



NEWSLETTER

11th September 2026

A message from our school leaders...

It has been a wonderfully busy week in school as the children completed their first full week back after the summer break. They are now fully settled into their new class routines, and it has been delightful to see them working so positively within their new class groups.

As we move into the colder season, please ensure that children bring a coat to school each day. We would also like to remind families that full school uniform should be worn daily, along with the correct PE kit on PE days.

We are excited to begin our Forest School programme next week. All pupils will have the opportunity to take part in sessions throughout the year, providing an exciting enhancement to our current curriculum offer. We look forward to seeing the children develop new skills and enjoy valuable outdoor learning experiences.

Pupil leadership roles will begin over the next few weeks, and elections for these positions are now in full swing. We are pleased to offer a number of opportunities for pupils to take on leadership responsibilities, including School Council, Eco Council, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, Play Leaders and Librarians. These roles provide children with the chance to develop valuable leadership skills, contribute positively to school life and help shape our school community.

We are also excited to find out who will be elected as our Head Boy and Head Girl. Votes will be counted early next week, and we look forward to sharing the results with you in next week's newsletter.

Friends of Middleton School

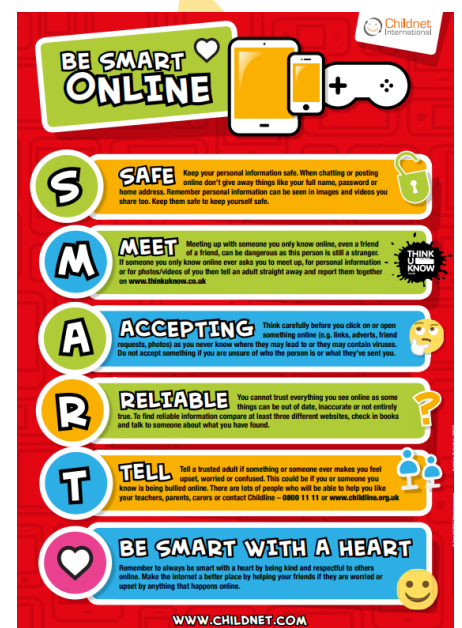
Next week, we will be meeting with our Friends of Middleton School (FOMS) partnership to plan a range of exciting activities and enhancements for our wonderful pupils. We simply could not run these events without the support of our school community. If you are interested in getting involved or feel you could support the school in any way, please contact Mrs Morris in the school office. We would love to hear from you.

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	95.8%
Yr 2/3/4	99.6%
Yr 5/6	99.5%



NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



Nursery – Mrs Dobson

This week, in Nursery, we have been learning and singing the popular rhyme, ***There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly***. The children have thoroughly enjoyed joining in with the song and learning the different parts of the rhyme.

As part of our learning, we explored our Wondrous Words: ***Imagine, Absurd, Swallowed*** and ***Lurking***. We talked about what these words mean and discussed how we can use them in our everyday conversations. Inspired by the story, the children enjoyed talking about the foods they would like to eat. They then used their creativity to make their own dinner plates - we were pleased to see that their meals contained plenty of delicious foods and no spiders or flies!

The children have also enjoyed singing, ***Miss Polly Had a Dolly Who Was Sick***. Through role play, they pretended to be doctors and nurses, caring for their dolls and helping them to feel better. This provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to develop their imagination, communication skills, and understanding of caring for others.

We have had a fantastic week filled with singing, learning new vocabulary, creative activities, and imaginative play. Well done to all the children for their enthusiasm and participation!





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



YrR/1 – Miss Humpherson and Mrs Niven

Reception

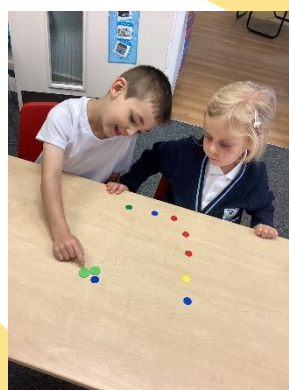
Reception children have settled into their new learning environment wonderfully. They have been enjoying the stories, *Monkey Puzzle* and *The Smartest Giant in Town*, using them to explore ideas such as bigger and smaller, ordering by size, and building houses and bridges for the characters. Their imagination and problem-solving skills have really shone through.

Next week, Reception will begin their class phonics lessons and will start to take part in more formal literacy and maths activities as they continue to grow in confidence.

