MIDDLESTOWN NEWS

Middlestown Primary Academy: October 2026

Headteacher's Welcome…

As we come to the end of a very long, yet action packed half term, I want to thank you for joining us for some of the events that we have held in school including Harvest, Breakfast with Books, Y6 class assembly and Activity Day. The KS2 children enjoyed the trip to the The Cluntergate Centre to see a version of Romeo and Juliet and Y6 had an immersive learning experience at Eden Camp linked to their topic on WW2. It was so lovely to see the children dressed up in their spooky costumes for the Halloween disco and all children will be part of some reminders to stay safe in the build-up to Bonfire Night. We have a range of activities already planned into the next half term as we start the countdown to Christmas. We have just finished sorting out the dates for the Christmas performances and a range of other exciting events to get us in the Christmas spirit. I hope you all have a lovely half term break and thank you again for your continued support.

Autumn 2 PE Days

Upper Foundation – Friday

Year 1 – Tuesday & Thursday

Year 2 – Thursday & Friday

Year 3 – Tuesday & Wednesday

Year 4 – Monday & Wednesday

Year 5 – Monday & Thursday

Year 6 - Thursday

Fundraising

Thank you for your generosity this half term, we raised **£159.60** On Hello Yellow Day for the Young Minds Charity.

YOUNGMiNDS

Staff Profile: Get to know our staff better…

Miss Thomas

When did you start at MPA?

I started working at Middlestown Primary Academy in January 2026.

What do you do at MPA?

I am an Apprentice Teaching Assistant. I work mostly in Little Hands, but I do spend some time working within Foundation.

What is your favourite thing about your job?

I love the children, they're sweet, genuine little souls who light up my week without fail. I love playing with them and getting to know them all. I feel joy and a sense of pride seeing them grow and develop.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

Outside of school, I enjoy being active. I like participating in different sports such as; football, swimming, running, cycling and resistance training. I also take comfort in practicing Zen Buddhism, so I meditate a lot, this helps me to maintain a calm, positive and compassionate attitude.

Favourite moment at Middlestown so far?

My favourite moment so far was when we had a visit from the Fire Fighters. They children got to see their Fire Engine, they were all fascinated.

Favourite food?

My favourite food is cookie dough Ben and Jerry's ice cream.

Little Hands Little Hands began the school year with the topic 'Marvellous Me'; sharing family photographs, talking about starting school and exploring our bodies and how to look after them. Children were particularly excited about learning how to brush their teeth and have been talking about how they do this at home as well as now at setting. We successfully launched our 'Little Feet' initiative which encourages children to get out and about. Children are enjoying adding their stickers to Elmer's journey map. Our first 'Breakfast with Books' event was a huge success, with family members joining our children and sharing in the joy of reading. Next half term, Little Hands will explore the topic of Dinosaurs before diving into all things Christmas. We will explore how dinosaurs moved and what sounds they might have made, describe what they looked like and even turn into dinosaurs ourselves in the role play area! There are lots of lovely Christmas activities planned too, as well as an invitation to parents to join us in a Christmas crafting session – letters to be sent out shortly. Also a reminder that our 'Little Hands Library' is available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for you to select a book with your child and share over the course of a week.

Little Hands First Breakfast with Books

Marvelous Me

Learning about brushing their teeth

All things Autumn

Breakfast with Books

Foundation This half term, we settled into school well and learnt the routines and expectations of the unit. Foundation learnt all about themselves through our 'Marvelous Me' topic. We discussed similarities and differences between us and what makes us special. During Black History Month, we all found out about Florence Price and listened to and discussed Bob Marley's 'The Three Little Birds' song. Throughout our One Life sessions, we have focussed on our self-awareness, families, friends and healthy foods. We had a big focus on kindness and how to make and be a good friend. The children have also been introduced to the new balance bikes and Miss Gray will continue to support this learning next half term. Upper Foundation children have particularly thrived during our practical, hands-on learning experiences. They have enjoyed investigating which objects sink or float, creating their own witches' potions, taken part in object hunts and explored similarities and differences. Another highlight for Upper Foundation has been working together to create their own class scarecrow! Lower Foundation created some lovely self portraits, using mirrors to look at their faces to add all of their unique features. Lower Foundation have also really enjoyed our key texts this half term particularly 'Peace at Last' where they were fantastic at identifying the noises that kept Mr Bear awake at night. The children in Foundation have worked hard to learn our Harvest song 'I'm a Scarecrow' with matching actions. We hope you enjoyed watching us on Seesaw! We also had a great turn out at our 'Breakfast with Books' event, in which the children particularly loved being able to share books with their grown-ups. Our topic next half term is, a joint 'Construction' and 'Christmas' theme. We will also be learning about and taking part in lots of activities relating to Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, Children in Need and Kindness Week. We will be taking a walk around the village, taking part in lots of exciting Christmas activities and most importantly performing our Nativity. Furthermore, Upper Foundation have an exciting trip to Eureka in Halifax to look forward to in December, details will be sent out shortly.

