



28<sup>th</sup> June 2021

We have had an extremely busy year at Middleton St Mary's, not only with Covid-19 to contend with but also three Ofsted inspections! The inspections were carried out 12.11.2021 (1-day Remote Inspection), 03.02.2021 (2-day Remote Inspection) and 07.05.2021 (1 day HMI Monitoring Inspection – in school).

In this most recent inspection, Jo Sharpe, HMI noted:

***'Leaders and those responsible for governance are taking effective action in order for the school to become a good school.'***

There are many, many positives that were noted in this report, we hope that you have had chance to read this. We are delighted that the school is moving forward.

## Goodbyes and Transition

We are in the last few weeks of the school year, there are just four more weeks before we break up for the summer, and say goodbye to our current Year 6 children and some of our staff. We are really going to miss them all! Sadly, we will see our Nursery Teacher Miss Etherington leave us after teaching at MSM for 10 years, Mrs Palmer (Year 5 Teacher) will retire early, Mrs Franklin (Art Teacher), both Y4 teachers; Mr Hall and Mr Dove and Teaching Assistant Miss Dickinson will also leave. We wish them all well for the future!

We are very pleased to be able to offer reduced class sizes in Year 5 and Year 6 for a further year, with only 20 children in each of these classes, this has had huge benefits for the staff and children this year. We have successfully recruited five new teachers to start in September, they will all visit the school for transition days in July and meet their new class on either 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> July or 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> July. Y4 Spruce and Y4 Elder will be taught on the modular classrooms on the yard from September 2021 and Year 5 children will be based in the middle bay in Rowan, Elm and Birch. The classes are as follows:

| Class              | Teacher                    |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Nursery Apples     | Mrs Binks                  |
| Reception Beech    | Mr Young (EYFS Lead)       |
| Reception Chestnut | Miss Wells                 |
| Y1 Hazel           | Miss Wiseman               |
| Y1 Sycamore        | Miss Walls                 |
| Y2 Oak             | Miss Verity                |
| Y2 Willow          | Miss Parker                |
| Y3 Poplar          | Miss Eamonsen              |
| Y3 Maple           | Mr Bland                   |
| Y4 Spruce          | Ms Carritt                 |
| Y4 Elder           | Miss Greenwood             |
| Y5 Rowan           | Mrs Duffy                  |
| Y5 Elm             | Mrs Willetts               |
| Y5 Birch           | Mrs Sayedi                 |
| Y6 Cherry          | Miss Owen (Assistant Head) |
| Y6 Holly           | Miss Barnard               |
| Y6 Ash             | Miss Johnston              |



## Reports

Your child will be bringing home their school report on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. This is slightly different to school reports provided in previous years. The government has removed the necessity to report on grades and attendance.

## Year 6 Transition to High School

Unfortunately, transition days to high school are constantly changing, please check with your child's high school for the most up to date information as we are not always informed. Where transition visits are taking place, children must wear Middleton St Mary's uniform, be taken by parents/carers and be picked up also. This is not something that Middleton St Mary's can do. If your child is only at their new high school for part of the day, they will then go home for the rest of the day and not come back to Middleton St Mary's for the remainder of the day. If they are visiting in an afternoon, again, they will not come to Middleton St Mary's in the morning, they will stay at home.

## Y6 Prom

We are able to hold our Year 6 Prom this year under current Covid guidance. This is booked for Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July at the Parochial Hall. All of Year 6 have been invited via email. Parents must give consent by accessing ARBOR. Please do this asap. This event is FREE this year due to Year 6 not being able to go to London in January. Parents/carers must drop off and pick up at the gates 6pm-8pm and socially distance. We have booked a DJ and a Limousine for the event!

## Y6 Production - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

We are still working on the logistics of our Year 6 Performance and trying to be creative. Unfortunately, the performance can no longer take place at the Parochial Hall on the 7<sup>th</sup> July as we cannot have an audience inside. Our plan is to perform outside on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, weather permitting but we are struggling regarding technical issues of microphones and sound. If you are in the know and can offer some assistance, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please get in touch with Mrs Wood or Miss Owen asap, thank you. Details regarding tickets will come out nearer the time.

## PE Days

PE days are the only days when children can come to school not in uniform, children can wear a track suit, leggings, t-shirt etc. but on other days, children **MUST** be in uniform. Year 4 and Y5 Elder have swimming off site and so should **always** be in uniform. All parents/carers have signed a home-school agreement to agree to this. Please come and speak to me if you are struggling.

### PE days:

- Monday: Year 2
- Tuesday: Year 2 and Y5 (children who do not go swimming)
- Wednesday: Year 6 and Year 3
- Thursday: Year 4
- Friday: Year 1 and Year 6. Forest School for Year 3 (wear old clothes).

There will be no PE lessons, swimming lessons or Forest School on the last week of term. All children should be in full uniform unless it is their Sports Day (sorry, no parents). The last day of term - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July **WILL** be a non-uniform day.

## School Times Reminder

Nursery: 8.30am-11.30am/12-3pm

Reception and Y1-Y6: 8.45am-3.10pm

Please ensure that your child is on time, some children are missing vital learning each morning.

Breakfast Club is in the school hall and children must enter through the playground and through the hall doors, not via the main entrance any more. Parents/carers must still accompany children to the hall door and hand over to a member of the Breakfast Club Team.

All Breakfast Club payments must be paid weekly, failure to do so will result in the place being removed.

## Head lice

It appears that we have an influx of head lice at the moment. Please ensure that you check your child's hair every night this week – we all need to play our part in preventing the spread! We would like all parents to then 'once a week, take a peek' and follow the procedures above.

- ◆ Checking for head lice shouldn't be considered a big deal, it is just a normal part of a family's personal hygiene routine like brushing teeth or washing hair
- ◆ It is best to check for head lice using a comb made for the purpose, ideally white so they can be easily seen and with teeth no more than 0.3mm apart in order to trap head lice
- ◆ Combing through the hair when wet, or after applying a conditioner, may make the process more comfortable
- ◆ Good lighting is important and so is comfort.

### Should Your Child Stay Home?

If your children are checked for head lice on a weekly basis and treated straight away when live lice are found then they can attend school, child care and all other activities just as usual. But remind them to avoid head-to-head contact with other children until all the lice are gone. **Absence WILL NOT BE AUTHORISED** for head lice/treatment.

## Educational Visits

We are very disappointed that our planned Educational Visits/Visitors could not take place this year due to Covid. Staff plan these events in advance as they have to carry out Risk Assessments several weeks prior to the visit, with places closed, these have not been able to take place as planned. We are sorry. Educational Visits are linked to the topics taught each term to create meaningful experiences and add to learning, they are not ad-hoc. We are really disappointed that our Year 6 children could not go to London for a Residential this year due to Covid, sadly, this experience will not take place in 2022 for our new Year 6 children due to Covid. The Y6 team are looking to plan some other experiences instead.

## Reception Visit Swillington Farm



Last week, Reception has had the opportunity to visit Swillington Organic Farm. They had a time learning about the different farm animals and their young. Reception have been learning about the farm in this half term's topic and so this was a fantastic opportunity to put their own knowledge into practice, as well as gain new information about the workings of a farm. The children got the chance to look at different animals on the farm. You should ask them which ones they saw! We also got the chance to grow some peas for Farmer Jo as well as make our own pictures by bashing flowers with a hammer onto some linen. The children particularly enjoyed this. Many thanks to the staff for planning this fantastic experience.

**Stay safe. Mrs N Wood, Headteacher.**