

Middleton Primary and Nursery School

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Friday 9 September

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you all had an enjoyable and restful summer break. I am really pleased to be writing my first newsletter as Acting Head Teacher of Middleton Primary and Nursery School. We have lots of exciting developments and events planned for this academic year and with a fantastic staff team behind me I am confident I can continue to build on previous successes and lead Middleton forward through its next stage of development. I will always welcome any ideas you may have to further improve our school so please do approach me on the playground with suggestions or any queries that you may have. It has been an excellent start to the school year. The children look incredibly smart in their school uniform and their behaviour has been impeccable. The staff are really pleased to be welcoming them back to school and a new academic year!

Eid Mubarak! عيد مبارك كرابم دي ع

To all our families who celebrated last week!

Uniform Reminder

Could we please remind you to ensure that all items of school clothing are **clearly named**. The children look so smart and it is very difficult to match children with their lost items of clothing when there are no name labels. Please also remember that we have a **no jewellery policy** in school. Children are not allowed to wear **any** earrings, necklaces, bracelets, etc due to health and safety reasons. No nail varnish either please. Footwear should be sensible shoes which the children can fasten and unfasten themselves. Boots and trainers should not be worn, although in rain and snow children may bring wellington boots to change into if necessary. Headbands and socks/tights should be of plain design in black, grey, white or school green. A named PE kit (plimsoles, green or black shorts and a white T-shirt) should be kept in school for sport sessions. We thank you for your support in this matter.

Reading Curriculum Evening

Every year we hold an information/curriculum evening for parents in the Autumn Term to keep you informed and up to date with what is happening in school. This term our focus will be on developing reading strategies and skills at all ages. Staff will be modelling how to develop basic reading/story telling skills to encourage enjoyment, fluency and accuracy in the earlier years. In the later years, when listening to children read aloud may be replaced with discussion about the content and language used in books, the focus will be on developing reading comprehension and inference skills. Each year group will hold a workshop to share strategies that can be used at home. Reading is such an important skill that also impacts on a child's writing and so the aim of the workshops is to enable you to support your child at home by reinforcing strategies used in school. This event is scheduled for **Wednesday 12 October 6-7pm** and we hope that it will be a popular and informative evening for all.

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Learning Mentor

Mrs Harne is starting a new role this term as our Learning Mentor. Her role has many strands including addressing the needs of children who need help in overcoming barriers to learning, improving school attendance and punctuality and supporting links between home and school to name but a few! She will be working across the school and you will see her around on the playground each day. Her role is a supportive one to both children and their families so if you have concerns about your child or family worries impacting on your child, please do approach her as she may be able to help.

Start and end of the school day

As a school, we have worked hard over the last few years to improve our punctuality and attendance rates and it is an area we monitor closely. Could we please remind you that children should be on the playground ready for the start of the school day at **8.45am**. Could we also ask that when the teacher arrives at the line, parents stand back to allow children to line up by themselves and lead into school promptly. All teaching staff will lead classes out onto the playground at the end of the school day and are available for a quick query. Can I remind you that if you want to speak to a member of staff for longer or gain access to the school building this must be done *through the school office* and not through the exterior school doors. This is for everyone's health and safety and so we can keep a record of who is in the building. Thank you for your support.

Attendance

Can we please remind you that if your child is absent from school we need to be informed on the first day of absence as early as possible. This is so that we know your child is safely at home with you when they are not with us as expected. Good attendance and punctuality are two key issues which have a huge impact on children's achievements and progress in school. We discourage any family from taking children out of school but in **special circumstances**, schools may authorise, in advance, a request for a period of leave up to ten days in any year. This request will usually only be granted if attendance has been above 95%.

Communication

We sent out a welcome back message to parents via our School Comms system earlier this week using the mobile phone numbers that we have on file. If you did not receive a message from us or if you have any change in contact numbers then please inform the school office. We are working towards collecting all email addresses of parents and carers so that you can choose if you wish to opt out of paper letters and either receive email copies of letters or use the school website. Recent improvements to our website include copies of letters and details of extra curricular activities on the parents' page

80th Birthday Mosaic

The mosaic that the children designed to our represent their favourite aspects of Middleton is now on display in our entrance hall. It looks beautiful and is a wonderful way to commemorate our 80th birthday!

International School Award

I am very pleased to inform you that Middleton has been reaccredited with **The International School Award** until 31 August 2014 for the global work that we do in bringing the wider world into the classroom. We believe that international links bring a vitally important dimension to the education of our children, ensuring that they build the skills and understanding to become global citizens ready and able to take their place in the world. We have now links established with schools in France, Lebanon and Pakistan and are currently working on developing a new link with Dubai!

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Inset Dates 2011/2012

Inset Autumn Term 2011: Monday 5 September and Monday 31 October

Inset Spring Term 2012: Monday 20 February

Inset Summer Term 2011: Monday 1 June and Monday 2 July

Our Diary dates for the Autumn Term are as follows:

September

Tues 6 Children return to school
Weds 14 Yr 5/6 Choice Advice session in the Community Room
Mon 26 6.30 PTA meeting at school - all welcome
Fri 30 Macmillan Coffee Morning in Hall - 8.45am please join us!

October

Mon 10- Fri 14 Black Awareness Week
Weds 12 Reading Curriculum Evening 6-7pm
Thurs 13 Middleton One World Meeting 8.45am Community Room
Mon 17-Fri 21 Kingswood Residential Week for Year 6
24-28 Half Term Week
Mon 31 Inset Day

November

Tues 1 Children return to school
Fri 4 PTA Firework Event 6-8pm
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

December

Weds 7 KS 1 Christmas Performance to Parents at 9.30am
Mon 12 Foundation 1 & 2 Christmas Performance at 2pm
Tues 13 Foundation 1 & 2 Christmas Performance at 9.30am
Mon 19 KS2 Christmas Performance to Parents (am)
FS & KS1 Christmas Parties
Tues 20 KS2 Evening Christmas Performance at 6pm
Weds 21 'Cinderella' Pantomime for children (am)
Thurs 22 PTA Christmas coffee morning in the hall with choir and instrument performances
Y3/4 Y5/6 Christmas Parties
Fri 23 Last day of Autumn Term

Return to school: Monday 9 January 2012

Please see term dates and holiday pattern for this academic year overleaf.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Sadler Penn
Acting Head Teacher