



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

Friday 16th October 2026 – Newsletter



Harvest Festival

It was wonderful to have so many friends, family and community members join us for our Harvest Festival this week, despite the technical issues the child did a wonderful job highlighting the Harvest celebration and giving thanks to farmers and food producers. Thank you for all the donations of food items, these will be sent to Influence Church in Richmond for distribution in the local area.



School Attendance

We are heading into the season when illnesses increase among children and staff. Public Health England and the NHS have some helpful guides to support you deciding if your child is well enough for school. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Also please remember attending school is vital to ensuring your child receives the best education. Research has shown that children with attendance under 95% across Key Stage 2 (age 7-11) are around 3 times less likely to achieve the higher grades at GCSEs. Therefore, as a school one of our goals is to improve attendance as much as possible. Illnesses obviously cannot be helped but if children are absent for as little as one day a month, across the school year their attendance will drop to around the 95% mark.

Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE)

Our Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) policy has recently been updated in line with the 2025 Relationships, Sex and Health Education guidance. There haven't been many changes for us as a school as we continue to use the same scheme as we did previously. It is important that parents are aware of how we teach PSHE so please do take a look at the policy and long term plan on our website [here](#). These documents outline the age-appropriate units that are taught. If you would like to give any feedback or come in and talk to a member of staff about this, please could you do so by Monday 2nd November.

Religious Education: Enabling Every Child to Flourish

This week we welcomed Imran from the Muslim Learner Service back in to our school, this was part of our ongoing RE and PSHE curriculum. He was invited through the recognised Muslim Learner Services programme, their role is to support pupils' understanding of Islam



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by sharing authentic lived experiences and helping children hear accurately about the beliefs and practices of Muslims and diversity within many societies.

At our school, Religious Education is a valued part of the curriculum and plays an important role in helping pupils understand both Christianity and the diverse world in which they live. Our RE curriculum follows the Diocesan expectations and reflects the expectations set out for Church of England Schools. This means that we seek to provide our pupils with a rich understanding of Christianity as a living faith while also enabling them to learn about a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. We recognise that parents sometimes have questions about curriculum content. We value these conversations and are always happy to discuss with you.

RE in a Church school is distinct from collective worship. While collective worship reflects our Christian foundation and vision, RE is an academic subject that encourages pupils to explore, question, reflect and learn about Christianity and a range of beliefs and worldviews.

Safeguarding - Do you know what your child is doing online?



#WakeUpWednesday produces guides for parents each week to help parents to keep their children safe. Most of our children have access to YouTube, which can be risky if not properly monitored. Please read the information for parents below and also the flyer attached.

YouTube:

YouTube continues to be a go-to platform for entertainment, learning and creativity, but its vast and largely unregulated content library presents ongoing challenges. This guide outlines how features like recommendations, Shorts and social interaction can shape young people's viewing habits, sometimes exposing them to inappropriate or extreme material. It also explores key safeguarding concerns, including stranger interaction, risky trends and the limits of automated moderation. With practical advice on tools such as YouTube Kids, supervised accounts and parental controls, the guide supports parents and educators in encouraging safer, more balanced and informed use of the platform.



SCAN HERE
TO DONATE



NED10-4

Royal British Legion, Poppy Appeal

Poppies and other poppy related items will be available to purchase in school from next week, suggested donation of £2. Our school council leaders at Middleham and Spennithorne will be supervising this activity during break and lunch time for any children who would like to purchase an item. Cash can be brought into school or there is now a handy QR code that can be scanned to make a donation, if you use this method please email Mrs Clarkson to let us know you have done this.

Photography Lunch Club

On a Wednesday lunchtimes the children at Spennithorne have been using the iPads donated by LittleLives UK to take photographs. In week 1 we explored things that are special to us and this week we found colours of the rainbow. What a fantastic collection of photos we have, the children are so enthusiastic and take great care whilst using the iPads. We can't wait to decide the inspiration for week 3.



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Reception Starters 2027

On Saturday 7th November from 10-11.30am parents and carers with children who are due to start school in September 2027 are invited to come and look around Spennithorne Infant school. We will have lots of activities on offer and staff will be available to chat with and answer any questions. Please spread this news with friends, family and members of the community.

Half term

Please note school will finish on Thursday 22nd October for October half term and reopen on Monday 2nd November.

