



NEWSLETTER

22nd May 2026

A message from our school leaders...

This week marks the end of the first half-term of the summer. In many ways it has flown by, with lots of achievements along the way. We have seen a slight reduction in pupils achieving their Accelerated Reader targets, which meant fewer children attended the Reading Party this week. This is a gentle reminder of the importance of reading at least four times a week - ideally every night. Our strongest readers are often our strongest writers, so it really is a win-win for learning.

After the half-term break, our Y5 pupils are heading to Edinburgh to explore the city, including the castle and the National Museum of Scotland. This will be a fantastic cultural experience. Our Y5 friends from Browney Academy will also be joining us, so we are expecting a brilliant day for all involved. We hope to include this trip in our annual events calendar for Y5, while continuing to rotate a residential visit every two years.

We wish all families a restful and enjoyable half-term break – enjoy the sunshine!

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 as 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

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R RELIABLE You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true.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

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

Friends of Middleton School – FOMS

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.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

~THIS WEEKS ATTENDANCE~

Rec/Yr 1	98.4%
Yr 2/3/4	94.4%
Yr 5/6	92.6%



NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



Nursery – Mrs Dobson

This week, in Nursery, we have been enjoying the much-loved story, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The children were captivated by the journey of the caterpillar and were excited to explore the story through a range of hands-on activities. Alongside our story, we introduced lots of new **wondrous words**, including *butterfly*, *stomach ache*, *ate*, *caterpillar* and *cocoon*. The children have been doing a wonderful job of using these words in their play and conversations. As part of our learning, we explored the life cycle of a butterfly. The children were fascinated to learn how a tiny caterpillar grows, forms a cocoon and eventually transforms into a beautiful butterfly. To support their understanding, the children created their own caterpillars using sponges, enjoying the sensory experience of printing and repeating patterns. They also made symmetrical butterflies, learning how both sides are the same and experimenting with colour and design.

One of the most exciting moments of the week was when the children watched a real butterfly emerge from its cocoon. This was a truly magical experience that sparked lots of curiosity, questions and discussion. The children observed closely and talked about what was happening, linking it back to the life cycle we had been learning about.

To complete our learning journey, we carefully released the butterflies into the nursery garden. The children watched in awe as they flew away, linking their classroom learning to the real world in a meaningful and memorable way.





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

YrR/1 – Miss Humpherson and Mrs Niven

Reception – Learning About Jane Goodall

Reception have had a fascinating week exploring the life and work of Jane Goodall. The children have been captivated by her incredible dedication to studying chimpanzees, and many have been eager to share what they've learned - why not ask them what they remember?

In writing, Reception have been creating sentences about gorillas, focusing on using clear ideas and key vocabulary. In maths, they have been learning how to work out how many more have been added to a number, using practical resources to help them visualise the changes.

During PSHE, all of the children have been thinking deeply about relationships. This week they reflected on what makes them incredible, celebrating their own strengths and qualities. They also spent time recognising what makes other people special to them and why.

Year 1

Year 1 have now completed their retelling of Jack and the Beanstalk, producing some truly beautiful narratives. They have worked hard to include clear sentence structure, descriptive language, and a strong sense of story.

In maths, the children have been learning about position and movement. They have been practising directional and positional vocabulary such as forwards, backwards, left, right, above, and below, and using these words to follow and give instructions.

In music, Year 1 have been thoroughly enjoying their ukulele sessions with Mr Waite. They have been learning how to hold the instrument correctly, strum confidently, and play simple songs together. Their enthusiasm has been wonderful to see.





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



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

This week, the children have been working really hard completing their leaflets for anyone who would like to visit Pompeii. They have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about this fascinating place and now know lots of interesting facts to share.

In maths, Year 2 have been learning about fractions and finding halves of shapes and numbers. Year 3 and 4 have been working on time, including reading and writing minutes to, and minutes past. It has been lovely to see the children becoming more confident with their maths learning.

