



# Middleton News



Volume 8 Issue 5

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## Calendar

With this week's News you should have received this term's calendar.



If you are looking towards your summer holidays then please take note of the term dates as published on the website as this year schools have had some leeway in the dates of their holidays and we break up relatively later than other schools. We do have an additional week in June which would allow you to have a holiday when everything is quieter (and cheaper) which may benefit those of you whose children find the summer holiday bustle too much.

## School Parent Governor

We currently have a vacancy for a parent/carer governor at the school. We have one parent who has expressed an interest; however we need to ask if anyone else would like to stand for this post.

If you would then please let me know and we can give you further information. If no one else comes forward by January 26<sup>th</sup> we will approach the parent concerned in the first instance.

Thanks

## Coffee Morning

Mrs G has organised a Coffee Morning on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 9.15 am at the school. All parents and carers are welcome. A representative from the Kids Hub has been invited to explain some of the services and signposting which they can offer to parents and carers of children with additional needs.

## Alternative Pick Ups

**It is essential that you let the school know in the home school book, by email or by telephone if your child is being picked up rather than going on the transport.**

**If we have not been notified then we will put your child on the bus as usual.**

## Sick Children



Although we encourage escorts to let us know if a child is missing from their bus we would like to remind parents and carers that it is essential that you contact us personally about your child's absence as soon as possible on the day. This can be done by telephone or by email to [absence@middleton.herts.sch.uk](mailto:absence@middleton.herts.sch.uk). You will appreciate that this is the only way

we can accurately record attendance at the school.

Please also be aware that we cannot give children non-prescribed medication such as Calpol. If it is essential that your child has medication during the day then you will need to come into school to administer it.

## Tales From The Chalkface!

### Lower School

The Lower School's new topic is *People Around the World*.

In the first week the pupils took a 'flight' to Italy. They visited Gambriani's an Italian delicatessen and café. The children had the chance to experience working in the café, frothing the milk and using the cash till to serve customers. They also tasted pasta and arancini. The staff could not have been more welcoming so a big thank-you to them!



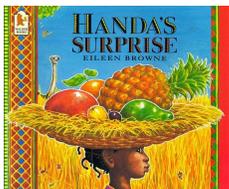
We learned about the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo who makes portraits using fruit and vegetables. The children had a go at making their own versions and also made faces on their Italian pizza creations. They learnt to say Ciao and made a collage of the Italian flag.

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In science we are looking at the difference between plants and animals and have been finding them in the local area naming them and sorting them into the two groups.

In Maths we are sequencing daily activities and thinking about things we do at different times of the day.

This week the children have 'travelled' to different countries in Africa and Robins visited the Rhodes centre in Bishops Stortford to look for African art. They have handled real African masks and made their own. They have participated in some African drumming and learnt all about safari and created a safari park naming all the animals. They learned how to say hello in Swahili and collaged the flag of Kenya.



This week they have been acting out the story of Handa's Surprise and they tasted all the fruit in the story. They created their own fruit basket and named all the different fruits.

### Middle School

In Middle School the children are enjoying their new topic 'Shopping'.

This half term a great deal of learning will take place offsite with the children taking part in real shopping experiences.

They will explore a town centre and a village high street looking at the

specialist shops that serve the local community.



They will also compare this to a large supermarket selling a wide range of goods.



The children will experience creating and using shopping lists in real situations and practise using the correct language when buying goods. This will also link to our geography teaching as the children will be comparing the size and facilities of a local town, village and city.



In literacy lessons the children have been sharing the story 'The Shopping Basket' and have produced some beautiful writing.

Our science topic is 'Forces'. The children are becoming familiar with the associated vocabulary such as 'push', 'pull' and 'twist' and have been enjoying using their vocabulary in fun practical situations.

### Upper School

The Upper School are into all things Ancient Egyptian this term.

Miss Crumpton is teaching an Ancient Egypt dance based on the pyramids.

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The children are looking at the importance of the River Nile to Egypt for growing crops, fishing, transport, washing and drinking.



Eagles were very excited last Friday as they had their first encounter with horses. All but two were brave enough to ride.

Kingfishers visited a café as part of their Life Skills. They chose their own drink and paid for it themselves. They were also expecting to visit the library; however the Fire Service had sealed off the area so they will visit there another time.



In Literacy the children are developing their reading and role play skills whilst investigating the story of Theseus and the Minotaur. They will also be finding out about other Greek myths.

In science the children are learning about animal habitats. They have been exploring the woods and finding where creatures live and they have also visited Van Hages to look at the animals there.

In maths the children have been getting to grips with lighter and heavier. They have been using familiar objects to predict which is lighter and heavier before using scales to see if they were correct.