



# THE COLLABORATION OF MIDDLEHAM CE (VA) AND SPENNITHORNE CE (VC) SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

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Dear Parent, Carers and Friends

## **AVAILABILITY**

Next week, I will be in Middleham on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and in Spennithorne on Tuesday and Friday. For the next 2 terms, I will be spending 60% of my time at Middleham and 40% of my time at Spennithorne after which time, this will be reviewed.

As you might be aware, Crakehall decided to pull out its collaboration with Spennithorne when Spennithorne decided it also wanted to join with Middleham. The joining of these two schools was an opportunity to strengthen the bonds these two very similar schools share which all governors, who work tirelessly for the good of both schools, wanted so much to develop.

This is exciting time for both schools and already, many of the staff have started to work together.

## **START OF TERM**

It has been a pleasure to see faces, both old and new, looking smart in their school uniform. Thank you for upholding our school uniform policy. I have enjoyed hearing about people's holidays and their adventures and welcome our new starters to school. At Spennithorne, we welcome, Daisy, Maia, Kaitlin, Monty, Alfie, Poppy and Shay and at Middleham, we welcome Eoghan and Ollie to our school families.

We also welcome Mrs Shepherd at Spennithorne teaching in the Foxes class and Miss Wilson covering for Mrs Roberts' absence at Middleham.

## **DIARY DATES SHEET**

With this newsletter, you should also receive a diary sheet. We hope these dates will help you plan to attend key events. As collaboration, we are intending to hold a joint Harvest festival at East Witton church with vicars from both Spennithorne and Middleham churches in attendance. We have decided on a middle ground to hold our festival so one school doesn't feel unfairly treated. In the future, we will hold events in alternate churches to keep this fair.

## **STAFF TRAINING**

During our training day this week, all staff from both schools explored using GoogleDrive so that both staff and children can work collaboratively. One thing we will be trialling is using Google Hangout which is like Facetime or Skype so that staff can hold face to face meetings together and also children can work collaboratively together without the need for leaving the classroom.

## **HOLIDAY REQUEST**

As a school, we are required to encourage good attendance from all pupils. It is very easy for days off to mount up. Therefore, if you are requesting leave in an exceptional circumstance, leave will only be authorised if your request fits both the criteria on the form and that your child's attendance is above 95%.

## **HOLIDAY CLUB**

The holiday club also has another week's funding for us to run. It wasn't as popular as we hoped. This could have been because of the short notice and for that I apologise but we only received confirmation of funding at the end of term.

## **PARENT VIEW**

If you would like to share your views about our school with OFSTED, please use the following website:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>



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## MIDDLEHAM NEWS

### MORNING ENTRY

After chatting with the teachers, we have noticed that everyone seems to be coming in through Class One's entrance and walking through the hall. Could our Class 2 children please come through their own door. We also encourage our children to come into the cloakroom independently and politely request that you support us with us. Obviously, children in their first year at school may need their parents to come into the cloakroom but we hope they are able to come in on their own by the end of this half term.

### THURSDAY DRAMA

Yesterday, you may be aware that we needed to call the fire brigade. The fire alarm went off just as we noticed smoke coming from the boiler house chimney.

Our emergency plan kicked in effectively and once the fire fighters had investigated, they had discovered a build up of soot in the boiler house causing the black smoke.

All children had a slightly longer lunchtime than was planned and we were about to evacuate to the Middleham Key Centre when we were given the all clear to return to class.

Not expecting 3 fire engines on my first week at Middleham!

### LUNCHTIMES

We are encouraging all our children to ensure they drink at least one cup of water during the lunchtime to ensure they are hydrated and ready for the afternoon. In addition, we are reminding those children on school dinner to ask before starting their dessert as many children are leaving a proportion of their dinner (mostly the vegetables) and we are encouraging them to try!

### UNIFORM

As a reminder, uniform is available from our online supplier SchoolShop <http://school-shop.co.uk/>