



# Middleforth Church of England Primary School

## Friday 9th January Newsletter



Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we begin a brand new year, it has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school and see the fantastic start they have made. Across the school this week, we revisited our routines and expectations, helping everyone to settle back into school life positively. The children took part in mindful journaling activities, which supported them in reflecting, refocusing and getting themselves ready for learning. Their calm, thoughtful approach and enthusiasm have set a wonderful tone for the term ahead, and we are very proud of them.

This week we have also been delighted to welcome several new and returning members of staff to our school community. Miss McKeon has joined our Nursery team, while Miss Yorke and Miss Jones have started in Year 1. Mr Moat has been busy teaching across a range of classes, and we are very pleased to welcome Mrs Partington back from her maternity leave. It has been lovely to see everyone settling in so well and becoming part of our school family. On behalf of us all, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy new year, and we look forward to sharing another exciting and successful term together.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend!

Mrs Pilkington



### Target 96%

Reception	95.0%
Year 1	95.7%
Year 2	97.0%
Year 3	98.3%
Year 4	97.3%
Year 5	98.0%
Year 6	93.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>96.5%</b>

### Values Awards

**Reception** - Ruby, for being a member of the class that I can trust to do the right thing.

**Year 1** - Grace, Respect - for showing respect and care to her peers and celebrating their success.

**Year 2** - Matilda C, Trust - for showing trust everyday and being so dependable.

**Year 3** - Teo, Justice - for standing up for others and showing what is fair.

**Year 4** - Finlay, Perseverance - for not giving up during English.

**Year 5** - Kairo, for trying hard to be helpful and seek classroom jobs to help his teachers.

**Year 6** - Sophia, for your perseverance in Maths this week!

# TAKE HOME



Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

## In the news this week

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a special year, created to help children and adults in the UK enjoy reading more. Everyone is encouraged to explore all kinds of stories, books, comics, magazines, websites, and even audiobooks, with the theme 'Go All In'. Throughout the year, schools, libraries, and communities will run fun events and challenges to help everyone find a type of reading they love.

### Things to talk about at home ...

- Talk to someone at home about the types of books or other materials you enjoy reading.
- Ask an adult to describe their reading journey, e.g., what they liked reading as a child, what they read now.
- Why do you think fewer people read in today's world? What do you think of the initiative – is it a good idea in your view?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://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.



## Forest School

We are delighted to announce that Forest School is back up and running this term and will continue for the rest of the year. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Partington back from maternity leave, who will be leading sessions alongside class teachers and support staff. This half term, Year 3 and Year 5 will be taking part, and we look forward to seeing the children develop new skills, from whittling wood to safely lighting fires. We are also excited that a new base camp canopy will be arriving soon.



## 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](mailto: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



# 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:

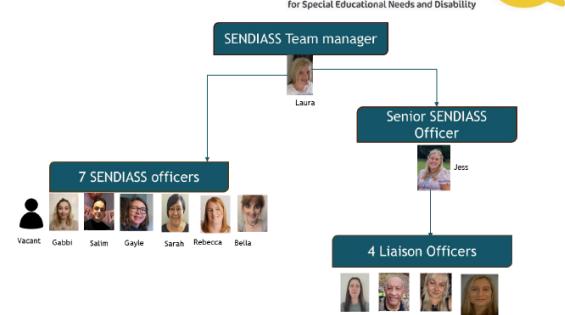
The team has recently expanded and we are currently reviewing the service offer following service user feedback to make it more flexible, accessible and empowering for families across Lancashire. These changes allow us to reach more families and offer consistent, high-quality accessible information advice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

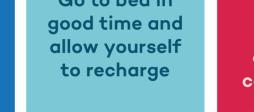
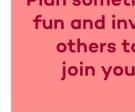
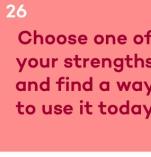
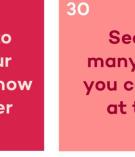
#### Guidance Through EHCNA request

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

# Happier January 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			<b>1</b> Find three things to look forward to this year	<b>2</b> Make time today to do something kind for yourself	<b>3</b> Do a kind act for someone else to help brighten their day	<b>4</b> Write a list of things you feel grateful for and why
<b>5</b> Look for the good in others and notice their strengths	<b>6</b> Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe	<b>7</b> Learn something new and share it with others	<b>8</b> Say positive things to the people you meet today	<b>9</b> Get moving. Do something active (ideally outdoors)	<b>10</b> Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why	<b>11</b> Switch off all your tech at least an hour before bedtime
						
<b>12</b> Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat	<b>13</b> Take a different route today and see what you notice	<b>14</b> Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today	<b>15</b> Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful	<b>16</b> Contribute positively to your local community	<b>17</b> Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes	<b>18</b> Get back in contact with an old friend
						
<b>19</b> Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough	<b>20</b> Go to bed in good time and allow yourself to recharge	<b>21</b> Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone	<b>22</b> Plan something fun and invite others to join you	<b>23</b> Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment	<b>24</b> Take a small step towards an important goal	
						
<b>26</b> Choose one of your strengths and find a way to use it today	<b>27</b> Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside					

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



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LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16

# Term Dates 2025 - 2026

## Autumn Term 2025

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

## Spring Term 2026

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

## Summer Term 2026

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

## INSET

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

# Online Safety Newsletter

## January 2026

### Instagram Teen Accounts - update

**You must be over 13 years of age to set up an account.** Instagram is used to post photos and videos as well as send direct messages, make voice/video calls, and send disappearing messages.

