



NEWSLETTER

23rd May 2025

A message from our school leaders:

As we approach the end of yet another half term, it is both exciting and hard to believe how quickly the year has progressed. This week, our Year 3 + 4 pupils participated in a Tri-Golf festival, where they displayed exceptional skills and sportsmanship. Following this, two teams were selected to represent our school in a tri-golf competition. I am delighted to announce that our boys' team finished an impressive second overall. Well done to all involved for their hard work and dedication!

We were delighted to celebrate the success of all children who have committed to reading every night this half term. Their dedication and love for reading was rewarded at our Reading Party, where we enjoyed a range of outdoor activities for their achievements. A heartfelt congratulations to everyone who has embraced this important habit at home. Please remember that this initiative occurs every half term, and we look forward to seeing all of you at the next Reading Party. Keep up the excellent work!

Moreover, we were privileged to host a visit from the renowned author, Adam Bushnell. His engaging presence was a highlight for our students, as he led a lively assembly in which the children had the unique opportunity to act out a story. This interactive approach fostered not only their creativity but also their enthusiasm for literature and storytelling. Following the assembly, Adam spent valuable time conducting workshops with each class, providing them with invaluable inspiration and strategies to enhance their reading and writing skills. The feedback from both students and staff was overwhelmingly positive, and it was heartening to witness the children's excitement as they delved into their creative processes.

Looking ahead, we have numerous exciting events planned for the forthcoming term. These include educational trips, special projects, and opportunities for parent involvement. We encourage you to keep an eye out for further communications detailing key dates and information to ensure you do not miss out on any of the activities we have in store.

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful half term break.

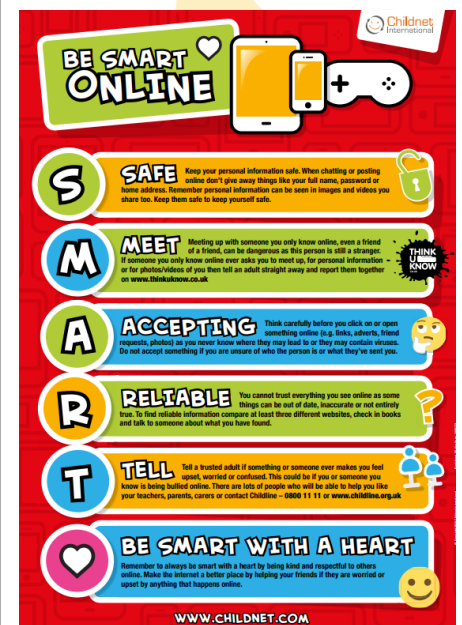
Mrs Harris

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~

Reception	98.8%
Year 1+2	97.4%
Year 3+4	97.9%
Year 5+6	98.6%



NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



EYFS – Miss Anderson and Mrs Dobson

NURSERY

This week, in nursery, we have been learning about Mary Anning, the fossil lady; the children have also learned how fossils are formed. We spent some time looking at a selection of different fossils and then the children drew their own fossils, practicing circular and spiral movements; the children also created their own observational paintings of fossils. We have made dinosaur fossils using paper straws, designed our own dinosaurs using different dinosaur parts and we finished the week off by baking dinosaur biscuits.

RECEPTION

For our last week of Safari, our focus book was, 'In the Jungle'. We have observed real images of parrots, monkeys, colourful flowers and leopards, we then wrote sentences about the animals. Furthermore, we discussed rhyming words, and matched rhyming pairs.

In maths, we have started subtraction. The children have told adults how many cubes have been taken away from a pile and how many were left. They have also written subtraction number sentences. On an afternoon, we have looked at traditional African patterns, looking at the colours and shapes in the patterns; the children then painted their own. We have also looked at Evangeline's journey to school in Kenya – we then compared this to our own journey to school and talked about the similarities and differences. The children went on an alien safari journey, where they saw lots of crazy animals! They then had lots of fun creating their own alien safari animals, by combining different animals together. To end the week, we had a lovely visit from author, Adam Bushnell and his tortoise, Jet.





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

Y1/2 – Mrs Garnett, Mrs Aislabie and Miss Spenceley

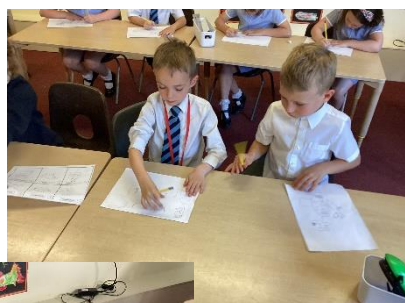
This week has been full of exciting activities in Year 1/2. First of all, our new English theme captured the children's imagination wonderfully. Our exploration of the film clip, 'Adventures Are the Pits' allowed the children to dive deeply into the narrative, drawing insightful inferences that generated thought-provoking discussions. They demonstrated remarkable creativity and comprehension as they moved on to learn about exclamation sentences, building on their previous understanding of adjectives and conjunctions, to craft imaginative and expressive diary entries that truly reflected their individual perspectives.

