



Middlefirth Church of England Primary School

Friday 3rd July Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

This week has been another busy and exciting one at school! Year 6 have been working incredibly hard during rehearsals for their end-of-year production, and we are all looking forward to seeing their fantastic performance next week. On Thursday, a team of Key Stage 2 children represented our school at the Quad Kids competition. They showed great determination in every event and were praised for their excellent sportsmanship and manners throughout the day. We couldn't be prouder of the way they represented our school and truly let their light shine.

We were also delighted to welcome our new Nursery and Reception children back for another settling-in session this week. They all stayed happily without their grown-ups, enjoying the different areas and are beginning to make new friendships. We can't wait to welcome them properly in September. On Tuesday, the whole school enjoyed Transition Afternoon, spending time in their new classes with their new teachers. This is always an exciting milestone, but we also recognise that change can sometimes bring worries or heightened anxiety. In school, we support children by keeping routines as consistent as possible, talking openly about change, and helping them develop strategies to manage big feelings. We would really appreciate your support at home too, and encourage you to make use of the resources available on the TGMC Parent Portal if you feel they would be helpful.

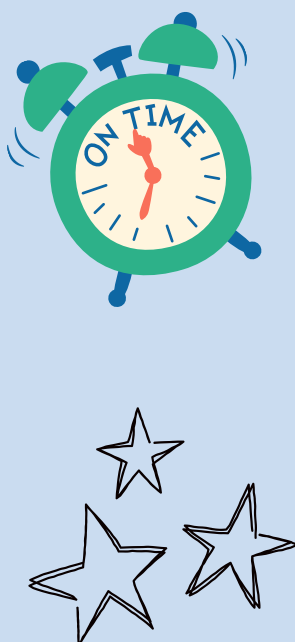
Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you all have a wonderful weekend and look forward to another exciting week ahead.

Mrs Pilkington



Stars of the Week

Nursery - Sally
Rec - Corey & Henley
Y1 - Maisie & Rudy
Y2 - Whole Class
Y3 - Robyn & Teo
Y4 - Jasper & Vincent
Y5 - Chloe & Florence
Y6 - Eva & Evelyn



Target 96%	
Reception	93.8%
Year 1	93.7%
Year 2	93.1%
Year 3	99.7%
Year 4	98.7%
Year 5	95.7%
Year 6	94.0%
Total	95.6%



Values Awards



Reception - Roman, for being helpful, especially during tidy up time.

Year 1 - Eden, for showing a mature attitude in the classroom.

Year 2 - Henry, for showing respect to teachers and peers.

Year 3 - Orson, for demonstrating a superb attitude to learning, resulting in full marks in both maths tests.

Year 4 - Isla M, for respecting everybody and always demonstrating kindness.

Year 5 - Hattie, for showing a positive attitude towards all of her school work, Well Done!

Year 6 - Theo, perseverance for never giving up in Forest School.



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16

A message from the office

I know it is a busy time of year, but please can you all ensure that any outstanding balances are paid and up to date before we break up for the summer holidays. This will help to ensure that places can be booked for September.

If you haven't already returned your forms which have been sent home from the office, please can you return these to school as soon as possible.

Building Work

As you will have all seen, we are having some major building work on the school roof. It is estimated to last around 16 weeks and should be finished for October half term. We have been waiting for a new roof for several years and we have finally made it to the top of list to get a completely new roof across the whole of the building. Thank you all for your patience and understanding with any changes to normal routines.



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 Monday to Friday.



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





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**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



Online Safety Newsletter

WhatsApp

July 2026

Social media to be banned for under-16s

The government has announced that social media platforms will be blocked from offering services to under-16s from next Spring. The ban will include platforms like Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X.

Furthermore, there will also be blocks on live streaming and communication with strangers (these restrictions will also apply to 16 and 17-year-olds) and the government will also be looking at overnight curfews and breaks in infinite scrolling.

You can read the Government's press release here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/social-media-to-be-banned-for-under-16s-in-landmark-government-move-to-givekids-their-childhood-back>

In addition, you can find some FAQs here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fact-sheet-new-rules-to-protect-children-online/fact-sheet-new-rules-to-protect-children-online>

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

We frequently receive reports of children using WhatsApp inappropriately, such as sharing images to embarrass others, sending hurtful messages, spreading rumours, or excluding people from group chats to make them feel left out. It is important to think about whether WhatsApp is the right platform for your child. For example, you should consider if your child has the critical thinking skills to recognise bullying and can they manage peer pressure and refrain from joining in on hurtful behaviour?

Users should be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp. 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>

What should I be aware of if my child is using WhatsApp?

- **Group chats:** Everyone within a group, even if they are not one of your child's contacts, can see all messages within that group.
- **Inappropriate content:** users can be exposed to content that is not suitable for their age.
- **Location sharing:** talk to your child about the potential danger of sharing their location.
- **Chat lock/secret code:** users can lock chats as well as apply a secret code setting, so a chat does not appear in the main chat.
- **Screentime due to addictive nature**
- **AI:** WhatsApp includes Meta AI including Incognito Chat with Meta AI so nobody (including Meta) can read your conversations.

What can I do?

- Check privacy settings e.g. who can add them to groups.
- Ensure your child understands that they can leave a chat at any time. Find out more here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/424124173736394>
- Show your child how to block and report other users. Find out how here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1142481766359885/>
- Set up appropriate parental controls.
- Talk about who they are chatting with, encourage them to think carefully about the messages they send and how they might be received.
- Chat to your child about the groups that they belong to.

Further information

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/whatsapp>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>

Livestreaming

What is livestreaming?

Livestreaming is when an individual broadcasts video live over the internet. People can watch livestreams from any device that is connected to the internet.

What are the risks?

There are risks associated with watching livestreams that you should be aware of. The main risk being that your child may see or hear something inappropriate as your child may come across themes or content that is not suitable for them. It is difficult to moderate live content as it is happening in real time.

How can I help my child?

- All online platforms have an age rating, ensure your child only accesses platforms that are appropriate to their age. For example, TikTok has an age rating of 13.
- For any platforms that your child uses, ensure appropriate parental controls and privacy settings are applied.
- Take an interest in what your child is doing online and on a regular basis, ask your child to show you what they are accessing.
- Ensure your child knows how to use any reporting/blocking tools on the app that they are using and as always please ensure that your child knows to talk to a trusted adult if they see anything that concerns them online.

Further information

- <https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/livestreaming-parents/>
- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-live-streaming/>



Netflix Playground

Netflix Playground hosts a number of games aimed at kids aged 8 and younger. The games include Sesame Street and Peppa Pig.

It is available as an app to all Netflix subscribers and has no additional in-app purchases and no adverts. Find out more here:

<https://www.netflix.com/tudum/article/s/playground-kids-game-hub-news>

Moving to secondary school

Is your child moving to Secondary school this year? If so, Internet Matters have published a variety of resources on their website to support this transition:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/moving-to-secondary-school-online-safety-guide/>

Screentime balance over the summer holidays

With Summer holidays approaching, we know children may be spending more time alone. Vodafone and SWGfL have published some advice on how to navigate common digital risks and tips on how to balance screen time. We hope you have a lovely, safe summer!

- <https://www.vodafone.co.uk/newscentre/features/digital-awareness-uk-30-digital-risks-young-people/>
- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/balancing-screen-time-over-the-holidays-advice-for-parents-and-carers>

Instagram: New supervision tool

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.

Instagram have introduced a new supervision tool allowing parents/carers to view the general topics their child is engaging in. Find out more here: <https://about.fb.com/news/2026/05/new-supervision-tools-parents-insights-teens-algorithm/>

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