



# Middleforth Church of England Primary School

## Friday 23rd January Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been another fantastic week of learning across school. Year 3 fully embraced life in the Stone Age, even writing on the underside of their tables as part of their immersive history work! Year 2 have been exploring clay in their art lessons, developing their skills and creativity, while Reception finished the week in style with a wonderful royal tea party. The children have all been incredible, and it has been a joy to see such enthusiasm and engagement in their learning.

May I politely remind everyone of the importance of children being in the correct school uniform each day, including on PE days. Our uniform expectations can be found here: <https://www.middleforth.lancs.sch.uk/page/uniform/43272> I would also like to remind families that, both in the morning and after school, the car park should not be used as a walkway. As it is very dark and potentially dangerous, please ensure the footpath is used at all times to keep everyone safe.

Our SOFA group have continued to meet each Tuesday with Mrs Pilkington and Rev. Simon to lead and share our faith across school. This week, they used their creative skills to design Noah's Ark, filling it with words of encouragement to support one another in persevering. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish you all a lovely and restful weekend.

Mrs Pilkington

★

### Stars of the Week

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- Nursery - Ayda
- Rec - Corey
- Y1 - Holly & Rudy
- Y2 - Eva & Georgia
- Y3 - Clare & Theodore N-T
- Y4 - Ashton & Harry
- Y5 - Florence & Kairo
- Y6 - Freddie & Sophie





### Target 96%

<b>Reception</b>	<b>86.3%</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>95.3%</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>96.7%</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>98.7%</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>96.0%</b>
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>96.3%</b>
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>92.7%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>94.8%</b>

### Values Awards

**Reception** - Jason, for always showing respect during learning time.

**Year 1** - Flora, Service - for choosing to help her friends during D&T rather than choosing an activity.

**Year 2** - Chloe, Respect - for being respectful to everyone.

**Year 3** - Lyla, Service - always willing to help both staff and children in class.

**Year 4** - Paige, Perseverance - always working hard, even when she finds things tricky.

**Year 5** - Emma, for being a responsible and caring member of our class and always upholding Middleforth values.

**Year 6** - Jimmy, for being a role model to what a Y6 pupil is at Middleforth.

**LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16**

# TAKEHOME

18th - 25th  
January

## In the news this week



Recently, a new award, called the Jane Goodall Earth Medal, has been created to celebrate people who work to help others and care for the world. It is named after Dr Jane Goodall, who spent her life protecting animals and encouraging people to look after nature. The award recognises kind and caring actions that make a positive difference, even when people are not looking for praise.

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

- What do you think about the new award? Share with someone at home. Do you believe it's important to recognise kind actions?
- Can you think of someone you know who helps others or cares for the world in everyday ways?
- Can you come up with other ways that people can be recognised for their actions?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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



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### Coffee Morning

On Thursday we hosted our parent Coffee Morning which was a great success. We were able to welcome lots of families, our school nurses and our primary mental health worker. It was lovely to see so many of you and continue to build our growing community of support. It is so important that we are able to draw support, advice and guidance from each other and hear success stories.

Thank you once again, please continue to grow our group and please come along to our next morning.



### Nursery - Minis

We wanted to let you know some exciting news, we have a new friend in Minis called Snowy the rabbit and she will be taking it in turns to spend time with the children at their own house. She will bring a lovely story she would like to read, as well as a lovely hot chocolate to share with her friends.

She will have a diary inside her little suitcase to complete with all the exciting things you do, as well as having a feelings colouring sheet to colour and talk about how the story made you feel.

Snowy will come back to Minis after the weeks adventures, to go and explore with another friend

### 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](mailto: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.



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16



# 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  
 20<sup>th</sup> - 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, 29<sup>th</sup> - 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



# Happier January 2026

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



- 1 Find three things to look forward to this year
- 2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself
- 3 Do a kind act for someone else to help brighten their day
- 4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for and why

- 5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths
- 6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe
- 7 Learn something new and share it with others
- 8 Say positive things to the people you meet today
- 9 Get moving. Do something active (ideally outdoors)
- 10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why
- 11 Switch off all your tech at least an hour before bedtime

- 12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat
- 13 Take a different route today and see what you notice
- 14 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today
- 15 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful
- 16 Contribute positively to your local community
- 17 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes
- 18 Get back in contact with an old friend

- 19 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough
- 20 Go to bed in good time and allow yourself to recharge
- 21 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone
- 22 Plan something fun and invite others to join you
- 23 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment
- 24 Take a small step towards an important goal
- 25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down

- 26 Choose one of your strengths and find a way to use it today
- 27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside
- 28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently
- 29 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better
- 30 See how many people you can smile at today
- 31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future



**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**

**LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16**

# Parents and Carers, tell us about your experience of using childcare in Lancashire



Scan the QR code to  
access our short survey

[lancashire.gov.uk/childcare](https://lancashire.gov.uk/childcare)



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

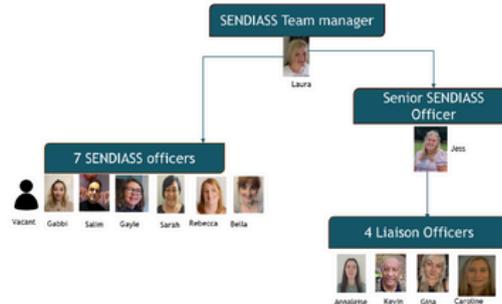


## Lancashire SEND IAS

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](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.



# 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

## 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, so make sure settings appropriate to your child are applied. If your child is playing 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 ‘friendly 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 online 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 2step 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/>