



Mickle Trafford Village School



WE CARE, WE LEARN, WE BELONG

NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 1

Message from Mrs Kamperman

What a busy half term it has been! Our children have been working incredibly hard, showing enthusiasm, determination and a positive attitude towards their learning. It has been wonderful to see them settling into their routines, rising to our high expectations and taking pride in their achievements.

A very warm welcome to our new Reception children and families, who have made a fantastic start to school life! We are so proud of how well they have settled in.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have completed our survey so far. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us shape the future of our school. It has also been a busy and enjoyable half term, with our discos, Autumn and Harvest assemblies, and cake sales bringing our school community together. These events have been lovely opportunities to celebrate, share and enjoy time together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish all our children, families and staff a happy, restful and well-deserved half-term break!

What's in This Half Term's Issue?

- **Message from Mrs Kamperman**
- **Class updates**
- **School Parliament**
- **Baby news**
- **Changes to Clubhouse pricings**
- **Author Visits**
- **Message from our Governors**
- **Dates**
- **Online Safety**



Reception

What an amazing first half term in Reception! We are so incredibly proud of how well all the children have settled into school. Our routines are well established, and it has been wonderful to see so much independent learning taking place already. The children are becoming phonics experts, and they have absolutely blown us away! They have loved exploring their new environment and have quickly become junk-modelling pros (sorry, parents, for all the cardboard boxes coming home!) In maths, we have been exploring numbers to 5 and singing lots of number songs. Each week, we have enjoyed a new story and a whole host of exciting linked activities, from acting out stories and creating leaf people to baking bread, chopping vegetables to make soup and making animal masks. We have also enjoyed lots of fun phonics activities, with making sound watches proving a firm favourite! We couldn't be happier with how the children have settled and can't wait for Autumn 2, which promises even more excitement and celebrations, including our Christmas performance. Yes, that's right... I did say the C word! Well done, Reception; what a fantastic start to your school journey!



Year 1

What a busy and exciting start to the year we have had in Year 1! The children have settled into their new routines well and have enjoyed exploring the signs of autumn on our lovely autumn walks. In History, we have been learning all about how toys have changed since Victorian times, and we are really looking forward to our upcoming trip to bring our learning to life and finish off the topic. We have also been busy exploring different types of buildings, looking closely at their features before designing and constructing our very own creations. In Maths, we have been working hard to build strong mathematical foundations, focusing on number bonds and developing our confidence in recognising and recalling different number combinations. It has been wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm, creativity and growing independence as they embrace all the exciting challenges of Year 1



Year 2's Art Project

YEAR 2

We had a wonderful half term together! Our art projects connected with Forest Schools and computers to create a lovely hanging in class. The children combined their art digitally and shared which version they liked best. We finished writing about the book *Look Up* and are excited to start learning about the Great Fire of London when we return. Our building projects from Forest Schools will be turned into London houses and will help us learn more about the Great Fire safely.

We also want to thank our family helpers for reading with us and baking cakes, Mrs. Day (our school Governor) and Miss Owen for their support in the classroom, and the PTA for helping with our cake sale and school disco.

The children should be very proud of all they've done this term. I can't wait to see them after the break, when we will start practising for the Christmas play!

Year 3

We've had a wonderful half term in Year 3! In English, we've enjoyed reading *Seal Surfer* and writing letters as if we were the main character Ben. We've started writing in paragraphs and extending our sentences using prepositions and brilliant vocabulary.

We've had a lot of fun learning about rocks in science. First, we grouped rocks based on their physical properties and then we began testing them. So far, we have tested how hard certain rocks are and whether they are permeable or impermeable. We look forward to building on our rocks knowledge next half term when we start to investigate fossils and soil before moving onto the topic of *Light and Dark*.

In DT, we have been working hard on our investigation of packaging. We have explored how 2D nets form 3D packaging by making our own and have designed our own branding and logo to add to our product. We are very excited to assemble and strengthen our final product in our first week back!

We've also enjoyed an end of term Battle of the Bands in Times Tables Rock Stars. Well done to all children for working hard on their times tables and a special congratulations to Group 1 who were our winners (it was a very close call!)



