



New year, new starts and new buildings!

If you visit the school be sure to admire our new roof which is now finished and looking fabulous!

Having completed one major project we now turn our attention to a new piece of construction work on the school site. The Local Authority is adding an additional KS1 class to the Middleton community – which will see us welcome eight new pupils to the school in the Summer term of 2023. Although disruption for the pupils during this construction period will be minimal, there will be a significant impact upon our car park area and capacity. Parents who transport their child to school have been advised as to an amended routine over the coming weeks. Please be aware that if you visit the school during the day, car parking facilities will be limited. I will keep you updated as to the exciting developments that occur over the coming weeks.

Reading Books for Home

This week your child will have received a formal reading book or activity to share with the family at home. We hope that this will allow you to spend some quality time with your child sharing a book together which they have the capacity to read and enjoy. Please bear in mind that your child's reading ability is led not only by decoding the print on the

page, but also by the level of comprehension and discussion that the reading also generates. Perhaps you could work on their recall, or prediction skills alongside blending sounds to read the words.

A huge thank you to the parents who have offered to come into school and read with our pupils. Mrs Cox will be in touch with you in the coming days. If you would like to join this group then it is not too late! Please contact the school and let us know of your interest.



Attendance

Over the Autumn term we experienced lower than average pupil attendance in school. This is understandable to some degree as there was a nasty spell of illness throughout the school in the run up to Christmas. It still remains that if your child is unwell then remaining at home is the sensible course of action. However, I would like to take this opportunity to remind families that the school day starts at 8.50am (9.00 for parent drop off). Pupils must be registered as in attendance within ten minutes of this time. On occasions there are extenuating circumstances which delay a pupil in arriving at school on time, but the legal expectation is that pupils

will be in school in time for morning registration. Attendance in school is not optional for any pupils and all absences are reportable to both the local authority and the DFE. Please also bear in mind that we plan term dates to allow for a week's holiday from the 3rd to 11th June so that families may enjoy some time together when resorts are less busy. We ask that you book holidays within school holiday dates or in this specified week.

If a child misses a morning session due to an appointment please can we ask families to try to return them to school either before twelve or after one o'clock as both pupils and staff are taking a lunch break at this time and it can be challenging to re-integrate.

If you would like some help and support with attendance then please do contact the school as we would be happy to support individual families with strategies where it would be helpful.

Tales From The Chalkface!

Lower School

The focus of learning in Lower School this week has been on the story of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' as part of their topic; 'Traditional Tales'.



The pupils visited a river locally with a 'trip trap' bridge during offsite

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learning and retold the story through role play. In PE lessons they made the different sized billy goats with their body shapes!



In English lessons they have been making their own story books to retell the story themselves.



Middle School

Pupils in Middle School are enjoying their new topic entitled 'Winter'.

They have been thinking about how they can help others as part of their RE work and have donated food to aid the homeless. They selected their food product in school and then visited the shops to purchase it.



Middle School Pupils have also been planning and writing stories linked to their topic



In Maths the children have been learning how to tell the time to the O clock position.



Upper School

The new topic of 'The Romans' is well underway in Upper School.

In food technology, the pupils have made roman biscuit as well as roman pottage!



This week in Art lessons the pupils have designed their own 3D paper creations.



Middleton News



Pupils in Upper School were also working on story telling but through sequencing pictures in order.

Potential Strike Action

You will have heard in the news that the main teaching union; the NEU has voted in favour of strike action over the coming weeks. I am yet to establish whether teachers at Middleton will be striking on the days announced but will keep you updated as to any potential class closures as a result of strike action.

Dates for the diary

Friday 10th February;

Break up for half term

Thursday 23rd February;

Parent training; Encouraging Independence.

Friday 24th February; 1pm close for staff training

Community News

The Saracens Foundation is launching a 'Junior Disability' hub in February. This will provide free weekly sports clubs for 8-13 year olds with a disability. A flyer giving further information will be emailed to families.

The NHS would also like us to share with parents their Winter Update information. This will also be sent by email to all families.

Here's to the weather warming up a little and the evenings getting a little lighter!

Debbie Hartley