MIDDLESTOWN NEWS

Middlestown Primary Academy: February 2026

Headteacher's Welcome…

Another busy half term is coming to an end when it doesn't seem 2 minutes since we returned after Christmas. The weather has been dreary (with a few wet playtimes) but the children are still in good spirits. A big well done to Year 4 for all going on their residential. Apart from limited hours of actual sleep, the whole trip was enjoyed by all (especially the fish and chips!). As always, the Year 3 children and the Choir really enjoyed the Young Voices concert and they were an absolute credit to the school. It was lovely to wave to so many parents from our seats too, so thank you for supporting us. This week the children have enjoyed the National Heart Month celebrations and a VR headset workshop, as well as thinking about Children's Mental Health Week. I hope you have a lovely half term and that we finally see some sunshine.

Spring 2 PE Days

UF— Thursday

Year 1— Tuesday & Thursday

Year 2— Thursday

Year 3— Monday & Thursday

Year 4— Tuesday (swimming) & Wednesday

Year 5— Monday & Thursday

Year 6— Wednesday

Fundraising

Thank you for your support this half term in raising money for The British Heart Foundation and NSPCC. All donations are going towards a worthy cause.

Thank you for your continued support!

British Heart Foundation's Heart Month 2026

Number Day 2026

Staff Profile: Get to know our staff better…

Mrs Lilley

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

What do you do at MPA?
I am the Assistant Headteacher and Early Years Leader here at MPA. I also teach Upper Foundation children 4 days per week.

What is your favourite thing about your job?
I love working with all of the children and seeing their confidence, skills and abilities grow throughout each year. Teaching children how to read is one of the best parts of my job, as I believe, if they can read they can do anything and apply these skills to other areas of the curriculum. I find it a real privilege to work with our children, their parents and carers and all the staff here at MPA.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
I enjoy spending time with my two children and socialising with my friends. During the half term holidays, I spend time in the North-East visiting my family. We often visit the coast for a walk along the sea front and have some fish and chips together. I also enjoy keeping fit by taking part in Pilates, dancing and jogging. My favourite thing to do is travel and explore different places around the world.

Favourite moment at Middlestown so far?
Running my Strictly Come Dancing after school club has been a big highlight since starting MPA in September. Teaching the children how to Cha, Cha, Cha and Waltz was magical. Seeing the children enjoy their dancing and their confidence growing on a weekly basis really made me smile.

Favourite food?
I enjoy a variety of food types however, my all-time favourite is a homemade roast dinner with lots of gravy. I also love fruit especially strawberries and mango.

Little Hands

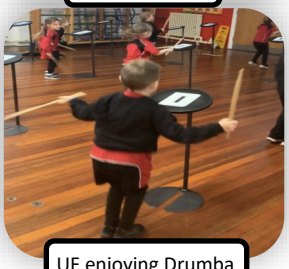
This half term, we have learnt 'All About Me!'. We learnt the names of our friends and teachers, shared photographs of our families and explored our bodies by singing 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' and starting to brush our teeth at school! Children were able to join in with a visit from a police car, and have visited main school for story time in the library. Our littlest learners have settled in fantastically, enjoying all our new provision has to offer. They have begun their phonics journey, listening carefully to sounds in the environment. We are so proud of the start they have all made to the year. Next term, our focus is 'Our World'. We will be learning about the world and our place in it, the weather/Spring, transport and the places we could go. In Phonics we will learn about instruments and the sounds we can make with them. Please continue to check SeeSaw for updates on your child's development and for additional information about how our Little Hands will join in with main school events.

Police visit

Learning how to brush their teeth

Enjoying Breakfast with Books

Lunar New Year



UF enjoying Drumba

Foundation Stage

We have been learning all about People who help us and Celebrating Lunar New Year which is occurring during the school holidays. Every child made a fluffy snowman in provision to further develop their fine motor skills; the children had to try and turn the key in the lock to free the treasure. Children in Upper Foundation had to find the key first that fitted the lock before opening it. When we learnt all about the story 'Elmer in the Snow' the children stood on paper plates and tried to move across the carpet, so that they could understand how it felt for the elephants to move on the ice. The children also had to pass Elmer around to each other using a peg, which helped the children's fine motor skills too. Upper Foundation have been learning Drumba as part of our P.E sessions this half term and have shown great rhythmic skills. Both Lower and Upper loved the topic 'People who help us'. They really enjoyed our visits from a nurse, vet, police officer and a solicitor. P.C Firth brought in his new police vehicle to explore and we also watched a drone being operated in the air. During the nurses visit, the children learnt all about the role of being a Nurse and what instruments she used in her role. The Vet's talk was presented over teams and the children listened really carefully about how they help animals if they are poorly or injured. We were lucky enough to be given a guided tour of the vet surgery too. Our 'Breakfast with Books' session was a lovely experience for all and it was great to see so many of you able to join us. Next half term, our topic is 'Once Upon A Time' in which we will be learning all about Traditional Tales. We will also be learning about the significance of Pancake Day and learn all about the Easter Story. The children will learn how Christians celebrate Easter with special traditions. We will also be baking Gingerbread when we learn all about 'The Gingerbread Man' story.

