



Middleforth Church of England Primary School

Friday 19th December Newsletter



Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we come to the end of the Autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all sincerely for your continued support throughout, what has been, another busy and joyful term in school. Your involvement in school life makes such a difference, and we are incredibly grateful for your support with our nativities and performances, raffles, and the many wonderful PTFA events that have taken place. The sense of community you help to create is something we are very proud of.

As many of you will know, today we sadly said goodbye to Miss Turner and Miss Killingbeck, who are both moving on to new roles. We would like to thank them for their hard work, dedication, and the care and love they have shown to our children and families during their time with us. We wish them every success and happiness in their new adventures.

We will also be saying goodbye (temporarily!) to Mr Noblet, who is “going out on loan” until July 2026, as I keep reminding him. This is an excellent career opportunity as he takes up the role of Assistant Headteacher, and we are incredibly proud of him.

In addition, Miss Cook, who has been covering in Nursery, whilst we filled the vacant post, will be leaving us at the end of this term. She has been an excellent member of our staff team and we thank her for her commitment and care, wishing her all the very best for the future.

There is also some very positive news to share. Miss Gregory, who has been supporting in Reception, will now be staying with us until July 2026. This is excellent news and will provide much-needed continuity for our children. We are also delighted to welcome Miss Yorke, who many of you have already met, as the Year 1 class teacher, along with Miss Jones, who will be supporting in class. Mr Moat has also been in school all week getting to know the children and we are really excited to welcome him to our team.

Finally, we are very pleased to share that Mrs Partington will be returning in the new year following her maternity leave, and Mrs Allton will also be returning on a phased basis after the Christmas break. The children were absolutely delighted to see her when she came to visit on Christmas lunch day.

As we draw the Christmas festivities in school to a close, I would like to wish you all a very peaceful and joyful Christmas and New Year with your families. As we reflect on the season, we are reminded of the words:

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.” (Luke 2:14)

Thank you once again for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming all the children back to school on Monday 5th January.

Mrs Pilkington



Staffing January 2026

Nursery - Mrs Cowell and Miss McKeon

Reception - Miss Stritch, Miss Keep, Mrs Makepeace, Miss Gregory, Miss Monk and Miss Wharton

Year 1 - Miss Yorke, Mrs Partington, Mrs Smith and Miss Jones

Year 2 - Mr Day, Mr Moat, Mrs Powers, Miss Campbell

Year 3 - Mrs Gordon, Mr Moat and Mrs Laithwaite

Year 4 - Mrs Parker, Mrs Darbyshire and Miss Roe

Year 5 - Mrs Murphy, Mr Moat and Miss Bobb

Year 6 - Miss Howarth and Mrs Wilde

Mrs Partington will also be running forest school sessions and supporting in other classes.

TAKE HOME



19th - 21st December



Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

In the news this week

This winter, a charity called Small Acts of Kindness has sourced, packed and distributed over 10,000 'Warm in Winter' gift bags across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Each bag includes things to keep people warm, like blankets, socks and hot drinks. The project aims to bring comfort to elderly and vulnerable people in the colder months. It shows that small acts of kindness can make a big difference in someone's life.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Talk to someone at home about the campaign.
- Can you think of a time someone was kind to you? How did it make you feel?
- Do you believe helping others can make us feel happier too? Why?
- What are some small acts of kindness we can do at home, at school, or in our community?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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Healthy Snacks and Packed Lunches

As a healthy school we ask that only healthy snacks and packed lunches are brought into school. Over the past few weeks, we are seeing a big increase in sugary foods and snacks being brought in and in very large quantities. Please can you talk to your children about only having these in moderation and support school in sending in healthy snacks and lunches.



OPAL



It's been a fantastic term with OPAL and we have been so lucky that we have been able to purchase new resources, including a climbing frame, skateboards and lots of other exciting equipment. To ensure that we make the most of this, please can we ensure that all children return in January with wellies and waterproofs. It is part of our school uniform so all children need these in school.

If you have any spare that no longer fit your children then please can you send them into school to have as spares.

Foodbank and other services of support

Children and Family Wellbeing service are offering a range of different empowering parenting courses. These courses aim to offer support for issues such as emotional wellbeing, mental health, neurodiversity and understanding relationships.

