



NEWSLETTER

12th September 2025

A message from our school leaders:

As the new academic year gets underway, we're thrilled to share some exciting updates and reminders to keep everyone in the loop.

Focus on Handwriting and Presentation

This year, we've placed a strong emphasis on handwriting and presentation across all year groups. We believe that clear, confident writing not only supports learning but also builds pride in pupils' work. We're delighted to report that our students have made a fantastic start — rising to the challenge with enthusiasm and determination. Classrooms are already showcasing beautifully presented work, and we're proud of the effort being made. Keep it up, everyone!

Autumn Weather Reminder

As the autumn air begins to settle in, we kindly remind all families to ensure children come to school dressed appropriately for the changing weather. Coats are essential, and hats and gloves are encouraged on colder mornings. Outdoor learning and play continue throughout the term, so staying warm and dry is key to a happy school day.

Thank you for your continued support.

~ Friends of Middleton School (FOMS) ~

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED URGENTLY

In July, three of our committee members 'retired' as their children moved 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!

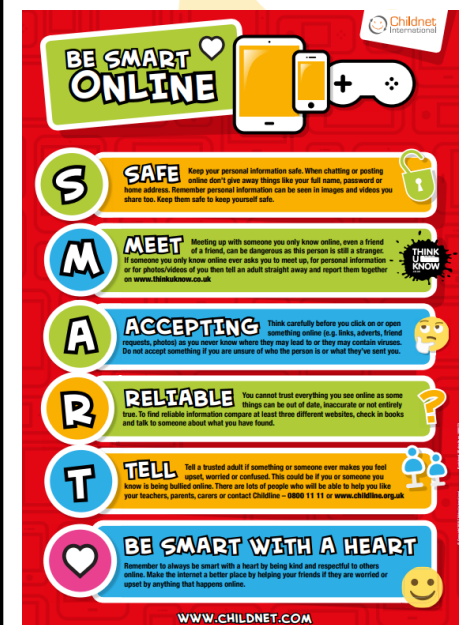
If you would be willing to join us, please let the school office know.

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	99.3%
Yr 2/3/4	98.6%
Yr 5/6	89.3%



NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



Nursery – Mrs Dobson

NURSERY

This week we have been learning the nursery rhyme, 'There was an Old Lady who Swallowed a Fly'. The children have loved this song and found it funny that she swallowed all the animals. The children have learnt new wondrous words including, imagine, swallowed, absurd and lurking.

We discussed all the different characteristics of the many animals that the old lady swallowed. The children then used pipettes to help melt ice-cubes, which contained flies (laminated pictures), to feed the old lady. We made lists of all the different animals, ordered the animals and finally, we made a proper meal for the old lady!

We have also harvested the vegetables that we planted in the spring and made some carrot soup. Further pictures will be available on our Facebook page.





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



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

We have had a productive couple of weeks in Year 1 and Reception class.

This week in Reception, we have been enjoying the story, 'The Smartest Giant in Town'. The children have excelled at sequencing the events of the narrative and learning their key vocabulary. In mathematics, they have engaged in sorting and comparing a range of items and have been looking at comparing the biggest and smallest objects.

In Year 1, Design Technology lessons, the children have engaged their senses to explore a variety of fruits, discussing their distinct tastes, aromas, and textures. In English, the pupils have been developing their writing skills by composing captions that reflect their observations.

During mathematics, we have focused on the concept of 'one more' than a given number up to 10, and the children have demonstrated their understanding by sorting items in various ways.

Additionally, our Physical Education sessions with our P.E. coach have centred on enhancing fundamental skills, contributing to their overall physical development.

In science, we commenced our topic on 'Animals Including Humans', by discussing the pets that our children have at home. This led to the creation of a tally chart to chart the different types of animals present in our class.

We look forward to further developments in the coming weeks





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

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

This week, we have embarked on an exploration of the new text, 'Stone Age Boy', a captivating story that transported the children back to prehistoric times. The children were completely engaged, asking thoughtful questions about the characters and plot, and making predictions on what might happen next. Their enthusiasm for the story has inspired us to delve deeper into the vocabulary, as we examine the meanings behind key terms. It's been a joy to witness their eagerness to expand their language skills!

