



Middleton St Mary's CE (VC) Primary School
Moor Flatts Road, Middleton, Leeds. LS10 3SW

Headteacher: Naomi Wood
Deputy Headteachers: Suzanne Aston and Suzanne Marston

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 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds



18 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you are all okay and surviving being at home again under the current climate. We know that this is a very difficult time for everyone, especially for our families at home, trying to balance home learning with the lockdown situation. We empathise with you all. Please try to persevere with the home learning whenever you can. A timetable has been provided for each year group for families who would like structure similar to school, this is emailed out weekly but if this does not work for you, simplify it. All that we ask is that you try, we do not want your child to have learning gaps when they return to school. So, we urge you to do little and often. Once we reopen, we will work hard to support your child in catching up. Please do try to listen to your child read every day to keep your child in the routine, even if your child is at school. Read, read, read! New books can be collected each Monday when you drop off your child's home learning packs (please name them) and reading books in the blue box in the main entrance (they will be left 48 hours before we bring them back in school).

Home learning packs can be collected each Monday from the school office after 11am. Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 have paper packs only and Nursery, Reception and Year 1 parents have access to Tapestry. **Please wear a mask when coming into the main office to collect anything.**

Home learning is online for Key Stage 2 (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6) and we have a limited number of chrome books available to borrow from school if you have no devices at home for your child to use. Please contact the office if you would like to borrow one for your child.

Parents of children who are at home learning will be contacted each Thursday or Friday by a staff member in your child's year group to check-in on their learning. This will be from a withheld number and would be great for children to be there to speak to their teachers.

Children in school MUST have clean clothes on every day. The Covid School Agreement is still in place from 2020 and is available on our school website.

Please remember to notify the school if your child/family are experiencing Covid symptoms/have a test. We need to know, even if your child is not in school.

Free School Meals Vouchers

The government have now done another U-turn and will now be providing Edenred Vouchers to our families from next week for **children who are not attending school** and are eligible – please note that this is not **Universal Free School Meals** (the government free meals for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children), these are means tested. The vouchers will come via email to those families not in school week 4, week 5 and week 6. They have not indicated whether these will be distributed over half term.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999





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- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

All children eligible for FSM in school are able to access a Free School Meal. Grab bags have now stopped, but please get in touch if you are struggling, we hope to have some support from Re-think later this week. We can also refer to Middleton Foodbank based at St Cross Church, but they are not delivering at the moment due to Father Andy recovering from an operation but we can support you if isolating.

February Half Term – Change of Dates

We had training days booked for Thursday 11th and Friday 12th February. Due to wanting to support our key worker children during this lockdown, these days have now been cancelled. School will be open on the 11th and 12th February to our Key Worker and Vulnerable children. These two training days have now been moved to Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th July. School will now close to the pupils for the summer on Friday 23rd July 2021.

Minimising stress is absolutely vital in a time like this for mental health. Don't let school work be something that stresses you or your child. You are the primary educator and this is your call. Try to maintain your daily routines including bedtimes and wake up times as though your child was at school.

If you are in any difficulty or need to inform school about any changes or you or your household becomes ill, please text the school teachers2parents text line: **07786208446** or the school Facebook page via messenger: **Middleton St Mary's Primary School**.

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs N Wood, Headteacher.