Year 4

Year 4 have had a fantastic start to the year, full of creativity, curiosity and exciting hands-on learning!

In English, the children have been immersed in the wonderful story of *Gorilla*, developing their writing skills by using fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases with so much more confidence. It has been lovely to see them experimenting with language and I've been wowed at the vocabulary they all know!

In Science, we have been investigating states of matter, exploring the properties of solids, liquids and gases. The children particularly enjoyed our viscosity experiment, testing five different liquids to discover which was the most viscous. Shampoo turned out to be the most viscous liquid!

Our Art lessons have also been full of imagination as we explored illustrations for the half term. This week, the children have loved illustrating the *Jabberwocky* by Lewis Carroll and its wonderfully bizarre nonsense words.

However, the highlight of the half term has to be our Viking Day! We welcomed Olaf the Viking, who brought history to life by teaching us about Viking life, beliefs, settlements and battles. The children discovered who the Vikings fought and how they fought, before enjoying an exciting reenactment of a Viking battle. It was a brilliant opportunity to bring our history learning to life!

It's been a fantastic start to the year, Year 4. Keep up the good effort!



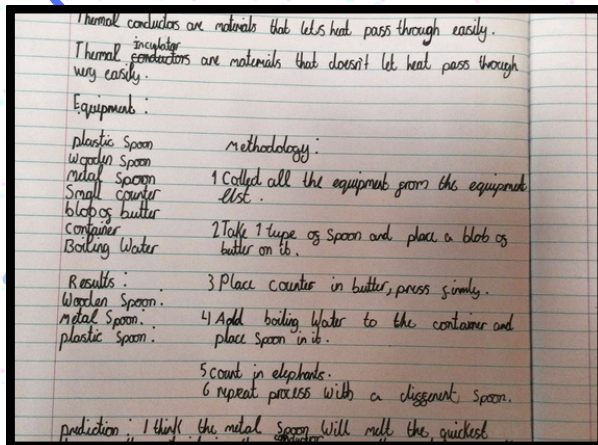
Year 5

What a fantastic start to Year 5! The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Niagara Falls and the incredible story of Annie Taylor. We used our learning to write some amazing diary entries, capturing the excitement and danger of her daring adventure!

In Art, we have been exploring typography, starting with simple letters before developing our skills to draw larger, more precise lettering. The children have worked hard to develop their artistic skills and attention to detail.

Towards the end of the half-term, we turned our attention to animals. The children wrote their own poems inspired by the animals they enjoy seeing and then created comic books featuring their chosen animals. These were inspired by our recent author visit from Phil Corbett, who shared his love of comics and storytelling with us.

It has been a brilliant first half-term and I am incredibly proud of the children's enthusiasm, creativity and hard work. I look forward to seeing what we achieve together next half-term!



YEAR 6

Year 6 have had a busy and exciting time in the classroom! In science, we have been investigating electrical circuits, learning how to connect components and exploring how adding more cells in a circuit affects the different components.

We thoroughly enjoyed our Harvest Assembly, especially welcoming visitors from the local foodbank and learning more about the important work they do to support people in our community.

In maths, we have been developing our calculation skills by deciding whether a question is best tackled using a written method or mental method while carefully considering which approach would be most efficient.

Music has been great fun as the children have been composing their own pieces to match different film genres, thinking carefully about how music can create atmosphere, tension and excitement.

In history, we have been thoroughly enjoying our learning about the Second World War, discovering more about this significant period in history and what life was like for children. Well done Year 6- your enthusiasm, curiosity and hard work through this half term has been wonderful.



Introducing our School Parliament!

As part of our School Development Plan, we are excited to have introduced our very own School Parliament! This is made up of our Class MPs, Sports Ambassadors, Reading Ambassadors, Wellbeing Ambassadors and, of course, our very own Year 6 Prime Minister! We even have a House of Lords, made up of our staff! The aim of our School Parliament is to empower children to become confident, active citizens who understand the difference they can make within our school community and the wider world. Our journey began with a fantastic visit to the Town Hall, where our MPs took part in a debate on school uniform and recycling. The children also had the opportunity to meet the Mayor and cast their own votes at the polling station. It was a brilliant introduction to politics, democracy and community engagement, helping our young leaders discover that every voice matters and everyone has the power to make a difference!



