



Middlefirth Church of England Primary School

Friday 12th December Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It's been another busy week in school. We started off the week by lighting the next candle on our advent wreath. This week's candle represents Peace. We also learnt about John the Baptist and how he prepared the way for Jesus.

We've had four wonderful Nativity performances from EYFS and Year 1 and Year 2. A huge well done to all of the children who took part and a big thanks to the staff for making these happen - it really does feel like Christmas has started! Another thank you to those who gave generous donations at the performances - your kindness will help to improve the outfits, lights and the backdrop for next year's Nativity performances. KS2 did their dress rehearsal in church today - the children in KS1 really enjoyed it. We can't wait to see the real thing next week! Next week sees another busy week in school with Christmas dinner, Christmas parties and hopefully a very special visitor...

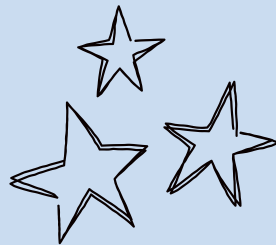
We would like to congratulate Miss Killingbeck on securing a post at a new school. We are very grateful for everything she has done since joining Middlefirth and wish her all the best in her new job. As some of you already know, Miss Turner will also be leaving us at Christmas as she has secured a permanent post at another school. I'm sure you will join me in congratulating her and wishing her all the best in her new post. Miss Yorke will be replacing Miss Turner and she has already met most of you at parents evening and has been into school to meet the children too. Following vigorous interviewing, Miss Jones will be supporting in Year 1 in the new year in replacement of Miss Killingbeck. I am sure you will all join us in making her feel part of our Middlefirth family.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend! Mrs Pilkington

Stars of the Week

Nursery - Octavia
Rec - Charlie & Harry
Y1 - Ayaan & Niko
Y2 - Daniel & Jax
Y3 - Kay-Mai & Mara
Y4 - Jasmine & Jasper
Y5 - Lily & Nevaeh
Y6 - Edward & Noah

WELL DONE



Target 96%

Reception	93.3%
Year 1	91.0%
Year 2	98.7%
Year 3	99.7%
Year 4	95.3%
Year 5	95.2%
Year 6	96.0%
Total	95.7%

Values Awards

Reception - Jason, for always listening during learning time, showing respect to adults.

Year 1 - Rudy, for showing perseverance, putting 100% into everything you do - you never give up.

Year 2 - Myles, Respect - for always doing the right thing and following the golden rules.

Year 3 - Clara, Love - for always being so caring to both adults and children.

Year 4 - Sam, Friendship - for being kind towards others, including them in games and sharing his skills.

Year 5 - Samanta, for showing service to others, always using her manners and being kind to everyone.

Year 6 - Ed, for being a shining star in Y6! Helping others, overcoming challenges and being a great role model.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16

TAKEHOME

15th - 21st December



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

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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.



Curriculum

This week, Mr Noblet & Mrs Murphy looked across all the subjects in our Curriculum to see the amazing hard work and progress we have made since September.

It was great to see digital evidence in PE, excellent skills across Art/DT and progression in coding in Computing! Also, we were particularly impressed with the variety of work in RE, Geography and History books. Our scrapbooks across PSHE are super and a strength of our school! Well done everyone!



Foodbank and other services of support

Local Food bank:

Friday 9.30-12.00

Penwortham
Community Centre
Kingsfold Drive
PR1 9EQ

Email: penworthamfoodbank@gmail.com



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.





Middlefirth 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
2nd
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 labels 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/deceember-2025-primary/>



2025/26 COACHING CAMPS

CHRISTMAS

MONDAY 22ND & TUESDAY 23RD DEC

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

MON 16TH TO FRI 20TH FEB

EASTER

TUES 7TH TO FRI 10TH APR

SUMMER

MON 20TH TO FRI 24TH OF JUL
MON 17TH TO FRI 21ST OF AUG

9AM - 3PM (WITH WRAP-AROUND AVAILABLE)

Join us on a PFA Football Camp at Penwortham Priory Academy.

