



# MIDDLESTOWN JUNIOR & INFANT SCHOOL

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2013

*It has been another busy half term during which we have experienced the fabulous Christmas Productions delivered by KS1 and KS2. The singing and acting was fantastic and a lot of compliments were received from all who came to watch them.*

### Golden Pupils



**Well Done**

### 25<sup>th</sup> October

LF – Joshua Dean  
 UF – Sebastian Murphy  
 Y1 – Matthew Rollin  
 Y2 – Amber Beaumont  
 Y3 – Connor Booth  
 Y4 – Emma Lindsay  
 Y5 – Amy Brook  
 Y6 – Holly Beaumont

### 29<sup>th</sup> November

LF – Jack Rollin  
 UF – Amber Kirby  
 Y1 – Eve Balmforth  
 Y2 – Chloe Taylor  
 Y3 – Ben Denton  
 Y4 – Aimee Weldon  
 Y5 – Holly Smith  
 Y6 – Morgan Gilberthorpe

### REMINDER

There are still children arriving late to school. This causes disruption to the start of the lesson and the children are missing an important part of the first lesson.

Please remember the school moto!

**Be on time**



**at five to nine**



It was great to see all the children in their onesie's or pyjamas to raise money for children in need, we managed to raise £345 for the worthwhile cause.

### CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The Christmas Fayre was a huge success and a total of £1,623 was raised for the school.

A huge thank you goes to the FoMS for all their effort and hard work that goes into making these events a success. The money raised by FoMS is for the benefit of the school and is used for a variety of things.

If you are interested in helping out at future events or have ideas of other ways in which money could be raised for the school, please speak to a member of the office staff.



**Walk with Fawkes: £156.30**  
**Cake Bake: £117.00**

Many thanks for all your support. This money will be used to buy equipment for the Cookery Suite which will be put in place for September 2014.

### Diary Dates/Events

**December - 20<sup>th</sup> Break Up**

**January 2014**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – Return to School

**February 2014**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> – Assessment Week

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> – Break Up

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> – Inset day (school closed to children)

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – Return to School

## FOUNDATION

This half term our topic has been colour, light and dark. We have been playing with shadows outside in the house using torches and fairy lights.



The children have learned lots of festive songs using Makaton signing for our Christmas sing-a-long. They have also written letters to Santa and brought items from home of Christmases past.

We will begin next half term with a topic about Dinosaurs, learning the names and finding out all about them. The children will write what they have discovered in a fact book, and show their work to the other children.

In the investigation area, the children will be digging for fossils and finding out what they could be, using photographs of dinosaur bones. At the creative area, the children will be making dinosaur eggs.

Outside, the children will follow clues and directions, leading them underneath, behind, next to and in front of all types of obstacles, on their dinosaur hunt!

## YEAR 1 & 2

Year 1 and Year 2 have really enjoyed learning about the Great Fire of London this half term. They have done lots of Literacy work based on the topic, for example diaries, letters and newspaper reports.

The children in Year 2 even acted out scenes and created their own PowerPoint books. In DT the children made their own models of Tudor houses. We then used these to recreate the narrow streets of London 1666 and had our own 'Great Fire of London'. The children were amazed how quickly the fire spread to the other houses!



Some children from year 1 and 2 really enjoyed participating in the Benchball festival at Horbury Academy. They worked really hard and came 3rd.

Our topic for next half term is the 'Ice Kingdom'. We will be focussing on Antarctica and making comparisons with where we live. We will also be looking at penguins and other animals native to Antarctica.

## YEAR 3 & 4

Our studies of the Ancient Egyptians continued this half term, where we found out who Howard Carter was and learnt all about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. We learnt about the River Nile and why it was so important to Egyptians then and now. They have written Egyptian poetry and learned how to do Egyptian maths. In science they have investigated magnets.

Year 3 and 4 ended their Ancient Egyptian topic this week by creating a museum in school for other children and parents to learn about Ancient Egypt.

Year 4 won the VLE homework class award, with 82% of children in the class submitting their work!

Our brand new topic next term is dinosaurs. We have some exciting activities planned, including learning all the facts and figures about our favourite dinosaurs, discovering how different the world was when the dinosaurs were around and investigating fossils when we become palaeontologists for the day. Related to our topic, we will also have a very interesting item arriving in school...

Next half term Mrs White will join Year 3 as the new teacher and has lots of exciting things planned.

### **YEAR 5 & 6**

Years 5 and 6 have been very busy in their topic of 'Lights, Camera, Action'. The children have taken on the roll as viewers, critics and film makers.

The children have also made good progress in both writing and maths. They have thoroughly enjoyed investigating gases in different experiments. They have also been journalists and picked up the skills by reading articles, researching the weather around the world and watching newsbites (Expresso). They then wrote reports on events around the world such as the Typhoon in the Philippines and completed a radio report.

Year 5 have really enjoyed learning Samba this term and in November they performed some of their music to both school and parents, and have been asked to perform at the Middlestown Gala next year!

In November the children were very excited on their visit to the National media Museum and the IMAX. As part of their trip they took part in a "Reel to Real" workshop, watched "To the Arctic" in the IMAX cinema and learnt about different aspects of media in the galleries. The children were WOW-ed by the 3D effects and took great pleasure in being able to step onto scenes and working behind the camera.



Whilst learning about the Hollywood Walk of Fame in our topic 'Lights, Camera, Action', Years 5 and 6 made their own clay stars to represent their achievements. The children loved making their Hollywood stars from clay however some were very delicate and unfortunately broke.



Next half term our topic will be Graffiti, the children will be debating whether it is good or bad art. The children will also have the opportunity to re-design a skate park for their community which will link into their Geography topic of the 'World around us'.

## SPORTING CELEBRATIONS

10 children from Year 5 played in a football tournament against 5 other local schools. We were awarded the "Fair Player" award for good sportsmanship throughout the tournament.



The children that took part are: Ruby Newbould, Lucas Wilson, James Fagelman, Joshua Thomas, Neive Clarke, Amy Brook, Charlotte Bottomley, Lucy Walker, Harrison Barton and Bradley Render.

## TREE PLANTING

The Woodland Trust donated over 100 trees to the school following a successful bid application and the members of the ECO Council had great fun planting these one Friday afternoon after school.



## FACILITIES TO LET

The school is available for rent outside of school hours for the use of clubs etc.

If you are interested in this please speak to Mrs Newell in the office who will provide you with details of the charges.



*Merry Christmas!*

**From all the staff at Middlestown  
Junior & Infant School**