



Middleton News



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It was great to see all of the children in their lovely clothes and costumes on 16th November for Children in Need. Donations for the non uniform day raised £125.

Just to confirm that **Saturday 8th December** will be our Christmas Fair date.

This means that we will be having another non-uniform day on **Friday 7th**. Rather than asking for money we ask that the children either bring in a bottle of some sort or something of a chocolate nature! Please make sure that any items are in date.

Unwanted Gifts

At this time of year we are starting to think about our Christmas activities. If anyone has any unwanted gifts lying around then these would be gratefully received. We can use them as raffle prizes or for Santa's Shop etc. Thank you.

Coffee and Signing



Reminder - There is a coffee morning with signing training at Middleton on Monday 26th November at 9.30. Everyone welcome.

Christmas Show Tis the season to be sparkly!

The Christmas Performance *When Christmas Comes To Town* will soon be with us.

As part of the finale we would like the children to have a sparkly top of some sort. For those of you with boys who may not have such a thing (not being sexist....just saying) they could borrow one from Mum or Nan or their sister or you could add a bit of sparkle to a t-shirt they already own. Please don't buy anything special. If

you are stuck we will obviously work it out but this being the season for sparkly tops you might see something on your travels which might fit the bill.

Focus Week

Our next Focus Week will take place during the week of 10th December. The theme is *Christmas Capers*. Monday's activities are based around the Nativity, Tuesday is Christmas through the ages and around the world, Wednesday is Christmas crafting, Thursday is Christmas Science and Maths and Friday is loosely called We've got a show to put on really soon.....blimey we had better do some practising!

The children will not need to bring snack that week and there will be no swimming.

We will send a reminder nearer the time.

Tales From The Chalkface!

Lower School

The topic for Lower School this half term is celebrations. We have already learnt about the history of Bonfire Night and who Guy Fawkes was. We have also had our own safe bonfire in school with sparklers and biscuits! This gave us an ideal opportunity to teach the importance of safety around fire and how dangerous it can be.

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We have also learnt about the celebration of Diwali, the festival of lights. The children made diva lamps which they decorated and painted.



Owls also made beautiful Rangoli designs using coloured cellophane and sparkles.



Robins enjoyed tasting a selection of Indian foods and saying if they liked or did not like these. Everyone went to visit an Indian food store where we saw different spices and giant containers of food, which the children thought was great fun.

In Science we are continuing to learn about life cycles. This week we are thinking about farm animals and their young. To support this each class has been to Van Hages to see the farm animals. The children were all excellent at naming all of the animals we saw and Penguin class were followed around the farm yard area by some very friendly chickens!

Middle School

In Middle School the children are also learning

about different celebrations and festivals.

They enjoyed finding out about Bonfire Night on 5th November and the story of Guy Fawkes. They learnt about firework safety and created beautiful fireworks pictures.

The children went on to find out how Hindus celebrate Diwali and shared the story of Rama and Sita. They really enjoyed acting out the story using masks. They made mendhi patterns in art and special coconut ice sweets in cooking as these are all ways in which Diwali is celebrated at this time of year.



The children enjoyed exploring birthday celebration traditions and planned a birthday party for Big Ted who was seven years old! They made party food, bought a birthday cake and wrote birthday cards and party invitations.



The children are now starting to learn about advent in the lead up to Christmas. They have been finding out about the significance of wreaths and advent calendars for

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Christians as they prepare for Christmas.

Middle School are also learning about Romans and in dance have been practicing marching and non-contact stage fighting, Roman armies and going into battle which has been great fun.

Upper School

Our Upper School *Journeys* topic has got off to a great start.



In RE we have been learning about Buddhist and Muslim pilgrimages and exploring what it is like to go on a pilgrimage.

In Geography we have been learning about settlement change and map work. The children have compared physical, natural and manmade environments. Linking to this we went on an offsite visit to Rye Meads to explore what a natural environment is like.



We have also been busy learning about fractions and money in Maths.

Our Cookery each week has now become 'top secret' as we prepare for Christmas. Watch this space!