



# NEWSLETTER

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

## A message from our school leaders:

Welcome back to another exciting term! I hope you all enjoyed a lovely Easter break and had the opportunity to spend quality time with your families. The weather this week has been simply delightful, and I kindly remind you to ensure that your children come equipped with caps and sun cream as warmer days approach.

I am pleased to inform you that the children have settled back into their routines remarkably well.

Our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils recently embarked on a school trip to Raby Castle, where they had a brilliant day filled with engaging activities and learning experiences. Furthermore, we have a number of other trips planned for various classes in the coming Summer terms, which promise to be equally enriching.

Next week, we will be joining in with VE celebrations on Thursday 8th May. All children are welcome to come dressed in red, white, and blue for the occasion, and we have exciting activities planned throughout the day.

I wish you all an enjoyable long weekend.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Harris

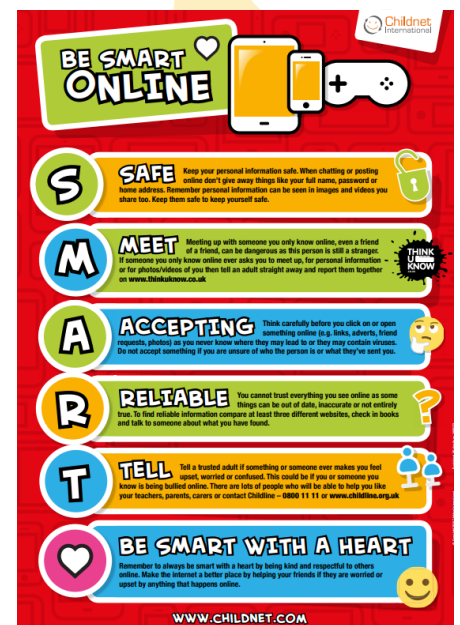
## Reminders and Messages

- 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.

~ *Friends of Middleton School (FOMS)* ~

## Useful Online Safety Links

- [NSPCC](#)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Childline](#)



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

~THIS WEEKS ATTENDANCE~

Reception	100.0%
Year 1+2	95.1%
Year 3+4	97.4%
Year 5+6	93.2%



# NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



## EYFS – Miss Anderson and Mrs Dobson

### NURSERY

This week in nursery, we have been learning about different types of diggers and the different jobs that they do. The children have learnt new words relating to diggers such as, scooping, tipping, earth and digging. They have used their building skills to make a crane and a digger, using different sized blocks, and they showed their artistic talents by painting pictures of diggers. Lots of fun was had playing with the diggers in the home corner area, which was transformed into a small world Digger Land. The diggers were all covered in sand; however, the children were very helpful in washing them clean.

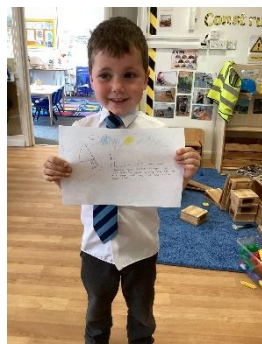
### RECEPTION

This week, we have kicked off our new topic, 'Off on Safari'. Also, this week's focus book has been, 'Big Cat Babies' and the children have learnt about lions, leopards, cheetahs and their cubs. We have discussed the similarities and differences between the animals, and the children have told adults facts about each one; they have also written sentences about the cats.

In maths, we have been looking at numbers 1-10. We have compared numbers, by identifying the bigger/smaller number. We have ordered random numbers from 1-10 from smallest to biggest and practised counting up to twenty starting from different numbers.

The children have also learnt about the continent Africa. We have watched videos of how people in Africa live and what animals live there. We then compared the African lifestyle to our own in England and talked about what was different and what was the same.

In RE, we looked at places of worship and how they are special to religious people. The children then shared with the class a place that was special to them and why.





# NEWSLETTER

**What have we been up to?**

## **Y1/2 – Mrs Garnett, Mrs Aislabie and Miss Spenceley**

It has been absolutely delightful to welcome the children back after the Easter break. Everyone has been working diligently this week, displaying enthusiasm and a willingness to engage in our new learning topics.

