



# MIDDLESTOWN JUNIOR & INFANT SCHOOL

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2013

*What a great start to the school year, the children have settled down to work very quickly and there have been many activities during the term, including a visit from Conrad Burdekin who worked with the children on inspiring them to write.*



### Golden Pupils



Well Done

### 4<sup>th</sup> October

LF – Emily Turner  
UF – Florence Hirst  
Y1 – Charlie Portman  
Y2 – Amarjit Dhillon  
Y3 – Alfie Pickering  
Y4 – Kiera Tasker  
Y5 – Sam Spiers  
Y6 – Lucy Tait

### Friends of Middlestown School (FOMS)

FOMS are having their Annual General Meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00pm.

FOMS will be continuing to work very hard in ensuring that our children have some exciting events to look forward to and that we can raise some extra funds which will have a sustainable impact on aspects of our school provision.

We are seeking volunteers and would like to invite you to attend this meeting so that you can see all the exciting fund raising activities that we have planned.

### Be on time



at five to nine

It has been noted that there are a few children arriving at school late.

May I remind you that school starts at 8.55am. Children arriving late are missing an important part of the first lesson.

### SPORTING CELEBRATIONS



Cross Country Festival - Year 4 girls won!  
Tag Rugby – Joint 3rd



We all enjoyed our Harvest Festival on the 8<sup>th</sup> October; thank you to all who attended.

*Now that the weather is turning please could you ensure that your child brings a suitable coat to school. Also if on a wet day your child comes to school in 'wellies' please could they bring a change of shoes to wear in school.*

## FOUNDATION

This half term our topic was water, we have been finding out about floating and sinking, all about the weather. We also learnt all about Noah's Ark and have drawn lots of pictures and sequenced the story. In upper foundation they had an ice party and wrote a party invite list and the invitations. In lower foundation we explored mud and talked about the story 'Stuck in the Mud'. We have been learning lots of songs about water and made musical instruments that sounded like rain. We have experimented with water and paint, blown bubbles and used runny and thick paint to create pictures. We have been catching fish and counting them and throwing fish into the penguin's mouth in our 'commotion in the ocean' role play area. We have had a lovely time finding out everything we can about water.

We created a mud kitchen outside where we explored mud, talked about mud and made mud pies, using our senses, communication and maths skills throughout the whole learning experience.



Next half term, our topic will be colour. We will be thinking about colour, including light and dark, night and day. We will be exploring festivals of light including bonfire night, divali and Christmas. We will also look at how other people celebrate these festivals, sample different food and dress up.

Upper Foundation will be writing poetry and writing Christmas lists and letters to Santa. We will be having a Christmas party and learning lots of Christmas songs. We will be developing our role-play area and turning it into a grotto towards the end of the term, where children can make toys, wrap them and then give them to Santa to deliver.

## YEAR 1 & 2

Well what an exciting term we have had! Year 1 and 2 have been working very hard to stop the council from building on Middlestown School field. Once we discovered what was happening we wrote lists, slogans, produced banners and a very catchy song. Then we had our own protest and wrote some very persuasive letters to the council.



The KS1 Harvest Festival was fantastic – we learnt all about healthy eating and our 'five a day'. Videos of the Harvest Festival and the assembly can be found on the Its Learning site.

Our KS1 Assembly was the best yet! All the Mums and Dads found out about the hard work we had been doing and we stopped the plans to build on the field from going ahead.

We are starting a very exciting project looking at the 'Great Fire of London' where we will be learning about when the fire took place and how it started. We will also make our own houses for a model of the streets at the time.

Of course the Christmas production will be happening next term and we have a lovely new Nativity play to perform – any budding actors and actresses will have their chance to shine! We will contact you at a later date with any details of costumes.

### YEAR 3 & 4

This half term we have been getting to grips with our studies of the Ancient Egyptians. In just one half term, we have already learnt how to write adventure stories and how to write like Egyptians, using their hieroglyphic writing system.



We have learnt about Egyptian gods and goddesses and have created our own Death Masks that are proudly on display in our classroom.

The children all made pyramids for their homework and we had a fantastic competition. Well done to Toby Murphy, Isabella Spiers, Iris Rodriguez in year 3 and to Noah Williams, Ciaran Bollon and Max Taylor in year 4 for winning the competition prizes.



We have also been on a class visit to Bagshaw Museum where we learned all about mummification, how to be an archaeologist and got the chance to handle real Ancient Egyptian artefacts.



Next half term we will be continuing with our Ancient Egypt studies, finding out more about Tutankhamun and his discoverer Howard Carter. We will learn all about the River Nile and its importance to Egypt. However we are most looking forward to working on our Egyptian Museum which will be opening to parents at some point in the second half term...

### YEAR 5 & 6

The children have made a great start to the year, setting a really good example and working hard towards their assessments. They have done a range of writing inspired by our Superheroes topic and successfully made their own capes! The children thoroughly enjoyed investigating the crime scene and have done a variety of writing tasks based around that theme.

Next half term the children will be studying a 'lights, camera, action!' topic which will include a trip to the IMAX Film and Media Museum in Bradford.





## **TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER - WALK WITH FAWKES**

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November we are having a 'Walk with Fawkes' day. All children and parents are invited to meet at Middlestown Working Mens Club carpark at 8.40am.

Children and parents are asked to dress up as fireworks or in bright colours for the event and bring a donation of £1. The money raised will be used towards purchasing equipment for the planned cookery suite. Guy Fawkes will perform an assembly for the children and present prizes for the best fancy dress costumes.

You should have already received a letter about the 'bonfire themed lunch' that is also available on the same day. If you haven't already done so please return the slip and payment of £1.80 by the 25<sup>th</sup> October if your child would like a bonfire themed lunch.



## **WEAR YOUR ONESIE FOR PUDSEY! CHILDREN IN NEED – 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2013**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> November it is Children in Need. This year we have decided to take the theme of the popular 'onesie', but don't worry if you haven't got a onesie, pyjama's are fine.

The school will also be selling Pudsey wristbands and cakes to raise money for children in need. Further information will be provided after half term.

### **Diary Dates/Events**

#### **November**

4<sup>th</sup> Back to School  
5<sup>th</sup> Walk with Fawkes (Non-Uniform Day)  
12<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening  
15<sup>th</sup> Children in Need Onesie Day  
20<sup>th</sup> Y5 Samba Performance  
28<sup>th</sup> Christmas Fayre

#### **December**

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> YF/KS1 Christmas Play  
11<sup>th</sup> KS2 Christmas Play  
18<sup>th</sup> Whole school to Pantomime  
19<sup>th</sup> Carol Service at St Lukes Church  
**20<sup>th</sup> Break Up**