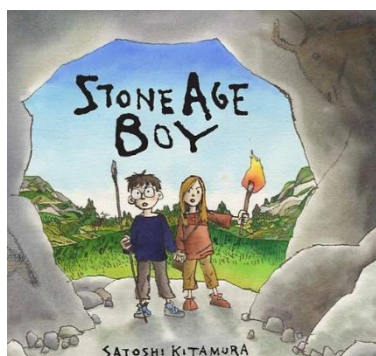
In Maths, we put our thinking caps on as we tackled the place value of numbers up to 20, 100, and even 1000. The children recapped the concept of partitioning, which has proven invaluable in helping them understand how to break numbers down into their component parts. They worked on various activities that solidified their understanding, and it was encouraging to see them apply this knowledge confidently.

During our PSHE sessions, we took the time to reflect on our personal goals and celebrate our achievements so far this year. The children passionately discussed what they hope to accomplish and designed their own medals as a visual representation of their targets. These medals will serve as rewards once they meet their objectives, fostering a sense of pride and motivation.

In history, we explored timelines and the significance of AD and BC. The students enjoyed placing various historical events in chronological order, which laid the groundwork for our upcoming topic on the Stone Age. It's a fascinating period that they are looking forward to learning more about.

In science, we shifted our focus to food and nutrition, using the example of Usain Bolt to spark discussions around diet and its impact on performance. The children were intrigued by his eating habits and the reasons behind them. This has prompted them to think critically about their own nutrition choices.

Lastly, we had our very first ukulele session with Mr Waite, our music teacher. It was a delightful experience that introduced the children to music in a fun and engaging way!





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



Yr5/6 – Mrs Wharton and Mrs Emery

This week, we have continued to have lots of fun in a range of lessons, and Mrs. Emery and I have been blown away with the level of focus and dedication to handwriting and presentation in all lessons.

This week, we have begun our writing unit; writing a letter based on the book, 'Tom's Midnight Garden'. So far, the class are curious about what Tom will find in the midnight garden.

We have also started our first DT unit of the year; Dart Frogs. In this unit, we will be making a pneumatic device. During our first DT lesson, we had great fun investigating how pneumatic devices work, by using only 3 simple objects: a plastic bottle, a balloon and a book. Why not ask your child how the investigation went!

In geography this week, we reminded ourselves of the lines of latitude and longitude, before exploring different climate regions of the world. We remembered that we live in a temperate climate, whereas countries near the Equator have a more tropical climate.

On Thursday we were excited about our first music lesson with Mr. Waite, from Durham Music Service. In this session, the class learnt how to hold and play the ukulele, before then performing a song.

This half term Y5/6 will be swimming each Wednesday, commencing Wednesday 17th September.





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Upcoming
Events:

	Event
SEPTEMBER	
Tues 16 th Sept	Immunisation Team – Nasal Flu – R-Y6
Frid 19 th Sept	Y5/6 Mini Police
Wed 24 th Sept	RWI Development Day
Fri 26 th Sept	Cross Country Competition, Staindrop Academy European Day of Languages Y5/6 Mini Police
Mon 29 th Sept	Handball Festival, Green Lane Primary – Yr 5+6
OCTOBER	
1 st – 31 st Oct	Black History Month
Wed 1 st Oct	'Open the Book' Assembly in partnership with The Pathway
Frid 3 rd Oct	Basketball Competition, Teesdale Leisure Centre – Yr 5+6
Wed 15 th Oct	Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy Open Day 9.15-10.15am – 2.00-4.00pm
Tues 21 st Oct	Kurling + Boccia Festival, venue TBC – Yr 1+2
Mon 27 th - Fri 31 st Oct	Half Term Holiday
NOVEMBER	
Wed 5 th Nov	Football League, King James Academy
Wed 12 th Nov	Football League, King James Academy
Wed 19 th Nov	Football League, King James Academy
Wed 26 th Nov	Football League FINAL , King James Academy