Year 1 Year 1 have had a fantastic start to the year and have really challenged themselves in their learning. They have been reading lots of traditional tales in English and have written some fantastic pieces of writing based around the books. In Science, the children have been learning all about the Human Body and the five senses. They particularly enjoyed the Science experiment where they tested their hearing skills on a sound walk around school. In Art, the children looked at mark making and different lines used to make full pieces. They created a whole class piece of artwork for the Harvest Service. In Geography, the children have been learning about the seasons of the year and have even learnt a song to remember the months of the year! The children had a great time at The Secret Garden and used teamwork to help each other around the equipment. They even showed the staff how to go down the big slide! In Autumn 2, the children will read a variety of books in English including 'Funny Bones', 'Owl Babies' and 'Meerkat Mail'. In Science, the children will move onto their new topic animals. They will explore different types of animals, including omnivores, carnivores and herbivores. In DT, they will be creating moving pictures by designing, making and evaluating their work. In Maths, the children will begin to work on addition and subtraction and telling the time. They will be introduced to o'clock and half past on an analogue clock and understanding seconds and minutes.

Year 2 The children have settled really well into Year 2 and have got used to the new ways of working, which is a real change from Year1. We have read some lovely books that have helped us to be inspired to write. The main theme of all the books has been friendship, kindness and linked to the topic 'If you go down to the woods…'. In Maths, the children have been learning about place value and we have been adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers. In Science, they have been learning about habitats and the animals that live in woodland habitats. In DT, they have learnt about what makes a balanced diet and then designed and made their own healthy wrap, which they enjoyed eating. In Geography, they have learnt all about the seven continents of the world. The children enjoyed a walk to Coxley Woods, where they looked closely at the habitat to decide if it would make a good home for a hedgehog. They found places where the animals could make their shelters and searched microhabitats to find food that a hedgehog could eat. The children worked with staff from the National Coal Mining Museum to create lanterns for the light up festival. The children will be invited to take part in a parade, there will be more details to follow shortly. Next half term, our topic is 'Frozen Lands' and in Geography the children will be learning about Antarctica. This will link closely with their work in Science on world habitats and the animals that live there. The children will also be bringing home their lines to learn for our Nativity.

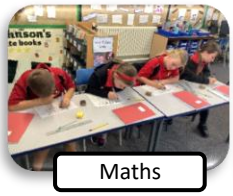
Lantern making workshop

Year 3 This half term, the children have enjoyed reading 'The Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura and 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth', which have inspired a range of exciting writing activities in English. Alongside drama and role-play activities, the children have written character and setting descriptions, letters, product descriptions, play scripts and acrostic poems based on the stories. In History, the children have been learning about early civilisations and life in prehistoric Britain. They have used timelines to sequence key events, explored the lives of hunter-gatherers and even experienced what life may have been like during a visit to Coxley Woods. The children have also investigated the tools used during the Stone Age and compared them with those from the Bronze and Iron Ages. A particular highlight was taking part in a class debate about the possible reasons why Stonehenge was built. In Science, the children completed their topic on rocks and soils. They learnt about the three main types of rock: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic, and discovered how each is formed. Through a variety of practical investigations, they tested rocks for different purposes, created 'dirt puddings' to represent the layers of soil and explored what soil is made from. As part of their PE learning in invasion games, the children developed a range of skills including chest passing, dodging and dribbling. They then applied these skills during a variety of team games and challenges.
In Art, the children explored prehistoric art by creating cave paintings inspired by animal's native to Britain. They learnt how to use charcoal effectively and experimented with natural materials to create their own paints, just as people may have done in prehistoric times. In French, the children have been learning greetings and vocabulary to describe feelings. They have practised these new words through role-play activities, helping them to build confidence and improve their pronunciation. A selection of children attended the Cross Country Festival, they took part in racing against children their own ages from other schools. Next half term, the children will be learning about the Romans in their History topic. In Science, they will be learning about animals, including humans.

