



# NEWSLETTER

24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## A message from our school leaders...

Welcome back to the summer term at Middleton. The children have returned really well, ready for a brand-new term full of learning, hard work, and fun. It has been wonderful to see a little bit of sunshine this week and to watch pupils enjoying more outdoor learning.

As we move into the warmer months, please remember that children must bring a water bottle to school every day. Sun cream should be applied before school on hotter days, and children are welcome to wear caps when the weather is sunny.

We have lots of exciting activities planned for the children this term, including several trips and enrichment opportunities across all year groups.

We are also working closely with the Friends to plan some FOMS events to enhance the extra-curricular life of the school. More details will be shared in the coming weeks. Thank you to the Friends for their continued support throughout the year and for their commitment to school projects - we truly appreciate everything they do.

A huge well done to Reception and Year 1 for 100% attendance this week – a brilliant achievement! Another huge shout-out goes to our amazing girl's football team, who today took part in a girl's football competition. They all worked together so well, making us all incredibly proud of them for representing our school so well.

It has been lovely to see pupils returning with such enthusiasm and readiness to learn. We are proud of how well they have settled back into routines and how eager they are to take on new challenges this term. We look forward to a fantastic summer term together.

## 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](#)

**BE SMART ONLINE**

**S SAFE** Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.

**M MEET** Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous so this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk).

**A ACCEPTING** Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.

**R RELIABLE** You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.

**T TELL** Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline - 0800 11 11 or [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

**BE SMART WITH A HEART** Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

[WWW.CHILDNET.COM](http://WWW.CHILDNET.COM)

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

~THIS WEEKS ATTENDANCE~

Rec/Yr 1	100.0%
Yr 2/3/4	95.4%
Yr 5/6	97.2%



# NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



## Nursery – Mrs Dobson

This week, in Nursery, we have been busy exploring the wonderful world of gardens. We have been reading the story, '*The Garden*', which inspired lots of lovely conversations about the plants and animals that live outdoors. The children have enjoyed learning about what you might find in a garden and sharing experiences from their own gardens at home.

To support our garden theme, we have introduced some new wondrous words. These include: **bark**, **earthworms**, **creepers** and **leapers**.

Earlier in the week, we were very excited to receive a special delivery of caterpillars! The children have loved observing them closely and are eagerly watching to see how they grow and change each day – this has been a brilliant opportunity to encourage curiosity and careful observation.

In our outdoor area, we have all been very busy gardeners – tidying the garden and planting carrot and pea pod seeds. The children are all helping to water the seeds regularly and are learning how to care for plants so that they can grow big and strong. Our home corner has also been transformed into a garden centre, where the children have been busy role-playing buying flowers, seeds, plant pots and watering cans. This has supported imaginative play, social skills and early language development.





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What have we been up to?

## YrR/1 – Miss Humpherson and Mrs Niven

What a brilliant start to the new term it's been for our Reception and Year 1 children. They've come back full of energy, curiosity and enthusiasm, and it's been wonderful to see the classrooms buzzing again.

**RECEPTION – 'On Safari!'** - Reception have jumped straight into their new topic, *On Safari*, and have already been busy exploring the incredible wildlife of Africa. This week, they learned all about the big cats, discovering fascinating facts about lions, leopards and cheetahs. The children also spent time looking at world maps, finding Africa and talking about how far away it is from where we live. Their excitement and questions have been fantastic.

**Maths Adventures** - in maths, Reception have been working on doubles up to 10. They've been singing nursery rhymes, using practical resources and exploring lots of different ways to show doubles. This hands-on learning naturally led them into thinking about odd and even numbers, and they've enjoyed spotting patterns and testing out their ideas.

**YEAR 1 – Springtime Learning** - Year 1 have had a fantastic first week back and have been putting all their learning about spring to good use. In writing, the children have been busy creating their own non-chronological reports, gathering fun and interesting facts about this beautiful season. They've shown great enthusiasm for sharing what they know and organising their ideas clearly.

**Maths – Multiplication & Division** - in maths, Year 1 have made a brilliant start to their new unit on multiplication and division. They've been practising counting in 2s, 10s and 5s, using songs, actions and practical activities to help them spot patterns and build confidence. It's been wonderful to see how quickly they've taken to this new challenge.

