MIDDLESTOWN NEWS

Middlestown Primary Academy: July 2026

Headteacher's Welcome…

It has been an incredible year here at Middlestown! Not only did we have a visit from the Ofsted team, they then wanted to come back to celebrate how effective we are with inclusion and share this with other schools. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the children for rising to the high expectations we have here at MPA and for contributing to whole school life. A huge thank you to you as well as parents and carers for your commitment to your child(ren)'s education and supporting them in school and at home. And finally, a huge thank you to the staff as well who come to work full of enthusiasm and always go above and beyond to make sure that we continue to shine as a school and in the local community. A farewell to our Year 6 children- we really do wish you all the best as you move on to Secondary Education. I really do wish you all a lovely summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you back on the 2nd September.

Autumn 1 PE Days

UF— Monday & Friday

Year 1— Tuesday & Thursday

Year 2— Thursday & Friday

Year 3— Tuesday & Wednesday

Year 4— Monday & Tuesday

Year 5— Monday & Thursday

Year 6— Tuesday

Fundraising

RAINBOW DAY

We raised an amazing £1386.35!

Thank you for your support.

Staff Profile: Get to know our staff better…

Mrs Teasdale

When did you start at MPA?
I started working at Middlestown Primary Academy in January 2026.

What do you do at MPA?
I work across Little Hands and Foundation as a Teaching Assistant.

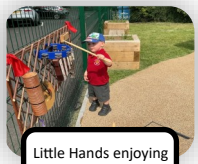
What is your favourite thing about your job?
I love being outdoors with the children, even in all weathers!

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
I love to travel with my family, I love walking in the Dales and also reading a good book.

Favourite moment at Middlestown so far?
My favourite moment so far has to be the Foundation trip to Cannon Hall Farm. The children were so incredible. I also loved seeing the piglets!

Favourite food?
My favourite food has to be homemade pasta.

Little Hands Our Little Hands children have enjoyed exploring opposites linked to their senses this half term. They have worked on recognising and sorting colours and sorting objects that are big and small. We celebrated World Music Day by making lots of noise on our outdoor music wall and enjoyed a colourful Rainbow Day too! What a busy half term! The children have worked hard to bake biscuits and cakes, create their own teddy bear faces and learn the actions to 'Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear' in preparation for their Teddy Bears' Picnic. A huge thank you to all the children and the parents who were able to join us – it was the perfect way for us to share some of our achievements. As we return in September we will of course be focusing on settling children back in to our routines. We will be exploring the 'All About Me' topic as we welcome seven new friends into our class.



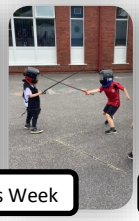
Little Hands enjoying World Music Day

Kite making

Rainbow Day

Foundation Stage This half term our topic has been 'All Around The World' and it has introduced Foundation to many interesting stories such as 'Handa's Surprise'. Lower Foundation children also listened to the story, 'Dev and Ollie Kite Crazy' then went into provision and made their own kites which they then tested outside, to see if they could fly. Foundation also celebrated Art Day by learning about the famous Artist Henri Matisse. The children then produced their own artwork in the style of Henri Matisse using different shapes and colours. During Sports Week, Foundation tried out numerous physical activities such as; Tennis, Rounders, Dragon Ball, Fencing, Cricket, Boogie Bounce and more. They thoroughly enjoyed the different sports, we even had a positive comment from the Boogie Bounce instructor that Upper Foundation were the best class she has taught at such a young age! We also celebrated World Music Day this half term, and the children embraced the day by wearing their favourite musical costumes. We also had an exciting visit from the Firefighters from the local fire station. The children found out how they help people in the community and they also had a go at sitting inside the fire engine. Upper Foundation competed in the multi-skills competition this term against other schools across the Wakefield District and they won the tightrope challenge. They also came third overall in the competition! EYFS Sports Day was also a highlight this term, I hope you enjoyed it as much as the children enjoyed participating in it. Furthermore, Upper Foundation performed in their Class Assembly and each and every one of them were outstanding. I don't think there was a dry eye in the house and we were all super proud of them. Thank you to all that supported us with our Rainbow Day this term, in which we have already started making improvements to our Outdoor Learning Environment. In September, Miss Peat joins us as Upper Foundation Teacher to further strengthen the teaching, learning and to further develop our core EYFS team. Our Topic next half term is 'Marvellous Me', where we will be celebrating our uniqueness and getting to know each other better.

