The Federation of Middleham Church of England (VA) Junior School and Spennithorne Church of England (VA) Infant school Primary Schools

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

This term our Christian Value is Love



Safeguarding – Advertisements aimed at Children

Children are particularly vulnerable to the persuasive effects of advertising because of their still-developing critical thinking and impulse control skills. Children are regularly and passively exposed to advertising online, whether through influencers, paid advertisements or sponsored content.

This weeks #wakeupwednesday from The National College highlights the risks of advertisements and offers practical advice for parents and educators on helping young people recognise sponsored content, think critically about marketing messages, avoid unintended spending and develop healthier relationships with online advertising. https://nationalcollege.com/guides/advertisements-aimed-at-children



AntiBullying Week

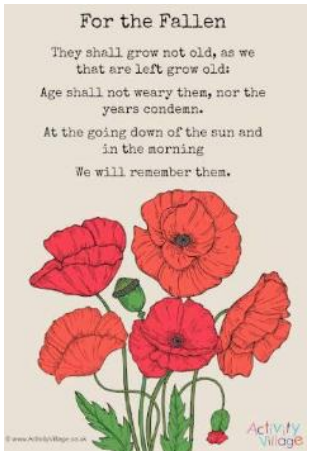
Anti-Bullying Week 2026 will take place from Monday 16th to Friday 20th November with the theme: Break the Silence.

In school we will be raising awareness of the things that make us unique and developing understanding and acceptance of individuality. We will end the week with Odd Socks Day on Friday 20th November organised by the school council. Children and adults, including parents!, are encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.

Anti-Bullying week will encourage children, young people and adults across the UK to start conversations about bullying, speak up, listen and take action together.

Remembrance Day

Children across the Federation took part in Remembrance services last weekend to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. In school we held a 2minute silence and thought about the people and animals who gave their lives during the World Wars.



Children also created poppy art work that is on display in our school halls and in St Alkeldas Church in Middleham and St Michael and All Angels Church in Spennithorne.





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Free School Meals

Free school meals eligibility has changed from September 2026.

The Department for Education has extended the entitlement to free school meals to include all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit, regardless of household income. Although eligibility will be granted to all Universal Credit recipients, it is important to note that families do still need to apply to receive the meals. However, if your child is already registered for free school meals you do not have to apply.

You could save around £500 on school meals for your child.

Free school meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Households may also be entitled to a meal if they:

- are in receipt of income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- receive the guarantee element of Pension Credit
- meet criteria set out in separate guidance for families with no recourse to public funds

Following the eligibility changes, there are now two types of free school meals criteria:

- targeted free school meals
- expanded free school meals

Targeted free school meals

Children from households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less (the existing threshold for free school meals prior to the expansion), will be eligible for targeted free school meals. In addition to receiving free meals, pupils eligible for targeted free school meals will attract pupil premium and other disadvantage funding for their schools, as well as other education entitlements, such as the holiday activities and food programme (HAF/ FEAST).

Expanded free school meals

Children from households in receipt of Universal Credit, with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400, will be entitled to expanded free school meals (meals only).

Universal infant free school meals

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to be entitled to free meals, regardless of the earnings or benefit status of their households. However if you also qualify for any of the financial support for targeted free school meals, we encourage you to complete our online form as this could enable your child's school to claim the Pupil Premium Funding to further support them.

To apply for free school meals head to the North Yorkshire Education and Learning website **https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/education-and-learning/free-school-meals**

FEAST

FEAST vouchers are coming soon; they will go live on the 23rd of November. Please look out for your email from Holiday Activities and then check out activities on FEAST - North Yorkshire Together from the 16th of November.

Due to changes in the Universal Credit and FSM eligibility assessment criteria children who have been highlighted as Expanded FSM are not eligible for vouchers, only Targeted FSM are eligible.

Children in Need

Thank you for all your donations to Children in Need as we dressed up in our spotty clothes this week. We raised a total of £143.50





Class Fundraising

Our first online shop to purchase your child's personalised artwork has now closed however there will be another opportunity between 20th and 30th November. All orders will be delivered to school and distributed from there before we close for Christmas.

