



Middleton News



Volume 5 Issue 1

8th September 2023



Welcome to the first issue of the 2023/2024 Middleton News. We hope that all of our families had a relaxing Summer despite the twists and turns of the British weather! The children have settled quickly into school and are already focused and learning and making new friends.

HELLO

This term we are welcoming many new pupils across the school. We hope that the pupils and their families enjoy being part of the Middleton community and we look forward to our journey with you. We say 'Hello' to.....:

Robins:

Reggie
Jacob
Tobias
Robert
Oscar

Penguins:

Oakley

Owls;

Jasmine
Nathan
Arthur

Toucans;

Athena
Zach

Puffins:

Ollie
George
Max

Swifts:

Frank
Theo

Eagles;

Luca
Joshua
Kingfishers;
Matilda
TJ

Kestrels:

Josh
Enis
Jessica

We also welcome three new teaching assistants to the school this term; Miss Hunter, Miss Power and Mrs Capel. Mr Yorkston and Miss Gordon have also now become fully fledged members of the Middleton staff team!

As the school grows and grows we have also added an additional class to the Middleton community. We now have a Herons class in Upper School.

Lots of change, but also lots of the familiar!

About the



The Middleton News is compiled and sent home with your child every three 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, along with additional communications, on a regular basis. An electronic copy is also delivered and it is placed on or school web site.

Payments - School Gateway

As with many schools, our aim is to remain as cash free an environment as possible, and we ask parents to make use of the School gateway account wherever possible. 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.

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.



We are very fortunate at Middleton School to have two dedicated Family Liaison Officers as part of our staff team. You will probably have spoken to, or met, both Helen Nash and Stacey Ward – but do make the most of the coffee mornings and open evenings to catch up with both ladies. They are here to support both pupils and their families with any challenges you may face.

2

Meet the team!



We are looking forward to welcoming all families to the school on Wednesday 20th September. This is an opportunity for your child to show you their new 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. Your class teacher will be sending you a letter detailing your appointment time slot. We look forward to welcoming you to the school for this event.

School site improvements

Over the Summer holidays the Lower School playground received a 'facelift' with a new flooring installed.



The land behind our new classroom was developed so that pupils could benefit from some outdoor learning space.



We are currently revamping our Upper School courtyard to become a dedicated

science and technology classroom and so contractors are busy at work as we write!



Many families will be aware that in June the school received an Ofsted inspection. As I expressed at the time we were so proud of all pupils and staff members and they certainly impressed the inspectors with their dedication, positive attitudes and kindness. The final Ofsted report will be published on the Ofsted web site on Friday 15th September and it will also be placed on our own school website on this date for parents to read.

The grading of 'Outstanding' currently remains although we will be in receipt of a further inspection in 1-2 years time so that we can evidence this effectively. You will see from the report that many of the Middleton qualities and ethics have been captured and valued by the inspectors.

Parent volunteers

We are always grateful to volunteers from the wider community and would also welcome volunteers from our parent community. If you have some free time and would like to offer some support to pupils in school then please do contact the school office on 01920

Middleton News

485152 so that we may organise a visit into school. Last term parents joined us for 'Jolly Time' on a Friday afternoon. You will be aware that during this session staff share their hobbies from home. This year, we would welcome any parents who would like to share a hobby on a Friday afternoon with our pupils. Please contact the school if you think you have time to give to our Jolly Time sessions.

Tales From The Chalkface!

Lower School

Lower School pupils begin the year with the topic 'All about me.'



They have been creating art work associated with their new class names and sharing with others information about their family and their likes and dislikes. They are also learning quickly how to settle into school life and are responding very positively to adult direction and class routines.



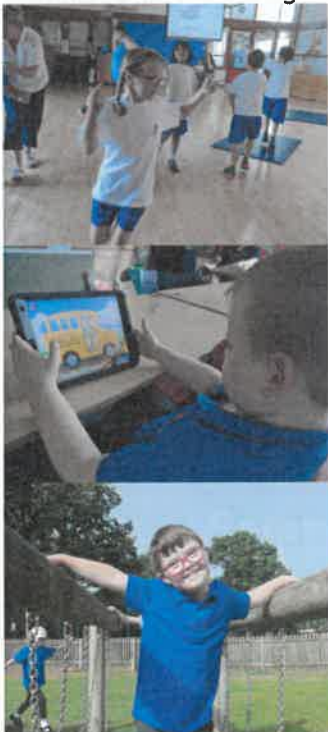
Middle School

The children in Middle School are beginning with the topic 'My Family'. They have shared information about members of their family and created some beautiful artwork!

