



# 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

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 – Newsletter

This term our Christian Value, chosen by the Collective Worship Leaders, is Forgiveness

## Wensleydale Tournament of Song.

We are very excited that the children in Sycamore and Oak classes will be performing at Tenants Garden room next week for The Wensleydale Tournament of Song. They are entered into 4 classes, one in the morning (Sycamore Class only) at approximately 10.45am and 3 in the afternoon between 1.25 and 2.20pm. Parents and family are invited to watch, charges for entry will apply - £4 for adults, Children £1 and under 5's are free. More information can be found at <https://www.wensleydaletos.co.uk/2025programme>



## FOMASS NEEDS YOU

FOMASS are in desperate need of new members in order to continue their work fundraising for our schools. We are particularly looking for people who would be interested in the Chair and Secretary roles which will need filling before September 2025, if we cannot fill these roles the group may close and fundraising efforts will cease. Recently the money raised by FOMASS has paid for Christmas treats for all students, new iPads, buses for visits, Open Door Art, Year 6 Leavers hoodies and book/magazine subscriptions for all classes. FOMASS play a vital role in providing the extras that make our children's school experiences all the more impactful, we don't want to lose this and need your help to continue. If you have any questions about the role of a FOMASS member please make contact via their email address [fomasschools@gmail.com](mailto:fomasschools@gmail.com)

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

FOMASS will be meeting on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm in The Old Horn Inn Spennithorne. Please come and join us!



Healthier Together

## Let's Make Sense Together

'Healthier Together' is a programme from the NHS designed to improve the health and wellbeing of babies, children and young people in Humber and North Yorkshire.

Let's Make Sense Together is a free resource within the programme for anyone to use that provides information and support to children and young people with sensory processing differences.

More information can be found at [Let's Make Sense Together](#)



## Dales Dance Workshop

On Tuesday, Sycamore and Oak class enjoyed some folk dancing with Peter and his amazing instruments. We learnt some fun, historical dances with partners and in a large circle. Teachers joined in too! Peter played a wonderful sound on the concertina and he explained how it made its unique sound. Written by Nina Y6.

## Rhythm of Life

Relationships are an essential part of our lives. As we approach Lent, we will be taking time in our collective worships this half term to reflect on the relationships with people, with the world around us and with the things that we do.

During Lent this year, we are going to use the seven Rhythm of Life habits (reflect, celebrate, share, encourage, pray, create and rest) to help us to reflect on these relationships in a positive way.

This week we have been thinking about ourselves, talking about a memory that is very special to us and something that we are looking forward to in the future.

This week's action is :-

Take some time for yourself as a reward. Do something you enjoy, noticing the pleasure it brings, and be thankful for it.

Or

Try something new for yourself as a challenge.

The children will be given the opportunity to share their action in collective worship next week. We would love you to share these challenges in action by either sending in photos on dojo or to [spennithorneadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:spennithorneadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk)

## An update on SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) from Mrs Barber and Wear Blue Day Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Each week this half term, I will be including in the newsletter some information for parents regarding some learning differences and conditions which can affect children's learning in school. These articles are just a brief overview and should you wish any further information on a particular subject, please see the links attached and/or speak to your child's class teacher or myself.

This week, we are talking about :- **DYSCALCULIA**

Dyscalculia is a term – similar to dyslexia - used to describe a specific and persistent difficulty understanding numbers and can lead to a range of difficulties with maths. It is known as a specific learning difference (SpLD) - indicating an obvious issue that does not affect general intelligence. It is not yet as well known or as well researched as dyslexia.



Like dyslexia, seeing dyscalculia as a disability can lead to parents/carers to search for interventions delivered by 'specialists', to improve, normalise or 'cure' the difficulty. Seeing dyscalculia as a learning difference emphasises the uniqueness of the individual, embracing abilities and coping strategies.

If parents or class teachers think that this may be something affecting your child, you may be offered a Neurodiversity Profile (NDP) by school which is to be completed by parents, the child and staff in school. This is a series of questions about the child's learning behaviours and analysis of the answers will help to pinpoint any dyscalculia tendencies they might have and therefore the best way to support children.

As with all the conditions and differences we are discussing in these newsletter articles, teachers look out for what areas children are having difficulties with and provide teaching methods, resources and strategies to support the child. They will share these with parents too, so that they can support at home.

One of the most important things with all these conditions, is ensuring that the difficulties the children are encountering are not affecting their self-esteem. We talk to the children all the time about how we are all different and find different things difficult or easy. We encourage children to be aware of what they find difficult AND to know what strategies or resources they need to use and help them learn. These differences are all life-long and part of our role now is to begin to provide children with the mindset and resources they need to do well in their adult life.

For further information, you could try the links below. However, if you are concerned about your child, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.



Spennithorne, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 5PR  
Tel:01969-623474  
[spennithorneadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:spennithorneadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Park Lane, Middleham, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 4QX  
Tel 01969 623592  
[middlehamadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:middlehamadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk)



<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/dyscalculia>

<https://www.dyscalculia.me.uk/>



### Class News

Birch class did a great job orienteering around school grounds this week, they demonstrated super map reading skills while searching for shapes.



Sycamore class have been learning about rocks and fossils in science, this week they used clay to create and print their own fossils.

### Stars of the week 21.3.25

<b>Maple Class</b>	Leo for being so kind and helping others in Maple class this week. Well done
<b>Birch Class</b>	Finley for writing excellent sentences about our story. Grayson for consistently brilliant effort in lessons.
<b>Sycamore Class</b>	Andrew for being a kind and caring member of our class. Arthur for working hard to develop his deeper thinking in maths.
<b>Oak Class</b>	Kacie for perseverance in her tests. Amazing work! Oliver G for perseverance and trying so hard. Well done!

### Diary Dates

- 25.03 FOMASS meeting at The Old Horn Inn, Spennithorne at 7.30pm
- 28.03 Wensleydale Tournament of Song
- 2.04 Easter Service followed by cake sale
- 3.04 FOMASS Chocolate Bingo, 5.45pm at Middleham Key Centre.
- 4.04 Wear Blue Day!
- 4.04 School closes for Easter
- 21.04 School closed for Bank Holiday
- 22.04 School opens to all pupils
- 22.04 – 3.06 Birch Swimming lessons – more information has been sent home
- 23.04- 21. 05 Oak Swimming lessons – more information coming soon
- 21.06 Save the date – FOMASS Summer Fair

### 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 was: **96% (overall for the year 95%).**

**Social media – Please like, share and follow us on Facebook**

[The Federation of Middleham and Spennithorne Facebook](#)



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[middlehamadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:middlehamadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk)