FOMASS

Our next event is a Quiz Night with tombola at Friars Head, Akebar on 4th December from 8pm. Teams of up to 6, £5 a team. Cash prize for the wining team and proceeds from the tombola will go to FOMASS.

We are asking for donations for the tombola such as biscuits, drinks, candles etc to be sent to either school between now and the end of November. Thank you.

https://www.facebook.com/FOMASSchools/



Tesco Blue Token



There are only 2 weeks left for shoppers to put their blue tokens in the Spennithorne and Middleham box at Catterick Tesco. Money raised will be spent in school supporting the DT/food curriculum, providing healthy meal experiences and workshops to support students and families.

Sports

ML Sports and Fitness are starting 2 new sports clubs on Wednesday evenings for children in Year 2-7.



Football Freestyle with UK Champion Max Lawson

An exciting opportunity for children to learn from the very best in the UK! Max will help children develop impressive tricks, ball control, coordination and confidence through fun challenges and expert coaching.

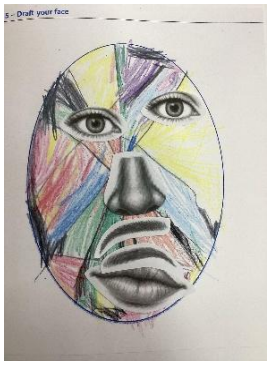
Dodgeball with Max Lawson

Fun, energetic sessions where children will split into teams and enjoy games and challenges, developing their throwing, catching, dodging and teamwork skills.

ML Sports and Fitness also run clubs during school holidays.

For more information email mturnbull@mlsportsandfitness.co.uk or book via ML Sports and Fitness ltd









Class News

Children in Year 1 and 2 have been very busy creating artwork inspired by Pablo Picasso.
We have worked on developing control of our mark making tools, experimenting with shading to show light and dark area, drawn facial features with increasing accuracy through careful observation and learnt some of the key features of Picasso's style.

Stars of the week 13.11.26

Maple Class	Violet for super letter formation and writing in drawing club sessions. Well Done Florence for an amazing self portrait inspired by Pablo Picasso. Well Done
Birch Class	Piper for beautiful writing in both English and whole class reading. Arthur for working super hard in all his learning this week.
Sycamore Class	Daniel for an excellent growth mindset and having the courage to give tricky things a go. William S for being a kind and thoughtful talk partner.
Oak Class	Andrew for making consistent effort with his learning Sid for making consistent effort in his learning particularly in writing tasks.