Year 1 This half term has been a very busy last half term of the year. They have been reading books related to their topic 'Seaside'. They completed writing based around 'Snail and the Whale' and 'Lucy & Tom At the Seaside'. In Geography, the children walked around the village and explored our local area. They then created a map of Middlestown using ordinance survey symbols. In History, Year 1 have learnt all about how seasides have changed from Victorian times. They discovered what Punch and Judy is and even bathing machines! In Art, the children explored colour and mixed primary colours to make secondary colours. They then used this knowledge to create a piece of artwork inspired by Jasper Johns. Although it feels like a life time ago, the children also completed their Phonics Screening Check this half term. They did such a good job and the staff are incredibly proud of them. The children have worked incredibly hard in Year 1 and are ready for the challenges of Year 2. Next term, to start the year for our new Year 1's, the children read 'Ruby's Worry' to help them discuss feeling scared or anxious about change. The children then read a variety of traditional tales including 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children will complete lots of drama activities so that they are fully immersed in the stories which will give them a good understanding of the characters. The children will start their 'Weather and Climate' topic in Geography and learn about the seasons of the year and different weathers we experience. This will link closely to their Science topic all about the Autumn Season.



Y1 Sports Week

Y1 learning about the seaside

Y2 Sports Day

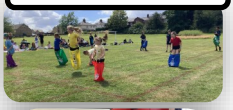
Year 2 trip to the Library

Titanic Project

Year 2 Our topic this term has been 'Secrets of the Sea', and in History the children have learnt all about the Titanic. They have loved learning about the disaster and debating who was to blame. For their homework the children created their own Titanic projects. We were amazed by the fantastic work they produced. The children produced models, pictures, posters and paintings. In English, we read stories linked to the seas and oceans and wrote diaries, stories and persuasive letters. In Art, the children learnt about colour mixing and creating texture with paint. They used these skills to create their own textured papers, which they made into a collage based on Romare Bearden's work. The children hosted an afternoon tea for their parents and carers and they made and served homemade sandwiches and sweet treats. The money they raised on the raffle, they chose to spend on ice creams and ice lollies for the class. The children also caught a bus and visited Horbury library, where we were told about how the library works and the events that happen there. Vicky also visited school to tell the children about the summer reading challenge.

Year 3 This half term, Year 3 have finished their topic on Ancient Greece. They compared the Ancient Olympics to the modern Olympics and looked at how the Greeks influenced Britain today. In Geography, the children have been learning about South America. In this topic, the children located South America on a map and identified the countries in South America using an atlas. They also compared Brazil to Britain and learnt about the human and physical geography in Rio de Janeiro. In PE, we have been focusing on striking and fielding games, the children enjoyed learning more about cricket and rounders, using their skills to play games against each other. As a stimulus for writing, the children have been using the book 'Quest' by Aaron Becker. This is the second book in the series after Quest which the children loved! The have produced some brilliant writing, including instructions, a missing person advert and a setting description. In science, the children have enjoyed carrying out lots of investigations linking to their light topic. They tested how the size of shadows change as a light source is moved further away, objects that create shadows and the effects of UV rays on coloured paper. Sports Day was a huge success, the children enjoyed participating in different races and showed brilliant sportsmanship. The Martial Arts activity day was also enjoyed by the children, where they learnt the basic skills. In September, the new Year 3 children will be learning about Early Civilisations as part of their History topic. This includes The Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. In English, they will read a number of texts linked to their History topic such as 'Stone Age Boy' and 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth'. In Science, the children will learn about rocks and fossils.

Y3 enjoying Sports Day

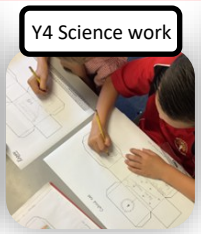


Y3 enjoying Sports Week

Year 4 This half term, Year 4 have enjoyed reading the book, 'The Explorer'. They have written lots of pieces of writing including; persuasive letters, non-chronological reports and playscripts. The children were engrossed in the story where a group of young people got stuck in the Amazon Rainforest and were keen to keep reading! In DT, Year 4 had a great time making their own biscuits. They worked in groups to adapt an existing recipe, work within a budget to choose ingredients and design and build their own packaging. The biscuits were delicious and each child rated them very highly when evaluating. In Science, the children conducted their own experiment to investigate which conditions affect the rate of evaporation the most. They measured the water, chose containers with different diameters and wrote up the method in their books. After observing the containers for 4 days, they were shocked with the results! In Art, Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed revisiting their topic about Egyptian scrolls. They weaved their own paper, stained it with tea and then used oil pastels to draw stories using symbols from other Egyptian artwork. Year 4 had an amazing sports day this half term where they represented their individual houses well. They all showed excellent sportsmanship, put in their best efforts with every race and achieved great results. Well done!