With a daily price of £20 a day, £75 for 4 days or £85 for 5 days.

- ✓ Skill Development Practices
- ✓ Ability-Set Tournaments
- ✓ Small-Sided 3v3 Games
- ✓ Fun-Filled, Active Days!!

@penwortham.footballacademy

Penwortham Football Academy

Book on here



<https://www.penworthamfootballacademy.co.uk>



PENWORTHAM FOOTBALL ACADEMY

CHRISTMAS CAMP 2025

MONDAY 22ND & TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER

9AM - 3PM (WITH WRAP-AROUND AVAILABLE)

High-quality coaching designed to enhance players' technical skills, ball mastery, and confidence in possession.

Delivered in an academy-style environment, with tailored, skill-based training.

£20 a day

- ✓ Skill Development Practices
- ✓ Ball Mastery Focus
- ✓ Small-Sided 3v3 Games
- ✓ Qualified & Experienced Coaches

@penwortham.footballacademy

Penwortham Football Academy

Book on here



<https://www.penworthamfootballacademy.co.uk>



Active Camps



Venues:

Cuerden Church Primary School, PR5 6ED
Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December

Kingsfold Primary School, PR1 9HJ
Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December

Halloween Parties, Scooting, Archery, UV Sports, Dodgeball, and so so much more....

Cost per day: £14.00

Cost per block: £28.00

For booking Visit:

southribble.gov.uk/activecamps

Drop off 8.30am - 9am

Pick up 4.30pm - 5pm

Funded places available through HAF



Dodgeball, dance, scooting, cycling, glow sport, soft axe throwing, archery and much more!

All staff enhanced DBS cleared, also safeguarding and first aid trained



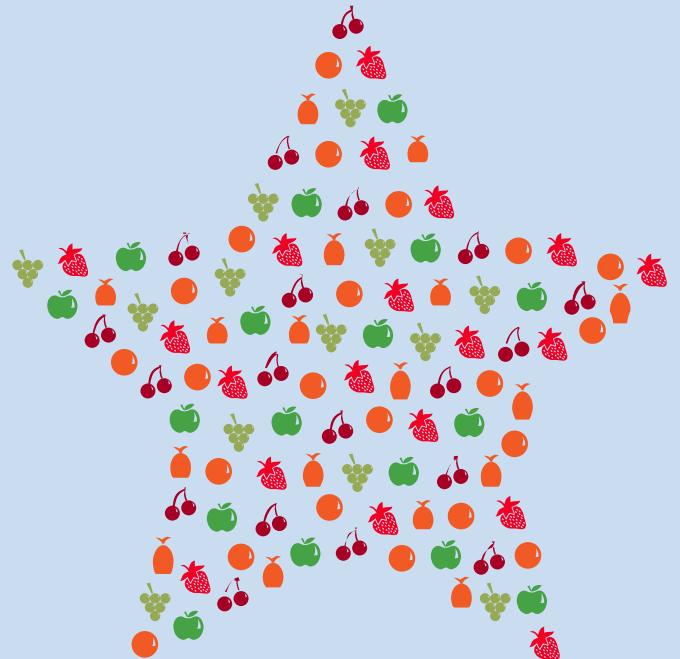
With highly qualified sports



Click here to find out more

1 / 1

All children provided with a healthy lunch



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16

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 – 1pm	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 Ribbleson 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 tribunals.

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](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/SENDIAS)

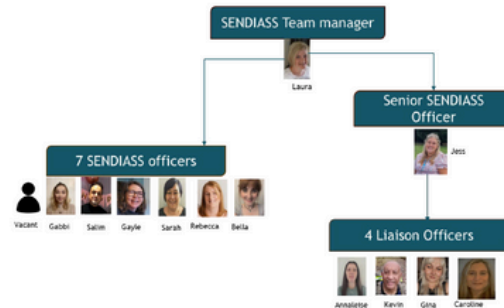


Lancashire SEND IAS

Information, advice and support
for Special Educational Needs and Disability



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.



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