During science, the children were introduced to magnets as part of our forces topic. We discussed which materials would be attracted to magnets and why, and then carried out our own investigation by testing objects in the classroom. The children also made their own maze and used magnetic materials to help them make their way around it. This was a brilliant way to explore how magnets work in a practical, hands-on way.

As the sun was shining, and because of the children's hard work this half term, we enjoyed a story outside with ice lollies. It was a wonderful way to relax together and celebrate all the effort the children have put in.

Have a lovely half term and enjoy the sunshine!





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

Yr5/6 – Mrs Wharton and Mrs Emery

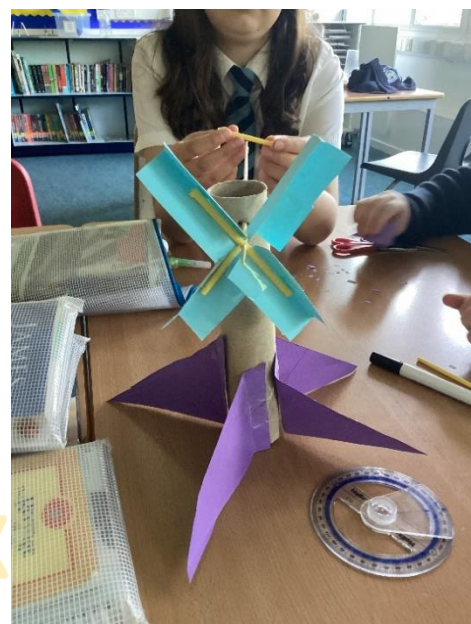
This week, Year 5/6 have been busy consolidating their learning across a range of subjects. In science, we revisited our Earth and Space unit, where the children drew on their knowledge to create engaging newspaper reports about the launch of Artemis II. It was fantastic to see them applying both their scientific understanding and writing skills to produce informative and imaginative pieces.

In PE, the class took part in an exciting game of diamond cricket. This activity ensured that everyone had the opportunity to take part in both batting and fielding, building teamwork and confidence while developing their cricket skills. The pupils showed great enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout.

Our DT unit came to a creative close as the children designed and built their own wind turbines. Using a variety of materials including straws, cardboard and kitchen roll tubes, they demonstrated excellent problem-solving skills and creativity in their designs. It was wonderful to see their ideas come to life and to celebrate the completion of their hard work.

In computing, we continued exploring databases, focusing on how to use filtering systems to efficiently find answers to questions. The children are becoming increasingly confident in navigating and analysing data, which is an important skill they will continue to build on.

We hope you all have a lovely and restful half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back in June for the final half-term of the summer term.





NEWSLETTER

Upcoming
Events:

	Event
MAY 2026	
Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th May	School Closed for Half Term Holiday
JUNE 2026	
Wed 3 rd June	'Open the Book' Assembly by The Pathway
Thurs 4 th June	Yr 5 Trip to Edinburgh
Fri 5 th June	Tri-Golf Competition, B.C Golf Club – Yrs 3+4
Tues 9 th June	Yr6 – Post SATs Trip
Fri 12 th June	Athletics Competition, Bishop Auckland – Yrs 5+6
Tues 16 th June	Phototronics – Class + Yr6 Friendship Photographs
Mon 22 nd – Fri 26 th June	Healthy Week
Mon 22 nd June	Family Brunch for Father's Day, 9-10am
Wed 24 th June	Sports Day
Mon 29 th – Fri 3 rd July	Careers Week
Mon 29 th June	Rounders Festival – Yrs 5+6
JULY 2026	
Mon 6 th July	Great Athletes Visit
Wed 8 th July	NELT Athletics Festival, Gateshead Stadium
Thurs 9 th – Fri 10 th July	Staindrop Transition Days
Fri 10 th July	Teesdale Transition Day
Fri 10 th July	KS2 Football Competition at Staindrop Academy
Wednesday 15 th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Fri 17 th July	School Closes for Summer Holidays