The children have made sandwiches independently in cooking lessons this week;



All of the pupils in Middle School have enjoyed a full range of lessons this week, including PE, ICT and off site learning. We have been very impressed with their focused attitude towards their learning.



Upper School

This half term the Upper School topic is 'What's New?'. They have been exploring new environments and new friendships during their first week back in school. It is always a shock to the system for myself to see pupils who we met in Year One now sitting in Upper School classrooms, but already they look completely 'at home' in their new classes and are taking on new responsibilities.



You will be pleased to learn that pupils in Eagles class learnt how to wash up independently this week. This may come in handy at home!



Middleton News

Holidays!

It is my duty to inform families that schools are **not** allowed to grant pupils leave during term time to attend family holidays unless there are specific extenuating circumstances that have been discussed with the school.

At Middleton we do appreciate that for some pupils their particular needs make it a challenge to take a holiday at the busiest periods of the year. It is for this reason that we take **a two week break at May half term**.

At the point when most other pupils are returning to school we have an additional week. This allows families to seek a holiday when it is quieter (and also not so expensive!) Next year this will be the week commencing Monday 3rd June 2024. The days taken in this week are made up of INSET days , Occasional Days, and early returns from holiday periods so the pupils do not miss any dedicated learning time. We hope that this is helpful to many of our families and I request that families attempt to book holidays in this period and not in term time, as this will not be authorised. Term dates for the year are attached to this newsletter. Please make a note of the start and end dates for terms as they may differ to other schools.

Dates for the diary

Attached to this newsletter you will also find a calendar of events for this term, along with an overview for the whole

academic year. Further information will be communicated closer to the time of key events, but do store this information somewhere safe so that you can refer to it. You may want to book time away from work now for the Sports day so that you can compete in the parent race!


Monday 11th September

Welcome to new parents; at 6.30pm we will be holding a welcome meeting for our new parents in the school hall. A letter has been sent out to our new families this week.

Wednesday 20th September;

'Meet the team' after school

Friday September 23rd

Jeans for Genes Day.  Pupils and staff may wear denim into school for a £1 donation which supports the charity Genetic Disorders UK.

Texting/ Email Communication

As a school our primary mode of communication is through the use of email. Please ensure that you **register your email address** with the school and then regularly check your email inbox. In addition, from time to time, we do send text reminders straight to your mobile phone. 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.



It is therefore really **important that you tell us if your mobile number changes** so that you continue to receive these messages.

Healthy Snacks

We encourage pupils to bring snacks in from home to eat at snacktime in their mid morning break. However, this snack should **NOT** contain nuts and should be healthy in nature, for example; a piece of fruit, a yoghurt, a cereal bar, bread sticks. We do not permit items such as chocolate bars, cakes or crisps. We do have a pupil in the school with a specific NUT allergy so I am sure you will appreciate the importance of considering the food items sent into school. We are a nut free school. Lower School pupils do have a snack provided for them from a government initiative. Snack time is often a good opportunity for pupils to try some new tastes and textures and to explore new foods.

Wow! A very busy newsletter with lots to share!

I hope that you can enjoy the beautiful weather this weekend and also seek some time in the shade! I shall leave you with some images of the first week of the school year.

Many thanks

Debbie Hartley

Middleton News





MIDDLETON SCHOOL PLANNER FOR FAMILIES
September – December 2023

	September	October	November	December
M		2		
T		3		
W		4	1	
T		5 Parent coffee morning	2	
F	1 INSET DAY	6	3 1.00 close for staff training	1
S	2	7	4	2
S	3	8	5	3
M	4 Pupils return (grp 1)	9	6	4
T	5 All Pupils return	10	7	5
W	6	11 Reading training for parents 1.45 + 6.30	8	6
T	7	12	9	7
F	8	13 Harvest Festival	10	8
S	9	14	11	9
S	10	15	12	10
M	11 New Parents Welcome Evening	16	13 Xmas Photos week	11
T	12	17	14	12 Christmas Show
W	13	18 Parent Consultation till 7.30	15	13 Christmas Show
T	14	19	16	14 Carols round the tree 6.45pm
F	15	20	17 Children in Need	15 Yr 6 reports home
S	16	21 Half Term	18	16
S	17	22	19	17
M	18	23	20	18 Pantomime L/S M/S U/S FC and party
T	19	24	21	19 Pantomime U/S L/S M/S FC and party
W	20 'Meet the staff team'	25	22	20 Xmas Lunch
T	21	26	23	21 Disco 1.00 pm End of term
F	22 Jeans for genes	27	24	22
S	23	28	25	23
S	24	29	26	24
M	25	30 INSET DAY	27	25
T	26	31 School photos	28	26
W	27		29	27
T	28		30	28
F	29			29
S	30			30
S	01			31

Please note that pupils return to school on Thursday 4th January 2024.

