



Middleton News



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Welcome

We would like to say a very warm welcome to Heidi Aylott (Toucans) and Jai Jie Xiang (Owls) who have joined us since our last Middleton News. Also welcome back to Sarah Ann Papenthein (Penguins).

GDPR

Today the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) come into force in the UK. These are new data protection regulations built upon the Data Protection Act of 1998.

The GDPR require public authorities and businesses to identify the lawful basis for storing personal data, audit information we already hold and take a 'data protection by design and default' approach to personal data.

We take data protection very seriously at Middleton. In line with GDPR requirements, we have already appointed a Data Protection Officer, Matt Farmborough, to oversee our approach to data management and protection.

In order to ensure that we comply with the new regulations, we are reviewing our current policies and practices. We have already updated our privacy notices in line with the new requirements. These can be found on the website.

As part of this compliance process, we are also seeking to update the parent consent forms and new forms will be sent out after half term. The new regulations are clear that consent must be up-to-date and clearly recorded. From now on, lack of response cannot be interpreted as implied consent.

A copy of our Privacy Notice has been sent to you by email but is also on the website. To learn more about the General Data Protection Regulation, please visit the Information Commissioner's Office website on <http://ico.org.uk>

Sponsored Walk

Thank you to everyone who collected money following our sponsored walk. As usual we donated half of the money raised to Sport Relief and half to Friends of Middleton. This year that worked out at about £500 for each charity.

Quiz Night

Thanks also to all of you who attended our Quiz Night last Friday. After food costs and including Gift Aid, the evening raised £689.

Train Club

A final thank you to everyone who supported the train club at Middleton on Saturday 12th. It raised £80 for the school.

Social Media Contact

Just to let you know that as a result of Child Protection Procedures staff are instructed not to be in contact with parents and carers of pupils in school through social media. (This is of course a bit more difficult if the parent / carer is a relation!!) All school matters need to be referred through school and not via any other means. Staff have been told not to comment on anything that happens in school outside official channels.

Also a reminder that at Middleton School we take Child Protection matters very seriously. Part of our duty in this regard is to pass information to the appropriate authorities at Hertfordshire County Council. This information is usually factual but may also include opinion.

Free School Meal Update.

From April 2018 the criteria used to determine free school meals entitlement will be changing to reflect the introduction of universal credit and the phasing out of other benefits.

All pupils in receipt of free school meals from Sunday 1st April will, assuming they are still in education, be entitled to receive a free school meal until universal credit is fully rolled out in 2022.

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Those already in receipt of a free school meal will continue to receive a free school meal.

Parent / Carer Questionnaire

We will be issuing the annual Parent, Carer Questionnaire after half term. Watch this space!

Tales From The Chalkface!

Lower School

In Science Lower School are still learning about animals and their habitats. Recently we have learnt about animals that live by or near a river and in a woodland. Each of the classes have visited the local river and woods.

We have been having lots of practice of mark making and writing including making marks in particular directions and proper formation of letters. To help with fine motor skills we have some new resource including fluorescent writing boards using laces and new peg boards which make sure that the children use the writing grip to hold the pegs.

Each class went on a train ride as part of their topic about Ware. They really enjoyed themselves. They have also made representations of Ware including simple maps.

In cooking we have been making food that we eat in the summer including salads and sandwiches. This week everyone is baking and they are choosing some of their own ingredients.

In PSHE we have done lots of work on Stranger Danger and finding those people who are safe to help us if we are lost. In self care skills we have been hand washing and teeth brushing and thinking about how to look after our hair.

Middle School

The children in Middle School have been learning about water and rivers this half term. They have enjoyed exploring the River Lea, looking at the wildlife that lives near the river and the uses of the river. They have also distinguished between natural and manmade features of the river. A big focus of our learning has been on teaching the children how to stay safe when close to water.

In art lessons the children have been learning about 3D art and have made their own sculptures using different materials such as play dough and clay. They were inspired by their visit to 'The Gibberd Garden' in Harlow where they saw a wide range of different sculptures within the beautiful gardens. They followed a plan to help them to locate and identify the different sculptures and also looked at whether they were made of wood, stone or metal. The children have also been to Broxbourne Woods and had great fun following the Sculpture Trail.

Road safety has been our focus within PSHE lessons and the children had a visitor who came to the school to teach them about crossing the road safely. They enjoyed dressing up

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and taking on the role of a lollipop person when learning how to use a zebra crossing.

They have also practised crossing the road safely during offsite learning, remembering to 'stop, look and listen'.

Upper School

Upper School completed their work about the Rain Forest and have gone on to find out about other Extreme Environments. They have been learning about the Polar Regions and about Deserts. The children have looked at where these are in the world on a globe. They have also been writing about what it might feel like and look like if they visited these places.

They have been learning which animals and plants manage to live in each habitat. Finally they have been talking about why a habitat might be extreme and realising some of the similarities between the areas which they have studied.

In Number the children have been learning about coins, what they are worth and how to give change.

In Science Upper School have been investigating the power of magnets. They have been learning about forces and how magnets attract and repel. They have been learning to understand which materials are magnetic and which are not and then trying to predict the outcome when a magnet is applied. They have also been finding out how magnets are used in the world around us.