



# Middleforth Church of England Primary School

## Friday 20th December Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, I am not quite sure how we have fit everything in this week but we have. The week started with Key Stage 2's performance in Church on Monday and it was so nice to see so many parents and carers at both services, thank you. On Wednesday we all had our Christmas parties, Christmas lunch and we all even got to see Father Christmas and get a little present. On Thursday we held our Eucharist service in Church and it was a beautiful way to bring our term to an end and reflect on the Christmas story. During this service we also took a moment to say a prayer for Mr Trice and his family. We are in the process of creating a memory book for the family. If there is anything you would like to contribute then please send this through to the office. Finally we ended our term with a fantastic celebration assembly and then a beautiful carols around the crib this afternoon. I want to wish you all peaceful and joyous Christmas and New year.

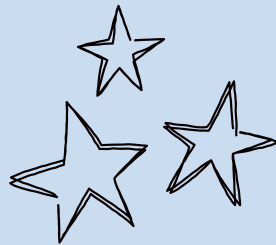
Mrs Pilkington.

★ ★

**Stars of the Week**

Nursery - Rory  
 Rec - Eden & Aurora  
 Y1 - Aurora & Emilia  
 Y2 - Sienna & Akhil  
 Y3 - Amelija & Vincent  
 Y4 - Marty & Lois  
 Y5 - Midas & Noah  
 Y6 - Emily & Edie

**WELL DONE**

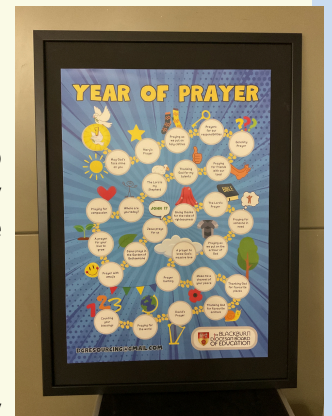


Target 96%	
Reception	83.1%
Year 1	94.3%
Year 2	92.1%
Year 3	98.3%
Year 4	95.2%
Year 5	90.7%
Year 6	90.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>92.1%</b>

### *Advent* **Collective Worship** Half Termly Theme - Service

This week we lit our third advent candle and Lisa Fenton from the Diocese came into school to lead worship and talk about Mary and how difficult it must have been to say 'Yes' to the news of having a baby. We heard how God had a plan for our lives and how we should trust that God and share Jesus's love.

We also added our third sticker to our Year of Prayer poster. "God your name is holy. You show mercy forever and ever to those who worship and serve you. You have done mighty things be your power. You have raised up the humble. You have filled the hungry with good things. Thank you Lord. Amen"



# TAKEHOME



## In the news this week

It is thought the number of cards sent this festive period will be lower than in previous years, as stamp prices have increased. The price of a first-class stamp rose by 30p in October, to £1.65. This rise (the fifth increase in less than three years) has also led to fears that the money reaching charities through card sales will be lower this year.

### Things to talk about at home ...

- > Share your experience of giving and receiving cards and ask someone at home about theirs.
- > Fewer cards are being sent each year; talk about why you think this is the case.
- > What other ways can you think of to show loved ones that you care and are thinking of them?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)



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### Staffing

In January we will come back Mrs Murphy into Year 5, following her maternity leave. She has been into school this half term and met all the children and even taught them for a day. When Mrs Murphy returns she will be working Tuesday to Friday and Mrs Powers will continue to teach Year 5 on a Monday. Miss Lever also left us last week to start her maternity leave and we want to wish them both all the best.

### EYFS

### Family Support and Early Help

Just a polite reminder that I have altered the 'Family Support' section on our school website. At the bottom, there is a list of current courses, which are running in the area. These courses may benefit a lot of our families. They include support for ADHD, ASD, wellbeing and anxiety. I will continue to keep this page updated and add any new courses or services I hear about on there. On the page you will also find a summary of my job role in school, for those of you who may not have fully spoken to myself yet.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Knight

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16



# Picture News For Parents



December 2024

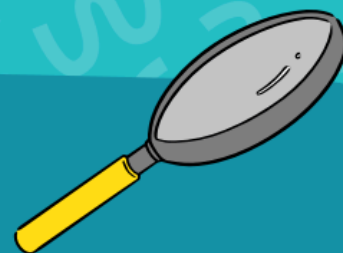
## Hello!

