



Hello!

We're so excited to welcome you and your little one to the Middleforth family! Starting school is such a big and special step, and we feel very lucky to be part of this journey with you.

Reception is a wonderful year full of fun, friendships, and learning through play. Our classroom is a caring, happy place where your child will be encouraged to explore, ask questions, try new things, and be themselves.

We know how important these early days are, and we're here to make sure your child feels safe, settled, and excited to come through the door each morning.

We also know that starting school is a big step for parents and carers too. We're always here to chat, answer questions, and work together with you to help your child get the very best start.

We can't wait to meet you all and begin this exciting new chapter together!

In this leaflet, you'll find a bit more about what to expect in Reception and how you can help your child feel ready and confident for their first day at school.

With a big warm welcome,

Miss Stritch & the Reception Team x



Class Dojo



At Middleforth, we use Class Dojo as our main way to keep in touch with families. You'll find newsletters, important dates, messages, reminders, and regular updates about your child's learning - all in one place.

It's really important to check your Dojo account daily and ensure notifications are on, so you don't miss anything. You can also send me a message directly through Dojo - I'm always happy to help during school hours.

You will receive further information on how to create your account.

Outdoor Learning

Forest School and outdoor learning are a really special and exciting part of our school curriculum. They give children the opportunity to learn, play and explore outdoors, helping to build confidence, curiosity and a real love of nature.

We also make the most of our outdoor area every day, whatever the weather! Spending time outside is an important part of how children learn, so we are outdoors in all seasons.

To help your child enjoy this fully, please send them on their first day with a small, clearly labelled bag containing their outdoor clothes. This should include:

A puddle suit
Spare socks
Wellies

Hat and gloves

Please make sure everything is clearly labelled with your child's name. The bag will stay in school so that your child is always ready for outdoor adventures.



A few friendly reminders

In this pack you will also see a letter with some further pointers. Please make sure to read the attached letter carefully, as it contains important reminders and key information to help ensure a smooth and positive start to the year. Your support in keeping up to date is really appreciated!

Getting your child ready for school

Starting school is a big and exciting step for your child - and for you too! There's a lot to look forward to, and a few simple things you can do at home to help your child feel happy and confident when they start Reception.

What does being 'School Ready' mean?

Children don't need to read or write yet. It's more about helping your child feel comfortable, curious, and ready to join in with new experiences.

Some things include:

- Putting on their own coat and shoes
- Using the toilet by themselves
- Sitting and listening during a short story or activity
- Playing with other children and taking turns
- Following simple instructions like "tidy up time"
- Taking responsibility for their own belongings and respecting both theirs and others- including schools
- Recognising their name
- Showing respect to peers and adults

Don't worry if your child can't do all of these things yet - every child is different, and they'll have lots of support when they start school.

What can you do at home to support?

- Talk Together-Chat about your day, ask questions, and encourage your child to express themselves. Sing songs and nursery rhymes, this builds language and memory skills.
- Share Books- it's a lovely way to help your child learn new words and enjoy stories.
- Build Independence- Let them have a go at things like getting dressed, washing their hands, and tidying up after playing.
- Play, Play, Play!-Play is how young children learn best.
- Keep to Simple Routines-Having regular routines, like getting up, mealtimes, and bedtime, can help children feel secure and ready for their day.



Who's who?



Miss Stritch – Class Teacher & EYFS Lead

I've been part of the Middleforth family for 8 years, and have been in Reception since the very start. I absolutely love working in Early Years. I'm truly passionate about giving children the best start to their school journey, and I feel incredibly privileged to be part of such a special time in their lives.

Mrs Makepeace – Teaching Assistant

I've worked at Middleforth for over 10 years, and all of that time has been spent in Reception. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else! Every September brings a new group of children to support, and it's such a joy to watch them grow in confidence, curiosity, and independence throughout the year.



Miss Monk – Teaching Assistant

I've been at Middleforth for 2 years now, and I love it here! I was so excited to find out I'll be back in Reception this September. I can't wait to meet all the new children and be part of their journey as they start school. It's such a special time, and I'm really looking forward to helping them settle in and shine.



Our classroom and outdoor areas are designed to be natural, calming, and inspiring spaces where children feel safe, curious, and ready to explore. We follow elements of The Curiosity Approach, which means we use real, everyday objects, not just plastic toys, to spark imagination and encourage deeper thinking. You might see wooden spoons in the play kitchen, old telephones, or natural materials like pinecones and shells. These open-ended resources help children use their creativity and make their own discoveries. Our learning areas are regularly updated and enhanced to reflect the children's interests and needs. We adapt our Early Years curriculum to follow the children's ideas, ensuring their learning is exciting, meaningful, and memorable every day.



Welcome to Reception at Middleforth C of E Primary School

