MIDDLESTOWN NEWS

Middlestown Primary Academy: May 2026

Headteacher's Welcome…

First of all, a special mention to Year 6 for their fantastic attitude in the build up and during SATs. They have really tried their best and they can now ease off (a little) and enjoy their final half term in Primary school. Well done to Year 2 for completing their tests as well; also working really hard. The children have been enjoying a range of trips with more continuing next half term. A big thank you to the EYFS staff for the whole unit trip to Canon Hall Farm. As you can imagine, it is not easy taking 61 of our youngest children on a day out but we do feel that the children get a lot out of it. We look forward to welcoming you into school next half term for a range of activities, including sports days and the summer fayre, as well as Y2 inviting parents to their afternoon tea where they will be the waiters and waitresses for the afternoon. I hope you have a lovely May half term break. It looks like we might get some sunshine!

Summer 2 PE Days

UF— Friday

Year 1— Tuesday & Thursday

Year 2— Thursday

Year 3— Monday & Wednesday

Year 4— Monday & Tuesday (swimming)

Year 5— Tuesday & Thursday

Year 6— Monday & Thursday

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 Rowley

When did you start at MPA?
I started in January 2026 following the opening of Little Hands Preschool.

What do you do at MPA?
My role is an Early Years Teaching Assistant and I am based in Little Hands, however I do work across all of EYFS throughout the week.

What is your favourite thing about your job?
I love helping the children work towards their goals and seeing their smiles when they reach them, whether big or small. I think celebrating these is important.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
I enjoy spending time with my friends, whether this is going to the gym, cinema or grabbing a coffee together. I am working towards my degree, so spend lots of time studying when I'm not with my friends.

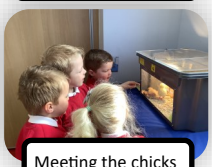
Favourite moment at Middlestown so far?
My favourite moment at Middlestown so far was the Foundation Easter Disco, dancing with the children whilst they were enjoying the music and lighting, it was a lovely experience.

Favourite food?
My favourite food has got to be spaghetti Bolognese (my home-cooked one only!), but I do love a picnic with different picky bits and treats.

Little Hands This half term, we have really enjoyed our 'Animals' topic. The children have shared photos of their pets at home, encouraging early communication skills by naming their pets and telling us all about how they care for them. We have learnt about animals on the farm and had lots of fun playing in the sensory 'mud' and cleaning it off the tractors! We also explored the zoo, moving to music as we pretended to be the animals that live there. We were so excited to meet the chicks that hatched from their eggs, and even more so to have the opportunity to stroke and hold them! The children listened carefully to instructions about how to show care for the chicks and did so with gentle hands. We are looking forward to exploring our next topic of 'Opposites', exploring key concepts such as; big and little, fast and slow. We will also be inviting parents to join us for a Teddy Bears Picnic! Please continue to check SeeSaw for updates on your child's development, reminders and for additional information about how our Little Hands will join in with main school events.

Learning about the chicks

Trying different fruits

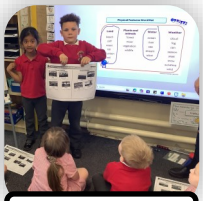


Meeting the chicks

Learning about the Farm

Foundation Stage Our topic this half term has been, 'Down at the Bottom of the Garden'. We explored how to plant seeds, found out what conditions they need for survival and watched them grow. Lots of learning took place about life cycles of various animals, such as hens and butterflies. We looked after our Stick Insects for a couple of weeks and learnt lots of facts about them. Most excitingly, we watched our chicks hatch out of their eggs and learnt how to care for them. Foundation enjoyed an exciting trip to Cannon Hall farm, where we learnt more about farm animals and experienced life on a farm. It was so lovely to take both Lower Foundation and Upper Foundation together and watch the children enjoy the experience. This half term, we also carried out some taste testing when learning about 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. The children chose the healthier fruits to try from the story and they enjoyed trying watermelon, pear, plum, apple, orange and strawberries. Upper Foundation continued their learning of recycling throughout their Lyfta sessions, this time exploring Beachcomber in England. Upper Foundation have been working on their PE skills this half term, they have improved their stamina in P.E to complete the daily mile. I am happy to announce this half term we achieved our goal of 8 laps continuously to complete the daily mile. Well done Upper Foundation! Lower Foundation have really enjoyed their mathematics learning this half term. They particularly liked going on a shape hunt in the environment both inside and outside to find both 2D and 3D shapes. Our topic next half term is, 'All Around The World', where we will be learning lots about different countries, religions and cultures. We will be further developing our positive attitudes about the differences between people. It is also Upper Foundation's class assembly next half term, so we are really looking forward to sharing our learning with you. We will also be holding our annual EYFS Sports Day, so we will be practising lots for the big day. We can't wait for you to join us and cheer us on!