School Attendance

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

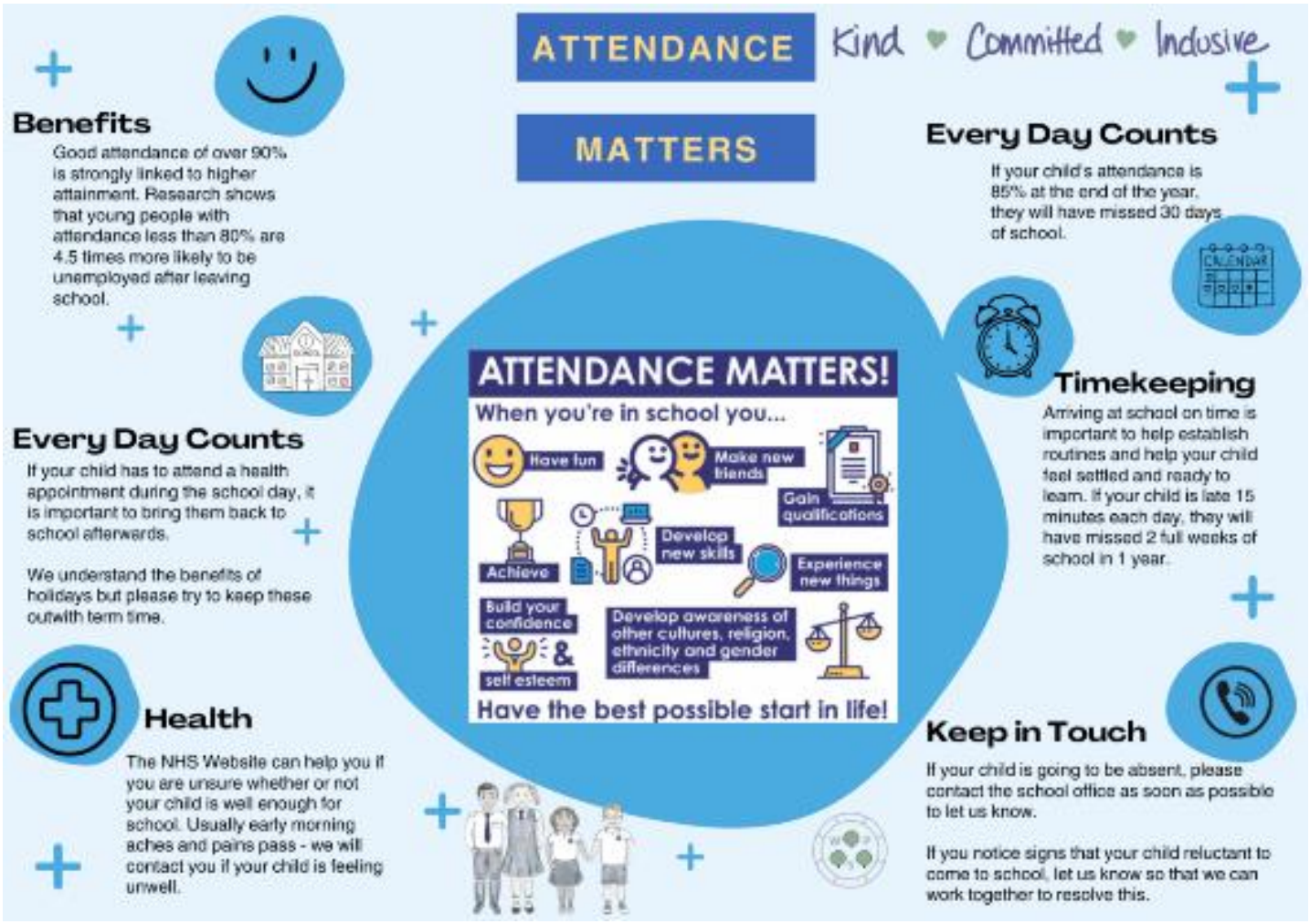
We aspire for attendance at The Federation of Middleham and Spennithorne schools to be 97%, this week our attendance is **94%**

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

There is a variety of bugs going around schools at this time of year. We continue to encourage pupils to wash their hands regularly and sneeze/cough into sleeves and tissues , thank you for supporting this at home with your children.

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Diary Dates

16-20.11 Anti Bullying Week
17.11 Visit from Leyburn Dental Practice for Maple and Birch pupils.
18.11 Oak Class Swimming 3/6
20.11 Y3/4 Nerf Event at Richmond School, more information will be sent to those involved
20.11 Odd Sock Day for children, staff and parents
25.11 Oak Class Swimming 4/6
02.12 Bags2School Collection at both schools
02.12 Oak Class Swimming 5/6
02.12 Final Rock Steady Music session of the Autumn term
06.12 Christingle Service at St Alkelda's Church Middleham, all families welcome
09.12 Oak Class Swimming 6/6, final session
10.12 Middleham Junior Pantomime Visit, more information to follow
15.12 Infant School Nativity, Spennithorne school.
17.12 Whole school Christmas Carol Service, 2pm. More information coming soon
18.12 School Closes for Christmas holidays
11.01 NCMP visit Reception and Y6
28.01 Spennithorne Infant Theatre visit, more information to follow

Term dates for the next school year are available on our website
https://fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk/term-dates/

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