Welcome to Picture News for Parents! Receiving this newsletter means your child's school uses Picture News weekly resources, to help young people explore and learn from the world around them. This newsletter reflects on the autumn term for Picture News schools, and shares some handy prompts for productive news-based conversations at home.

## Recent News Focuses

### Continuing conversations at home...

Picture News schools have explored a variety of news stories this term. Here's a summary of just some of them, along with prompts to continue discussions at home.



### How can communities help each other in times of difficulty?

2nd September 2024

Following unrest in parts of the UK over the summer, this pack explored clean-up efforts in Middlesbrough, after the town was affected by damage from protests that turned violent. Children discussed the significance of their communities and considered how they can support others.



#### Conversation starter:

Who belongs to our community?  
How can we support members of our community?

### How important are human interactions?

7th October 2024

With this pack, children discussed e-commerce company Amazon's decision to end remote working for its employees. This news inspired conversations about flexible working, and the impact that spending time with other people can have on us.



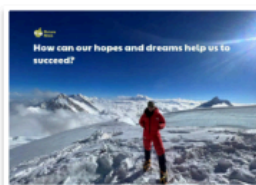
#### Conversation starter:

Do you agree with remote working?  
Would working remotely interest you in the future?

### How can our hopes and dreams help us to succeed?

4th November 2024

This resource highlighted the successes of 23-year-old climber, Adriana Brownlee, who has become the youngest woman to summit the world's fourteen highest mountains. Adriana's achievements led to wider discussions about goal setting and resilience.



#### Conversation starter:

What's your dream?  
What steps can you take to achieve your goal?

### Should everyone have the opportunity to be a star?

9th December 2024

Following the popularity of the newly-released Wicked, this pack focused on 10-year-old Karis Musongole from Manchester, who featured in the film as a younger Elphaba. Children thought about how we are all stars in different ways, and the skills we can learn from performances.



#### Conversation starter:

What makes you a star?  
How can everyone be stars in different ways?



# What have Picture News schools done this term?

## Big assemblies!

This term we've welcomed hundreds of thousands of children online for live assemblies, including:



September's **Welcome Back Assembly** to celebrate our differences and overcome adversity following unrest over the summer. Over 500,000 children joined in to share the importance of their communities, and it even caught the attention of BBC News!

October's **Black History Month Assembly** with BBC Radio 1 presenter Swarzy Macaly, to celebrate Black history. Swarzy shared a positive reminder that we can all claim our own stories and lift each other up.



There will be more big assemblies to come in 2025, to continue inspiring children with current affairs!

# Exploring the News



It's so inspiring to see schools bringing Picture News resources to life. Here are some examples from this term! Keep reading for three reasons why children should explore the news...

## 1 Develop empathy and understanding for others' experiences

The news sheds light on experiences and perspectives, helping children to discover, relate to, and empathise with other people's stories.



St Paul's Catholic Primary School

## 2 They can build awareness for what's happening now – and get involved!

Children can make an impact, whether it's writing letters, starting petitions, or having meaningful conversations, to act on current issues and events.



Holy Spirit Catholic Primary

## 3 Grow communication skills to discuss thoughts and responses to news events

Conversations inspired by the news can support children to develop their communication skills, by sharing their own responses and listening to (and respecting) others' views on a topic.



Allington Primary School

# Take Home



Within each Picture News pack sent to schools is the 'Take Home' resource, which encourages you to continue conversations about the news story and big question at home.

This is a great chance to stay up-to-date with the topics we cover, and think about the issues and events impacting our world.



# Stay in touch!

I hope this newsletter has been useful! Any feedback or ideas for future editions are welcome.

Be sure to follow us on social media to see regular updates on our news coverage and the fabulous work our schools share!



We wish you a peaceful Christmas and New Year – take care!

**Katie N, Editor**  
katie.n@picture-news.co.uk





“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16



## Middlefirth Church of England Primary School



**We have funded and paid nursery places available!**

Call the office to book a visit  
and enquire about a place:  
**01772 746024**



As a caring, Christian community, we aspire to 'let our light shine'. We will open up the world to celebrate God's wonderful creation and foster a sense of awe and wonder.

We will nurture our God given talents to ensure that everyone reaches their full potential academically, socially and spiritually.

