



Middleforth Church of England Primary School

Friday 17th April Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been a really lovely week back at Middleforth, and it has been wonderful to see everyone settling so well into the term. Our Forest School continues to develop each day with new resources and enhancements, and we are incredibly proud of everything that has been achieved so far. A huge thank you must go to Mrs Partington and Miss Stritch for all of their hard work and dedication in helping to bring this exciting space to life. Key Stage 1 have also begun coming together for May Day preparations, and we cannot wait to share their amazing dances with you very soon.

Across the school, learning has been full of excitement and teamwork. Year 4 explored our worship value for this half term, Trust, during their PE lesson. The children took part in blindfolded walks and obstacle courses, where they had to trust their partners to keep them safe while giving clear verbal instructions. They showed excellent communication, listening and teamwork skills throughout. Our Minis have been enjoying the story How to Catch a Rainbow in English, learning about what is needed to make a rainbow and exploring the different colours. They created their own rainbow artwork and even completed a science experiment using Skittles and milk to make a rainbow of their own!

As we look ahead to our final term, please do make sure you have all key dates noted, as there is lots happening as always.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday.

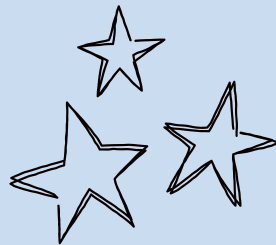
Mrs Pilkington

Target 96%

Stars of the Week

Nursery - Sabina
 Rec - Ollie & Sunny
 Y1 - Freddie & Grace
 Y2 - Georgia & Kairo
 Y3 - Lyla & Eliza
 Y4 - Isla B & Olivia H
 Y5 - Charlie & Kairo
 Y6 - Freddie & William

WELL DONE



Reception	98.8%
Year 1	93.0%
Year 2	97.9%
Year 3	98.0%
Year 4	98.3%
Year 5	95.7%
Year 6	99.0%
Total	97.2%



Values Awards



Reception - Freya- for persevering and working hard. Her progress is amazing because of this!

Year 1 - Isla-Rose, for always being so patient.

Year 2 - Neave, for always letting her light shine.

Year 3 -Subhang, for bringing so much joy and happiness to our classroom.

Year 4 - Felix, for persevering during our handwriting lesson.

Year 5 - Lois, for showing kindness and respect at all times.

Year 6 - Noah, for being such a kind and caring member of our class.



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16

TAKEHOME



What makes a great place to live?



In the news this week

A new town, called Barking Riverside, is being built in East London to help provide more homes in the local area. It will include around twenty thousand homes, as well as schools, parks, and shops for people to use. Many people are expected to move there in the future as the area continues to grow.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > What do you like most about where you live? Why?
- > Is there anything you would change about your local area?
- > Is Barking Riverside the type of place you would like to live? Explain your thoughts.
- > If you could design your perfect place to live, what would it include, and why?

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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Year 5 and 6 STEM Workshop

This morning Y5/6 took part in an innovation STEM workshop with ElevationX. The workshop taught the children about energy generation, storage and sustainability. We explored biofuels, solar energy, wind energy, and fossil fuels before creating our own electric cars! It was lovely to see so many children interested in renewable and sustainable energy solutions including how some towns are powered by chicken-poop!



Out of School Club

Last term, children at Breakfast and After School Club learned about how much paper a tree produces and decided to explore how much paper we use. They are now recycling all paper and making their own recycled paper, including seed paper to plant, which we will continue this term. The children are also collecting bottles, lids and egg boxes for recycling projects. Activities have included rock painting, with plans this week for Earth Day biscuits, a papier-mâché Earth and eco-themed leaflets.

We would appreciate any donations of clean plastic bottles, lids and egg boxes for the clubs.



Mrs Knight - Family Support Worker



For those that don't know me and a reminder for those who do, I am Mrs Knight, the Family Support Worker at school. I offer confidential support to children and families and use my experience to provide a listening ear, practical help, and guidance during challenging times. Working closely with pupils, parents, school staff, and external agencies, I aim to remove barriers to learning and wellbeing. My role includes supporting with issues such as behaviour, friendships, family change, illness, housing, finances, and emotional wellbeing, as well as signposting to services, attending meetings, and delivering one-to-one child interventions such as Drawing and Talking and Lego Therapy. You can contact me by email at sknight@middleforth.lancs.sch.uk, by phone on 01772 746024, or via Class Dojo. My working hours are 8:30am – 4pm Mon to Fri.



