



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

Executive Headteacher – Mrs Zoe Hirst

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

Friday 9th January 2026 – Newsletter

This term our Christian Value is Respect

Message from Mrs Hirst

As I come to the end of my first week as Headteacher, I would like to say a huge thank you for the warm welcome I have received from our children, staff, parents, and carers.

It has been a real joy spending time in classrooms, on the playground, and around the school, and beginning to get to know our incredible pupils. I have already seen how kind, enthusiastic, and hardworking they are, and how much care and dedication our staff bring to school each day.

I am really looking forward to getting to know families over the coming weeks and working together to give every child the best possible start to their learning journey. Thank you for making my first week such a positive one—I'm excited for what lies ahead.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Hirst

Meet and Greet

You are invited to an informal Meet & Greet session to meet our new Headteacher Mrs Hirst and our Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Ibbotson.

These will take place on Tuesday 20th Jan at 3pm at Spennithorne School and Tuesday 27th Jan at 2.45pm at Middleham School.

If you are unable to attend at those times but would like to meet/chat to either Mrs Hirst or Mrs Ibbotson, please contact the school offices to arrange a separate meeting.

Federation Proposals

The statutory notice detailing the proposed changes for our Federation will be available to view from Monday 12th January in the Darlington and Stockton Times and on the council's website. Copies will also be on display both schools.

Starting School

If you, or somebody you know, has a child due to start school in September this year the online admissions form should be completed by Thursday 15th January.

North Yorkshire School Admissions

We are already looking forward to new friends joining our school community.

STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026?

We warmly invite you to come and tour our facilities and meet the Early Years Team and children.

Call the school office to arrange a time to visit:
01969 623474 (Spennithorne) or 01969 623592 (Middleham)

Ofsted Good Provider

Staff are kind and nurturing, which helps children to settle into school

Ofsted October 2022

The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) Church of England Primary Schools



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FOMASS

Our next meeting is next Wednesday, 14th Jan, 7pm venue will be confirmed next week on our [Facebook page](#)

FOMASS Dates for Diaries

14.01 Next FOMASS Meeting 7pm, venue TBC
26.03 – Chocolate Bingo, venue and time TBC

We welcome all fundraising ideas and offers of help, please join us at the meeting or get in touch fomasschools@gmail.com

Keep up to date with our fundraising efforts at <https://www.facebook.com/FOMASSchools/>

Stars of the week 9.1.26

Maple Class	Dylan for an excellent start to the new term. Great work Dylan
Birch Class	AJ for settling in brilliantly this week. Maybelle for super reading in phonics lessons
Sycamore Class	Isabella for a super first week as part of team FEDMAS. Veer for a super first week as part of team FEDMAS.
Oak Class	Harriet for creating some amazing deeper thinking questions and ideas for our new reading book in English. Molly for super fraction work and listening in Maths this week.

Diary Dates

12.01 Sycamore Group 1 Forest School, more information has been sent home.
12.01 Group 1 Forest After School Club starts
16.01 Y3/4 Football, more information coming soon for those involved.
19.01 Sycamore Group 2 Forest School, more information has been sent home.
09.02 Final Group 1 Forest After School Club session
13.02 School closes for Half Term Holiday
23.02 School Opens
23.02 Group 2 Forest After School club starts
16.03 Final Group 2 Forest After School club
17.03 Final Sports After School Club
19.03 Final Thursday After School Club
27.03 School Closes for Easter Holidays

School Attendance

Regular attendance at school promotes pupils' wellbeing and gives them the best chance of learning and reaching their potential.

We aspire for attendance at The Federation of Middleham and Spennithorne schools to be 97%, this week our attendance is **97%**

Our attendance for the school year so far is **95%**



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