Y4 enjoying Sports Week

Y4 enjoying cooking



Y4 Science work

Y4 Egyptian Art

Year 5 For the final half term, Year 5 have continued reading 'The Island at the Edge of Night' by Lucy Strange as a stimulus for their writing, including writing persuasive leaflets about remote islands. In Science, the children have learnt about animals including humans; as part of this topic, they created a timeline to show the different stages of growth in humans and the main changes that happen in old age. The children have continued learning about The Tudors as part of their History topic. They learnt about some of the key battles in the War of the Roses including, the Battle of Wakefield that took place at Sandal Castle. As part of their History learning, they visited Temple Newsam where they learnt about King Henry VIII, how the lives of rich Tudors and poor Tudors differed and learnt about the different people that had lived at Temple Newsam House. In DT, the children have been learning about developing recipes. They researched a traditional Bolognese recipe, suggested changes that could be made and discussed the nutritional value in the recipe. They ended their unit by making their own Bolognese sauce! Year 5 and 6 were visited by the Fire Service where they learnt about how to keep safe if there is a fire in their home and how to make their home safer. They had the chance to try on some of the uniform and equipment that firefighters use, as well as race to see how quickly they could get ready in a fire emergency! In September, the children moving into Year 5 will be learning about living things and their habitats in Science and learning all about mountains in Geography.

Y5 learning about the Tudors

Y5 enjoying Sports Week

Y5 at The Big Sing

Year 6 The children have enjoyed a busy and exciting half term, balancing preparations for their transition to secondary school with a wide range of sporting activities and classroom learning. In English, they have continued their work on 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo, producing impressive fact files about orangutans and writing thoughtful letters of complaint. They also had great fun creating short drama pieces based on nonsense conversations before developing their own engaging dialogue writing. History has been a particular highlight, with Year 6 thoroughly enjoying their topic on crime and punishment. They were especially fascinated by the gruesome and often surprising punishments used during the Middle Ages! In Science, the children have been exploring evolution and inheritance, while in PSHE they have been developing practical life skills through learning about handling money. Geography lessons saw Year 6 putting their map-reading skills to good use as they investigated the local area of Middlestown. They explored the range of amenities available and considered how a village supports not only its residents, but also the wider surrounding community. In ICT, the children have been developing their digital skills by learning how to use spreadsheets, including entering data and using simple formulas. Meanwhile, in French, they have been learning how to describe the town in which they live, building their vocabulary and confidence in speaking and writing about their local area. It has been a fantastic half term, with Year 6 showing enthusiasm, curiosity and maturity as they continue to prepare for the exciting next stage of their education. Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed Sports Week this year, with the opportunity to try ten different sports, including skateboarding, Boogie Bounce, rounders and many more. The week was filled with enthusiasm, determination and plenty of fun as the children challenged themselves to learn new skills and step outside their comfort zones. Sports Day was another highlight of the half term. Every child threw themselves into the events with great energy and team spirit, giving their all in the races while enthusiastically cheering on their classmates. It was wonderful to see such encouragement and support for one another throughout the day. For many children, however, the biggest highlight was their two transition days at secondary school. These visits gave them an exciting glimpse into life next year, with opportunities to take part in a range of activities, including building rockets and carrying out practical science experiments. Just as importantly, they began to make new friends and get to know the students who will be in their forms, helping them feel confident and excited about the next stage beyond Middlestown. Well done Year 6!

Y6 enjoying Sports Week

Dates For Your Diary

September 2026

Tuesday 1st— INSET Day

Wednesday 2nd— First day of Autumn 1 term

Tuesday 29th— Flu vaccinations Upper Foundation to Year 6

October 2026

Tuesday 6th— Year 6 Class Assembly at 9:05am

Monday 12th— Year 6 Bikeability (Monday to Wednesday) and Year 2 lantern making workshop with NCMM

Wednesday 14th— Year 3 & 4 trip to Cluntergate Theatre at 1:30pm

Thursday 15th— Harvest Festival (times to be confirmed) and Year 5 & 6 trip to Cluntergate Theatre at 1:30pm

Wednesday 21st— Halloween Disco

Thursday 22nd— Last day of Autumn 1 term

Friday 23rd—INSET Day