Parents Evening

Timings are being confirmed for parent consultations, please complete the online forms if you have not already done so. Mrs Clarkson will email to confirm your times next week.

Beetle Drive, Leyburn Arts Centre

On 27th October Leyburn Arts Centre are hosting a family beetle drive. This is a great child friendly event with prizes to be won and an afternoon tea included in the price. To book a place please contact the organisers directly, 01969 624510 or admin@leyburnartscentre.com



Class News

All classes have enjoyed the visit from the River Trust. In Sycamore class the children focused on drawing the kingfisher as well as some underwater animals whilst the volunteers joined us for a second visit. The children's artwork will be on display at The Church of St Andrew, Grinton on Saturday 28th November. Following this, the artwork will make its way back to school to be put on display



Stars of the week 16.10.26

Maple Class	Dylan for super effort in our topic lessons this week. You had lovely ideas during discussion activities. Well done Lucy for trying extra hard this week in our phonics lessons and doing lots of work at home too. Well done
Oak Class	Zac for amazing effort in every lesson. Bella for amazing effort in every lesson and wonderful writing.



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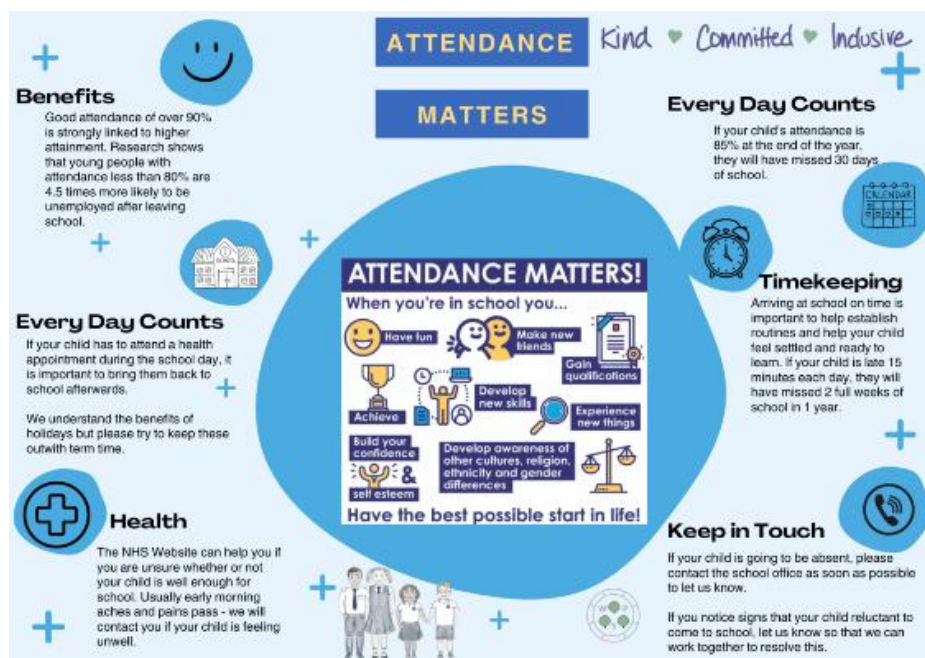


School Attendance

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 **96%**

Our attendance for the school year so far is **96%**



Diary Dates

19.10 NSPCC Workshops for Y2, Y5, Y6.

22.10 School closes for Half Term

22.10 FOMASS Disco night at Middleham school, Reception to Y2, 5-6pm.

22.10 FOMASS Disco night at Middleham school, Year 3 to Y6, 6.15 – 7.15pm.

23.10 Staff Training Day, school closed

02.11 School reopens

02.11 + 03.11 Parents Evening for Spennithorne Infant school.

04.11 Oak class swimming lessons start, more information coming soon

06.11 Tempest Photography in school, individual and sibling photos.

07.11 Open Morning at Spennithorne Infant School, 10-11.30am.

09.11 + 10.11 Parents evening for Middleham Junior school

12.11 Children in Need – wear something spotty

13.11 Crucial Crew for children in Oak Class

16-21.11 Anti Bullying Week

02.12 Flu Vaccinations in school, more information coming soon

02.12 Bags2School Collection at both schools

06.12 Christingle Service at St Alkelda's Church Middleham, all families welcome

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

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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