

# Middleton St Mary's Newsletter 1



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Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## Welcome Back! 😊

Welcome back to you all. We hope that you have all managed to enjoy some family time...finally! This is something we have all been yearning for. Whilst the school has been closed this summer for a deep clean, we have had our main corridor floor, computing Suite, Maple and Birch Class floor replaced, changing from carpet to vinyl. It looks fabulous and we know will be more efficient to clean!

School has been a fabulous place to be this week. Your children have settled back well and school feels a very calm place. We have welcomed five new teachers across the school and they are getting to know the school routines swiftly as well as our new Reception children, new Nursery children and three new families across the school. Welcome! Please ensure that you have a log in to Arbor and download the app. Whilst we have sent home a paper copy of the newsletter tonight, we will not in future – all communications will be via Arbor, email and Facebook. Please sign up to all.

### Reminders:

The school Gates open at 7.30am – this is the first admittance to breakfast club, no earlier. Nursery gates open at 8.30am and close at 8.45am.

Gates are locked at 9am and entrance is then only via the school office.

At the end of the day, gates are opened at 3pm.

If you would like your child to walk home from school alone (Year 5 or Year 6 only), please email the school at [enquiries@msmleeds.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@msmleeds.co.uk) to give consent, stating your child's name and your name. If we feel that your child is not safe and responsible to do this, we **can** remove consent.

## Safeguarding

As a school, we aim to safeguard and protect all of our pupils. All staff have had safeguarding and child protection training.



Mrs Wood  
Headteacher

Mrs Aston  
Assistant Head

Mrs N Gott

Mrs D Southern

In school we have four members of staff who have specialist training and are the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads. If you have any Child Protection concerns about any of our families, or your own, we ask that you report your concerns directly to one of the DSLs (phone the school **0113 2717206** in confidence) or phone the Children's Social Work Services during office hours (9am – 5pm) on 0113 2224403 or the police on 999 if the child is in immediate danger or harm.

If you have any concerns about a member of staff, please come to the office and ask to speak to **me** as the Headteacher, no other staff member. Our safeguarding policy can be found on the school website home page.

**Mrs Wood, Headteacher**

## Diary Dates

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September** – Y5 Greek Day – Children dress up (see Arbor email).

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September** – Y3 Maple Visit Tropical World as part of their topic on Rainforests.

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September** – Y4 Swimming lessons start at John Charles Centre – swimwear and towel needed (Beach Ready).

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September** – Y5 Rowan Swimming lessons start at John Charles Centre – swimwear and towel needed (Beach Ready).

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September** – Dog Trust visitor in school to talk about being safe around dogs and looking after our school puppy Pablo (Y1-6).

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September – After School Clubs Start**  
(letter to follow this week on Arbor)

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September** – Y4 Roman Day, Visitor and dress up (see Arbor email).

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September** – Y3 Poplar Visit Tropical World as part of their topic on Rainforests.

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** – Meerkats visit Year 1.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October** – School Nursing Team to check height & weight – Y6.

## PE Days

On PE days, your child needs to come to school 'PE Ready' (Years 2 to 6 only). This means that they come to school in their trainers or pumps, **black or navy** joggers, shorts or leggings and a plain coloured t-shirt (not large logos) with their school jumper or cardigan on. They will stay in these all day, most PE lessons are in the afternoons.

For **Forest School**, children should wear school uniform **but** bring a pair of wellies and a coat.

**Swimming** – Children **MUST** come to school 'beach ready' and have underwear and a towel in their bags.

## PE lessons:

<b>Monday</b>	Y4 Spruce and Elder		
<b>Tuesday</b>	Y3 Maple and Poplar		
<b>Wednesday</b>	Y3 Maple and Poplar <b>Y4 Spruce and Elder Swimming</b>	<b>Y6 Holly, Ash and Cherry</b>	Y2 Willow and Oak
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Y6 Holly, Ash and Cherry</b> <b>Y5 Rowan Swimming</b>	<b>Y5 Elm and Birch</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Y5 Elm, Birch and Rowan</b>	<b>Y2 Willow and Oak Forest School</b>	<b>Y3 Poplar Forest School</b>

## Homework Changes

Homework refers to tasks given to pupils by their teachers to be completed at home. Common homework activities in primary schools tend to be reading or practising spelling and number facts, but may also include more extended activities to develop inquiry skills or more directed and focused work such as revision for tests. Research shows that giving homework does not have a great impact on learning in primary schools. Therefore, we have reflected on the homework that we have given during and prior to lockdown and have found that:

- Very few children in each class learn the set weekly spellings (5/30 children in each class) and so this does not significantly impact on learning, instead causes worry and upset in the classroom.
- 40-50% of children read regularly at home and parents comment in children's reading diaries.
- Less than 5% of children carry out homework activities.

We have therefore decided **not** to send weekly spellings home. We teach spelling through Read Write Inc. once children have completed the RWI phonics programme and are therefore confident in decoding (Year 2 + when ready). Children have taught spelling lessons at least three times per week, focussing on a weekly spelling rule to learn and apply, embedding the rule in their learning all week. If your child does not grasp this, or has gaps, staff will ask that this is supported at home. **This will be personalised and we hope that this is supported due to the many gaps created during lockdown.**

**Each day, your child MUST bring home their reading book (and diary) to read at home. We ask that this happens every day and that children are praised for their efforts in reading.** Please comment in your child's reading diary, stating how fluent they have read and if they struggled with anything – just ask them to read 4-5 pages, that is enough! If they read the whole book, ask them to tell the adults in their class so that they can **quiz on it (Y3-Y6) or change it. We want every child to enjoy reading and to become a confident and fluent reader, this is a life skill so very important.**

**On our school website, you can find out about what topic your child is learning about. We have a curriculum overview for the year and their knowledge organisers for each subject – please look them up!**



Every child in Key Stage 2 has a log-in to TT Rockstars, this is glued in their reading diary along with their Accelerated Reader log-in. Remember to keep visiting TT Rockstars to improve your child's times tables skills! The KS2 children with the fastest time in their class will be chosen to represent their class in the head-to-head challenge each Friday worship in Worship! We know that this is not for everyone and it does take a lot of confidence to stand up in the hall. Children not wanting to stand up do not have to compete. This week, your child's homework is to learn their 2s, 5s and 10 x tables by logging on to TT Rockstars or by practising orally at home.