



Middleforth Church of England Primary School

Friday 20th March Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

This week has been a fantastic one in school, with lots of opportunities for the children to shine. It has been National Sign Language Week, and it has been lovely to see the children learning new signs in their classes each day and embracing this with such enthusiasm. On Tuesday, Mrs Knight took a group of children to a cheerleading festival, and they were truly inspiring – giving it their all and representing our school brilliantly.

On Thursday, Year 5 visited St Leonard’s to take part in the Road to Easter experience. We are so thankful for the wonderful opportunities that St Leonard’s provides us as a church school. The children returned with their own wooden crosses and were able to confidently talk about the Stations of the Cross, showing real understanding and reflection. Yesterday, Year 4 visited Blackburn Ice Arena for Let’s Go Sing, where they performed their hearts out. Staff were incredibly proud of both their performance and behaviour throughout the afternoon and evening – well done, Year 4, and thank you to all the parents who came along to support.

Today, we have also been celebrating Red Nose Day, and we are looking forward to our Parliament group reviewing the fantastic nose designs created by the children. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend everyone,

Mrs Pilkington

Stars of the Week

Nursery - Sally
Rec - Roman & Sarah
Y1 - Bryanny & Vinnie
Y2 - Charlie & Noah
Y3 - Ilinca & Orson
Y4 - Harper & Harriet
Y5 - Ava & Yash
Y6 - David & Elijah

WELL DONE



Target 96%	
Reception	90.8%
Year 1	89.7%
Year 2	99.0%
Year 3	98.0%
Year 4	96.0%
Year 5	94.7%
Year 6	95.3%
Total	94.9%



Values Awards



Reception - Lucas, Perseverance - for being patient and showing perseverance in forest school.

Year 1 - Rudy, Respect - for always being respectful in the classroom.

Year 2 - Matilda H, Thankfulness - for showing great kindness to all her class and teachers.

Year 3 - Penny, Kindness & Trust - A wonderful friend and a shining example to others.

Year 4 - Connor, Respect & Resilience - for always being polite and thankful and working hard when things are difficult.

Year 5 - Sophia, Perseverance & Resilience - for showing perseverance and resilience in everything she does.

Year 6 - Sophia, Kindness - for showing kindness to others and lifting them up in tricky times.



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16

TAKEHOME



In the news this week

This week's news is about Pokémon, which is celebrating 30 years since it was first created. First released as a video game in 1996, it has since grown into TV shows, films, trading cards and apps enjoyed by millions of people around the world. Today, both children and adults continue to enjoy Pokémon in many different ways.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Why do you think Pokémon has stayed popular for 30 years?
- > How do games, stories, or hobbies bring people together at home?
- > Do you think something can be fun for both children and adults? Why?
- > What are some of the things you find fun to do?

What makes something fun?



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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Let's Go Sing

On Thursday, Year 4 represented Middleforth at Let's Go Sing in Blackburn. The children sang alongside hundreds of other children and in front of an audience of 2000 people. They sang their hearts out and represented the school excellently. We are so proud of them!

School Parliament



This week we received our new road safety banner for school. The poster winners were chosen by Parliament and the banner was presented in Celebration Assembly. Thank you for all of your entries.

Parliament met with Mrs Allton last week and have shared lots of great ideas for their future events. We have decided to take part in some of the Penwortham in Bloom activities. More information will follow.

Local Food bank:

Friday 9.30-12.00

Penwortham
Community Centre

Kingsfold Drive

PR1 9EQ

Email: penworthamfoodbank@gmail.com



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.





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 **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



Mindful March 2026

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness

2 Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world

3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive

4 Notice how you speak to yourself and choose to use kind words

5 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them

6 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down

7 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day

8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food

9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others

10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face

11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee

12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying

13 Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today

14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do

15 Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly

16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity

17 Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant

18 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels

19 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today

20 Focus on what makes you and others happy today

21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else

22 Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult

23 Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them

24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do

25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted

26 Choose to spend less time looking at screens today

27 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are

28 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible

29 Choose a different route today and see what you notice

30 Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling

31 Discover the joy in the simple things of life



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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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

MON 30 MARCH

7PM Evening Prayer (Compline)

TUES 31 APRIL

7PM Evening Prayer (Compline)

WEDS 1 APRIL

10AM Holy Communion

7PM Service of Tenebrae
*a quiet service of reflection
and shadows.*

THURS 2 APRIL

MAUNDY THURSDAY

11AM Chrism Eucharist
at Blackburn Cathedral

7PM Passover Communion
*in the small hall followed by the
stripping of the altar and watch.*

9PM Evening Prayer (Compline)

FRI 3 APRIL

GOOD FRIDAY

10AM Good Friday walk of witness
*starting and finishing at
St Leonard's Church approx 1.2 miles*

11AM Ecumenical Good Friday Service
at St Leonard's Church

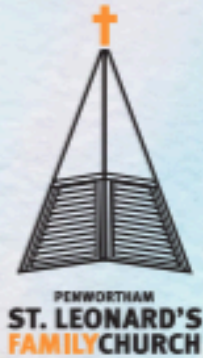
2PM An hour at the foot of the cross
Service in church

*We would love you to
join us at one or all of our*

**EVENTS AND SERVICES
DURING
HOLY WEEK
AND**

Easter

**at St. Leonard's
Family Church**



SUN 5 APRIL

EASTER SUNDAY

6AM Meet at church for Dawn Service
on Middleforth Green as the sun rises.

