



Middleton News



Volume 1 Issue 1

6th September 2019



Welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of the 2019/2020 Middleton News.

We hope that you had an enjoyable Summer and made the most of our traditional 'British weather'!

Certainly from the home / school books and photographs it looks like many of the children have had a very busy and interesting time.



We have had lots of new pupils in at the start of this term so..... 'Hello' to....:

Robins:

Leo Braciello
Chris Fantis
Rio Fraser
Alexandra Heron
Noor Mohammed
Heath Quantick Barnes
Luther Ssenigo-Stewart
Louie Wenman

Penguins:

Jude Pearson
Ayla Seymour

Toucans:

Edward Bonner

Puffins:

Maya Gurung

Swifts:

Max Green

Eagles:

Dylan Wrate

Kingfishers:

Chyna Lawrence.

Kestrels:

Lila-Rose Fortune

We hope that you enjoy working and learning at Middleton School.

In addition we have had three new members of staff join us. We welcome Sam Notley; a TA in Kingfishers, Olivia McCarthy; Robins class teacher and Matt McLoughlin; Deputy Head. All three staff members are learning quickly about life at Middleton and settling into their new roles.

The same must also be said for myself. Although I have worked as the Deputy Head at Middleton for the past eight years I am now needing to find my feet in the role of Headteacher and I also am learning fast and taking on lots of new information! Thank you for your support as I settle into this new role.

About the



The Middleton News is compiled and sent home with your child every two weeks.

It tells you everything you need to know about what is happening in school. You can read about the achievements and learning opportunities of the pupils in each department. You can check up on any important dates coming up and you can also read

about any community news which we think might be useful to you.

Please make sure that you empty your child's bag and look for the Middleton News each fortnight.

Payments - School Gateway

As you can appreciate we have lots of different payments arriving into the school office every day. We would like to make sure that as many payments as possible are paid using the School Gateway.

It is simple, safe and secure to use and enables you to make payments via your credit / debit card. It also enables us to send you messages direct to your phone. We recommend that you download the free app but in order to set yourself up you must have registered your email address and mobile phone number with the school.

You can also access School Gateway through the home page of our school web site. If you scroll to the bottom of the home page you will find the link.

Please ring the office if you need any assistance.

Meet the teacher!

We are welcoming all families to the school on Wednesday 11th September between 3.30 and 6.15 pm. This is an opportunity for your child to show you their new

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classroom and introduce you to the staff in their class. Please note that this is **NOT** a parent consultation and if you would like to discuss any individual concerns then you will need to arrange a meeting with your class teacher at an alternative time. There will be refreshments available in the foyer and at 4.30pm there will be a short presentation by Mrs. Hartley and Mr. McLoughlin in the school hall regarding plans for the new academic year here at Middleton. All families are welcome to attend this presentation if you are available at 4.30pm.

Tales From The Chalkface!

Lower School

Our topic this half term is 'All About Me'. The children in Lower School have been making pizza faces this week. They have also worked for the first time with children from other classes within the department today. The children in Owls class and Penguins Class are looking forward to their first swim next Tuesday!



In PE they have been learning how to use the space safely and will be moving on to look at how to use some simple equipment safely.

Middle School



The children in Middle School are also working on the topic 'All About Me'!

This week they have created some beautiful self portraits (with some striking resemblances!). They have been learning and perfecting how to write their names and have all enjoyed their first swimming lesson.



All of the pupils in Middle School have enjoyed their first offsite visit this week and are learning how to be safe within the local community.

Upper School

This half term the Upper School topic is 'What's New?'.

They have shared some very interesting news sessions within classes, listening to the adventures of their friends over the Summer holidays. This week in school, the pupils have been using digital media to photograph aspects of the school which are 'new' and

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we therefore have a lovely set of photographs of our new toilets!

Within Maths we have been creating tally charts and our topic within science is electricity and light.



The Upper School are looking forward to their first swim on Monday (Kestrels and Kingfishers class).

Texting/ Email Service

As a school we subscribe to a messaging service. This allows us to send text reminders straight to your mobile phone and email reminders to your email account.



It is therefore really **important that you tell us if your mobile number changes** so that you continue to receive these messages and that you **register your email address** with the school. Messages sent this way tend to be those that are of short notice such as a cancellation of swimming, reminders about non-uniform days or snow closures.

Dates

Attached to this edition of the news you should have also received a list of term dates and INSET days.

Please note that this contains an amendment to the list circulated in July. **Pupils will now return to school on Monday 6th January 2020. We will then hold an INSET day on Tuesday 7th January 2020,** where it will be staff only present in school. The pupils will then return once again on Wednesday 8th January. We apologise for the inconvenience caused, but this training day is run by external trainers who have needed to alter the date of our mandatory training.

Please note that I cannot authorise any holidays that occur during term time. (Other than in exceptional circumstances.) However, may I please take this opportunity to remind you that we have extended the half term holiday in May/ June to allow families to potentially book some holiday when other schools will have returned to school.

We are currently compiling a calendar of key dates for the term and will attach this information to the next newsletter.

Lost Property

We would ask all parents and carers to please make sure that ALL clothing and shoes that come into school are clearly labelled with their name as it is



impossible to reunite lost clothing that does not have a label in!

Website

Over the Summer holidays we have launched a new look website. It is still in it's initial phase and will be added to and edited in the coming weeks so please bear with us as we try to improve this service for you.

www.middleton.herts.sch.uk.

Poorly Children

We would like to remind parents and carers of the need to ring the school office (a message can be left if there is no one yet in the office) if your child is ill. You can also email the school on

admin@middleton.herts.sc.h.uk.



It is not sufficient to pass a message via your child's bus escort.

Also please be aware that any child who has **sickness or diarrhoea MUST stay off school for 48 hours after the last episode** of either to ensure that they are clear of the bug.

In addition, please notify the school office if your child will be arriving or leaving school at an alternative time due to a medical appointment.

Middleton News Coffee Morning



We are holding a coffee morning on Monday 23rd September at 9.15 am. This is a great opportunity to meet with other parents and carers, and build your network of support – as well as catch up on the gossip!

Finally, I would like to thank pupils, staff, parents and governors for their support as I settle in as Head teacher of Middleton School and express how much I am looking forward to working closely with all of you.

Many thanks

Debbie Hartley

Middleton School term dates and INSET days 2019/ 2020

Inset Days:

Monday 2nd September 2019

Wednesday 16th October 2019

Monday 6th January 2020 **Please note that this date has been amended to Tuesday 7th January**

Wednesday 3rd June 2020

Friday 26th June

Occasional day – Tuesday 2nd June 2020

Autumn term dates

2nd Sept – term begins (INSET)

3rd Sept – pupils return to school

28th October to 1st November – Half term

20th December – end of term (1.15pm)

Spring term dates

6th January – term begins (**pupils return to school**)

7th January – **INSET – Tuesday 7th January**

17th – 21st February – Half term

3rd April – end of term (1.15pm)

Summer term dates

20th April – term begins

Please note that May Day has been moved to Friday 8th May in 2020

26th May – 1st June – half term (2nd June Occasional Day, 3rd June INSET)

Pupils return **Thursday 4th June**

26th June – INSET Day

22nd July – end of term - WEDS (1.15pm) *please note this is to allow for the 1st June.*