Year 1

This half term has had a jam-packed. 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. They also enjoyed reading 'There's a Snake in my School' and wrote a letter to Miss Bloat (the headteacher) to let the pets free! 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

In Year 2, the 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. 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. The Year 2 children also performed their assembly about Antarctica. They loved learning the song about snow. 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, their topic is hot and cold places, and they will learn about deserts, rainforests and the polar regions and the animals that are adapted to living there. In Maths, they will be learning about time. 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.

Year 2 Class Assembly

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 learnt how water moves through plants, to visualise this they created human models, to explain how the water moves into the flower. This half term's topic in PE was dance. The children have enjoyed participating in Drumba and showed enthusiasm towards different routines. As part of their DT topic, the children have designed and made their own season tarts after learning about food seasoning and importing foods. Year 3, alongside the choir, attended the young voices concert at Sheffield arena. They were joined by over 5000 children from different schools. Their singing and dancing was absolutely amazing! 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, where we will have a specialist tennis coach in school.

Making their own tart

Religious Education

Year 4 at Nell Bank

Year 4 This half term the children have really enjoyed reading 'The Ancient Egypt Sleepover'. This has inspired a lot of their writing including diary entries, short narratives and setting descriptions, 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 Maths, the children have developed their understanding of decimals including: rounding decimals, adding and subtracting decimals and comparing/ordering them. They even thought about how they can use this learning outside of school through money. 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 invertebrates to classify in their own diagram. Year 4 had a fabulous time at Nell Bank on their first residential trip! They enjoyed den building, orienteering and a walk in the woods listening to a legend story. 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 their first geography topic all about rivers.

Year 5 This half term, Year 5 have been learning about Earth and Space! In English, they have been reading the book 'Curiosity' by Markus Motum. They have created their own Mars Rovers and written explanation texts and persuasive arguments to NASA. In Science, they have learnt about the relative sizes of the Earth, Sun and Moon and how the Earth's rotation creates day and night. In Geography, Year 5's topic has been Volcanoes and Earthquakes. So far, they have learnt about the structure of the Earth, the features of a volcano and have located famous volcanoes on maps. They also took their learning outside and went to Coxley Woods where they created their own volcanoes using natural materials they could find. Afterwards, they presented their volcanoes to the rest of the class and correctly identified the different features of a volcano. In DT, the children have made doodlers – a motorized art device - using series circuits and pens to successfully create abstract art. This half term some of our children in Years 3-5 took part in a Sportability festival at Horbury Academy. They played with children from other schools in the local area and played games such as kurling, boccia and goal ball. Next half term, Year 5 will continue learning about Space in Science and Volcanoes and Earthquakes in Geography. To inspire their writing in English, they will be using the picture book 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan.

Year 5at Coxley Woods

Year 6 Year 6 have had a very busy half term, with many of their subjects orienting around themes of the Industrial Revolution and Victorian mining. The children have been reading 'Street Child' in English, fascinated with their learning about Victorian workhouses. They've written wonderful fact files about workhouses, becoming particularly interested in the forms of punishment! Alongside this, Year 6 had a go at using drama to practice writing in role as a character from the book, as well as writing a letter. In Maths, Year 6 have been focusing on data handling, statistics and geometry, learning about how to read bar charts, line graphs, Venn and Caroll diagrams and practicing their reasoning skills. They have also begun exploring how to calculate angles and properties of shape. Alongside their English, Year 6 have greatly enjoyed their History topic on the Industrial Revolution, learning about photo editing in Art, and exploring classification of living things in Science, learning about the use of the Linnean system and having a go at being taxonomists! In PSHE, they have been looking at peer pressure, as well as learning to use Python in ICT, and how to talk about where they live in French. Year 6 also had a trip to the National Coal Mining Museum at the very end of the half term to supplement their History topic. Next half term, Year 6 will begin reading 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo to inspire their English and writing. They will also be continuing their studies of shape and geometry, looking at calculating perimeter, volume and how to manipulate shapes with translation and reflection. In Science, they will look at how the human body works. Most importantly, Year 6 will be going on their residential to Robinwood which the children are greatly looking forward to.

Dates For Your Diary

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

February 2026

Monday 23rd— First day of Spring 2 term

March 2026

Monday 2nd— KS1 Benchball at Horbury Secondary Academy at 3:30pm

Tuesday 3rd— Individual class photographs, Cross Country Final at Temple Newsam at 12pm & Parents Evening at 3:15pm

Wednesday 4th— Parents Evening at 4:30pm

Thursday 5th— World Book Day

Monday 9th— Year 2 Yorkshire Wildlife Park trip & Year 6 Robinwood trip

Tuesday 10th— Year 6 at Robinwood & Cross Country Final reserve date

Wednesday 11th— Year 6 at Robinwood (return for school finish time) & Year 1 Toys through Time Workshop

Monday 16th— Quicksticks Hockey at Slazengers Hockey Club at 1pm

Thursday 19th— Year 3 Class Assembly at 9:05am

Friday 20th— Second Life Uniform at 3pm

Thursday 26th— Epilepsy Awareness Day, Easter Service (time to be confirmed via email) & Easter Disco's from 3:15pm

Friday 27th— Last day of Spring 2 Term