In English, we have embarked on an exploration of the text, 'The Storm Whale', where the children have been thinking critically about descriptive settings and the emotions felt by characters within the story. Alongside this, we are placing a significant emphasis on phonics in preparation for our phonics screening check, scheduled for the end of May.

In mathematics, Year 2 students have been concentrating on 2D shapes, particularly focusing on sides, vertices, and symmetry. Meanwhile, Year 1 have been engaging with multiplication concepts, analysing equal groups and understanding the relationship between doubling and multiplying by 2.

In science, we have introduced the exciting topic of living things, where students discussed the distinctions between living, non-living, and once-living entities, as well as the seven processes essential for classification as a living organism.

During our art lesson, the children enjoyed having a go at still-life drawing. The subject matter was a tulip flower and as you can see in the attached pictures, we have some excellent artists in our class.

Additionally, in geography, our 'Global Explorers' unit has commenced with a refreshing look at the physical and human features of our locality.

We are delighted to share that, the children, once again enjoyed music sessions with our music teacher, learning to play the ukulele and enhancing their musical skills in a fun and engaging manner.

We wish you all a lovely bank holiday weekend.







# NEWSLETTER

**What have we been up to?**



## Y3/4 – Miss McDonnell and Mrs Niven

The first week back after a fabulous Easter break has been an exciting one for the class. Not only have they enjoyed some beautiful sunshine, but the children have also been out for the day to Raby Castle. Whilst at the Castle, the children behaved impeccably as they moved around 6 different and informative stations. Each one explaining different aspects of running and caring for the Estate. All were captivating and interesting for the children, and adults! Particularly the maze, which the children thoroughly enjoyed running through. We measured trees, as well as counting the rings, to estimate the ages of some of the trees around the estate. I think we may have some budding gardeners in the class or potential historians or gamekeepers! Some wonderful facts, exciting activities and attentive children made for a wonderful day.

In the classroom, the children have begun working on the use of persuasive writing in their English. This is building on previous work on formal and informal writing techniques. The children have impressed me with their retrieval of previously learnt facts!





# NEWSLETTER

**What have we been up to?**

## **Y5/6 – Miss Dobinson and Mrs Emery**

It has been a wonderful first week back following the Easter break – we've loved hearing about all of the exciting adventures that you've been on and hope all of the children are refreshed for the Summer Term!

To begin the term, we have continued developing our knowledge on the Titanic, finishing off our non-chronological report which is full of facts, relative clauses and parenthesis! The children have really been engaged with this topic and part of history!

Year 5 have been busy in maths continuing with their unit of geometry; understanding what a quadrilateral is and finding the angles of a quadrilateral. Well done Year 5!

In science, we have begun our new topic of Light. In our first lesson we defined what light is and how understood how light enters our eye/how we are able to see things.

We were able to enjoy the sunshine this week in PE as we learnt the basic rules of rounders and practised our jumping skills in athletics!





# NEWSLETTER

Upcoming  
Events:

	Event
<b>MAY</b>	
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> May	VE Day 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - come to school dressed in red, white and blue.
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Yrs 3/4 Tri-Golf Festival at Barnard Castle Golf Club
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Phototronics – Year 6 Leavers and Class Photos
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Tri-Golf Comp for selected Yrs 3/4, at Barnard Castle Golf Club
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> May	School Closed for Half Term
<b>JUNE</b>	
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	School Re-Opens to pupils
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Yrs 5/6 Athletics Comp at Bishop Barrington, B.A.
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> June	KS2 Family Brunch for Father's Day, 9-10am
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> –Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Residential Trip to Robinwood
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Bikeability, Level 1 – Years 3+4
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Bikeability, Level 1 + 2 – Years 5+6
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Sports Day
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Yrs 5/6 rounders Fest at Teesdale Leisure Centre, B.C.
<b>JULY</b>	
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> July	NELT Summer Concert at The Glasshouse, Gateshead
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> + Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Transitions to Teesdale School
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> July	FOMS All the Fun of the Fair
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> July	School closes for the Summer Holiday