Year 1

Year 1 have made a fantastic start to their learning this term. In English, they have been recognising and matching capital letters, preparing for understanding when and why we use them in writing. In maths, the children have been busy sorting and counting, using practical and pictorial resources to build strong foundations in number.

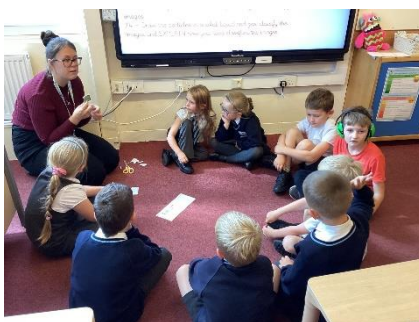
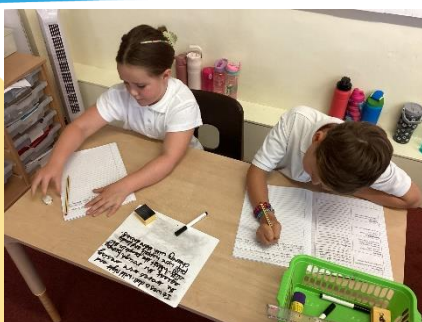
The children have also enjoyed beginning their wider curriculum. In geography, they explored what geography is, looking closely at the Earth using both a globe and maps. In science, they sorted animals into groups and discussed their different features. During DT, they learned about where our food comes from, sparking thoughtful conversations and curiosity about the world around them.





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



Yr2/3/4 – Mrs Wharton, Mrs Emery and Mrs Aislabie

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back after the six-week summer holiday. They have returned to school with positive attitudes, ready to learn, and have been actively participating in all of their lessons.

In English, we have begun our first writing unit of the year and have written the opening section of a three-part narrative based on the short film, *Lighthouse*. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the story so far and are eagerly anticipating the next part of the film.

In science, we have been learning about solids, liquids and gases, classifying different objects into these groups and discussing their properties.

We also have an exciting term of music ahead. Mr Waite from Durham Music Service has introduced the class to djembe drums, and the children are looking forward to developing their skills on these African drums over the coming weeks.

In PSHE, we have been considering our responsibilities within school and exploring what it means to be a respectful learner.





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



Yr5/6 – Mrs Garnett and Miss Spenceley

This week, Year 5 and 6 have been introduced to their new reading text, *War Horse*. The children have shown great engagement as we read and are looking forward to seeing what happens next.

In English, we have been looking closely at an image of Tommy, the soldier, and discussing it in detail. The children have used figurative language and fronted adverbials to help prepare for writing a character and setting description next week.

In maths, we have been focusing on place value and exploring what each number in a place value chart is worth. Year 6 have been working with numbers up to millions, while Year 5 have been introduced to tens of thousands.

During our science lesson, we have been learning about the circulatory system and how our heart works. The children have learnt how the heart pumps oxygenated blood around the body.

Later in the week, the children joined in a community project 'tag rugby' session run by Barnard Castle Rugby Club. They played lots of tag rugby games and learned how to pass the ball ready for a game. They were very respectful and really enjoyed the session.

Some of the children also presented their statements for Head Boy and Head Girl in assembly, and all of the children in school have voted. We will reveal who has the most votes in Monday's assembly. A huge well done to those children who spoke in front of the whole school!





NEWSLETTER

Upcoming
Events:

	Event
SEPTEMBER 2026	
Mon 14 th Sept	Roald Dahl Day
Tues 15 th Sept	School Council Votes
Wed 23 rd Sept	Author 'Adam Bushnell' visiting school
Tues 29 th Sept	Flu Immunisations in School for Rec-Yr6
OCTOBER 2026	
Fri 23 rd Oct	School Breaks up for Half Term Holiday
NOVEMBER 2026	
Mon 9 th Nov	Pupils Return to School
Mon 9 th Nov	Bikeability – Level 1 for Years 4 and 5
Tues 10 th – Thurs 12 th Nov	Bikeability – Level 2 for Year 5
Mon 16 th Nov	Odd Socks Day
Fri 27 th Nov	Remembrance Day
Mon 30 th Nov	Phototronics in School – Individual + Sibling Photographs
DECEMBER 2026	
Wed 16 th Dec	Pantomime at The Hippodrome, Darlington
Fri 18 th December	School Breaks up for Christmas Holiday