Middleforth Church of England Primary School

Friday 20th November Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been another busy and exciting week across school, with lots of wonderful learning taking place in every year group. Our children in Minis have been exploring patterns by making marks and designs in flour, whilst also learning about the different seasons and discussing the types of clothing we wear throughout the year. It has been lovely to see their curiosity and enthusiasm as they develop their understanding of the world around them.

Year 1 have been thoroughly enjoying their Supertato unit, thinking carefully about past tense words and discussing the many ways Evil Pea has caused distress to the vegetables! The children particularly loved designing and creating their own Supertato superheroes to come to the rescue of the veggies. 🥦🥕🥔 Meanwhile, Year 5 continued their Art unit by exploring the work of contemporary artist Cai Guo-Qiang. Inspired by his dramatic artistic style, the children created their own colourful "explosions" using a variety of art materials, producing some truly impressive and imaginative pieces. In Year 6, pupils have been developing their sewing skills in Design and Technology. Learning to thread needles and sew for the first time proved challenging, but the children demonstrated fantastic resilience and determination, persevering even when they had to rethread their needles multiple times. We were incredibly proud of the positive attitude they showed throughout the lesson. 🪡💪

I would also like to thank everyone who took the time to complete our recent parent questionnaire. It was wonderful to receive so many positive responses and hear your kind comments about our school. Your feedback means a great deal to us and helps us continue to improve. We have carefully reviewed the suggestions made and noted that not all families were aware of the annual calendar shared in September, which contains key dates for the year, including parents' evenings and some of our exciting curriculum and enrichment days. Copies are available from the school office, and you will also find the calendar included at the end of this week's newsletter. In addition, we are currently adding these dates to the Class Dojo calendar, so please keep an eye out for further updates. As always, there may be additional events added throughout the year, and we will ensure these are communicated with as much notice as possible.

Finally, following updated safeguarding guidance, we have moved to being a mobile phone-free school whilst children are present. This means that mobile phones should not be used by pupils, parents, visitors or staff members in areas where children are present. We are committed to involving parents in school life as much as possible and appreciate this change may require some adjustments to previous practices. We therefore kindly ask that during worships, visits to school and Celebration Assemblies, all visitors respect this policy by refraining from using mobile phones. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe environment for all members of our school community.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Pilkington

Stars of the Week

Nursery - Haima
Rec - Abigail & Ayda
Y1 - Charlie & Sarah
Y2 - Darcie & Poppy
Y3 - Alex & Aurora
Y4 - Elsie & Robyn
Y5 - Darcy H & Isla B
Y6 - Florence & Max



Target 96%

Reception	69.0%
Year 1	90.8%
Year 2	86.2%
Year 3	96.3%
Year 4	87.3%
Year 5	96.0%
Year 6	89.7%
Total	87.9%

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16

TAKEHOME

9th – 15th November

In the news this week



Diwali celebrations in Leicester return this November. It's one of the UK's biggest Diwali festival locations, with music, dancing, colourful lights and family activities. However, the traditional public fireworks display will not take place this year as part of Diwali celebrations, due to crowd safety concerns at the park venue. Organisers hope the celebrations will still bring thousands of people together to enjoy the Festival of Lights, despite some familiar traditions being different.

Things to talk about at home ...

- What traditions do you celebrate with your family? Why are they special to you?
- Why do you think some people might feel upset when a tradition changes?
- In your opinion, is it more important to keep traditions the same or find new ways to celebrate? Why?
- If you could create a brand-new tradition for your family, what would it be 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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If you have the opportunity to visit St Leonard's Church Christmas Tree Festival, you will be able to see a wonderful entry created by our Wraparound Care team. There are always lots of beautifully decorated trees to admire, but please do make sure you cast your vote for your favourite one (hopefully ours, although I admit I may be a little biased!). Alongside the trees, there will be Christmas crafts, delicious cakes and plenty of festive activities for families to enjoy together. It is always a fantastic community event, and I hope to see many of you there next weekend.

School Uniform

We expect all children to wear the correct school uniform each day. A smart appearance helps children feel confident and ready to learn, and it reflects our high standards across school life.

Where to Buy

Our uniform can be purchased from:

- Justs Clothing (Penwortham): www.justsclothing.co.uk
- Sew Stunning Designs (SSD): www.ssduniformshop.co.uk

Plain royal blue items without the logo are also permitted.