In mathematics, both Year 1 and Year 2 have focused on the concept of fractions. Pupils have been actively learning how to find halves and quarters of various shapes and quantities, enhancing their understanding of this fundamental topic through hands-on activities.

In PSHE, our discussions centred around maintaining a healthy lifestyle, specifically examining different food groups and their vital roles in supporting our bodies.

Our highlight of the week was undoubtedly the inspiring visit from Adam Bushnell. The event commenced with an engaging assembly featuring outstanding actors (the children) who presented a captivating story. The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshop related to Global Explorers, where they encountered fascinating information about animals and had the unique opportunity to meet Jet the tortoise.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely half term break.





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

Y3/4 – Miss McDonnell and Mrs Niven

Our Year 3/4 children started the week by attending a tri-golf festival at Barnard Castle Golf Club. Everyone did amazingly well, listening to instructions and showing exceptional behaviour. 6 of our Year 3/4 pupils were chosen to represent our school in the tri-golf competition on Friday and again they made us proud with the boys returning back to school with silver medals, coming 2nd in the competition.

In maths, Year 3 have been having a look at fractions and comparing them, whilst Year 4 have been learning all about angles - using protractors to measure them accurately.

We have now had our last swimming session of the year and are very pleased to say that every child has improved in leaps and bounds since starting last term. Most of our pupils have now moved up to the deep end and are starting to learn different techniques.

We hope you all have a lovely half-term holiday and we look forward to welcoming you all back for our final school term of the year.





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

Y5/6 – Miss Dobinson and Mrs Emery

This week, Year 5 & 6 have revisited the book, *The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh*, as they enjoyed it so much! We have analysed the features of a play script to enable us to write our own short play script based on a chapter of the book. We found out what an Act and Scene are, as well as understanding how stage directions are presented. To help us understand this better, children worked in groups to perform a small scene from *Macbeth*.

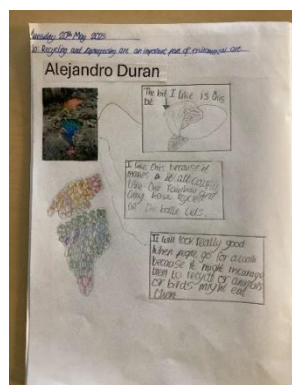
In R.E. this week, the class have explored Buddhism and why they seek to live a good life. In these sessions we have discovered what the five precepts are, using these as evidence to describe what jobs would be appropriate for a Buddhist to do – e.g. a doctor because they do not harm any living being.

In art, we continued to explore environmental art, looking in detail at well-known artists who use recycled materials; children then sketched some of their favourite pieces, identifying materials that have been used.

In music, children composed their own lyrics to a choice of three different beats. It is certain to say, we have some natural performers and musicians in the class!

We also found out how the eye works (and the names of the eye), and used mirrors to observe what happens to eye in the light and dark.

On Friday, we had great fun meeting author Adam Bushnell. In this session, Adam helped us with our creative writing about *The Big Freeze*. The class explored the adaptations of animals from the Arctic and Antarctic regions before creating their own adapted animals.





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	Event
MAY	
Mon 26 th – Fri 30 th May	School Closed for Half Term
JUNE	
Mon 2 nd June	School Re-Opens to pupils
Fri 6 th June	Yrs 5/6 Athletics Comp at Bishop Barrington, B.A.
Mon 9 th June	KS2 Family Brunch for Father's Day, 9-10am
Wed 11 th –Fri 13 th June	Residential Trip to Robinwood
Mon 16 th June	Bikeability, Level 1 – Years 3+4
Tues 17 th – Fri 20 th June	Bikeability, Level 1 + 2 – Years 5+6
Mon 23 rd June	Sports Day
Fri 27 th June	Phototronics – Year 6 Leavers and Class Photos
Mon 30 th June	Yrs 5/6 Rounders Fest at Teesdale Leisure Centre, B.C.
JULY	
Tues 1 st July	NELT Summer Concert at The Glasshouse, Gateshead
Thurs 10 th + Fri 11 th July	Year 6 Transitions to Teesdale School
Wed 16 th July	FOMS All the Fun of the Fair
Fri 18 th July	School closes for the Summer Holiday

~ Friends of Middleton School (FOMS) ~

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED URGENTLY

In July, three of our committee members will be 'retiring' as their children move 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.