Year 4 This half term, Year 4 have enjoyed reading the book, 'Malala's Magic Pencil'. They have written a setting description, diary entry and a thank you letter to Malala herself. They are publishing these to send to Malala in London and hopefully they get a reply! In addition, the children have also explored a text about Katherine Johnson, a mathematician, who worked for NASA. They have written a biography about her and a newspaper report about the Apollo 13 mission. Year 4 have also enjoyed studying Sound in Science. The children completed multiple experiments to test their theories on the effects of length on pitch and the inner workings of the ear. They even made their own windpipes, which led to the children discussing how the longer the straw, the lower the pitch. Year 4 have also learnt all about Anglo-Saxons in History. They compared what life was like during Anglo-Saxon England with what life is like in modern day England. They also discovered the impact of the Anglo-Saxons on our current language, religion and trade. They particularly enjoyed writing their own name and message in Anglo-Saxon runes. In RE, Year 4 enjoyed exploring the values that are important in Hinduism. They learned about the key features of a Mandir, Hindu's beliefs of karma and reincarnation. A group of 10 children from Year 4 took part in the Cross Country Festival at Cathedral Academy. They had a great time, showed fantastic teamwork by supporting each other and the Year 3 and Year 4 teams won two out of the four races. Well done! Next half term, Year 4 should look forward to reading 'Arthur and the Golden Rope'. In History, Year 4 will be expanding their knowledge on the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings and in Science, Year 4 will complete experiments using real circuits to help them learn about electricity. Year 4 will also be involved in the Christmas production!

Year 5 Year 5 have had a busy half term. Their class book this half term was 'Room 13'. The children have produced 7 pieces of writing based on the book, including a diary entry, persuasive writing and a chronological report. They have learnt to use a range of writing objectives, such as parenthesis, modal verbs to indicate degrees of possibility and using commas to clarify meaning. In Maths, they have learnt how to write numbers up to 1,000 in Roman Numerals, explored different methods to add large numbers mentally (such as partitioning and rounding) and focused on multiplication - exploring factors, multiples and common factors. They have worked brilliantly at applying these skills to solve multi-step word problems and mathematical reasoning challenges. In PE, the children have been practicing skills required in invasion games, such as football and basketball. In PSHE, Year 5 have been learning about self-awareness, including how to address and acknowledge negative thoughts and reframe them positively. They have also explored self-awareness in relationships and friendships, discussing which values and characteristics are most important to them. In DT, Year 5 have been working in small groups to create helmets and practice different methods to strengthen structures. They created the base using papier-mache with balloons and newspaper. In French, Year 5 have been learning about monster pets! They have learnt body parts in French to describe what their monsters look like, while also learning how to distinguish between masculine and feminine nouns. The children have then applied this knowledge to use adjectives correctly when writing their own French sentences. In Geography, Year 5 have been learning about mountains. They have explored the seven summits, as well as the highest peaks in each country of the United Kingdom. Using iPads and tools such as Google Earth, the children investigated these summits and gathered their own interesting facts which they have compiled to create a fact file. In Science, Year 5 have been learning about living things and their habitats. They have explored how plants and animals reproduce, as well as studying their life cycles. The children learnt about processes such as metamorphosis and explored animal classification. Congratulations to Year 5 for their outstanding Harvest performance! Their enthusiasm and hard work truly shone through during our Harvest service, and it was wonderful to see all the children demonstrating their passion for helping others. Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Cluntergate Centre to watch a comedic adaptation of Romeo and Juliet. It was a wonderful experience and the room was filled with laughter and smiles throughout! Next half term, Year 5 have an exciting range of topics to explore! In Science, we will be studying properties and changes of materials, while our History topic will take us back in time to explore Ancient Islamic Civilisations. In Art, the children will work on Structure and 3D interactive installations and in PE, we will move onto Gymnastics and Sports Hall Athletics. We will also be exploring computing through Databases, learning about Shopping in France in French and exploring the big question "God is everywhere – why go to a place of worship?" in RE.