School Uniform

- Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress
- White shirt or polo shirt
- Royal blue jumper or cardigan with school logo
- Grey or white socks or tights
- Sensible black flat shoes (no trainers)



Summer options

- Pale blue gingham dress
- Grey tailored shorts

PE Kit (worn on PE days)

- White T-shirt (with logo or plain)
- Royal blue shorts
- Royal blue PE hoodie
- Black pumps or trainers
- Plain black jogging bottoms or leggings for outdoor PE

Bags

In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, children should bring a school book bag (available from uniform stockists). In Year 3-6 please avoid large rucksacks or bulky bags, as our lockers are compact (40cm deep x 26cm wide) and need to fit both coats and bags

Jewellery, Earrings and Watches

- For safety reasons, we would prefer no jewellery or earrings to be worn in school. If earings are worn, please can these be a small stud and removed before school on PE days.
- KS2 children may wear a simple watch (no smart watches)
- Watches must be removed for PE and swimming
- The school cannot be responsible for loss or damage of any personal items

Hair and Accessories

- Long hair must be tied back at all times
- Haircuts should be neat with no extreme styles or colours
- Hair accessories should be simple, in school colours, and not over-sized



New Ways November 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Make a list of new things you want to do this month	2 Respond to a difficult situation in a different way	3 Get outside and observe the changes in nature around you	4 Sign up to join a new course, activity or online community	5 Change your normal routine today and notice how you feel	6 Try out a new way of being physically active	7 Be creative. Cook, draw, write, paint, make or inspire
8 Plan a new activity or idea you want to try out this week	9 When you feel you can't do something, add the word "yet"	10 Be curious. Learn about a new topic or an inspiring idea	11 Choose a different route and see what you notice on the way	12 Find out something new about someone you care about	13 Do something playful outdoors - walk, run, explore, relax	14 Find a new way to help or support a cause you care about
15 Build on new ideas by thinking "Yes, and what if... "	16 Look at life through someone else's eyes and see their perspective	17 Try a new way to practice self-care and be kind to yourself	18 Connect with someone from a different generation	19 Broaden your perspective: read a different paper, magazine or site	20 Make a meal using a recipe or ingredient you've not tried before	21 Learn a new skill from a friend or share one of yours with them
22 Find a new way to tell someone you appreciate them	23 Set aside a regular time to pursue an activity you love	24 Share with a friend something helpful you learned recently	25 Use one of your strengths in a new or creative way	26 Try out a different radio station or new TV show	27 Join a friend doing their hobby and find out why they love it	28 Discover your artistic side. Design a friendly greeting card
29 Enjoy new music today. Play, sing, dance or listen	30 Look for new reasons to be hopeful, even in tough times					











ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

Autumn Term 2026

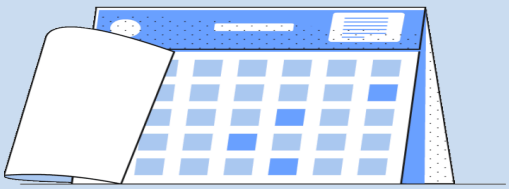
Re-open on:	Wednesday 2nd September 2026
School closes on:	Friday 23rd October 2026
Mid-term closure:	Monday 26th October – Monday 2nd November 2026
School re-opens on:	Tuesday 3rd November 2026
School closes on:	Friday 18th December 2026 at 2pm

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 2027
School re-opens on:	Monday 22nd February 2027
School closes on:	Thursday 25th March 2027 at 2pm

Summer Term 2027

Starts:	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 at 2pm





LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16

Middleforth Church of England Primary School 2026/2027 Yearly Planner

SEPTEMBER

9th - Meet the teacher
14th - National Coding Week
14th - 16th - Year 6 Robinwood Residential
21st - Fairtrade Fortnight & Recycle Week
21st - KS1 Phonics and Reading Workshop
22nd - EYFS Phonics and Reading Workshop
25th - Year 6 Careers Fair

OCTOBER

1st - Black History Month begins
1st - National Poetry Day
9th - Hello Yellow for World Mental Health Day
10th - World Mental Health Day
13th - Whole School Harvest in school Y3 leading
21st - Individual Photographs
23rd - Parents Exhibition Afternoon 2pm