The courses can also help if your child is currently on a pathway for Autism or ADHD.

Please click the QR code for more information.



Local Food bank:

Friday 9.30-12.00

Penwortham
Community Centre
Kingsfold Drive
PR1 9EQ
Email: penworthamfoodbank@gmail.com





Middleforth Church of England Primary School 2025/2026 Yearly Planner



SEPTEMBER

- 10th - Meet the teacher
- 22nd - Fairtrade Fortnight
- 23rd - EYFS Phonics and Reading workshop
- 26th - European day of Languages

OCTOBER

- 9th - SEN/Family Support Coffee morning
- 2nd - National Poetry Day
- 7th - Whole School Flamenco Day
- 16th - Whole School Church
- 20th - PTFA School Disco
- 21st - Reception 2026 Open Days
- 22nd - Individual Photographs
- 24th - Parents Exhibition Afternoon 2pm

NOVEMBER

- Non-Fiction November Black History Month
- 5th - Flu Vaccinations
- 6th - Outdoor Classroom Day
- 10th - Anti-Bullying Week
- 11th - Remembrance Day
- 12th - Y6 WW2 Trip
- 13th and 18th - Book Fair
- 13th - KS2 Church - Year 6 Leading
- 14th - Children in Need
- 18th & 19th - Parents Evening
- 21st - Year 4 Poetry Recital Competition
- 24th - School Parliament Week

DECEMBER

- 9th - KS1 Nativity
- 11th - Minis/Reception Nativity
- 12th - Christmas Jumper Day
- 16th - Christmas Carols in Church
- 17th - Christmas Parties and Christmas Lunch
- 18th - Whole School Church

JANUARY

- 22nd - Parents Coffee Morning
- 16th - Energy Saving week
- 20th - 3.30pm Year 6 SATs and Robinwood meeting
- 27th - National Geographic Day

FEBRUARY

- 1st - National Story Telling Week
- 3rd - KS1 Church - Year 2 leading
- 9th - Children's Mental Health Week
- 6th - Young Voices Concert (Co-Op Live Arena)
- 10th - Safer Internet Day
- 10th & 11th - Parents Evening
- 13th - Parents Exhibition Afternoon 2pm
- 14th - International Book Giving Day
- Swimming Pool Arrives

MARCH

- 3rd - World Wildlife Day
- 2nd - 4th - Year 6 Residential to Robinwood
- 5th - World Book Day
- 16th - Sign Language Week
- 17th - Neurodiversity Week
- 26th - Whole School Church
- Let's Go Sing - Year 4 DATE TBC
- Red Nose Day - Date TBC

APRIL

- 15th, 22nd, 29th - Tots on Tyres (Reception)
- 15th - World Art Day
- 22nd - World Earth Day
- 22nd - Scoot Safe (Year 3)
- 23rd - Parents Coffee Morning
- 29th - International Dance Day

MAY

- National Share a Story Month
- 6th & 13th - Y5 Bikeability
- 7th & 8th (PM) - May Day Festival
- 11th - Key Stage 2 SATs week
- 11th - Mental Health Awareness Week
- 18th - Walk to School Week
- 22nd - Parents Exhibition afternoon 2pm

JUNE

- 2nd - Year 4 Multiplication Check Window
- 5th - World Environment Day
- 8th - Phonics Screening Check week
- 11th - Book World Cup!
- 15th - National School Sports Week
- 19th - Sports Day
- 25th - National Writing Day
- 25th - Sustainability Conference
- 26th - Back up Sports Day
- 22nd - Key Stage 1 SATs week
- Possibly Y6 trip to Harris Museum TBC

JULY

- 7th - Year 6 Performance
- 10th - Reports Home
- 14th - Reports drop in for parents 3.30pm - 4.30pm
- 15th - Year 6 Leavers PM
- 15th - Year 6 Prom 5.30pm
- 16th - AM Whole School Church
- 17th - Finish for summer

As a caring, Christian community, we aspire to 'let our light shine'. We will open up the world to celebrate God's wonderful creation and foster a sense of awe and wonder. We will nurture our God given talents to ensure that everyone reaches their full potential academically, socially and spiritually.
'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'
 MATTHEW 5.16





Online Safety Newsletter

December 2025

AI Chatbots and companions

A simple search of "AI Chat" within the App store highlights the number of AI apps already available, many are rated as 18+ so it is important to speak to our children about them and the risks associated with them. Examples of AI chatbots that your child may have heard of are Character.AI (18+) and My AI from Snapchat (13+).