Science


Maths

PHSE

Year 6 Year 6 have had an energetic start to the new school year, throwing themselves into a wide range of learning opportunities. They've been fully engaged in their World War II topic, producing detailed and creative information texts on how to survive the Blitz in English, while also developing a strong understanding of the historical context in their History lessons. Their work on 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' has inspired both descriptive and informal writing, with their heartfelt letters from Bruno to his friends capturing the innocence and charm of the character beautifully. In Maths, the children have tackled place value, long division and word problems with increasing confidence and determination, showing real enthusiasm for improving their arithmetic skills. In Science, their curiosity has come to life through hands-on exploration of electrical circuits, learning how components function and how to construct working systems. PE lessons have seen them develop teamwork and sportsmanship, while learning the rules and skills of cricket, getting to work with an external coach in some very heated bowling competitions. Meanwhile, in Art, Year 6 have been exploring street art and developing techniques in one-point perspective, while in PSHE they've reflected thoughtfully on how to support both their mental and physical wellbeing. This half term saw the election and appointment of our new Head Boy and Head Girl, alongside School Council members and House Captains. The children approached the election process with enthusiasm and thoughtfulness and those chosen now wear their badges with great pride. Their creativity and confidence were also on full display during the Harvest service, where Year 6 have shared some thoughtful and decorative 'found poems' that they worked hard to produce in their English lessons. This half term the children also delivered their class assembly to the school, throwing themselves into the experience of being a child in WW2, supplemented further by their wonderful trip to Eden Camp. Beyond the classroom, several Year 6 pupils have represented the school in Cross Country and Tag Rugby tournaments, showing excellent resilience and sportsmanship. Most recently, Year 6 took part in Bikeability, working hard over three days to become confident in cycling on the roads. Some children made exceptional progress, going from learning how to ride a bike through to navigating road safety, well done! Next half term, Year 6 will be studying Geography and DT in place of History and Art. In Geography, they will be studying the United Kingdom, comparing the different countries that make up the United Kingdom, exploring the UK's major cities and examining the physical landscape. In DT, they will be designing and making their own bags, looking at the use of pattern pieces whilst thinking about aesthetics and functionality. In Maths, Year 6 will continue to build on previous learning by engaging with fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio, as well as money problems and continued arithmetic practice. The text for English will be 'Race to the Frozen North' by Catherine Johnson, engaging the children with the true story of Matthew Henson, the first African American to reach the North Pole, as well as looking at Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' later in the term.

Dates For Your Diary

Year 4

November 2026

Monday 2nd – First Day of Autumn Term 2
Tuesday 10th – Parents Evening 3:20pm until 5pm
Wednesday 11th – Parents Evening 4:30pm until 6:15pm
Monday 16th – Year 5 & 6 Girls Sports Hall Athletics at Horbury Secondary Academy at 3:45pm
Thursday 19th – Year 4 Class Assembly at 9:05am
Monday 23rd – Year 5 & 6 Boys Sports Hall Athletics at Horbury Secondary Academy at 3:45pm
Friday 27th – Choir trip to Fieldhead Care Home at 1:15pm and Second Life Uniforms Christmas Jumpers at 3:15pm
Monday 30th – New Lower Foundation Starter Meeting at 4pm

December 2026

Tuesday 1st – Year 3 & 4 Christmas Performance at 2:30pm & 5:30pm and Sports Hall Athletics Finals at Horbury Secondary Academy at 3:45pm
Thursday 3rd – Flu Mop Up session, Christmas Fayre at 3:15pm and Christmas Light Switch On at 4:30pm
Friday 4th – Little Hands Stay & Play Session for New Starters at 3:15pm
Monday 7th – Reindeer Run, New Lower Foundation Stay & Play at 10am and Year 1 & 2 Christmas Performance at 2:30pm
Tuesday 8th – Year 1 & 2 Christmas Performance at 9:15am
Thursday 10th – Foundation Christmas Performance at 9:15am and Year 5 & 6 Christmas Performance at 2:30pm & 5:30pm
Friday 11th - Second Life Uniforms at 3:15pm
Monday 14th – Christmas Dinner Day
Tuesday 15th – Year 1 to Year 6 Pantomime Trip
Wednesday 16th – Little Hands Christmas Morning at 9am and New Lower Foundation Stay & Play at 1:30pm
Thursday 17th – Carol Service at St Luke's at 6pm
Friday 18th – Last day of Autumm Term 2