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
 25th - OPAL Stay and Play

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 21st - Class Photographs 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

JULY

7th - Year 6 Performance 10th - Reports Home 15th - 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



Active April 2026

MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY

1 Commit to being more active this month, starting today

THURSDAY

2 Spend as much time as possible outdoors today

FRIDAY

3 Listen to your body and be grateful for what it can do

SATURDAY

4 Eat healthy and natural food today and drink lots of water

SUNDAY

5 Turn a regular activity into a playful game today

6 Do a body-scan meditation and really notice how your body feels

7 Get natural light early in the day. Dim the lights in the evening

8 Give your body a boost by laughing or making someone laugh

9 Turn your housework or chores into a fun form of exercise

10 Have a day with less screen time and more movement

11 Set yourself an exercise goal or sign up to an activity challenge

12 Move as much as possible, even if you're stuck inside

13 Make sleep a priority and go to bed in good time

14 Relax your body & mind with yoga, tai chi or meditation

15 Get active by singing today (even if you think you can't sing!)

16 Go exploring around your local area and notice new things

17 Be active outside. Plant some seeds and encourage growth

18 Try out a new exercise, activity or dance class

19 Spend less time sitting today. Get up and move more often

20 Focus on 'eating a rainbow' of multi-coloured vegetables today

21 Regularly pause to stretch and breathe during the day

22 Enjoy moving to your favourite music. Really go for it

23 Go out and do an errand for a loved one or neighbour

24 Get active in nature. Feed the birds or go wildlife-spotting

25 Have a 'no screens' night and take time to recharge yourself

26 Take an extra break in your day and walk outside for 15 minutes



27 Find a fun exercise to do while waiting for the kettle to boil

28 Meet a friend outside for a walk and a chat

29 Become an activist for a cause you really believe in

30 Make time to run, swim, dance, cycle or stretch today



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

Term Dates 2025 - 2027

SPRING TERM 2026	
School closes on	Friday 27th March 2026 at 2pm
SUMMER TERM 2026	
Re-open on	Monday 13th April 2026
May Day	Monday 4th May 2026
School closes on	Friday 22nd May 2026
Mid-term closure	Monday 25th May – Monday 1st June 2026
School re-opens on	Tuesday 2nd June 2026
School closes on	Friday 17th July 2026 at 2pm
AUTUMN TERM 2026	
Re-open on	Wednesday 2nd September 2026
School closes on	Friday 23rd October 2026
Mid-term closure	Monday 26th October – Monday 2nd November 2026
School re-opens on	Tuesday 3rd November 2026
School closes on	Friday 18th December 2026 at 2pm



SPRING TERM 2027	
Re-open on	Tuesday 5th January 2027
School closes on	Friday 12th February 2027
Mid-term closure	Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February
School re-opens on	Monday 22nd February 2027
School closes on	Thursday 25th March 2027 at 2pm
SUMMER TERM 2027	
Re-open on	Monday 12th April 2027
May Day	Monday 3rd May 2027
School closes on	Thursday 27th May 2027
Mid-term closure	Friday 28th May – Monday 7th June 2027
School re-opens on	Tuesday 8th June 2027
School closes on	Wednesday 21st July 2027 at 2pm

COMMUNITY *events*

Friday 24 April
7pm at the
Sir Tom Finney
Pub PR1 0NL



Launch Event

Join us as we kick off a blooming brilliant year!

The evening promises

A Biodiversity Talk with Annie (Let's Grow Preston)

Gardener's Question Time with Annie and Michael (Newgate Nurseries)

Plant Sale from Newgate Nurseries

Raffle and Quiz

Get inspired, ask the experts, and pick up something new for your garden.

Everyone is welcome!

If you have a question you would like to put to our experts in advance
please send to Penworthaminbloomsecretary@gmail.com



St Catherine's
Hospice

£1.00

SALE

Penwortham Community Centre
Kingsfold Drive
PR1 9EQ

Saturday 16th May 2026

11am-3pm

All clothing £1.00 only

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16

BBC iPlayer for Kids

Children under the age of 13 can have their own iPlayer profile, which includes content from CBBC, CBeebies and other suitable BBC programmes.

