MIDDLESTOWN NEWS

Middlestown Primary Academy: March 2026

Headteacher's Welcome… It feels like we have only just returned after February half term and now we are breaking up for Easter. A five week half term always goes so fast but, I think you'll agree, we have managed to fit in a range of activities into this short half term. The Y6 children thoroughly enjoyed their residential, Y2 loved seeing all the different animals at the Wildlife Park and the Y1 had a Victorian toy workshop. Trips are planned in for the summer term for the other classes with Y3 going out at the end of the first week. Our youngest children have been spotting signs of Spring and we hope for the warm weather to return over the Easter break. Thank you for joining us for our Easter service and for the Y3 assembly last week. Year 5 will be sharing their Samba performance next half term with their parents and Y1 will lead their class assembly. The summer term will bring sports days for you to come and watch and we will let you know the dates of these after the holiday. I really do hope that you all have a lovely Easter; I know the children are excited for the Easter bunny paying a visit!

Summer 1 PE Days

UF— Friday

Year 1— Tuesday & Thursday

Year 2— Thursday & Friday

Year 3— Wednesday

Year 4— Monday & Tuesday (swimming)

Year 5— Tuesday & Thursday

Year 6— Wednesday

Fundraising

On Friday 27th March, we wore purple to raise awareness for Epilepsy Day. We want to thank you for your support, we have raised an amazing £146.10.

Young Epilepsy

Thank you for your continued support!

Staff Profile: Get to know our staff better… Miss Jones

When did you start at MPA?
I started at Middlestown Primary Academy on 5th January 2026.

What do you do at MPA?
I am a Teaching Assistant in Little Hands. I also occasionally work in Foundation too.

What is your favourite thing about your job?
I enjoy doing Arts and Crafts with the children and also helping them learn to read.

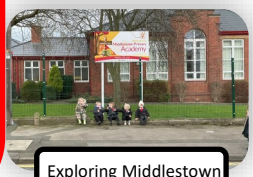
What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
I have many hobbies such as, playing guitar, arts and crafts and also watching live music.

Favourite moment at Middlestown so far?
My favourite moment so far at Middlestown is baking heart shaped biscuits with the children for World Heart Day.

Favourite food?
I love Thai food! My favourite meal has to be Massaman curry, it's the best!

Little Hands This half term our focus has been 'Our World'. Our Little Hands have explored different countries, crafting their own impressions of flags from around the world. We have really honed in on our local area of Middlestown, taking a walk into the village and pointing out its familiar features that we see when out and about. In Phonics, we have been listening carefully to stories, adding our own sounds with our voices and instruments. Little Hands made links to Science week by looking closely at the weather. We took time to lay on the ground and look up at the clouds with children noticing the shapes and colours, making links to grey clouds holding the rain. We also crafted our own windsocks to observe the effect of the wind! Next half term, our focus is 'Animals'. We will share the pets we have at home, animals we might find on the farm, zoo and in the air and sea. Our learning will be supported by our 'Book of the Week', including texts such as 'Dear Zoo' and 'Tip Tap Went The Crab'. 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.

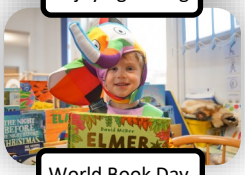
Learning about the weather



Exploring Middlestown

Working together

Enjoying baking



World Book Day

Foundation Stage This half term the children have loved our topic of traditional tales. We have focused on 'The 3 Billy Goats Gruff', 'The Gingerbread Man' and 'The Little Red Hen' to name a few. We have been star bakers and made pancakes with delicious toppings, baked bread rolls and also some gingerbread biscuits too. During Science week, we all conducted lots of scientific investigations. Upper Foundation investigated capillary action, where we added food colouring to flowers and saw the petals change colour over time. They also chose 4 different balls to investigate which one bounced the highest. Lower Foundation investigated volcanic eruptions and they chose different colours to put in the volcano for when it erupted. Upper Foundation have also been learning all about Argentina during our Lyfta sessions, which was very interesting! We compared life in Argentina to where we live here in England and talked about the similarities and differences. Both year groups have also been finding out all about Shrove Tuesday, the Easter Story and doing lots of Easter related activities. We celebrated the important mother figures in our lives this half term. Lower and Upper Foundation made beautiful cards for them. We performed the song with matching Makaton signs. Next half term, our topic is 'Down at the Bottom of the Garden'. We will be exploring how to plant seeds and watch them grow. We will be learning about life cycles of various animals. Most excitingly we will be watching chicks hatch out of their eggs and learning how to look after the baby chicks. We also have an exciting trip to Cannon Hall Farm planned at the end of May to learn more about farm animals.