What are the risks?

- Over reliance on AI companions, for example they may replace 'real life' friendships or over reliance on using them for homework or problem solving.
- Exposure to inappropriate content.
- Privacy/data risks.
- Misinformation as not all information shared is correct and can be biased.

How can I protect my child?

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Discuss the risks of AI chatbots with them and have open conversations about why they may be using them.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/blogs/ai-chatbots-and-companions-risks-to-children-and-young-people>

New Technology

As some children may be receiving new technology or related games at Christmas, here is a quick reminder of the importance of setting up appropriate parental controls.

Games/Consoles



- Check age ratings: look at the PEGI rating of any new games. *Remember, PEGI rates the gameplay so whilst it is important to review age ratings, you must also check to see if it has any communication elements.* - If a game does allow your child to communicate with others, then adjust or disable the settings as appropriate to your child. - On the device itself, set up applicable controls such as restricting spending limits. Follow the links below to find out how to set up Parental Controls for popular devices here: **Xbox:** <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub> **PS5:** <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/> **Nintendo Switch:** <https://www.nintendo.com/en-gb/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-2-Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-2873385.html>

Tablets/Smart phones

Set up parental controls on the device to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. Furthermore, remember to check any apps your child requests to check that they are suitable for their age. Follow the links below to find out more:

iPhones/iPad: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>

Android Device: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>

Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

The Safety-First Smartphone

The Other phone is a new smartphone, which includes "SafetyMode" software. The software automatically blocks nudity, profanity, and bullying language in real time. You can find out more here: <https://otherphone.co.uk/>

Smart Phone Free Childhood also list some alternatives that you could consider here: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/alternatives>

Please note, that the inclusion of these models does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation. While these devices may provide a 'safer' alternative to traditional smartphones, there are still potential risks associated with children using any type of phone.

Roblox

Following a recent ITV investigation*, which found extremist content on Roblox, we thought we would provide a reminder of what you need to be aware of. Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Players can either create games or play games that other users have created. It is free to download (however subscription options and in game/app purchases are available) and can be played across numerous devices. **A lot of the content is user generated, which means not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play.** If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing and set up appropriate parental controls. **PEGI rate Roblox with a Parental Guidance label, this is because it is considered a platform with a huge level of user generated content.**

What should I be aware of?

Game content – as mentioned, users create games so the content/themes may not be appropriate for your child. Roblox label content based on the type of content rather than by age. The labels are Minimal, Mild, Moderate and Restricted.

Chat Facility - Players can chat with each other (users under the age of 13 need parent permission to access certain chat features though). You can turn communication off completely or add restrictions, such as only able to communicate with friends.

Virtual Currency - Players can buy Robux (their virtual currency) to buy in-game upgrades or accessories.

How do I report abuse and block users?

This article outlines the different reporting facilities:

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203312410-How-to-Report-Rule-Violations>

What else can I do?

Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and remind your child that if anything is worrying them, then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

Further information

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/roblox>

[*Source: <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-11-14/mosque-attacks-and-far-right-skins-roblox-teens-exposed-to-extremist-content>]

Signal Private Messenger

Signal is rated as 13+ on the App store. It is a messaging app, where users can text, send voice messages and photos plus participate in group chats and calls. There are no parental controls currently available. As with all messaging apps, the risks can include bullying and viewing inappropriate content. Find out more here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.12.25. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or

Discord

Discord is a social networking app originally designed for gamers but is now used by lots of different people to **chat to each other online**. The minimum age to access Discord is 13. The App store rates it as 17+.

Discord is made up of servers, which are spaces for groups to chat, upload files and share images etc. Anybody can set up a server, and they can either be public or private. Users can video call and send direct messages to other individuals or groups. Children who play online games such as Fortnite may use Discord to chat whilst playing the game (**rather than using the game's own chat facility**). In-app purchases are available through Discord's subscription service called Nitro.

