



# Middleton News



Volume 8 Issue 8

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## Welcome and Farewell

We would like to say a very warm welcome to Kayte Howe who has joined us in Toucans since the last News. She has settled in really well and we hope that she enjoys her time at Middleton.

Sadly today we also say farewell to Mr John McGrath. John has been at Middleton School for 11 years as a class teacher and latterly as Upper School Leader. He is an outstanding teacher and all of the children and staff will miss him lots.

He is moving to a role in County to set up a project to support vulnerable children in order to ensure that they make the best progress they can.

We wish him all the very best in his new job.

## Sponsored Walk

Just before the Easter break we held our annual sponsored walk which supports Sports Relief and FOMS. The children did really well and enjoyed the event immensely. The lap champs on the day for each class were:

- Luca Johnson (10)
- Bobby-Mac Cantwell (10)
- Malachi Ali-Rima (19)
- Archie Goddard (23)
- Alex Gokool (19)
- Freddie Rudland (18)
- Naomi O'Callaghan (11)

Liam Jenner (28) and Kenzo Roger and Theo Williams (27).

The children walk / ran 220 kilometres or 136 miles which we entered on the Sport Relief website.

Thank you for all of the sponsor money which you have already sent in. If you are still collecting then please send the money in in a sealed envelope in the next week or so and I will be publishing our total raised in the next news.

## Dates for the Diary.

Attached to this week's News is a copy of the calendar for this school term.

Just to highlight that on 2<sup>nd</sup> May there are two meetings one at 9.30 and the other at 5.45 which will give you the opportunity to find out about the M Scales which are referenced in your child's latest report. If you are unable to attend these meetings then there will be the opportunity to talk to staff about these levels at your child's Annual Review.

## Annual Reviews

Parents and carers of pupils in Years R – 4 and 6 should all have received their child's Annual Report by Monday 30 April. You will be contacted soon by your child's teacher to arrange a time to carry out

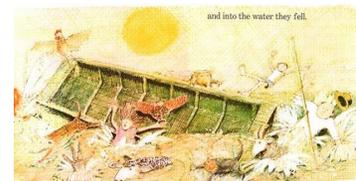
their Annual Review of their EHCP.

## Tales From The Chalkface!

### Lower School

In Lower School we have been learning all about Ware. We have looked at old photographs and compared them to what we see in Ware today. We have been into Ware itself and looked at the sort of shops that are there and found out that there are more cafés than anything else!

In Science we have continued to look for mini beasts and have extended this project now to find out about other animals. In particular we are learning about rivers and the animals that live on and around the river. In connection with this topic our book of the moment is Mr Gumpy's Outing which describes a fateful trip along the river for a group of animals.....but never fear all is well in the end and they all go home for tea!



In RE we have been looking at the concept of communities and in particular we have started by looking at our school community and who is in it.

In Maths we are practising our directions. We have been following directions to move around school and also been focussing on *left, right, forwards and backwards*.

## Middle School

In Maths the Middle School have been focussing on 2D and 3D shapes. They have been looking at their properties (sides, corners, faces) and whether they slide, roll or stack. The children have also been trying to remember the names of the basic shapes and have looked for examples of these around the school.

In Geography we are also finding out about rivers. We have been out on river walks and have searched for both natural and man-made features of the river. We have looked at the river in Ware and Hertford and have visited Dobbs Weir.

In connection with art, all of the Middle School have or will be visiting the Gibberd Gardens in Old Harlow.



The Gibberd Garden is an inspirational and fascinating Grade II listed garden. Created between 1957 and 1984 by Sir Frederick Gibberd, Master Planner of Harlow New Town.

The garden occupies 9 acres of a 14 acre site on the side of a small valley, sloping down to the Pinney Brook. It is full of sculptures 'decorative objects'. It has lawns, pools, streams and glades, a dramatic mature lime avenue, a brookside walk, a wild garden, an arboretum and a moated castle with a drawbridge. It is very much worth a visit. For those of you who are dog owners... for once dogs are allowed.

In PHSE the children have been learning about Stranger Danger and finding out who is 'safe' to talk to in the community if you need help.

In English the children have been enjoying the book *The Snail and the Whale* by Julia Donaldson. Her books are always very popular and lots of the children know the stories off by heart.

## Upper School

Upper School have been learning about the Rain Forest. They have been finding out where in the world the rainforests are found. They have learnt what it feels like in the rain forest. They have also found out about the different levels in the forest and which creatures live at which level.

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They have finished their study by creating a diorama (3D model) of the rain forest.

In English we have been learning about 'settings' and 'character'. We have done some dressing up and role play to explore the idea of 'fantasy' settings. It has been great to hear the children's' ideas and to see just how far their imagination can stretch!!

In Maths there has been a focus on statistics and in particular collecting data. The children have been learning how to make a tally chart and have asked questions about birthday months, and favourite ice-cream flavours. They will be turning this information into simple bar charts and will be learning to use these to answer simple questions.

In Science we have been learning about forces. We have been moving in different ways to give the children a concrete understanding of push and pull. We have also been investigating toys and how pushing and pulling can make some of them work.

Kingfishers have started horse riding last week. Unusually every child in the class made it on to a horse in the very first lesson. Well done!