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' and 'The Queen's Hat'. 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 Victorians workshop delivered by Jeffrey Andrews, which gave them an opportunity to find out what life was like for a school child 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 which materials are best at absorbing liquids. Some of our Key Stage 1 children also took part in a Benchball tournament and their team came joint 2nd at Horbury Academy. 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 Fruit 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.

Toys through time workshop

World Book Day

Yorkshire Wildlife Park

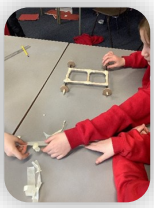
Year 2 This half term, Year 2 have been exploring the theme of hot and cold places. They have identified these locations on a world map and learnt why deserts and rainforests experience hot climates, while the polar regions are extremely cold. The children have also studied different animals, their habitats, and how they are adapted to survive in these contrasting environments. In English, they have read a range of books about animals that live on the savannah or in jungles and used them as inspiration for their own writing. In Maths, the children have been learning to tell the time, including o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to, as well as times to the nearest five minutes. They have also added coin totals, explored different combinations of coins to make the same amount, and solved money-related problems. In Science, the class have investigated animals and their lifecycles. As part of Science week, they carried out an investigation into which type of banana stays fresh the longest when exposed to air—whole, sliced or mashed. They also learnt about the scientist Frederick McKinley Jones. In Design and Technology, the children have enjoyed designing their own moving monster. Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful day at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park where they completed a workshop about animals and world habitats, and saw many animals, including the new hyena cubs. Next half term, the topic will be 'Katie and the Artists' and the children will be reading books by James Mayhew in English. The children will be learning about the local artist, Barbara Hepworth, and will learn about Wakefield when Barbara Hepworth was a child.

Year 3 This half term, Year 3 have studied two books in English, 'Journey' by Aaron Becker, which is a wordless book, it inspired lots of imaginative thinking prior to writing. The book inspired a variety of excellent work including, a setting description, a story opening and a blurb. 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 investigating the friction experienced on different surfaces. In Geography, Year 3 have also learnt about North America. They have learnt about the different places in North America, about the lines of latitude and longitude, as well as comparing the human and physical features of the USA. A team of children including some 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, the topic will be time, 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. We also have our trip booked to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park which will include a clay making workshop.

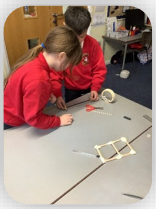
Making vegetable tarts

Science week

Year 4 This half term, the children have really enjoyed exploring 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. They have written a biography about his life, setting descriptions and instructions about how to trap the Iron Man. In addition, the children have learnt all about different rivers around the world. They were able to link this learning about how rivers are formed, features of a river and uses of rivers to the River Nile from last half terms learning about Ancient Egypt! In DT, the children finished making their own working cars including chassis, axel, wheels and a slingshot mechanism. They worked well in teams to make sure they were successful and even got to race their cars in the hall so they could evaluate their work. In Art, the children have explored Egyptian artwork and used this as inspiration for their own work. They have made their own papyrus style paper. Their drawings tell wonderful stories just like it would have done inside an ancient tomb! Year 4 had a fabulous time celebrating British Science week. They designed their own investigation question and designed and carried out their own experiment to find the answer. As well as this, they researched about a diverse scientist and thought carefully about how their work links to their own investigation. Next half term, the children will be starting a new Geography topic all about rainforests which will link closely to their exciting class book! This book will inspire both fiction and non-fiction writing. In addition, the children will start a new Science topic about changes in materials and states of matter.