How can I make it safer?

Discord have created a Family Centre, which provides further information about what Discord is, as well as information about different safety settings available:

<https://discord.com/safety-family-center>

As always, we would encourage you to chat to your child to see why they use Discord and ensure that they know how to block users and what to do if they see any inappropriate content. It is important to be aware that Discord does include video/voice calling which cannot be filtered. **Discord is used by an array of users and therefore adult content can be found on Discord as well as inappropriate language.** Discord have produced this article, which answers frequent questions:

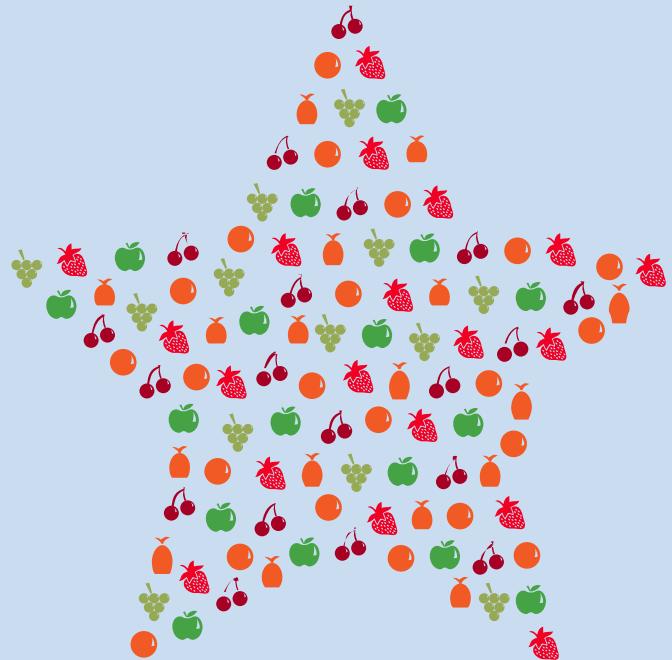
<https://discord.com/safety/360044149591-answering-parents-and-educators-top-questions>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the

translate tool on our web version:

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/december-2025-primary/>

A flyer for Active Camps organized by South Ribble Borough Council. The top left features a large, stylized 'Active Camps' logo. The top right shows the South Ribble Borough Council logo with the text 'South Ribble Borough Council'. The flyer is divided into several sections: 'Venues:' lists Cuerden Church Primary School and Kingsfold Primary School with their respective dates. 'Cost per day:' is £14.00 and 'Cost per block:' is £28.00. 'For booking Visit:' provides the website southribble.gov.uk/activecamps. 'Drop off 8.30am - 9am' and 'Pick up 4.30pm - 5pm' are the operating hours. A blue box at the bottom right states 'Funded places available through HAF'. The flyer is decorated with several circular images showing children participating in various activities: a coach pointing at a target, children playing dodgeball, children in a hall, children in orange vests, and a girl playing badminton. A QR code is in the bottom left corner with the text 'Click here to find out more' and navigation icons. A bottom banner says 'With highly qualified sports' and 'All children provided with a healthy lunch'.



Lancashire SEND Roadshow

2025/2026

The roadshows are for families and practitioners to find out more about support and services available for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their parents and carers.

These Roadshows are happening across Lancashire bringing the SEND Local Offer to your area.

The SEND Local Offer brings together all services in Lancashire for children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND, and their families.



Lancashire
SEND
Roadshow

Dates across
Lancashire are:

25th Sept 2025 9:30 - 1 pm	Kirkham Family Hub
22nd Oct 2025 9:30 - 1 pm	Skelmersdale Family Hub and The Zone
3rd Dec 2025 9:30 - 1 pm	Pendle and Burnley 1882 Lounge Burnley Football Club
28th January 2026 9:30 - 1 pm	The Park Family Hub Accrington
4th February 2026 9:30 - 1 pm	Inspire Youth Zone Chorley
26th March 2026 9:30 - 1 pm	Clitheroe Family Hub
15th April 2026 9:30 - 1 pm	Lune Park Family Hub Lancaster
6th May 2026 9:30 - 1 pm	Rawtenstall Family Hub and the Zone
16th June 2026 9:30 - 1 pm	Fleetwood Library
1st July 2026 1:30 - 4:30 pm	Moor Nook Ribbleton Family Hub

Please scan the following QR codes
for more information:



Local Offer



Family Hubs

Lancashire

SEND IAS

Information, advice and support
for Special Educational Needs and Disability



Who are we and what do we do?