**'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'**

**MATTHEW 5.16**

**LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16**





# Middlefirth Church of England Primary School 2024/2025 Yearly Planner



## SEPTEMBER

9th - Fairtrade Fortnight  
11th - Meet the Teacher  
11th, 18th & 25th - Reception Tots on Tyres  
18th - Year 3 Scoot Safe

## OCTOBER

3rd - SEN/Family Support Coffee Morning  
3rd - 2.15pm Harvest Service - Church  
4th - Reception Afternoon Tea Party  
7th - Whole School Flamenco Day  
8th & 17th - Reception 2025 OPEN DAYS  
2nd & 9th - Year 5 Bikeability  
10th - Year 4 Trip to Abbeystead  
11th - Flu vaccinations  
17th - Whole School church  
18th - Parents Exhibition Morning

## NOVEMBER

5th - Individual photographs  
5th & 6th - Parents Evening  
7th - Outdoor Classroom Day  
14th - KS2 Church - Year 6 leading  
18th - School Parliament Week

## DECEMBER

5th - Year 3 Journey to Bethlehem  
9th - KS1 Nativity  
12th - Minis/Reception Nativity  
13th - Christmas Jumper Day  
16th - KS2 Christmas Carols in Church  
18th - Christmas Parties and Christmas Lunch  
19th - Whole School Church  
19th - Pantomime (In School)

## JANUARY

13th - 3.30pm Year 6 SATS and Robinwood meeting  
16th - Parents Coffee Morning

## FEBRUARY

4th - KS1 Church - Year 2 leading  
11th - Safer Internet Day  
12th & 13th - Parents Evening  
14th - Parents Exhibition Morning  
24th - Young Voices concert (Co-op Live Arena)  
24th - Swimming Pool arrives

## MARCH

3rd - 5th March - Year 6 Residential to Robinwood  
6th - World Book Day  
27th - Whole School Church

## APRIL

24th - Parents Coffee Morning

## MAY

8th & 9th (PM) - May Day festival  
12th - Key Stage 2 SATs week  
21st - Class photographs  
23rd - Parents Exhibition Morning

## JUNE

2nd - Year 4 Multiplication Check Window  
9th - Phonics Screening Check week  
19th - Sports Day  
26th - Back up Sports Day  
23rd - Key Stage 1 SATs week

## JULY

8th - Year 6 Performance  
10th - Reports home  
14th - Reports drop in for parents 3.30pm - 4.30pm  
16th - Year 6 Prom  
17th - AM - Whole School Church  
17th - PM - Year 6 Leavers service  
18th - Finish for Summer

As a caring, Christian community, we aspire to 'let our light shine'. We will open up the world to celebrate God's wonderful creation and foster a sense of awe and wonder. We will nurture our God given talents to ensure that everyone reaches their full potential academically, socially and spiritually.

'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'

MATTHEW 5.16





# December Kindness 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others

2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are

3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment

4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about

5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely

6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find

7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today

8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member

9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead

10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them

11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank

12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today

13 See how many different people you can smile at today

14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one

15 Say hello to your neighbour and brighten up their day

16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to

17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you

18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving

19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated

20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need

21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you

22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed

23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness

24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh

25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!

26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature

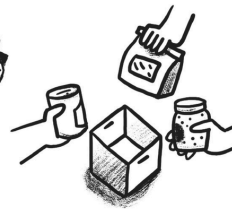
27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat

28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy

29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people

30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why

31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2025

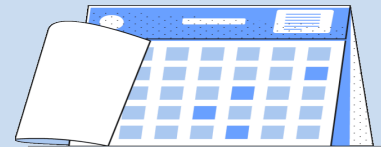


**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS**

**Happier · Kinder · Together**

## School term and holiday patterns

**2024-2025**



### Autumn Term

School re-opens  
Mid-term closure  
School re-opens  
School Closes

Tuesday 3rd September 2024  
Monday 21st October - Monday 28th October 2024  
Tuesday 29th October 2024  
Friday 20th December 2024 at 2pm

### Spring Term

School re-opens  
Mid-term closure  
School re-opens on:  
School closes on:

Monday 6th January 2025  
Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February 2025  
Monday 24th February 2025  
Friday 4th April 2025 at 2pm

### Summer Term

School re-opens  
May Day:  
School closes on:  
Mid-term closure:  
School re-opens on:  
School closes on:

Tuesday 22nd April 2025  
Monday 5th May 2025  
Friday 23rd May 2025  
Monday 26th May - Monday 2nd June 2025  
Tuesday 3rd June 2025  
Friday 18th July 2025 at 2pm