**8:30AM Said Communion and Celebration
of the Resurrection**

**10AM Sung Communion and Celebration
of the Resurrection**

All are welcome



Online Safety Newsletter

March 2026

YouTube Safety Update: New Parental Controls

YouTube have published their latest update on how parents can support their child on YouTube. YouTube will now allow parents to set the amount of time viewing Shorts – this can even be set to zero. YouTube Shorts are short videos, usually less than 60 seconds long, which when continuously watched, can lead to excessive screentime. Furthermore, parents will also be able to set bedtime and ‘take a break’ reminders. You can find out more here:

<https://blog.youtube/news-and-events/updates-youtube-supervised-accounts-teens/>

If you would like to find out more about supervised accounts on YouTube, then this article explains the different settings available:

https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420?hl=en-GB&ref_topic=15279060&sjid=15225282118002181205-EU

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/march-2026/>

Mobile phones: do you know the risks?

We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to risks including:

- Viewing inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern.
- Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Spending money on in-app purchases/scams

What effects do mobile phones have on children’s mental health?

Compass discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have:

<https://compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/online-resources/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

EE Online Safety Hub

EE has published age guidance for smartphone usage to improve children’s digital wellbeing. In summary, they recommend that children under 11 should use non-smart devices, for children aged 11-13, they advise that if a smartphone is used, then parental controls should be enabled and access to social media restricted. Finally, for 13-16-year-olds they still recommend that parental controls are implemented and appropriate restrictions set up. You can read the full guidance here:

<https://ee.co.uk/internet-online-safety>

Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone with

Smartphone Free Childhood?

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

What device?

When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then ‘Which?’ provide an overview of some options available:

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/article/buying-a-first-mobile-phone-best-dumb-phones-and-smartphones-for-kids-aA03C3Y8aTzr>

Virtual Private Networks

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) helps make your connection between a device and the internet more secure and can help protect personal information and add privacy. However, whilst a VPN has benefits, it is important that you are aware that if your child is using a VPN, they may be able to get round Wi-Fi restrictions, access blocked or restricted websites and bypass parental controls. It may also mean that their browsing history is hidden.

The NSPCC provides a helpful overview of VPNs, plus top tips and conversation starters here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/vpns-and-online-safety/>

Social Media Algorithms

What is an Algorithm?

Algorithms influence what we see on social media platforms and predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with, thereby keeping us online for longer. The algorithm uses information such as who you follow, what you have searched for and what you have watched, liked or shared to determine what it thinks most interests you. It will then show you this content more, for example, in the explore tab on Instagram.

What do I need to know?



Whilst there are benefits to algorithms, for example it means we tend to see content that does interest us, unfortunately there are negatives as well. They can lead to increased screen time as we continue to see things that interest us. Secondly, it can lead to users being shown large amounts of inappropriate content which can for example, exacerbate negative body image or heighten access to misogynist content. It can also lead to 'echo chambers' where you are only seeing content that relates to your opinion rather than seeing a balanced viewpoint.

Further information

- <https://cybersmarties.com/behind-the-screen-how-algorithms-shape-what-kids-see-online/>
- The BBC discuss algorithms in this article about doomscrolling: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zwnk3qt>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.03.26. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or

Five Nights at Freddy's

Five Nights at Freddy's is a horror game designed to frighten players with jump scares or creepy characters. It can be accessed from several places, for example on an Xbox (PEGI rating of 12) and on the App store (age rating of 13+). There is merchandise available, which may suggest that it is child friendly. We would recommend that you preview the game first to ascertain its suitability for your child. You can view Bark's review here:

<https://www.bark.us/content-review/five-nights-at-freddys-review/>

Screen time and online harms

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health have created a page that brings together key resources on screen time. Find out more here:

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/screen-time-online-harms-resources-members>

New government campaign: Is your child influenced by toxic content?

The Government have launched a new campaign providing guidance to parents on safety settings, conversation prompts and advice for tackling misinformation and harmful content. It also includes a quiz to help you and your child spot misleading or unreliable information online. You can find out more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/is-your-child-influenced-by-toxic-content-new-government-campaign-supports-parents-to-talk-about-harmful-online-content>

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](#)

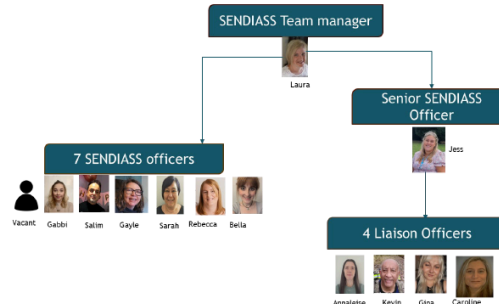


Lancashire SEND IAS

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.



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 2025
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

Term Dates 2025 - 2027

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