



### Sponsored Bounce

All of the pupils have now completed their sponsored bounce activities and you should have received information telling you how many bounces your child achieved! We have already started to receive sponsorship money and have been very impressed with the fundraising efforts of some of our families! Please could you send sponsorship money into school so that we can share the total amount raised with you in our next newsletter.

### Festive Facts and Fun!



We have planned three performances of our Christmas Concert on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December. You should have received a letter with details of each performance and an opportunity to request tickets for the performance of your choice. Please send this back into school as soon as possible so that we can allocate tickets accordingly.

### Christmas Signing

We are busy preparing for Christmas in school and have been learning lots of signs to support pupils

in their communication and learning. Attached to this newsletter is a list of signs which may be useful within your home over the festive period. Give them a try!

### Christmas Fayre



We hope to see lots of you at our Christmas Fayre this Saturday ( 11 am -2pm). A big thank you to all of the families who sent in items for our tombolas this week.

It looks to be an exciting fayre – with Santa booked in and also a visit from Mrs Jolly.

Can I please also thank those parents who responded to our plea this week for more help on the day. Several parents contacted us with offers of help which has made all the difference to our ability to run this event. A big THANK YOU!

### Tales From The Chalkface!

#### Lower School

Pupils in Lower School are continuing with their 'hot' and 'cold' topic. To explore this theme they visited the ice rink at van hages this week! ( Just watching!)



The department have been learning about the nativity story and have tried to retell the story prompted by sensory objects and characters. As part of their RE and English lessons some of the children have even produced their own Christmas story film – watch out Spielberg! The Lower School pupils will be portraying characters from the nativity story in our concert at the end of term. You may hear them practising some of their songs at home!

### Middle School



In Middle School this week the pupils have been learning about Advent and also exploring the Nativity story. They have enjoyed decorating the department as we prepare for Christmas. In art they have been building a snowman and creating their own wreaths. Within Maths, the pupils have been learning about positional language.



All the pupils had an exciting off site visit this week as they visited Santa and had a good chat with him about their Christmas wishes!

## Upper School

The pupils in Upper School entered into the festive spirit when they went off site to select a Christmas Tree for the department. They then returned to school to decorate it! They have also been busy in the kitchen this week – baking their Christmas cakes.



Within maths, the pupils are learning about 'capacity' and have been using the terms 'full' and 'empty' as well as beginning to measure using millilitres.

Within English the children have been learning to describe using adjectives and in art they have represented the style of a range of different artists in their work.

## INSET Days

You will have noticed from recent correspondence that there are now two INSET days planned for the start of term in January. Monday 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> will both be INSET days and the school will re-open to pupils on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

I have included a new calendar of term dates with this newsletter so that everyone is able to update their diaries!

## Community News

I am very aware that this term has been full of charity fundraising days

( they always fall in the Autumn term!). Our final day of this nature occurs next Friday (13<sup>th</sup> Dec) when we will be joining schools across the country to raise money for Save the Children. Pupils and staff are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper for the day and give a donation to assist in the fundraising. We will share the proceeds equally between Save the Children and Middleton School.

Also on this day, (Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Dec) we will be hosting 'Santa's shop'. You will have received information about this event. We encourage families to complete the form and return the envelope to school ahead of this day.

Phew! Lots happening here at school and I'm sure in your homes also! We look forward to welcoming you into school for the Fayre on Saturday.

Many thanks

*Debbie Hartley*

## Middleton School term dates and INSET days 2019/ 2020

### Inset Days:

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

### Occasional day –

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

20<sup>th</sup> December – end of term (1.15pm)

### Spring term dates

6<sup>th</sup> January – **Inset Day** - please note amendment from last calendar!

7<sup>th</sup> January – **INSET – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February – Half term

3<sup>rd</sup> April – end of term (1.15pm)

### Summer term dates

20<sup>th</sup> April – term begins

*Please note that May Day has been moved to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May in 2020*

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

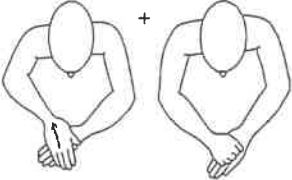
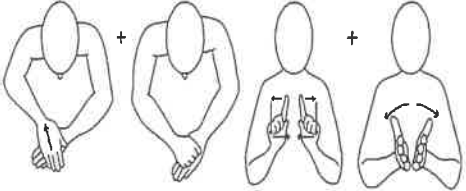



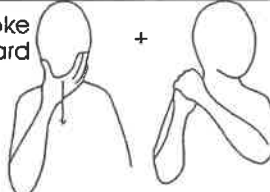
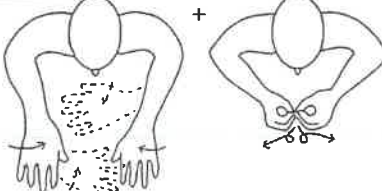
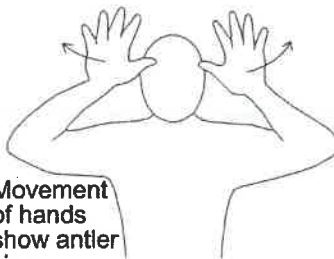
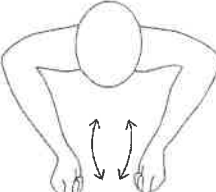

Pupils return **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June – school closes at 1.15pm to allow for whole staff training.**

26<sup>th</sup> June – INSET Day

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

# Makaton Signs:

<p>Slide right hand over back of left hand towards body, then close right hand and place on back of left hand</p>  <p><b>Christmas</b></p>	<p>Slide right hand over back of left hand towards body, then close right hand and place on back of left hand</p>  <p><b>Christmas card</b></p>
 <p><b>Christmas Tree</b></p>	 <p><b>Christmas pudding</b></p>
 <p>Mime pulling bell rope</p> <p><b>Church</b></p>	<p>Stroke long beard</p>  <p><b>Father Christmas</b></p>
 <p>Mime wrapping parcel and tying string</p> <p><b>Present</b></p>	 <p>Movement of hands show antler size</p> <p><b>Reindeer</b></p>
 <p>Move hands from wrists quickly</p> <p><b>Sleigh</b></p>	<p>Whole formation circles twice</p>  <p><b>Toys</b></p>