



Spring 1: What's been done...

What a lovely half term we've had in Spring 1!

A huge well done goes out to Year 1 for leading our St. Valentine's collective worship. Their message was very clear that because God loves us, we need to demonstrate that love to all we come into contact with.



Emotional health and wellbeing continue to be a priority at Middleton Parish Church School.

Prayer Space

With the help of Alison, our rector, Mrs Squibbs, our ethos link governor and volunteers from St Leonard's and St. Stephen's churches, Mrs Cooke opened our Prayer Space on 7th February. This reflective space will be open to all children at lunchtime and for some RE lessons Time to speak with God, as Jesus taught us to do, is important. It gives us space to share with God our worries and thanks and ask for forgiveness when needed. Prayer also helps to calm us in times of need.

Sunshine Space

This half-term the Sunshine Space had a make-over! The space that is used for Social, Emotional, and Mental Health 1:1 and group interventions, alongside the 'Soft-Landing' provision for children who struggle with home to school transition, also houses one of our most popular lunchtime clubs—Chill & Chat. The children are delighted to be back in the space and are already creating pictures, models and crafts to decorate the space.

Mental Health Schools Team (MHST)

James Burke, our Education Mental health Practitioner, continues to work with our children within School with low level mental health needs such as, worry management, anxiety and anger management. If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to speak to the Class Teacher or our Pastoral Officer Nikita Dawson who can provide more information on this offer of support.

Engagement and Inclusion Team @ Parents' Evening

Thanks to all parents who stopped to chat with our team at parents' evening. It was good to see the benefits of having, not only our team, but also James, Sendiass, School Nurses and Family Learning all in one place for parents to speak to. Please refer to the 'Engagement and Inclusion' section of our website for additional links to mental health and wellbeing support.

Reading for Pleasure

School Library

The new shared library area is providing children with lots of opportunities to read at playtimes, with the support of our Reading Ambassadors and new governor Mrs Challinor. Thank you to all the staff and children who have worked hard to make the space inviting.

Little Library for Grown-Ups

It is essential that children see the grown-ups around them enjoying reading so that they will be encouraged to read and develop their own love of reading. To support our community with this, we have set up a library for books for the grown-ups! In our foyer you'll find the 'Little library' if you see something you'd like to read, take it! If you have a book you'd like to share, leave it there!



Sporting Events

Although Spring 1 was a quiet sporting half-term, it did see the return of a few sporting events. The dodgeball team were in action at Kingsway Park in the Rochdale School Games, placing third with a lot of well fought battles. The indoor sports hall athletics team were also in action, placing third again overall but winning the girls' races and placing second in the boys' races; well done to the year 4 children who stepped up to play in the year 6 competition!



This term also saw the year 5/6 boys' football team in action for their final game in the central league and also in the Clayton cup. The boys needed a draw or a win to see them lift the trophy and win the league. After trailing 1-0 to St Mary's, the boys showed great resilience and teamwork and secured a late goal to take the game to a draw and win the Central League. In the Clayton Cup, the team were up against a very strong St Gabriel's team. Again the boys put on a fantastic display of football and walked away with a win, securing them a place in the next round of the cup.

Lunchtime sports are always a popular choice with many of the children. Alongside football, volleyball and basketball we also have a range of individual sporting opportunities such as hoola-hoops and skipping ropes. Next half-term, we will be training our new Play Leaders who will then organise a range of games and sports during lunchtime.



Pupil Voice



Healthy Body and Mind Coaches

The team met this half term to 'badge' our school in every place where we could see something that helped to support our emotional health and wellbeing. There were so many places we had to get some more badges! When you're next in school, look out for these.

School Council

School Council are busy again! After a brilliant fundraising event over Christmas—thank you again for all your support. This term we have been planning a school disco. The children are very excited about this, Mrs Majerski, our Chair of Governors, will be supporting the children. The date for this event is Wednesday 29th March.

Junior Faith Leaders

The Junior Faith Leaders led our first Prayer Walk in January. As they walked around school, the children and adults prayed in order to dedicate the school and school community to God. This was a really special time and all who participated commented on how much they had enjoyed being part of this. When you are in school next, have a look for our 'Prayer Walk' labels which mark all the areas of school that we visited. This half-term our Prayer Space opened, the Junior Faith Leaders now support our school community in prayer each lunchtime.

Eco-council

The Eco council have been looking at different ways we can help the school and the environment with new ideas, such as: designing posters for turning out lights when not in use; reducing car journeys with the 'Walk to school' programme and growing fruit and vegetables for use in the school kitchen. They have also looked at ways in which the school environment can be improved by litter teams and the re-introduction of the 'Golden Toilet seat'.



