



# Middleforth Church of England Primary School



*Our Christian Value this half term is Courage*

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Dear Parents

As we approach our last week of this half term, we are very mindful that this has probably been the hardest half term for us all so far. This week, please take time to focus on all that you have achieved in this period and remember not to put too much pressure on yourselves. We know that for many of the children this has been really hard, they have missed being in school, they have missed their friends and they have missed the routines of the school day and we have too.

Next week, on Wednesday, we are encouraging everyone to have a day away from your screens and formal learning, to do something special together in a more relaxed way and celebrate the end of term doing something we really enjoy together. We would love to see photos of how you spend your day.

As we await the next announcement about the full return to school, we are now putting in place our plans for how that will look in school, taking into account that all of our children will have had different learning and emotional experiences. We are planning how we will help them all settle back both into routines, friendships and their learning. We know they will all be in a different place with learning and we are making plans for how we will support them all in the best way possible. In the meantime, try not to worry too much that they are falling behind as that is everyone's worry and it is likely the differences won't be that great, and if they are, we will manage that for them on return.

## **Online worship**

This week our online worship has focused on children's mental health week and feelings. We will continue to provide a daily worship for you to share in with us.

Child led worship is really important to us in school and it would be great if we could look at doing this remotely too. Please contact [worship@middleforth.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:worship@middleforth.lancs.sch.uk) if you would like to get involved and help be part of one of our worships.

## **Story Writing**

The Mayor of South Ribble, Cllr Jane Bell, read stories out on Facebook weekly before Christmas which proved to be popular. Following this, the Mayor has invited children to write a story themselves for her to read out. Attached is a clip below from the Mayor which has all the details:

<https://youtu.be/ATXhfZ2aG-4>

If any of our children would like to write a story to submit, please can parents email it to: [tracy.oreilly@southribble.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.oreilly@southribble.gov.uk) by Friday, 12 February and include the following details:

- Middleforth C of E Primary School
- Student Name and Age

All children that send in a story will receive a certificate from the Mayor, and they hope to start reading the stories out during half-term in February.

## **Reporting Covid, including over half term**

Please continue to let us know if your child has tested positive for Coronavirus or has been in contact with a positive case regardless of whether you are home learning or in school. Please email [covid@middleforth.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:covid@middleforth.lancs.sch.uk). If your child is due to be in school, please stay at home to isolate as per the guidelines and notify school immediately.

**The email address will be monitored over half term. If there are any positive cases reported and should this impact upon your child, you will be notified by email.**

## **Free School Meals (Pupil Premium)**

Just a reminder that in addition to all infant children (Reception to Y2) being eligible for Universal Free School Meals, all children from **Nursery to Year 6** may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

In addition to your child receiving free school meals, schools receive valuable funding of £1,345 per pupil to help improve progress for children who may need it. You can apply to check your eligibility at any time, as understandably, family circumstances may change, especially in the current uncertain times we are facing. To apply please click here or speak to the school office if you need any help:

[https://lancashire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free\\_school\\_meals\\_and\\_pupil\\_premium](https://lancashire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free_school_meals_and_pupil_premium)

## **School Meals – Moving to Tucasi/ScoPay from ParentPay**

**This will only apply to families with children in KS2 or nursery**, as EYFS and KS1 children are in receipt of universal free school meals.

The transition to Tucasi/Scopay will happen around Easter time and we will be keeping ParentPay ticking over for children in school until then. In the meantime, we are starting to finalise everything with ParentPay and making sure that all accounts are left up to date, by the end of February, as once we close the system down in March, we will not be able to access it again.

We have previously been advised by ParentPay to ask families to request a refund if they have a credit balance, however, we've had a couple of reports that this is not working as it should. This is due to the current situation where there are limited numbers of children in school and therefore, limited income being paid in for school lunches for ParentPay to refund against. We are looking into other options, however, in the meantime, please do not worry, as we are preparing to transfer all credit balances to your new Tucasi/Scopay lunch account, should ParentPay not be able to return your money via the refund process. Therefore, your balance will just be moved from one provider to another.

It is never easy when we have to make changes, however, we will try to make the transition as simple as possible for everyone. It will be great when we are able to use just the one system to book and pay for everything from wraparound care, school trips and soon school meals.

*Have a lovely weekend,*

*Mrs Adams*

## **Outdoor area and playground fundraising link:**

<https://chuffed.org/project/middleforth-preston-to-paris-cycle-fundraiser> (also on our FB page)