Phil Corbett

This week, we were delighted to welcome the author and illustrator of Ghost and Toast to our school! The children loved meeting him and discovering how he brings his illustrations to life. He even left a few hidden illustrations around the school for the children to find! What a fantastic way to inspire creativity and a love of reading!



Welcome Baby Marla!

A very special welcome to the newest addition to the MTUS family! Mr Waring's baby arrived safely in early October. Everyone at MTUS sends their love and warmest congratulations to Mr Waring and his family as they begin this exciting new chapter!

Changes to ClubHouse Charges

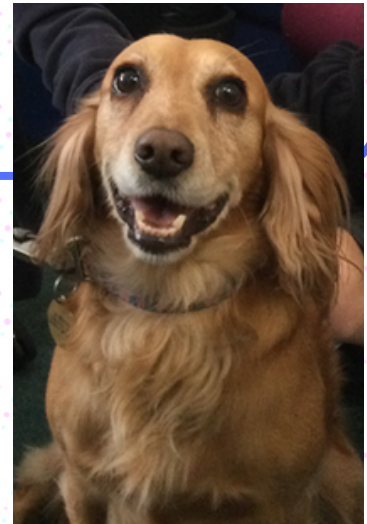
After half term, we will be trialling a new payment structure for families using our after-school provision. The new pricing structure will be as follows:

- **Collection before 4:30pm: £6.00**
- **Collection between 4:30pm and 5:30pm: £10:00**
- **Collection between 5:30pm and 6:00pm: £13:00**

***Food will be served from 4:30pm *Sibling discounts no longer apply**

Ivy - Our Therapy Dog

We're thrilled to introduce our therapy dog, who has become a much-loved regular visitor at Mickle Trafford! Her calming presence and gentle nature have made her incredibly popular with our pupils and staff. Whether she's helping with emotional wellbeing, or simply spreading joy around school, she's already making a real difference. We're delighted to have her as part of our school community!



A Message from the Governors

Well, the new school year has got off to a great start. School is busy, with lots of great work being done. All the children seem so enthusiastic, and the learning environment is calm with lots of good work being done. Reception class deserve special mention as they have become used to the school routines so well and were all on task and showing off some fine motor skills during a recent visit. With the new academic year comes a new OFSTED framework and governors are now busy making sure that all the good things that happen in school can be shared in a format that meets the needs of the new inspectors, as we are due an inspection this year. A recent parent survey has been shared with you, which we would appreciate you completing, so that we can understand your feelings on school life and how this impacts on your children. Half term is fast approaching, with Halloween to end the week and November 5th closely following, so enjoy some safe, quality family time over the break.

Co-opted Governor Vacancy

We are looking for Co-opted Governors to join our governing board.

Do you know a community-minded person, locally or beyond, with experience in finance, marketing, legal services, HR, or community engagement who could support the school and help strengthen our school?

No previous school governance experience is needed - just enthusiasm, commitment, and a passion for helping our school thrive.

Please note: Co-opted Governors cannot be current parents of children at the school.

Please get in touch with the school office if you know of anybody who may be interested.