Home-School Communication

This half-term saw the beginning of the work of the parent communication group. We have been looking at ways in which communication can be improved between home and school. To begin this work, you recently completed a short survey at Parents' evening; the results of which are displayed in the foyer. This work will continue during Spring 2 and will focus on how communication can be more holistic rather than just focusing on information around dates and events. We are listening and will share what we are learning over the next half-term.



Class clinics will be on Wednesday 22nd March. These will be in person from 3:30—3:50 or online from 4pm—4:15pm. Zoom links will be shared on Class dojo. During this time our Engagement and Inclusion Team will also be available for a 'drop in' session. Please do not hesitate to email classes if you need to get in touch, please remember that teachers are in class so a response may take a few days.

For updates to: contact details; payments; allergy/medical information & emergency messages. Please contact the school office on 0161 643 0753 or via email.

Intervention

As we endeavour to provide all children with the very best opportunities to succeed, sometimes this means providing them with some additional learning opportunities to close any gaps and raise standards across the curriculum.

Our first wave of interventions will take place at the very start of the school day (8:40am – 9am) and at the very end of the school day (3pm – 3:20pm). These times have been trialled by some year groups with great success. Please ensure that children for a morning intervention arrive at the main school entrance by 8:35am and those at the end of the day are collected at 3:25pm.

If your child has been identified for intervention, you will have been informed. Please endeavour to ensure your child is in school for these times to maximise their opportunities for success.

World Book Day

Reading for Pleasure

As part of our celebrations for World Book Day on 3rd March, we invite children to attend school in their pyjamas! The theme of WBD is, 'Reading for Pleasure' and the day will be filled with lots of time to relax and read. We invite parents to drop everything and come into school to read with your children; class teachers will post on Class dojo with a time of 9am or 3pm for you to join us in school.

There will also be a reading workshop in the hall from 9am—10am, more details in the first week back.

British Values

We will also share a new book with each class linked to a British Value as we believe the more opportunities children have to focus on their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, the more prepared they will be to participate in, and contribute positively to, life in modern Britain. Keep an eye on Class dojo as classes will share this work.

Sharing More Books!

Finally, Senior Leaders will be visiting the classes throughout the week to read a story to children and give them a new book for their class library. Children will also receive a new book to keep at home. And remember, 'Book for a Birthday' should you wish to send something in to school to mark your child's birthday a book is a great idea! There is a wish list of books in the 'Parents' section of our website.

Autism Acceptance Week



This year, school will be celebrating 'Autism Acceptance Week' which begins on Monday 27th March & ends on Sunday 2nd April. During the week children will take part in a special assembly and will complete activities in their classroom around Autism. The theme this year is 'colour' and so on Friday (3rd April), children can come into school wearing their favourite colour to represent this and we will all join in a colour walk.

Sporting Events

7th, 14th, 21st & 28th March	Girls' Football Competition (after school)
9th & 23rd March	Y5/6 Rugby Competition (after school)
14th March	Year 4 Football Competition (Day event)
21st March	AQUA SEND (Day event)
29th March	Rugby Competition (After school)

Letters with further information for these events will be sent out 2 weeks prior

Key Dates

27th February	Return to school
3rd March	World Book Day
8th March	International Women's Day
13th March	Science Week & Spelling Bee Semi-Final
15th March	Reception Class Assembly: RS at 9.00am; RL at 9.30am
Week beginning 20th March	Experience Easter & Aqua SEND (Years 4, 5 & 6)
29th March	Spring Disco (More information to follow)
30th March	Year 4 Easter Church Service: 4S at 9.30am; 4L at 10.30am
4th April	Finish for half-term at 2pm
17th April	Return to school

Christian Values and Worship



The focus value for Spring 2 will be 'Endurance'. Endurance is only possible where there is hope and that hope is based on the enduring nature of God's love and faithfulness. In our first collective worship of Spring 2, Elan McQuaid the chaplain from St Anne's Academy will join us as we start to think about endurance during Lent. We will be challenged to think about completing 40 Acts of kindness in the run up to Easter.

Experience Easter

Years 3—6 will visit church to take part in a carousel of activities all about the meaning of events which took place in Easter week. The children have always enjoyed this experience and learn a great deal by participating in it. Our thanks go to the volunteers from the Church community who will work together to deliver this for our children.

In school, children will once again be invited to participate in an art competition and raffle organised by our Junior Faith Leaders.

Please see Class dojo in the first week back for more information.

Church Service

At the end of this half-term Year 4 will lead our Easter Service in St Leonard's on

Tuesday 4th April;

S classes at 9:30am and L classes at 10:30am.



Science Week



Week beginning the 13th March is Science Week. British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths.

This year's theme is **Connections!**

Keep your eye out on Dojo for more information.