Year 1 This half term has been another busy one for Year 1. Their topic has been 'The United Kingdom'. In Geography, they have been learning about the four countries that make up the UK and 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 also performed to their parents for their class assembly, they did amazing presenting all they had learnt 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 seaside's 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, the children will continue work on the United Kingdom, including reading 'How to Catch a Leprechaun'. 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 learning the symbols in an ordinance survey.



Learning about plants

Marmalade Sandwiches

Year 2 This half term, Year 2 have had an Art focus with learning about local artists. The children read books by Helen Cooper in their English lessons and used them as inspiration for their writing, producing lovely conversations, descriptions and stories. In History, they learnt about Barbara Hepworth, her life and her work and made comparisons between Wakefield when she was born in 1903, with Wakefield today. In Science, the children investigated the conditions that plants need for healthy growth. In Art, the children have been exploring clay and how to create shapes using their hands and texture using a variety of tools. They learnt how to join clay pieces together using the score and slip method and designed their own houses, that they recreated in clay using their new knowledge and skills. The children all worked really hard in the KS1 SATs tests and we are all very proud of them. Next half term, out topic will be 'Secrets of the Sea' and in History, the children will be learning all about Titanic, which is always a favourite in Year 2. The children will learn about the events that led to disaster and will compare facilities for first and third class passengers. They will also be asked to complete a homework project based on Titanic. We also have a couple of events planned for next half term, an afternoon planned where parents will be invited into school to share an Afternoon Tea with their children and the children will also be taking a trip to the Library.

Year 3 This half term, the children have explored 'Sulwe' by Lupita Nyong'o and 'The Owl Tree' by Jenny Nimmo to inspire their English work. They have taken part in a range of drama activities including; role play, freeze frames and have produced setting descriptions, poetry and a balanced argument linked to the texts. In History, the children have been learning about Ancient Greece. They have used timelines to place Ancient Greece within world History, debated which Greek god was the most powerful and why, and learnt about a range of mythological characters. In PE, the children have been developing their athletic skills. They have practised javelin and shot put techniques and applied their running skills through sprinting and relay races. As part of their Art lessons, the children designed and created a structure. They explored different ways of shaping materials and combined these shapes to produce an interesting, freestanding sculpture. In PSHE, the children have been focusing on the importance of being present and developing positive relationships, as well as understanding the impact of a negative relationship. Next half term, the children will be completing their topic on the Ancient Greeks. They will compare the Ancient Greek Olympics to the modern Olympic Games and learn how the Ancient Greeks have influenced life in Britain today. In English, 'Quest and Harriet vs the Galaxy' will be used as stimulus texts to inspire the children's writing. In PE, the children will be taking part in striking and fielding activities, including Cricket and Rounders. In Science, the children will be learning about Light. They will develop their understanding that darkness is the absence of light, that light is needed in order to see and how shadows are formed.

Year 3 Sculpture designs

Enjoying desk drumming

Year 4 at the Buddhist Centre

Venn and Carroll diagrams

Year 4 This half term, Year 4 have enjoyed reading the book, 'The Girl Who Stole an Elephant'. They have loved exploring this text and shown true enthusiasm for the plot. The children have written setting descriptions, non-chronological reports, diary entries and balanced arguments. They even published a piece of their writing to go on display for the whole school to see! This book has linked closely to their Geography topic all about rainforests. Year 4 have become rainforest adventurers by exploring the Amazon and Congo Rainforests. They discussed what it might feel like to be in a rainforest, including humidity, temperature, animals and plants. In maths, Year 4 have started their learning about shape and measure. The children have successfully converted different units of measure including, metres to kilometres and millilitres to litres. In addition, the children have started to explore the concepts of regular and irregular polygons when looking at quadrilaterals and different triangles. They classified the shapes into Venn and Carroll diagrams with great verbal reasoning. In Art, Year 4 have been looking at using tints and shades to make objects look 3D, using black and white paint to make colours lighter and darker. The children then created their own composition using objects from around the classroom and used their knowledge of shadows to make these objects look 3 dimensional. The final pieces were fantastic! A group of Year 4 children represented Middlestown fabulously at the cricket festival that took place at the Horbury Cricket Club. They showed resilience and collaboration with other children to succeed, along with good sportsmanship. Well done! Next half term, Year 4 should look forward to reading 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell. In Science, the children will be completing lots of practical experiments to support their learning around states of matter, and in DT, Year 4 will be starting their final DT topic all about cooking and adapting recipes. Get ready to bake!