DATES FOR THE DIARY - NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Date	Event	Information
Friday 6 th November	Chester Countess Christmas PJ appeal	Children are welcome to attend school in their PJs and bring a new pair in to donate to the hospital
Monday 9 th November	Grosvenor Museum Visit for Year 1	We are looking forward to taking Year 1 to see how toys have changed.
Thursday 12 th November	Year 1 Parents' Evening	Rescheduled Parents Evening from October – Please rebook
Monday 16 th November	Own Clothes Day	PTA day in exchange for a donation to the Rainbow Raffle
Wednesday 18 th November	Year 3 cake sale and AmaSING launch	Please come along, buy some delicious cake and support the PTA
Friday 20 th November	Clubhouse Pamper Evening	Please book in online if your child would like to take part
Thursday 26 th November	Y5 Lantern Parade in Chester	This is an evening event held in town
Friday 4 th December	Christmas Fayre	Please come along and support our school and PTA
Friday 4 th December	Quarry Bank Mill Visit for Year 5	A trip to experience what life was like in Victorian Mills
Saturday 5 th December	Choir – Winter Fayre at the Village Hall	Our choir will be taking part in the village Winter Fayre.
Friday 11 th December	Clubhouse Christmas Craft Evening	Please book in online if your child would like to take part
Tuesday 8 th December 2.30pm	9:15 Rec and Y6 Christmas Performance 2:30 Y1 and Y2 Christmas Performance	We welcome parents to our Christmas performance in school. More details to follow.
Wednesday 9 th December 2.30pm	9:15 Y1 and Y2 Christmas Performance 2:30 Rec and Y6 Christmas Performance	We welcome parents to our Christmas performance in school. More details to follow.
Thursday 10 th December 5:30	Carol service at Church for Year 3 and 4	We welcome parents to a carol service at St Peter's Church-Plemstall. More details to follow
Monday 14 th December 1:15pm	Carol singing in Chester- Year 5	Our Year 5 children will be singing in Chester for The Hospice of the Good Shepherd.
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day	Children are welcome to come to school in their Christmas jumpers.
Thursday 17 th December	Christmas Party/Toy Day	Class parties to celebrate the end of term.
Friday 18 th December	Break up for Christmas	Have a lovely Christmas break
Monday 4 th January 2027	Children return to school	School reopens for all children



www.facebook.com/mickletraffordus

www.instagram.com/mickletraffordus

<https://x.com/MickleTraffSch>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOLUTIONS

AI solutions are trained on a large dataset of text to learn patterns and relationships in the data and generate text, images, sound or even video based on the data they are trained on. As such, users can ask a question, provide a prompt or provide other source material, and the AI solution will then provide a response.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ACCURACY

AI language models such as ChatGPT, generate their responses based on the data they have been trained on. This is often drawn from the internet and therefore may include incorrect facts, leading to responses which contain errors and inaccuracies.

BIAS

AI Language models, including ChatGPT, can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they were trained on. This could lead to biased responses and the reinforcement of stereotypes.

SENSE

AI solutions do not have the ability to understand the context or meaning behind a question or prompt. This could result in inaccurate or irrelevant or even non-sensical responses, whether that be in text, image or other responses.

ACCOUNTABILITY

AI solutions do not have the ability to take responsibility for the responses they generate. This could cause confusion or misunderstandings in language models if the AI's responses are taken as fact and the truth. With generative AIs that create images, it can lead to output derived from other people's content but without any attribution of the source artist's work.

LACK OF CREATIVITY

AI solutions are not capable of independent thought and rely on the data they were trained on. This may potentially produce a lack of creative thinking and problem-solving abilities if students come to be heavily reliant on AI solutions.

Advice for Parents & Carers

A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Empower children and young people to use the various AI models in a safe environment and with appropriate content filtering/supervision, and to raise any concerns or questions as they arise.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Encourage children to use AI solutions as tools to help them research and learn, but remind them to not take the model's responses as the truth. Emphasise that they should question, verify and think critically about the information they receive.

DISCUSS BIAS

Discuss with children the potential biases that may be present in the responses generated by AI language models and encourage them not to simply accept the responses that it gives them at face value.

MONITOR USAGE

It is important for parents to monitor their children's usage of AI solutions (as with technology use in general) to ensure that they are utilising it responsibly and to provide opportunities to discuss its use, if needed.

ENCOURAGE HUMAN INTERACTION

Help children learn how to use AIs in conjunction with other resources, such as books and the internet, but also humans such as teachers, relatives and friends. Emphasise the importance of human interaction as part of life and as part of learning.

SCHOOL GUIDANCE

Be aware of school rules or other guidance in relation to the use of AI solutions in relation to a child's education and discuss appropriate and inappropriate with young people accordingly.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT in a large UK boarding school having previously taught in schools and colleges both in the UK and in the Middle East. He has a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security believing that it is important that we are all more aware of not just the benefits of technology, but also the risks.



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