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 - AI companions

AI companions are becoming increasingly popular with young people, offering round-the-clock conversations with virtual characters designed to feel like genuine friends. Platforms such as Character.ai, Replika and Snapchat My AI can provide entertainment and creative opportunities, but their human-like interactions also raise concerns. The National College have a 15min guide that explores the risks of AI companions for young people, including emotional dependency, inappropriate content, privacy concerns and mental health.
https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ai-companions

Parents can access hundreds of free courses, guides and videos designed to keep children safe, healthy and resilient to life beyond the school gates via The National College website.
https://nationalcollege.com/pages/wake-up-wednesday

Absence for medical and dental appointments

Following recent updates schools are now required to request parents fill out a leave of absence form as well as see evidence of medical and dental appointments taking place during school time.
Attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as an authorised absence, as long as the pupil's parent notifies the school in advance of the appointment and provides evidence of the appointment.
Where possible, the pupil should:

- Be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary, and attend school before/after their appointment
- Wear school uniform to their appointment, to make it easier to return to school afterwards

However, we encourage parents to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible**.**
A copy of the leave of absence form is attached this weeks newsletter, it is also available on the school website https://fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk/attendance/

Open Morning

Tomorrow, 7th November, Spennithorne school will be open from 10-11.30am for our open morning. If you, or somebody you know, has a child starting school in September 2027 they are warmly invited to come in to school, chat to staff and explore our environment. We will have lots of activities on offer and staff are on hand to answer any questions.
We look forward to seeing you then.



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NCMP

The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) - height and weight checks for children in Reception and Year 6.

The NCMP will soon be running in our school for children in reception and year 6. As part of the programme, trained members of the Healthy Child Service team will measure your child's height and weight during the school day.

• When talking to children about these checks, staff and parents/carers are encouraged to refer to them as 'health checks' – they are about seeing how children are growing and developing.

• Following the measurements in schools, all parents/carers will receive a letter by email. Some families may also be contacted by the health staff with more information and to learn about local health and wellbeing support available to families.

• These measurements will be taking place in our school soon. If your child is due to be measured, you will receive a letter via email to explain more about it.

This year the checks will take place in school on the morning of the 11th January.

If you have any questions please contact your local North Yorkshire NCMP team on: hdft.ncmp@nhs.net

Let there be Life



Children across the Federation are doing some beautiful work to contribute to the Let there be Life concert taking place on the 28th November.

We hope as many of you as possible will be bale to attend the service to see the work your child have done.

Tickets are free and booking is advisable via this link https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/let-there-be-light-concert-tickets-2003466246475

RockSteady







We are having such great fun with RockSteady music. In our first lesson we explored the different way to make sounds with our instrument and in this weeks lesson we started to play along to We Will Rock You.

500 words

If you have spoken to a child in Oak Class this week Im sure you'll have heard about their 500 word stories.



The children have been working incredibly hard writing their stories to submit into the competition that celebrates children's creativity and imagination, encouraging children from across the UK to create an original story in 500 words or fewer. Winners are invited to tea with The King as well as receiving book tokens for themselves and book donations to school. Children have created some spectacular stories, we have our fingers crossed for you.

Children in Need

Next Thursday, 12.11.26, students and staff are invited to 'wear something spotty' in exchange for a suggested donation of £2 as we raise funds for Children in Need.



Remembrance Day

Thank you to all parents/carers and children who have made a donation to the poppy appeal on behalf of the Royal British Legion charity. There is an Act of Remembrance in Leyburn Market Place at 10.45 this Sunday, 8th November.

FOMASS

What fun we had at the Autumn Disco just before half term, we shimmied and danced all night!



Huge thanks from pupils and staff to the FOMASS volunteers who have given their time to clean up the children's garden at Spennithorne this week, it looks so much bigger and brighter.



If you are interested in joining FOMASS or learning more about how you could help support their work and fundraising efforts send an email to friendsofspennithorneandmiddleham@outlook.com
https://www.facebook.com/FOMASSchools/

Bubble Church

Pupils, parents and family members are invited to the new Bubble Church sessions held at St Matthews Church Leyburn on Sundays at 3pm. This joint venture between Jervaulx Churches & Benefice of Leyburn/Bellerby aims to be a free, puppet packed, Jesus centered, coffee and croissant fuelled 30minute kids and family adventure, aimed at under 8's and their families.



