



# The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools

Executive Headteacher – Mrs Marie Mann

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.  
They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.  
It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.  
It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17: 7 - 8

4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## Welcome Back – updates from Mrs Mann

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well and we are very much looking forward to welcoming the children back into school tomorrow, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (8.45am Middleham, 9am Spennithorne – more details below).

### RAAC

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this decision as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings and therefore they will continue to function as normal. We understand that parents/carers may want to know more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more through the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub. I hope that this offers reassurance.

### Safeguarding

At The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools, Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We aim to provide a safe, supportive and inclusive environment, which secures the well-being and very best outcomes for the children in our care. We have a duty of care to safeguard and promote the well-being of all children. We take this responsibility seriously and as such, we have clear systems and procedures in place to ensure that no child should suffer from harm, at home or at school.

All staff have a statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children. If we have discussions or meetings with you to discuss aspects of your child's well-being, medical needs, friendship issues, any bereavement, social and emotional issues, Special Educational Needs or anything that you would like support with, we will keep a record of this information and the actions that we have taken to support your child and you as a family.

If you are worried about the safety or welfare of any young person, at home or at school, please ensure you report your concerns to Mrs Mann (our school Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Mrs Ibbotson, Mrs Brown or Mrs Bradbury (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads). If we have a concern about the welfare of a child, we will always act in the best interests of the child.

### Before & After School Procedures

#### **Spennithorne (EYFS, Year 1 & 2)**

The school day begins at 9am. At Spennithorne, the school playground is supervised by a member of staff from 8.50am, ten minutes prior to the start of school and it should be understood that children will not be supervised in the playground before that time. For those being transported from their registered school to their teaching school via the school bus (pupils should arrive no later than 8.40am), the bus leaves Middleham promptly at 8.45am.

Children will need to bring their book bags only (and packed lunch if required), no big bags.

#### **Middleham (Years 3 - 6)**

The school day begins at 8.45am. At Middleham, the school playground is supervised by a member of staff from 8.35am, ten minutes prior to the start of school and it should be understood that children will not be supervised in the playground before that time. For those being transported from their registered school to their teaching school via the school bus, the bus leaves Spennithorne promptly at 8.30am.

### **Polite reminders**

Punctuality is very important as not only does it set standards, but important information sharing and teaching often takes place in the first session of the day. For those being transported on our federation bus, the bus will only wait for the children transported by the county buses. If a child is late, it is the parent's/carer's responsibility to transport their child to their taught site.

At the end of the school day pupils should be collected from the playground at Spennithorne and outside the school gate at Middleham. Teachers will only handover children to adults pre-agreed by the parent/carer. This information has already been given to school and it is parents/carers responsibility to inform us of any changes. Data Collection Sheets will be sent out via pupil post (please check school bags) in the next few days, which has the agreed list stated on it. These need to be checked, signed and returned to school no later than Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Please leave the school grounds promptly so that staff can secure the site at the start and end of the school day. At the start of the day we expect all KS2 children to be dropped off at the school gate, to develop pupil independence. From the 11<sup>th</sup> September we expect all children will be doing this independently. Any messages that need to be passed to teachers can be sent to [middlehamadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:middlehamadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk) or given to the member of staff at the school gate.

If your child is in Year 5 or 6 and you would like them to walk home alone then please send an email to Mrs Durrant at [middlehamadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:middlehamadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Smoking/vaping is not allowed on school premises and we ask you to be mindful outside the school gates.

Younger siblings are the responsibility of their parents/carers whilst on the school grounds.

### **Free School Meals**

If you get certain benefits, your child could also qualify for free school meals during all school years. To qualify you must be receiving:

- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are also not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual household gross income that does not exceed £16,190 (as assessed by HMRC)
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

**Even if your child is in Reception/Year 1 or Year 2 you can apply now as the school will also receive additional funding to improve educational outcomes.**

North Yorkshire Council have made it much easier for parents/carers to establish if you are entitled to free school meals. Please use the link below, then complete the form on 'Apply for Free School Meals'. You will receive an instant decision on whether your application is successful.

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

I am looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!  
Kind regards



Mrs Mann  
Executive Headteacher

#### **PE Kits**

The children will need to come to school wearing their PE Kit on the following days

**Maple Class (Reception)** Thursday

**Birch Class (Year 1 & 2)** Tuesday and Thursday

**Sycamore Class (Year 3/4)** Monday and Thursday

**Oak Class (Year 5/6)** Tuesday