Year 4 & 5 at The Buddhist Centre

Year 5 at Coxley Woods

Year 5 Science experiments

Year 5 This half term, Year 5 have started reading the book 'The Island at the Edge of Night' by Lucy Strange as a stimulus for their writing in English. As a link to their learning, they visited Coxley Woods and used the natural surroundings to gather ideas and vocabulary for a setting description. The children have also written diary entries and newspaper reports linked to the book. In Science, the children have enjoyed learning about forces; they have taken part in practical experiments to investigate air resistance, gravity and friction. For example, to test which surface creates the least friction, they compared the friction on surfaces outside such as the tarmac, grass, astro turf and bark. Year 5 have been learning about the Tudors in History; they have created timelines to determine when King Henry VIII was in power, learnt about his 6 wives and how he changed England with the English Reformation. Year 4 and Year 5 visited Jamyang – a Buddhist Temple in Leeds to learn about the teachings of the Buddha, Buddhist practices and the Buddhist community. They learnt about the different promises Buddhists make and handled a variety of objects whilst guessing what they were used for. Next half term, Year 5 will continue reading 'The Island at the Edge of Night' as part of their English lessons. They will focus on writing to persuade and argue, and write a narrative to build tension and suspense. In Science, Year 5 will start their new topic 'Animals including Humans' and will learn about the growth of humans, the growth of babies and main changes that take place in old age. As part of their History topic, The Tudors, Year 5 will visit Temple Newsam on Wednesday 10th June.

Year 6 Year 6 have had a particularly busy term preparing for and taking their SATs exams. The children showed great maturity and enthusiasm in the run up to the tests, tackling extra lessons in English and Maths and working hard to ensure they felt ready. Alongside exam preparation, the children have been doing lots of work on their writing, continuing to use 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo as inspiration for detailed narratives, a news report about Michael falling overboard and a character description. In PE, the children have enjoyed their athletics sessions, throwing themselves into the challenge of completing a relay with a moving changeover. Year 6 should all be commended for their hard work this term for their SATs exams. They all sat the exams excellently, and should all be very proud of themselves. Next half term, Year 6 will continue to work on their writing with 'Kensuke's Kingdom', writing a letter of complaint, a dialogue and fact file. They will also be starting new work on the local area in Geography, crime and punishment through the ages in History and evolution in Science. They will also look at striking and fielding in PE through rounders and cricket, and how to use spreadsheets in ICT. Looking toward the end of the year, Year 6 will also be busy preparing for their transition to High School, with several days being out at the local secondary schools and taking on a transition project. Finally, the children will be busy rehearsing for their end of year leavers' assembly.

Dates For Your Diary

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

June 2026

Monday 1st— Return to school for Summer 2 term

Monday 8th— Class Photographs and Choir to visit Fieldhead Care Home at 10:30am

Wednesday 10th— Year 5 trip to Temple Newsam

Monday 15th— Sports Week

Monday 22nd— World Music Day and Year 2 Afternoon Tea at 2:30pm

Tuesday 23rd— Year 2 trip to The Library and Horbury Academy Taster Day

Wednesday 24th— Horbury Academy Taster Day & Ossett Academy Taster Day

Thursday 25th— Summer Fayre at 3:15pm

Friday 26th— Year 5 Taster Day at Horbury Academy

Monday 29th— New Lower Foundation Starter Meeting at 4pm

Tuesday 30th— Upper Foundation Class Assembly at 9:05am, Year 5 The Big Sing at Wakefield Cathedral and Year 1, 2 & 3 Sports Day at 12:30pm

July 2026

Wednesday 1st— EYFS Sports Day at 9am

Thursday 2nd— Year 4, 5 & 6 Sports Day at 12:30pm and New Upper Foundation Starter Meeting at 4pm

Monday 6th — Little Hands Stay & Play Session at 3:30pm

Tuesday 7th— Reserve Sports Day Year 1, 2 & 3 at 12:30pm

Wednesday 8th— Reserve Sports Day EYFS at 9am, Year 3 & 4 Indoor Athletics at Ossett Academy at 12:30pm, New Lower Foundation Stay & Play at 1:30pm & Little Hands Teddy Bears Picnic at 2pm

Thursday 9th— Reserve Sports Day Year 4, 5 & 6 at 12:30pm

Friday 10th— Second Life Uniforms at 3:15pm

Monday 13th— New Upper Foundation Transition Day

Tuesday 14th— Year 6 Leavers Assembly for parents at 5:45pm

Wednesday 15th— New Upper Foundation Transition Day, Year 5 & 6 Indoor Athletics at Ossett Academy at 12:30pm and Year 6 Leavers Meal at Capri at 5pm

Thursday 16th— New Lower Foundation Stay & Play session at 10am

Friday 17th— Last Day of Summer 2 term

Monday 20th July to Monday 31st August — Summer Holidays

Tuesday 1st September—INSET Day (staff only)

Wednesday 2nd September — Return to school for Autumn 1 term