SENDIAS is a statutory service and operates confidentially from the Local Authority to provide impartial and unbiased support to children and families across Lancashire.

Family Support

The service offers free information, advice, and support regarding SEND across the spectrum of education, health and social care, for example: EHCP processes, paperwork, communications with schools, and tribunal's.

Empowering families

The SENDIAS goal is to empower families to make informed decisions and have their voices heard throughout the SEND journey.

Service changes:

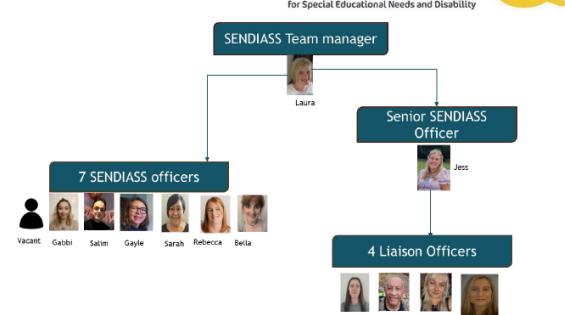
The team has recently expanded and we are currently reviewing the service offer following service user feedback to make it more flexible, accessible and empowering for families across Lancashire. These changes allow us to reach more families and offer consistent, high-quality accessible information advice and support across county.

Our Website with further details can be found here:

[SENDIAS Home - Lancashire SEND IAS](#)



Team structure:



How SENDIAS can support Families:

- Practical Guidance will be available at one stop shops in family hubs.
- SENDIAS can provide advice on preparing meetings, understanding reports, and managing appeals effectively.

Contact can be made by families by phone, referral form or email to our helpline— [referrals from professionals MUST come through our contact form](#): https://my.apps.lancashire.gov.uk/w/webpage/request?form=send_information_advice_and_support_contact_form

Community and Peer Networks Peer support groups and local networks help families share experiences and find reassurance.

Guidance Through EHCNA request

SENDIAS provides crucial guidance to parents during EHCP applications, helping to resolve school placement disputes successfully through groups and drop in's or in the future using digital options.



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16

December Kindness 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others	2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are	3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment	4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about	5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely	6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find	7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today
8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member	9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead	10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them	11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank	12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today	13 See how many different people you can smile at today	14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one
15 Say hello to your neighbour and brighten up their day	16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to	17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you	18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving	19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated	20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need	21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you
22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed	23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness	24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh	25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!	26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature	27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat	28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy
29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people	30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why	31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2026				

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



Middleforth Church of England Primary School



We have funded and paid nursery places available!

Call the office to book a visit
and enquire about a place:
01772 746024



As a caring, Christian community, we aspire to 'let our light shine'. We will open up the world to celebrate God's wonderful creation and foster a sense of awe and wonder. We will nurture our God given talents to ensure that everyone reaches their full potential academically, socially and spiritually.

'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'
MATTHEW 5:16

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term 2025

Re-open on:	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
School closes on:	Friday 24 th October 2025
Mid-term closure:	Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October 2025
School re-opens on:	Tuesday 4 th November 2025
School closes on:	Friday 19 th December 2025 at 2pm

Spring Term 2026

Re-open on:	Monday 5 th January 2026
School closes on:	Friday 13 th February 2026
Mid-term closure:	Monday 16 th February - Friday 20 th February 2026
School re-opens on:	Monday 23 rd February 2026
School closes on:	Friday 27 th March 2026 at 2pm

Summer Term 2026

Starts:	Monday 13 th April 2026
May Day:	Monday 4 th May 2026
School closes on:	Friday 22 nd May 2026
Mid-term closure:	Monday 25 th May – Monday 1 st June 2026
School re-opens on:	Tuesday 2 nd June 2026
School closes on:	Friday 17 th July 2026 at 2pm

INSET

Monday 1st September 2025
Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Monday 3rd November 2025
Monday 1st June 2026
Monday 20th July 2026