



Middleforth Church of England Primary School



Our Christian Value this half term is Courage

Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parents

At the end of this first half term of the year, I would like to thank and congratulate you all for everything you have achieved since the start of the year. All of us, both in school and at home, have adapted once again to an overnight lockdown and a completely different way of life, and this time we have had the additional nightmare of freezing cold temperatures to cope with as well. Certainly in school, having to ensure adequate ventilation with open windows and doors, we all dream of warmer weather as we continue to pile on the layers to keep warm in school.

As you are aware we are anticipating our next announcement about the further reopening of schools in our first week back after half term, and once we have the details of this we will start to ensure our plans are in place for the reviewed situation, and as soon as we have this in place we will let you know as soon as possible. In the meantime, if you can continue to bear with us, and only send in your children if there is no alternative care for them, that will help us to manage the safety of those in school as well as we possibly can.

Reporting Covid, including over half term

Over half-term, please continue to let us know if your child has tested positive for Coronavirus or has been in contact with a positive case regardless of whether you are home learning or in school.

Please email covid@middleforth.lancs.sch.uk.

The email address will be monitored over half term. If there are any positive cases reported and should this impact upon your child, you will be notified by email.

Have a lovely week,

Mrs Adams

Online worship

Child led worship is really important to us in school and it would be great if we could look at doing this remotely too. Please contact worship@middleforth.lancs.sch.uk if you would like to get involved and help be part of one of our worships.

Free School Meals (Pupil Premium)

Just a reminder that in addition to all infant children (Reception to Y2) being eligible for Universal Free School Meals, **all children from Nursery to Year 6 may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:**

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

In addition to your child receiving free school meals, schools receive valuable funding of £1,345 per pupil to help improve progress for children who may need it. You can apply to check your eligibility at any time, as understandably, family circumstances may change, especially in the current uncertain times we are facing. To apply please click here or speak to the school office if you need any help:

https://lancashire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free_school_meals_and_pupil_premium

School Meals – Moving to Tucasi/ScoPay from ParentPay

This will only apply to families with children in KS2 or nursery, as EYFS and KS1 children are in receipt of universal free school meals.

The transition to Tucasi/Scopay will happen around Easter time and we will be keeping ParentPay ticking over for children in school until then. In the meantime, we are starting to finalise everything with ParentPay and making sure that all accounts are left up to date, **by the end of February**, as once we close the system down in March, we will not be able to access it again.

We have previously been advised by ParentPay to ask families to request a refund if they have a credit balance, however, we've had a couple of reports that this is not working as it should. This is due to the current situation where there are limited numbers of children in school and therefore, limited income being paid in for school lunches for ParentPay to refund against. We are looking into other options, however, in the meantime, please do not worry, as we are preparing to transfer all credit balances to your new Tucasi/Scopay lunch account, should ParentPay not be able return your money via the refund process. Therefore, your balance will just be moved from one provider to another.

Outdoor area and playground fundraising link:

<https://chuffed.org/project/middleforth-preston-to-paris-cytle-fundraiser> (also on our FB page)