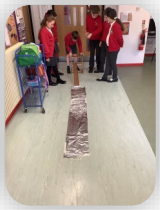


Testing out their creations



Year 4 car creations

Year 5 enjoying Science



World Book Day

Science Experiments

Year 5 This half term, Year 5 have really enjoyed reading the book 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan as a stimulus for their writing in English. They have written blurbs, letters and a refugee survival guide, as well as taken part in numerous drama opportunities, such as creating freeze frames and thought-tracking. In Science, the children have learnt about Earth and Space, they learnt about the different planets and understand how night and day is created. Year 5 continued learning about Volcanoes and Earthquakes in Geography, they learnt about how and why earthquakes occur and the main effects earthquakes can have on people and buildings. As part of their learning, they used oreos to demonstrate how the tectonic plates move and used simulated the effects of earthquakes of buildings by using jelly, spaghetti and marshmallows. Year 5 have really enjoyed their tennis sessions this half term, they learnt how to pass in different ways and specific tactics for attacking and defending. Some children across KS2 took part in the West Yorkshire Cross Country finals at Temple Newsam. They showed true determination as they represented Wakefield and completed the course! A group of year 4 and 5 children took part in the Quick Sticks Hockey festival at Slazengers against other schools in the local area. They came first overall – a fantastic achievement! Next half term, Year 5 will be reading 'The Island at the Edge of Night' by Lucy Strange as a stimulus for their writing in English. In Science, the children will learn about forces, including the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction. In History, the children will learn about The Tudors, including how King Henry VIII changed England with the English Reformation, his six wives and learn about the Battle of Britain. As part of their RE studies, Year 4 and Year 5 will be visiting a Buddhist Centre in Leeds on Wednesday 6th May.

Year 6 This half term, the children have worked hard and it's has been very busy one! In English, they have begun their new text of 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo, partaking in a spirited debate about whether the family should sail around the world to inspire their writing. In Maths, they've been continuing working on their reasoning, tackling geometry and shape, including learning how to find volume and area, as well as how to read coordinate grids. Year 6 have also been doing tennis in PE, focusing on recapping basic skills to work up to a full game. In ICT, they have started a new unit on coding and have also started their new Science topic on animals including humans, exploring how the circulatory system helps carry blood and oxygen around the body. In PSHE, the focus this half term has been compassion, both for others and for themselves, with the children demonstrating great maturity in their detailed discussions of how to show compassion. Additionally, in music, the children have been looking at the impact of film music, taking great delight in learning about the music in Wallace and Gromit films! Overall Year 6 have packed a lot into a short few weeks but have really pushed themselves out of their comfort zone, both in the classroom and out. The children absolutely loved their residential trip to Robinwood, taking on new challenges in caving, archery, climbing, canoeing and so many more activities. They loved the chance to work on their problem solving, with many particularly enjoying escaping from the dreaded piranha pool! Many overcame huge fears of heights on the trapeze or giant swing and showed excellent teamwork and resilience in all their activities. Next half term, Year 6 will be continuing working on their writing for 'Kensuke's Kingdom', and undertaking a final big push with English and maths before the SATs. They will begin athletics in PE and will be continuing with their History topic on the Industrial Revolution. Also, a reminder that the comprehension boosters (Wednesday after school) an-Maths boosters (Tuesday before school) will continue to run after Easter in preparation for SATs.

Robinwood Adventures!

World Book Day

Dates For Your Diary

April 2026

Monday 13th— First day of Summer 1 term

Tuesday 14th— Year 5 Samba Assembly at 2:45pm

Wednesday 15th— Year 5 trip to Coxley Woods

Friday 17th— Year 3 trip to The Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Monday 20th— Phonics Screening Information Meeting for Year 1 parents at 3:15pm

Friday 24th— Tuck shop at breaktime

May 2026

Wednesday 6th— Year 4 & 5 trip to The Buddhist Centre

Thursday 7th— Year 1 Class Assembly at 9:05am

Monday 11th— SATs week KS2

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

Monday 18th— Year 4, 5 & 6 Cricket at Horbury Bridge Cricket Club at 10am

Thursday 21st— EYFS trip to Cannon Hall Farm

Friday 22nd— Last day of Summer 1 term