

Middleton Newsletter 2

Middleton Primary and Nursery School

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Dear Parents/Carers

The weeks have just flown by and it seems unbelievable that we have just one week left before October half term! It has been a very busy but enjoyable half term. Thank you to all those parents who were able to attend our Reading Curriculum Evening on Wednesday. We received lots of positive feedback from parents who found the sessions useful and informative and were amazed at the amount and variety of reading that takes place across the school! We would really welcome any feedback from parents on topics that you would like to be covered in future Curriculum Evenings.

Middleton One World Group

Our Middleton One World coffee mornings have been very successful in gaining parent perspectives and ideas. Originally the group was set up to bring parents from different cultures together and ensure that communication between home and school was clear and as helpful as possible. In response to ideas from these sessions, the school has set up the Toddler Group and provided ESOL, ICT and First Aid sessions for parents. Members of staff have given mini presentations on curriculum areas, on request from parents. Suggestions from parents make up the agenda which is always put up on the school gates and the school website prior to the sessions. The coffee mornings are open to *everyone* and are an excellent opportunity to meet new people and chat. Our next session will be on **Thursday 1 December from 9-10am**. Please come and join us!

Toddler group

Our toddler group is now up and running on a Tuesday morning from 8.45-10.15am. The sessions we have held have been very well attended and a huge thank you to those of you who donated toys and other equipment. The next toddler group session will be after half term on **Tuesday 1 November**. New parents/carers are always welcome.

ICT Courses for Parents

Following on from the success of last term's ICT classes for parents, we are delighted to inform you that new classes will be available starting on **Wednesday 2 November** in the Community Room. 'Introduction to MS Office skills' will run from 9-11am and 'Computing for Beginners' will run from 1.15-3.15pm for seven weeks at a charge of £35 (£2.50 per hour), *free to parents on means tested benefits*. Places will be offered on a first come first served basis and, as these courses have proven to be very popular in the past, if you are interested please put your name down at the office as soon as possible.

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Trim Trail

Please be aware that children **should not be playing on the school trim trail** in front of the school at the end of the school day. During school hours children are well supervised by staff when using this apparatus and we are very concerned that an accident could happen after school hours. New signage will be installed on this area shortly.

A note from our Chair of Governors

The role of the governing body covers all aspects of school life, from overseeing staff recruitment, setting and approving the school budget, health and safety, child safeguarding and setting the strategic direction, policies and objectives for the school. It is often said that a school governor should be a "critical friend" and we certainly work hard to ensure strategic decisions are made with due consideration, by challenging and supporting senior staff. We meet once a term as a full governing body and then each of three subcommittees also meet at least once a term. If you'd like to find out more detail about other aspects of governors' work, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the school office, the school's website or email me at: governors@middleton.nottingham.sch.uk Several governors (sometimes disguised as parents!) will be attending school events, like parents evenings, during the term so by all means come and have a chat. *Jonathan Pearce.*

Footprints - Walk once a Week

The traffic and safety team at Nottingham City have re-launched the 'Footprints' initiative where every child receives a walking passport in which they can stick shiny feet for each week they walk at least once to or from school. The passports are kept in school and at the end of the initiative, if they have completed their passport, each child will receive a metal pin badge. The aim is to encourage pupils and parents to walk (cycle or scoot!) to school and leave cars at home.

Cycling/Scooting to school

It is lovely to see so many children cycling or scooting to school! We are looking into buying some scooter racks to provide additional storage space for both cycles and scooters during the day. Can we remind parents that children who are cycling **must wear a helmet** and that if your child is riding their bike or scooter to and from school and using the racks, you will need to complete a consent form, available at the school office.

Conservation Area

The Environment Agency are going to be working with us to redevelop our Conservation Area to make it more attractive for wildlife and more accessible for supervised groups of children. They will be removing trees, planting, relaying the path, cleaning out ponds and creating a boggy area as a new habitat for minibeasts! This work will be taking place on Wednesday 19 October so do have a look at the work in progress! We are extremely grateful to the volunteers from the Environment Agency for their work which we know will greatly benefit our children's learning opportunities in this area.

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CCTV

After half term we will be having CCTV installed around the perimeter of the school building to improve our security. This is in response to a number of incidents where lead has been stolen from the school roof and where intruders have been on the site after school hours. The images will be monitored during the school day by the office staff, giving them a clear view of who is accessing the premises at all times. After school hours when the site is secure, images will be sent off site and monitored by our security company. We believe that this system will enhance the security of the school building and safety of our pupils.

PTA Fireworks Event

Tickets for the PTA fireworks events on **Friday 4 November** will be on sale after half term. Ticket stalls will be set up outside the Y3/4 block and on the main playground before and after school on Tuesday 1 - Thursday 3 November. A leaflet from the PTA requesting donations and with more information will be sent out next week.

Safeguarding Children

We believe that safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility.

At Middleton we are committed to keeping our children safe from harm. We have two identified staff in school with responsibility for safeguarding and child protection, they are Mrs Sadler Penn and Mrs Morrell. Our Learning Mentor, Mrs Harne will also be fully trained in safeguarding as a lead professional by the end of this term.

If we have any concerns reported to us we will always take action to protect a child and inform the relevant agencies. If we are alerted to anything thought to be suspect or unusual in our local area, we will notify you immediately by newsletter or signs around the school.

I hope you all have a lovely half term and please remember that Monday 31 October is an INSET day so the children are due back in school on **Tuesday 1 November**.

November Dates for your Diary

Tues 1	Children return to school
Fri 4	PTA Firework Event 6-8pm
Mon 2	Key Stage 1 Themed School Dinner
Fri 7	Key Stage 2 Themed School Dinner
Mon 14-Fri 18	National Anti-Bullying Week
Tues 15	Parent Evening - late (appointments between 3.30-6.30pm)
Thurs 17	Parent Evening - early (appointments between 3.00-5.30pm)
Fri 18	Children In Need - Non-Uniform Day
Mon 21	Nursery Coffee morning and afternoon
Mon 21-Fri 25	Road Safety Week
Fri 25	Thanksgiving School Dinner

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Sadler Penn - Acting Head Teacher