**Science – All About Plants** - our new science topic, *Plants*, has already sparked lots of curiosity. The children explored the different parts of a plant and were able to explain the role of each one - from the roots that anchor the plant and take in water, to the stem, leaves and flowers. Their scientific vocabulary is growing beautifully.

**Art – Inspired by James Rizzi** - in art, Year 1 have begun looking at street-view artwork and exploring the vibrant, playful style of artist James Rizzi. They'll soon be using his work as inspiration to create their own colourful cityscapes, and we can't wait to see their imaginative designs come to life.





# NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



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

Welcome back! We are excited to kick off the Summer term, filled with engaging activities and learning opportunities.

In our English lessons, we have been recapping a range of key features and have created a plan to help us write our diaries as Bean, from the story of *Fantastic Mr Fox*. The children are eager to express their creativity through writing!

In maths, Year 2 have been busy completing a variety of multiplication and division facts, while Year 3 have been exploring capacity and volume. Year 4 has been diving into decimals, learning how to share these by 10 and 100.

This week, we introduced our new History topic: *Roman Britain*. The children enjoyed discussing the founding of Rome from two perspectives - facts from a historian and the myth of Romulus and Remus. Their enthusiasm was evident as they showcased their acting skills while retelling the myth!

In geography, we have been learning how to use compasses, keys and symbols on a map. We identified where key places were, by using our knowledge of North, East, South and West.

Our art lesson this term focuses on Mosaics. The children have learned what a mosaic is, coloured a mosaic, and sketched their own thumbnail designs.

We've had a delightful week in science! With the sun shining brightly, we seized the opportunity to explore the fascinating world of shadows. The children were eager to learn how shadows are formed, and we took our lessons outside to make the most of the lovely weather. When in the playground, each child drew around each other's shadow, as well as any other shadows they could spot. The children were not only engaged but also demonstrated their understanding by explaining to Mrs Garnett what happens to their shadows throughout the day and the reasons behind these changes.

We look forward to a fantastic term ahead!





# NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

## Yr5/6 – Mrs Wharton and Mrs Emery

Welcome back to the Summer Term! It has been a busy and positive start to the week in Year 5 and 6.

In maths, Year 5 have dived straight into their new unit, using protractors to measure angles on a line, while Year 6 have continued developing their understanding of area and perimeter.

With SATs nearly upon us, we have been focusing on grammar skills in our writing lessons. Please remember to log on to **Rollama** at home to keep practising and building confidence.

Our new computing unit this half-term focusses on databases. In this week's lesson, we found out what a database is and how to use databases to filter, sort and group information.

In geography, we have begun to look at sustainable energy, which links closely with our DT unit. As part of this, the class analysed the features and design of a wind turbine.

During our PE session this week, we focused on developing skills to support us in a game of cricket, with pupils showing great enthusiasm and teamwork throughout.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 5/6 girls' football team who represented the school superbly at the tournament held at St John's Catholic School in Bishop Auckland on Friday. The girls showed fantastic teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the competition. They narrowly missed out on a place in the semi-finals, but their effort, attitude and commitment were outstanding and a real credit to the school. Well done to all involved!





# NEWSLETTER

Upcoming  
Events:

	Event
<b>APRIL 2026</b>	
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Vision screening for Reception pupils
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Netball League, Bishop Barrington Academy
<b>MAY 2026</b>	
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> May	'Open the Book' Assembly, led by The Pathway
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Netball League, Bishop Barrington Academy
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Netball League, Bishop Barrington Academy
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Tri-Golf Festival, B.C. Golf Club – Yrs 3+4
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Netball League, Bishop Barrington Academy - FINAL
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> May	School Closed for Half Term Holiday
<b>JUNE 2026</b>	
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Yr 5 Trip to Edinburgh
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Tri-Golf Competition, B.C Golf Club – Yrs 3+4
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Yr6 – Post SATs Trip
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Athletics Competition, Bishop Auckland – Yrs 5+6
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Phototronics – Class + Yr6 Friendship Photographs
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Healthy Week
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Family Brunch for Father's Day
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Sport's Day
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Rounders Festival – Yrs 5+6