NOVEMBER

Non-Fiction November
4th - Book Fair Arrives
10th & 11th - Parents Evening
11th - Remembrance Day - Y6 leading
13th - Children in Need
16th - Enterprise Week
23rd - Parliament Week

DECEMBER

10th - EYFS/KS1 Christmas Performance
- additional date TBC*

11th - Christmas Jumper Day
15th - KS2 Christmas Performance in Church
16th - Christmas Parties and Christmas Lunch
17th - Whole School Church

JANUARY

16th - Energy Saving week
18th - 3.30pm Year 6 SATs meeting
25th - Young Voices Concert (Co-Op Live Arena)

FEBRUARY

1st - National Story Telling Week
1st - Children's Mental Health Week
3rd - Book Fair Arrives
3rd - Y4 Leading Worship
9th - Safer Internet Day
9th & 10th - Parents Evening
24th - Reception Tots on Tyres Swimming Pool Arrives - date TBC

MARCH

3rd - Y4 Trip - Eco Town
3rd - Reception Tots on Tyres (AM) & Y3 Scoot Safe (PM)
4th - World Book Day
8th - Science Week
10th - Reception Tots on Tyres & Whole School Bike Fix
15th - Sign Language Week
16th - Neurodiversity Celebration Week
17th & 24th - Y5 Bikeability
24th - EYFS to lead worship
25th - Whole School Church
19th - Red Nose Day

APRIL

15th - World Art Day
22nd - Earth Day
30th - Spring Celebration

MAY

10th - Key Stage 2 SATs week
10th - Mental Health Awareness Week
14th - Pentecost Party
17th - Walk to School Week
19th - Y1 & Y2 leading worship
20th - Outdoor Classroom Day
27th - Parents Exhibition afternoon 2pm

JUNE

5th - World Environment Day
7th - Multiplication Check Week
14th - Phonics Screening Week
15th - National School Sports Week
23rd - Book Fair (1 week)
23rd - Sports Day
25th - National Writing Day
24th - Sustainability Conference
28th - KS1 SATs week
30th - Y5 Leading Worship

JULY

5th - Year 6 Performance
8th - Reports Home
14th - Reports drop in for parents 3.30pm - 4.30pm
19th - Year 6 Leavers PM
19th - Year 6 Prom 5.30pm
20th - AM Whole School Church

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

Online Safety Newsletter Nov 2026

Spotify Parental Controls

Spotify is a music streaming service. You must be aged over 13 to access it. If under 18, parent/guardian consent is required. However, under-13s can access Spotify through a **managed account** set up by a parent or legal guardian.

Since July 2026, Spotify has provided parental controls for managed accounts on both free and premium plans. These controls:

- turn messaging off.
- turn explicit content off.
- turn videos and canvas off.
- allow you to block specific artists or tracks.

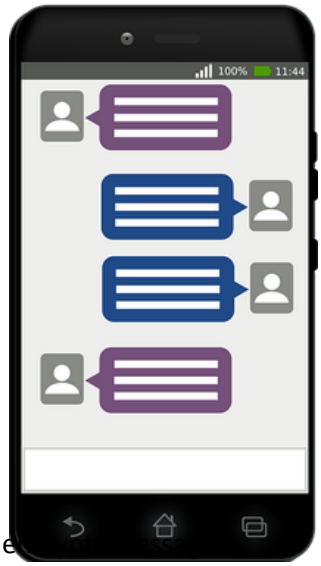
Further information

Read the news announcement here: https://newsroom.spotify.com/2026-05-13/managed-accounts-free-tier-expansion/

Spotify have produced this Parental Guide to assist you with further information: https://www.spotify.com/us/safetyandprivacy/parental-guide

Would youlike to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translation tool on our web version: https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/november-2026-primary/

Online Grooming



What is Online Grooming?

Online Grooming is when anadult builds a relationship online with a childto manipulate, exploit, or abuse them.

How does Grooming take place?

Groomers often use fake profilesto pretend they are someone they are not, for example they may claim to be younger than they really are or pretend to be a person of influence. They will use flattery and attention to build trust and friendship. They may use online games or social media to initiate contact but then encourage your child to switch to a different app to chat with privately - usually on an app that offers limited or no parental controls and/or e

What can I do?

- Use appropriate parental controls.
- Set privacy settings.
- Show them how to use any blocking or reporting tools.
- Chat to your child regularly about what they do online and who they communicate with. Remind them that people online may not always be who they say they are.