Middleton School Term Dates 2023/ 2024

Friday 1st September – INSET DAY – school closed to pupils

Monday 4th September – school begins for pupils new to the school.

Tuesday 5th September – school begins for majority of pupils

Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October – Half term

Monday 30th October - INSET DAY – school closed to pupils

Friday 3rd November – early closure at 1.00pm to allow for staff training

Thursday 21st December – End of term. School closes at 1.00pm

Friday 22nd December – Wednesday 3rd January – Christmas holidays

Thursday 4th January 2024 – Pupils return to school

Monday 19th February – Friday 23rd February – Half term

Friday 1st March - early closure at 1.00pm to allow for staff training

Thursday 28th March – End of term. School closes at 1.00pm

Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April – Easter holidays

Monday 15th April – pupils return to school

Tuesday 7th May - INSET DAY – school closed to pupils

Monday 27th May – Friday 7th June - Half term (note; **2 week half term**)

Monday 10th June – pupils return to school

Friday 28th June - INSET DAY – school closed to pupils

Tuesday 23rd July – End of term. School closes at 1.00pm

Middleton School Academic calendar 2023/24 PARENTS

2023												2024												
September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	
1 Fr INSET	1 Su	1 We	1 Fr	1 Mo ^{New Year's Day}	1 Th	1 Fr 1pm close	1 Mo ^{Easter Monday}	1 We	1 Sa	Mo	1 Th	1 Mo ^{New Year's Day}	1 Su	1 We	1 Fr	1 Mo	1 Th	1 Fr 1pm close	1 Mo ^{Easter Monday}	1 We	1 Sa	Mo	1 Th	
2 Sa	2 Mo	2 Th	2 Sa	2 Tu	2 Fr	2 Sa	2 Tu	2 Th	2 Su	Tu Focus week	2 Fr	2 Sa	2 Tu	2 Th	2 Sa	2 Tu	2 Fr	2 Sa	2 Tu	2 Th	2 Su	Tu	2 Fr	
3 Su	3 Tu	3 Fr 1.15 close	3 Su	3 We	3 Sa	3 Su	3 We	3 Fr	3 Mo	23 We	3 Sa	3 We	3 Fr	3 Mo	3 Su	3 We	3 Sa	3 Su	3 We	3 Fr	3 Mo	3 Su	3 We	3 Sa
4 Mo ^{New pupils return}	4 We	4 Sa	4 Mo	4 Th ^{Pupils return}	4 Su	4 Mo	4 Th	4 Sa	4 Tu	Th	4 Mo	4 Th	4 Sa	4 Tu	4 Mo	4 Th	4 Sa	4 Mo	4 Th	4 Sa	4 Tu	4 Mo	4 Th	
5 Tu ^{All pupils return}	5 Th ^{Coffee morning}	5 Su	5 Tu	5 Fr ^{Y6 reviews}	5 Mo	5 Tu ^{Yr 5 Reviews}	5 Fr	5 Su	5 We	Fr	5 Tu	5 Fr	5 Su	5 We	5 Tu	5 Fr	5 Su	5 Tu	5 Fr	5 Su	5 We	5 Tu	5 Fr	
6 We	6 Fr	6 Mo	6 We	6 Sa	6 Tu	6 We	6 Sa	6 Mo ^{Early May Bk. Hol.}	6 Th	Sa	6 We	6 Sa	6 Mo	6 Th	6 We	6 Sa	6 Mo	6 We	6 Sa	6 Mo	6 Th	6 We	6 Tu	
7 Th	7 Sa	7 Tu	7 Th	7 Su	7 We	7 Th	7 Su	7 Tu INSET	7 Fr	Su	7 Th	7 Su	7 Tu INSET	7 Fr	7 We	7 Su	7 Th	7 Su	7 Tu INSET	7 Fr	7 We	7 Su	7 Th	
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11 Mo ^{Welcome evening}	11 We ^{Reading Training}	11 Sa	11 Mo	11 Th	11 Su	11 Mo	11 Th	11 Sa	11 Tu	11 Fr	11 Mo	11 Th	11 Sa	11 Tu	11 Fr	11 Mo	11 Th	11 Sa	11 Tu	11 Fr	11 Mo	11 Th	11 Sa	
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