Class News



Oak class had a brilliant first swimming lesson at Catterick Leisure Centre this week. We were split into 3 groups and have started working on the Swim England programme which includes using a range of strokes effectively and performing safe self-rescue techniques. It was a very quiet bus ride back to school!
Well Done Oak Class.

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Stars of the week 6.11.26

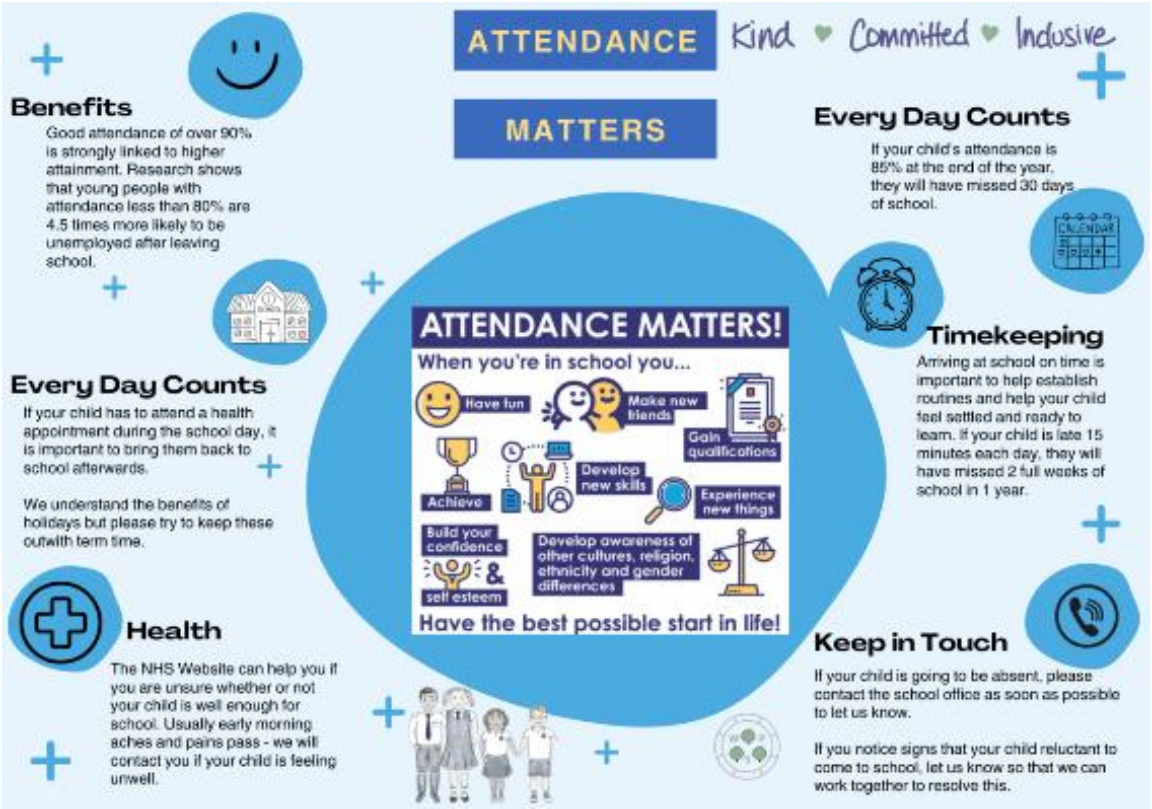
Maple Class	Euan for having a wonderful first week back and showing a mature attitude. Well done Raffy for being so keen to complete all of his ladybird challenges this week. You worked so hard. Well done
Birch Class	Ruben for his amazing reasoning in science this week. Heidi for her super writing in English.
Sycamore Class	Heath for working incredibly hard on his handwriting since September. Rocco for super retrieval of knowledge in writing lessons.
Oak Class	Freddie for perseverance in art and writing Elliott for great writing of his 500 words story.

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 **96%**



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Diary Dates

07.11 Open Morning at Spennithorne Infant School, 10-11.30am.
09.11 + 10.11 Parents evening for Middleham Junior school , appointments have been emailed.
11.10 Flu Vaccinations in school, emails will be sent directly from the vaccination team to parents
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 Bags2School Collection at both schools
06.12 Christingle Service at St Alkelda's Church Middleham, all families welcome
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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