What are the signs that my child is being groomed?

- Being **secretive**about who they aretalking to.
- They become **withdrawn** from family and friends.
- Appearing **anxious or upset** after receiving messages.
- Receiving unexpected **gifts**.

Find out more here: https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/offender-gaining-trust

What should I do if my child is being groomed?

- If you thinkyour child is inimmediate danger, contact the police.
- Stay calm and reassure your child that they are not to blame.
- If you are worried about online abuse or the way somebody has been communicating with your child online, report it to CEOP: (https://www.ceop.police.uk).

Further information

- https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/11_18/lets-talk-about/sexual-abuse/online-grooming/

COM Networks

COM Networks are online communities where harmful and deeply disturbing behaviour occurs, including child sexual abuse, cybercrime and extremism. These networks operate on mainstream messaging apps, gaming platforms and through social media. **It is important to be aware that such networks exist and understand the risks they can pose to children.** Introductions to COM Networks can begin with harmless conversations on a game or social media platform, but then as trust builds, groups will gradually introduce harmful content, extreme challenges and pressure to prove loyalty. Some groups use threats, humiliation or the threat of exposing private information to control members. Images, messages or personal details may be used to blackmail victims.

Whatshould I lookoutfor?

- **Increased secrecy**
- **Emotional or behavioural changes**
- **Unfamiliar language:** using new expressions or discussing extreme content, opinions or beliefs.
- **Unexpected gifts**

Sky News investigation into COM Networks (and links on popular sites such asRobloxand Discord)

You may have seen Sky News' investigation into COM networks. The report highlights findings from a six-month investigation that found self-harm-themed avatars, clothing and related content available on the gaming platform Roblox, including items that could be **accessed by children as young as five years old**. The report can be viewed here, **please be aware that it contains upsetting content**:
https://news.sky.com/video/inside-robloxs-dark-side-sky-news-finds-self-harm-avatars-available-to-young-children-13592551

How can I protectmychild?

- Have regular and open conversations with your child. Ask your child what they do online and who they communicate with.
- Reassure them that they can always ask for help, even if they have shared something personal or broken a family rule.
- It is important to remember that threatening to confiscate their devices may make them less likely to talk to you when something goes wrong.
- Regularly review privacy settings and set up appropriate parental controls on all devices your child is using.
- Ensure your child understands the risks of sharing personal information or intimate images online.

Further information

- https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gscp/professional-resources/sadistic-online-exploitation/
- https://saferschoolsni.co.uk/understanding-com-networks/

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WhatsApp Channels andParentalControls

Users must be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp. Children under 13 can access WhatsApp through **a parent-managed account.**

WhatsApp Channels

WhatsApp Channels are a one-way broadcast tool to send updates to followers. Channels can be found in the Updates tab. From here you can view a whole host of channels, including channels that will **not be age appropriate and may include adult content.** If your child has their own WhatsApp channel, then you need to be aware that they are **public. Anyone can view and follow a channel and anything you share on your channel is public.** We would recommend that parental controls are used to prevent children creating and accessing WhatsApp channels.

Parent Managed accounts

Parent managed accounts are required for those under 13. These accounts have additional safety restrictions and do not allow access to features such as Channels, Meta AI and location sharing. You also have control over which groups they can join.

Parental Controls for Teenagers

For users aged 13 to 17, WhatsApp offers parental control settings tolimit access to certain features such as Channels.

For more information, visit:
https://www.whatsapp.com/parentalcontrols

Rage Bait

Have you heardof this term? Rage bait is when somebody deliberately posts online contentto make people feel angry or frustrated to generate views and engagement. Find out more here:
https://findmykids.org/blog/en/rage-baiting

PENWORTHAM
ST. LEONARD'S
FAMILYCHURCH

Sat 28 and Sun 29
November 2026

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

CHRISTMAS TREE Festival 26

Sat 28th Nov 10am to 4pm
Music from "Two Note" at 1.15pm and 2.30pm

Sun 29th Nov 12 noon to 4pm
Mince Pie Tasting Competition at 1:30

Songs of Praise Celebration
Service at 4.15pm

Admission
£2 for adults
Under 16's free

Refreshments and children's Christmas activities in the large hall

Craft items and floral tributes for sale

Tree Festival Raffle



All are welcome!