children in Need

Year 6 Year 6 have had a very busy half term! They have been studying 'Race to the Frozen North' in English and writing some fantastic instructions on how to survive in extreme environments. They also enjoyed taking part in a (slight heated!) debate before writing a balanced argument about tourism in the Arctic. They even created some beautiful oil pastel drawings of the Northern Lights as part of an Art project alongside this. In Maths, they've been tackling percentages, fractions and decimals, dealing excellently with the challenge of starting a new topic on ratio. Year 6 have also enjoyed their Geography topic, exploring the United Kingdom and in Science have been conducting lots of experiments looking at how light is reflected and refracted, as well as how shadows are created. They even created their own periscopes out of cereal boxes. In ICT, they've looked at graphs and charts, creating their own digital bar charts and line graphs, as well as examining blogs and digital safety. In DT, the children have been designing and making their own bags and in PE, Year 6 have been recapping shapes, leaps, jumps and rolls in gymnastics, incorporating apparatus into their own routines. Year 6 have had a busy but exciting half term and have really begun to throw themselves into their work, all ready for the New Year. Well done Year 6! Year 6 have also had lots of performances this half term, including their class assembly in which they displayed a great performance of their learning about the Arctic and their Christmas Performance, which has given a lovely end to the term . Outside of school, boys and girls in Year 6 also took part in indoor athletics competitions held at Horbury Academy, with many stepping up to take on new events like the triple jump. They represented the school with great maturity and athleticism and should be very proud of their achievements. Next half term is sure to be just as busy, as Year 6 are moving back to History and Art, looking at some local History through their mining unit, which will feature a class visit to the National Coal Mining Museum. In Art, the children will be exploring photography and the use of digital editing, aiming to create a photorealistic self-portrait. In English, we will be studying the book 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty to tie in with our industrial revolution theme, whilst in Maths they will be looking at geometry and time. In Science, they will move on to looking at living things and in ICT, the children will study coding.

Science Experiments

Children in Need

Year 6 Class Assembly

Dates For Your Diary

The winner this half term is… **Year 4!**

January 2026

Monday 5th — INSET Day

Tuesday 6th — First day of Spring term 1

Thursday 8th— School Nursing Team to visit UF & Y6 for height and weight

Friday 16th — Flu Spray mop up session

Tuesday 27th—Year 1 & Year 2 Breakfast with Books at 9am

Wednesday 28th — Young Voices

Thursday 29th— Year 2 Class Assembly at 9:05am and Year 3 Managing Big Emotions Workshop at 1pm

February 2026

Tuesday 3rd — Year 4 Nell Bank and EYFS Breakfast with Books at 9am

Wednesday 4th — Year 4 Nell Bank

Friday 6th — NSPCC Number Day and Second Life Uniforms at 3:15pm

Tuesday 10th — Year 4 Swimming starts

Wednesday 11th— Year 3 & Year 4 Breakfast with Books at 9am

Friday 13th — INSET Day