Teen accounts are automatically set up for users aged 13 – 17. Instagram have announced that teens will now see content similar to content that they would see in a PG-13 movie.

Instagram have also updated their policies around content to include “hiding or not recommending posts with strong language, certain risky stunts, and additional content that could encourage potentially harmful behaviors”

Finally, for parents who would like to apply more stringent settings, Instagram are also introducing a new, stricter setting called ‘Limited Content.’ This setting will mean your child is not able to see, leave, or receive comments under posts as well.

You can read about the updates here: <https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/instagram-teen-content-safety-pg-13>



### Playing games online

Does your child play games online? We have outlined some risks that you should consider:

#### Chatting to strangers / risk of inappropriate language

Some games will allow communication via text chat, direct messages or chatting. Some games do offer the ability to switch communication off and/or the option to restrict bad language, some make sure settings appropriate to your child are applied. If your child is displaying online with strangers, then you need to be aware that there is a risk of grooming. Some games do allow you to restrict communication to ‘friends only,’ however you would need to monitor that their online friends are real life friends. It can be difficult to moderate online chat so ensure your child knows how to block and report other players.

#### Cyberbullying

It can be very easy for children to behave in a way that they would not if they were face to face. Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect. Other forms of cyberbullying whilst playing games could be excluding others, criticising the ability of other players and ganging up on others.



#### In-app purchases

Many games include the option to purchase additional items/ subscriptions so ensure you do not have payment cards saved or set up restrictions/ a password to approve purchases.

#### What can I do?

- Set up parental controls** - as well as setting up appropriate parental controls through the game's settings, ensure you have set them up on the console/device your child is playing on.

**Check age ratings** - before buying the game, check that your child is old enough to play it. All games will either have a PEGI rating or be rated by the App Store/Google Play.

- Chat to your child regularly** about the risks above so that they are aware of what can happen online and remind them to always talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns

#### Further information

CEOP provides further guidance and support regarding this topic: <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

# Snapchat

Snapchat is a popular social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. **You must be 13+ to sign up.** Users can send messages (snaps) to others that are only seen for a set time, and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

## Key Concerns

There are potential risks such as:

- the risk of your child viewing content that is not appropriate for their age.
- location sharing (via Snap Map).
- cyberbullying.
- contact from strangers.
- excessive screen time – children may have a fear of missing out (FOMO) as well as pressure to maintain “streaks”.
- “disappearing” messages can lead to more risky behaviour and a “false sense of security.” These messages could be screenshot or another device used to take a photo, so they’re not actually deleted as the sender believes. The image could then be shared.
- in-app purchases.



## Parental Controls / Safety settings

Snapchat's Family Centre is a set of parental controls and includes tools such as allowing you to:

- see who your child is friends with.
- see who your child has sent messages (not the contents of conversations though), photos or videos to in the last week.
- view a list of group members for groups that your child has been active in.
- restrict content to limit access.
- report any accounts that you are concerned about.

You can learn more about Family Centre here:

<https://parents.snapchat.com/parental-controls?lang=en-GB>

If your child is using Snapchat, then make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up, including who can see their location and who can contact them. Also ensure your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary:

<https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012343074580-How-do-I-change-my-privacy-settings-on-Snapchat>

## More information

For more detailed advice and information:

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/snapchat>
- <https://parents.snapchat.com/safeguards-for-teens>

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## Family Smart Start

Family Smart Start is a free toolkit designed to help you and your child navigate the milestone of getting their first phone. The toolkit provides support on how to set up their new phone, how to talk to your child about digital safety and a template family agreement. Find out more here:

<https://familysmartstart.com/>

## Cyber security

Cyber security is the process of protecting your information and data whilst online against scams and cyber-attacks. Cyber-attacks are the process of maliciously targeting individuals or organisations to disable networks or steal data for example.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) have an area on their website with guidance to help protect you and your family. The guidance includes how to manage your digital footprint online, information about anti-virus software as well as top tips for staying online such as:

- Using a strong password
- Setting up 2-step verification

You can find the resources here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/advice-guidance/you-your-family>

The NCSC also provide advice on what you should do if you are the target of a scam or cyber-attack. Find out more here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/respond-recover/you>

**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/january-2026-primary/>