



NEWSLETTER

19th September 2025

A message from our school leaders:

As we settle into the rhythm of the new academic year, we'd like to thank all families for their continued support. Autumn is always a vibrant and busy time at Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy, and we're excited about the opportunities ahead.

We've noticed that attendance across all classes is currently lower than expected. Please be reminded that attendance is being carefully monitored. Term-time holidays will not be authorised and may result in a fine issued by the local authority.

We're busy planning a range of seasonal activities to enrich the term. Highlights include Sports Events, Harvest Festival and Halloween Celebrations to name a few. Please keep an eye on diary dates below.

Friends of Middleton-in-Teesdale School (FOMS) – please see an important message from our FOMS below.

Our FOMS team plays a vital role in supporting the school through fundraising and volunteering. We're currently looking to recruit new members! Whether you can help occasionally or regularly, your time and ideas are hugely appreciated. Please contact the school office if you're interested in joining – we'd love to hear from you.

~ Friends of Middleton School (FOMS) ~

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED URGENTLY

In July, three of our committee members 'retired' as their children moved on to secondary school. If you would like to see the Friends of Middleton School continue, to provide funding for extracurricular events and opportunities, we urgently need new members to come forward.

We have been a registered charity for almost 34 years, and we don't want to see it have to come to an end!

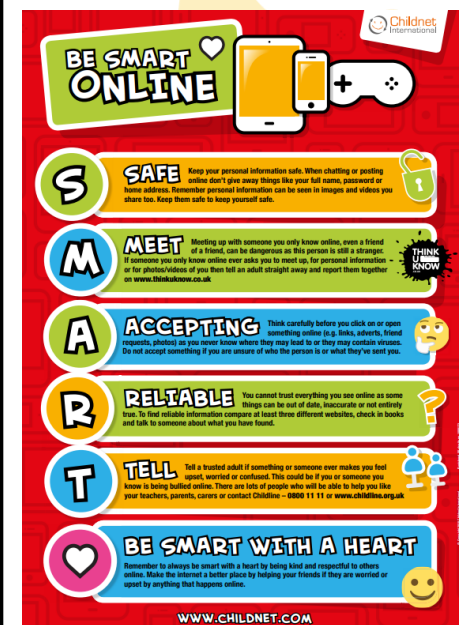
If you would be willing to join us, please let the school office know.

Reminders and Messages

- Please remember to bring water bottles into school every day.
- A reminder that we are a **'NUT FREE'** school.
- **POLITE REMINDER:** We are unable to read or answer messages which are sent through Class Dojo. If you need to contact teachers, please telephone or make an appointment at the office.

Useful Online Safety Links

- [NSPCC](#)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Childline](#)



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

~THIS WEEKS ATTENDANCE~

Rec/Yr 1	82.7%
Yr 2/3/4	86.3%
Yr 5/6	83.6%



NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



Nursery – Mrs Dobson

NURSERY

This week, in Nursery, we have been learning the nursery rhyme, 'Hey Diddle, Diddle'. The children have enjoyed learning the rhyme and have used the 'Hey Diddle, Diddle' puppet, taking turns to sing the rhyme independently.

There was lots of concentration from our children this week, as they practiced their fine motor skills by threading laces through the characters from the song; as well as successfully matching the different patterns on the cups and saucers.

We have been getting creative, by using bubble wrap to paint our own moons as well as observational pictures of cows and cats with fiddles.

Finally, the children have had lots of fun in the water tray, washing and cleaning the dishes and spoons.





NEWSLETTER

What have we been
up to?

YrR/1 – Miss Humpherson, Miss Anderson and Mrs Niven

It's been another exciting week in Reception and Year 1, full of learning, creativity, and hands-on exploration. The classrooms have been buzzing with enthusiasm as children dive into new topics and build on their growing skills.

This week, Reception explored the heartwarming book, 'We Are Family', sparking meaningful conversations about feelings and the important role our families play in helping us feel safe, loved, and supported.

We've begun our phonics journey! Children are learning their first sounds and practicing letter formations with care and confidence. It's wonderful to see their excitement as they begin to recognise letters in the world around them.

In maths, we've been comparing size and weight using everyday objects. The children have enjoyed hands-on activities that help them understand these important concepts.

Year 1 have been busy writing sentences inspired by *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. They've worked hard to use capital letters, finger spaces, and full stops, and their writing is really starting to shine!

We've been exploring the concept of one more and one less within ten. Using number lines, cubes, and games, the children are building strong number sense and confidence in their maths skills.

