

Middleton St Mary's Newsletter 2



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Monday 11th October 2021

We have had such a busy start to the term with some Meerkats visiting Y1, a Roman visiting Y4, a visit to Tropical World for Y3, a Greek Day for Y5 and Skyla's Missing Note Musical Workshop for Y2...not to mention swimming lessons for Y4 and Y5 and after school clubs for Key Stage 2! We are so delighted to be offering these experiences back to our children, they provide concrete experiences for our children and make learning memorable.

Covid Updates

The number of cases around Middleton and the local area is quite high and still rising. We have had 5 cases in our school community this term, although only two of these cases were in contact with anyone at school.

Please book a COVID test for your children if they have a cough, a temperature or a loss of or change in taste or smell. Children can return to school when the test result is negative. We cannot accept negative lateral flow test results, as these tests are not for people with symptoms.

Absence – PLEASE NOTE THAT FROM TODAY, THE TEXTING NUMBER HAS BEEN

REMOVED. If your child is ill, please phone the office and leave a voicemail or message on the app stating their illness. As part of our safeguarding protocols, Mrs Southern, our Attendance Manager may carry out a home visit, please do not be alarmed by this, it is part of our attendance process.



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. Please try to be on time and give your child the best start to the school day! At the end of the day, gates are opened at 3pm, school finishes at 3pm for nursery children and 3.10pm for the rest of school.

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 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 **will** remove consent.

Photographs - Wednesday 20th October

Tempest Photography will be in school to take your child's photograph next week. Siblings within our school will also have their photo taken throughout the day. Children will bring home a slip with details of how to order.



Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a parent governor vacancy on our Governing Board. Parent governors play a vital role on governing bodies, holding the unique position of having a parental viewpoint of the school...parent governors are representative parents rather than representatives of parents. Being a governor is a "hands off" role – decisions made by the board influence the whole school, but governors are not responsible for, or involved in, the day-to-day running of the school. If you are interested in finding out more about this voluntary role, please telephone the school and ask to speak to Mrs Wood who can tell you more about the role. Dates for meetings have been set for the year, they are usually 4pm-6pm.

Mrs N Wood, Headteacher

Diary Dates

Tuesday 12th October – School Nursing Team to check height & weight – Y6

Wednesday 13th October – Hand-to-Mouth Ministries Religious Education Day

Thursday 14th October – Reception Children visit to Aldi

Monday 18th October – Harvest Celebration in school

Tuesday 19th October – Y4 visit Middleton Park – Seed Gathering

Wednesday 20th October – Individual/Sibling Photographs
Y2 Hearing Tests

Thursday 21st October – Y3 visit Middleton Park – Seed Gathering

Friday 22nd October – School closes for half term. **Monday 1st November** – School re-opens

31st October - LAST DAY SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Harvest 2021

In school, we will be giving thanks for the food we have in our Harvest Celebration next Monday (sorry we are unable to invite parents in at this moment in time). We would like to support our local community again this year and so are asking for food donations of tinned food, soap, dried food, cereals, long life milk etc. which we can donate to Middleton Food Bank linked which is linked to St Mary's Church. Please check the dates on items. We would like to hand over the collection on the last week of term.



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 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.

Read, read, read! 😊

Please try to listen to your child read every night, 5 minutes is all that we ask. Please comment in your child's reading record and sign it. In school, once a reader, children will be listened to at least once per week by a teacher or teaching assistant in school. In school, children have 20 minutes allocated every day to 'My Reading', this is a time when they quietly read their take home reading book, or, in Key Stage 2, if they have finished their book, they quiz on it. Children do not need to quiz on their book at home unless they are isolating. In Key Stage 2 (Year 3 to Year 6), children are given a personal target to achieve for the half term, children achieve this target when they quiz and answer 80% of a quiz on Accelerated Reader correctly. Less than 80% may mean that your child has not understood the question or cannot locate the answer from the text (retrieve). It is often good to ask your child questions when they read to you to help them with this.

Reading is a vehicle to learning in all other areas of the curriculum. We want all of our children to become confident and fluent readers, they do this by listening to others read, having stories read to them is also very important...so do not stop doing this. At the end of every day, each class has 'Let's Read' time – a time where the teacher or teaching assistant reads a book/part of a book to their class to promote a love of reading. ❤️

Pupil Progress Meetings – SAVE THE DATE (Parents' Evening)

It is really important that we meet you to discuss your child's **progress and learning** this term especially after a very disruptive two years due to Covid.

We will do this in the form of a Pupil Progress Meeting with you where we will share your child's strengths and areas for development. We are hoping to do these face-to-face but this may need to change to a phone call appointment.

Appointments will be from **1.30pm – 3pm and 3.20pm-5.30pm**. We will send out bookings next week.

Tuesday 2nd November – Reception, Year 1, Year 2

Wednesday 3rd November – Year 5 and Year 6

Thursday 4th November – Year 3 and Year 4

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Year 6 parents you must apply for your child's secondary school place online by 31st October 2021. The Admissions Team will be holding an advice session through the Leeds City Council social media pages on Wednesday 13 October 2021 (midday to 2pm) and have produced a new you tube video

<https://youtu.be/WRU1SrS7iJE>

If you are struggling to do this, please speak to Mrs D Southern, our Attendance Manager.