You can download the iPlayer app and then find out how to create a profile here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/help/questions/about-the-childrens-experience/iplayer-child-experience>

Going on a long journey? The BBC have also compiled a list of shows and films as well as games and quizzes to make the journey go quicker:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/watch/best-films-games-and-quizzes-to-keep-kids-entertained-on-long-journeys>



Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version:

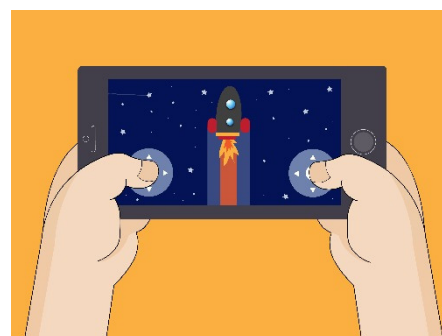
<https://www.knowsleycitycs.org.uk/april-2026-primary/>

Age ratings in games

Age ratings exist to help protect your child as they show whether content is suitable for your child's age. Make sure you check the age rating of any game your child is playing.

Why should I check?

Not all games will be appropriate for your child. Some may appear child friendly due to fun or cartoon style graphics but still include unsuitable content. Age ratings consider factors such as violence, frightening content, bad language and/or in app purchases.



How can I check?

Most games are rated by PEGI (Pan European Game Information), who not only state the age you should be to play the game but also provide further content descriptors to give you an indication of the type of content that your child might encounter. Apps are rated by the App store/Google Play.

How can I stop my child from accessing a game they are not old enough to play?

You can set up **parental controls** to restrict access to games or apps that your child is not old enough to play and set restrictions so any downloads/purchases must be approved by you. For example:

- Nintendo – restrict software by age so if you restrict to 10+, games with that rating or above cannot be played by your child.
- Xbox / PlayStation – set an age limit so anything that exceeds that age rating must be approved.
- Apple / Google (Family Link) – restrict your child from installing apps, allowing you to review before approving all purchases.

What else do I need to do?

- Review any additional content descriptors, read reviews and check if the game includes any form of communication or in app purchases. This will help inform your decision as to whether the game is suitable for your child.
- For any game your child plays, set up appropriate parental controls.
- If you decide a game is not appropriate, explain to your child why.

We know your child might feel peer pressure to play certain games, but explaining your reasoning will help them understand your decision.

Further information

- <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

Fake or Real? Know the Deal

Essex Police have launched a groundbreaking AI Safety Campaign in partnership with BT and EE to tackle the growing risks posed by artificial intelligence (AI) misuse and deepfake technology. This is the first time a UK police force is working directly with a global technology firm to provide practical advice to parents, guardians and young people.

AI technology offers incredible opportunities, but it also introduces serious risks when misused. Deepfake content – highly convincing, fabricated images or videos – can be used to exploit young people, sometimes without their knowledge. Artificially generated Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) is one of the fastest-emerging crimes Essex Police is actively investigating.

The campaign is designed to help you understand:

- What deepfakes are and why they matter
- How to protect children from online harm
- What to do if an image is misused

Further information

Find out more here, including advice on how to protect your child:
<https://eephonesmart.co.uk/fake-or-real>

What is the Manosp here?

Have you seen the new Netflix documentary 'Louis Theroux: Inside the Manosphere' in which Louis Theroux interviews several 'influencers' that promote extreme / disturbing ideologies online. It is a shocking watch but prompts the importance of ensuring our children are protected from this content. In essence, the manosphere is against the empowerment of women and certain people promote these views and other harmful misinformation online via social media etc.

What should I do?

We need to develop critical thinking in our children and have age-appropriate conversations with them as explained in these two articles:

- <https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/feelings-behaviour/talking-about-feelings/talk-to-your-child-gender-equality/>
- <https://www.brook.org.uk/blog/4-ways-to-tackle-misogyny-among-young-people/>

Further information

- <https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/explainer/what-is-the-manosphere-and-why-should-we-care>

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How to set up parental controls on ChatGPT

Internet Matters have published an article detailing how you can link your own account to your child's account (they must be logged in) to set parental controls on ChatGPT.

You can read the article here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/chatgpt-parental-controls/>

WhatsApp update: Parent-Managed Accounts

WhatsApp have announced that they are rolling out the option of Parent-Managed accounts for those under the age of 13. The settings will include allowing you to choose who can contact your child and ensuring only you can add them to groups. Find out more here:
<https://faq.whatsapp.com/894871699629864>

Whilst, these features could be useful, it is important to emphasise that just because the option now exists, WhatsApp may still not be an appropriate platform for your child to be on. We often receive reports of issues, particularly with group chats on WhatsApp. Wayne Denner (online safety trainer) explains more here:
<https://www.waynedenner.com/whatsapp-parent-managed-accounts-what-parents-need-to-know/>

AI and homework

AI can be a useful tool for helping children with homework both in understanding a topic and for research. However, please remember that it should not be used to complete tasks as this would constitute plagiarism.