Food preparation was the focus in DT this week. Children learned how to safely cut, peel, chop, and grate ingredients. They showed great care and teamwork—future chefs in the making!

Our glockenspiels were a highlight of the week, as children played the notes to our song *Hey You!* It was a delight to see their rhythm and coordination come together in harmony.

In science, Year 1 confidently sorted animals into groups including mammals, fish, birds, amphibians, and reptiles. Their curiosity and knowledge about the animal kingdom continues to grow!





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

Yr2/3/4 – Mrs Garnett, Mrs Aislabie and Miss Spenceley

We have had such a busy week in Y2/3/4. The children are continuing to enjoy reading our class text, *The Stone Age Boy*. They've delved into the story, sparking their imaginations and enthusiasm for reading and writing! We've focused on crafting expanded noun phrases and using conjunctions to create our own vivid cave settings. The creativity has been astounding, with some fantastic descriptions coming to life.

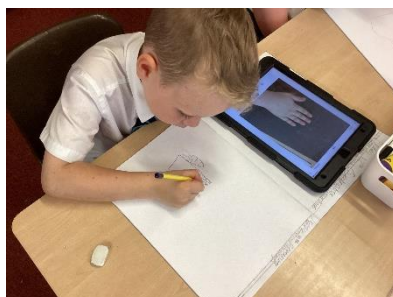
Maths has been equally engaging as we explored the concept of partitioning numbers. The children have shown great adaptability, experimenting with several flexible methods to tackle this area of numeracy. It's wonderful to see their confidence growing!

In science, we took a closer look at the nutritional value of various foods. The children took it upon themselves to rank the foods from most nutritious to least, sparking some interesting discussions along the way.

History was a highlight, as we investigated Stone Age tools—how they were crafted and what purposes they served. The children were then able to explain how people were able to 'settle' during the Neolithic Stone Age era.

To top the week off, our music lesson was a joyful experience, with everyone really enjoying the singing part! The children sang with enthusiasm, and it was delightful to see them express themselves so freely through music.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend!





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

Yr5/6 – Mrs Wharton and Mrs Emery

Year 5/6 have had a very busy and exciting week of learning!

In English, the children have been writing informal letters based on the story *Tom's Midnight Garden*. We have been so impressed with the way they have let their own personalities shine through their writing, bringing creativity and imagination to their letters. It has been wonderful to see how confidently they can adapt their writing style to suit the task.

In geography, our focus has been on biomes. The children have researched what biomes are, where they can be found, and what makes each one unique. This work is helping us prepare for our upcoming project where the children will design and create their very own biome models. To support this, we would be very grateful if families could send in a shoebox with their child if possible—thank you for your help!

In DT, we turned our attention to pneumatics. Using simple materials such as balloons, syringes of different sizes, and plastic tubing, the children had great fun exploring how air can be used to create movement in mechanical systems. There was lots of curiosity, problem-solving and teamwork as they experimented with different ideas.

In science, we have been developing our skills in data handling. The children gathered and analysed data to investigate how children's height changes over time. This was a great opportunity to link scientific enquiry with maths, as they interpreted their findings and discussed patterns in the results.

It has been fantastic to see so much enthusiasm, creativity and hard work across all areas of the curriculum this week. Well done, Year 5/6!





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Upcoming
Events:

	Event
SEPTEMBER	
Wed 24 th Sept	RWI Development Day
Fri 26 th Sept	Cross Country Competition, Staindrop Academy Basketball Competition, Teesdale Leisure Centre – Yr 5+6 European Day of Languages Y5/6 Mini Police
Mon 29 th Sept	Handball Festival, Green Lane Primary – Yr 5+6
OCTOBER	
1 st – 31 st Oct	Black History Month
Wed 1 st Oct	'Open the Book' Assembly in partnership with The Pathway
Fri 3 rd Oct	Basketball Competition, Teesdale Leisure Centre – Yr 5+6
Wed 15 th Oct	Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy Open Day 9.15-10.15am – 2.00-4.00pm
Tues 21 st Oct	Kurling + Boccia Festival, venue TBC – Yr 1+2
Mon 27 th - Fri 31 st Oct	Half Term Holiday
NOVEMBER	
Wed 5 th Nov	Football League, King James Academy
Wed 12 th Nov	Football League, King James Academy
Wed 19 th Nov	Football League, King James Academy
Wed 26 th Nov	Football League FINAL , King James Academy