



NEWSLETTER

21st November 2025

A message from our school leaders

The children have had a wonderful week at Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy, despite the chilly weather!

As the temperatures drop, please ensure all children come to school with a warm coat. Hats and gloves are strongly advised to keep everyone comfortable during outdoor activities.

This week, we proudly launched our new leadership group: Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. These children met with Mrs. Harris for the first time today and are excited to play a key role in promoting our zero-tolerance approach to bullying. We look forward to sharing their initiatives with pupils and parents over the coming months.

As we move towards December, rehearsals for our upcoming plays and concert are underway. Key dates can be found at the end of this newsletter, so please make sure to save them in your diary.

Finally, we are still looking for volunteers to help with reading in school. If you can spare even half an hour a week, please let Mrs. Morris know.

Reminders and Messages

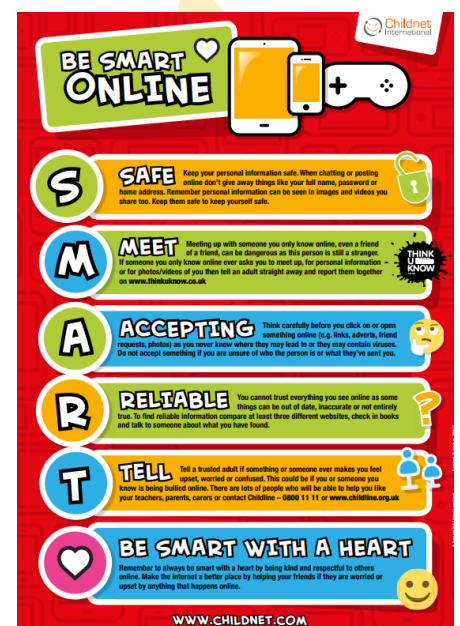
- Please remember to bring water bottles into school every day.
- A reminder that we are a **'NUT FREE'** school.
- **POLITE REMINDER:** We are unable to read or answer messages which are sent through Class Dojo. If you need to contact teachers, please telephone or make an appointment at the office.

A Message from The Friends (FOMS)

Please keep a LOOK OUT for upcoming events, which are being organised by our wonderful Friends of Middleton School!

Useful Online Safety Links

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



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

~THIS WEEKS ATTENDANCE~

Rec/Yr 1	97.0%
Yr 2/3/4	95.8%
Yr 5/6	99.6%



NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



Nursery – Mrs Dobson

We've had an exciting week continuing our learning about the Arctic! The children have enjoyed reading the story, *Little Polar Bear*, where the polar bear unexpectedly finds himself in the jungle and needs help to get back home. This story sparked lots of curiosity and discussion! To deepen the children's understanding, they used their knowledge to sort animals into two groups: those that live in the jungle and those that live in the Arctic. The children loved exploring the differences between these habitats.

One of the highlights of the week was when it snowed. We were thrilled to see the polar bears 'freeze in ice' and had so much fun exploring real ice outside. We had fun experimenting with its texture and temperature, and we even tried painting on ice, which was a wonderful sensory experience.





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What have we been up to?



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

This week has been full of imagination, creativity, and discovery across Reception and Year 1! Reception children enjoyed the story, *Harold and the Purple Crayon*. They followed Harold's imaginary journey and then created their own adventures, using their creativity to bring stories to life. Year 1 continued their retell of, *Where the Wild Things Are*. They wrote some brilliant independent sentences, carefully describing Max's feelings along his journey, as well as ensuring to use their capital letters and full stops.

In science this week, Year 1 explored the sense of sound. They went on an investigation around the school to discover which areas were the noisiest and which were the quietest.

Reception investigated magnets and even made their own simple magnets, sparking curiosity about how things attract and repel.

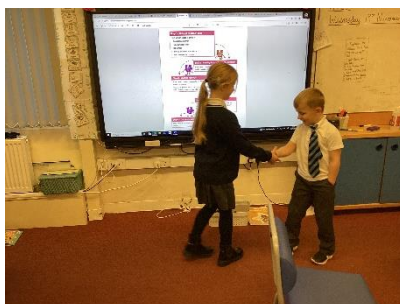
Year 1 began looking at how we change over time in their history lessons. They explored how everyday items such as phones and televisions have evolved, comparing the past with the present. It's been a week of imagination, exploration, and discovery — we're so proud of the children's enthusiasm and creativity!





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What have we been up to?



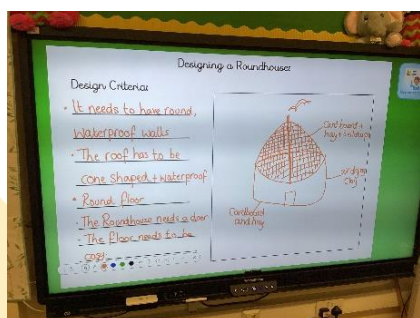
Yr2/3/4 – Mrs Garnett, Mrs Aislabie and Miss Spenceley

In English, the children are engaged in a persuasive writing project about the Iron Man, exploring reasons for why farmers should reconsider destroying this character. They brainstormed arguments on how the Iron Man could positively impact farm life, enhancing their writing and critical thinking skills.

In maths, Year 2 students are mastering number bonds to 100, Year 3 is adding 10s across the 100 barrier, and Year 4 is focusing on subtraction with exchange. These activities build a strong numeracy foundation, crucial for their mathematical journey.

During our PSHE, we discussed the importance of individual differences. Students explored how unique perspectives can lead to disagreements. We role-played a range of scenarios which enabled us to discuss how we could come to a respectful resolution, emphasising empathy and understanding.

Following on from our previous lessons in Design Technology, students designed houses inspired by the Stone Age. The children did lots of research to find materials and structures used to build houses in the Stone Age.





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

Yr5/6 – Mrs Wharton and Mrs Emery

This week has been full of exciting learning opportunities across all subjects. We have continued reading our class novel, *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*. The children are really enjoying the story and can't wait to read on and discover what happens next!

In writing, we have started a new unit focused on creating a balanced argument. Our topic is *Boarding Schools vs Day Schools*, and the children have worked hard to present both sides of the debate. They have also been practising using relative clauses to add detail and sophistication to their writing.

In art, the children have taken inspiration from the Ancient Greeks to design their own pottery on paper. They showed great care and creativity in their designs. In PSHE, we discussed racism and how it can affect the lives of others. The children approached this sensitive topic thoughtfully and respectfully, sharing ideas on how we can all work towards equality and kindness.

In gymnastics, the children worked in groups to create their own routines. These included a variety of balances and creative ways of travelling, and it was fantastic to see their teamwork and imagination in action.





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Upcoming
Events:

	Event
NOVEMBER	
Wed 26 th Nov	Football League, King James Academy - FINAL
DECEMBER	
Tues 2 nd Dec	School Individual Photographs, by Phototronics
Mon 8 th Dec	KS2 Christmas Carols, 1:30pm at The Pathway FOMS Movie Night
Wed 10 th Dec	Pantomime at The Hippodrome, Darlington
Friday 12 th Dec	Nativity – Nursery, Reception and Year 1
Mon 15 th Dec	Christmas Crafts, a.m. – parents welcome
Wed 17 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas School Dinner School Choir at Middleton Luncheon Club
Fri 19 th Dec	School Closes for Christmas Holiday
JANUARY 2026	
Tues 6 th Jan 2026	School re-opens to pupils
Tues 13 th Jan	Key Stage 2 SATs Information Evening, 3:30pm