



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 6th March 2026 – Newsletter This term our Christian Value is Hope

Mrs Hirst news

What a wonderful World Book Day we have enjoyed! The school has been buzzing with excitement, creativity and a genuine love of reading. It has been a joy to see our children so engaged—sharing stories, celebrating their favourite characters and taking part in activities that truly brought books to life.

A special thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us in school. Your enthusiasm and support helped make the day even more memorable. It's always lovely to welcome you into our classrooms and see our school community come together. Thank you to everyone—pupils, families and staff—for helping create such a positive and enjoyable celebration of reading. Days like this remind us just how powerful stories can be.



Easter Competitions

In the run up to Easter all children in our schools are invited to enter our Easter competitions, these are to be completed at home and returned to school by 9am on the 26th March, they will be judged by our special guest judges.



Children in Reception are invited to decorate an Easter bonnet.
Children in Y1-Y6 are invited to decorate an egg or create a scene including an egg based around your favourite book. We look forward to seeing your projects.



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Red Nose Day

On Thursday 19th March children are invited to 'wear red' as we raise money for Red Nose Day. Please bring cash donations, suggested £2, into school on this date.



Easter Service

On the 25th March we will be having our Easter Service at St Michael and All Angels Church, Spennithorne, at 2pm. Family and friends are invited to join us in church. Many thanks to Rev Chris for opening church to us for this service. Please use the online form to provide collection arrangements for your child/ren [Easter Service 2026](#) Please note spaces on the Federation bus are very limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Free School Meals

From September 2026 the Government have extended the eligibility criteria for Free Schools Meals to all families in receipt of Universal Credit. Further information can be found here [Expanding Free School Meals](#)

Save time and money by claiming your free school meal allowance today. Not sure if you can claim? Read on to learn more...

DID YOU KNOW?
THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF FREE SCHOOL MEAL...

UNIVERSAL INFANTS FREE SCHOOL MEALS (UIFSM)

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (KS1) are entitled to a free school meal regardless of income.

All you need to do is inform your school that you wish your child to have a daily hot meal.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM)

Your child may be entitled to a Free School Meal. However, with FSM you will need to apply. The link on this sheet is for your local authority (search your postcode) and there is information from the Government website about FSM. Your child's school will also have an application form, if you prefer to complete it by hand.

Free school meals give children the nutrition they need to thrive during the school day - boosting focus, learning, health, and overall wellbeing.

DO YOU RECEIVE ANY OF THESE?

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (restrictions apply)
- Working Tax Credit - run-on
- Universal Credit - NEW eligibility criteria takes effect September 2026. All households receiving Universal Credit will be able to access free school meals (previously capped at £7,400 income).

CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY TODAY!



FEAST

During the Easter break there are activities available for all children across North Yorkshire. Children and young people receiving benefits-related free school meals are automatically eligible for free places at FEAST activities and will receive a text or

email with voucher codes included. If you think you may be eligible but haven't yet applied you can get further information via the [FEAST website](#)

Details of activities taking place can be found at <https://northyorkshiretogether.co.uk/feast-activities/>

Stay and Play

There is a Stay and Play event taking place for Pre School children and their parents/carers on Monday 23rd March, 9:15am-10:15am at Spennithorne School. Please spread the word to friends and family members. Places can be booked by emailing Mrs Clarkson, spennithorneadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk



The Friends of Middleham and Spennithorne Schools



FOMASS

Chocolate Bingo is taking place at The Key Centre on the 26th March from 5.30pm. We look forward to seeing you all there.

We are asking for donations of edible Easter treats including chocolate eggs for this event, please can they be dropped off at either school by 16th March.



Date for your Diary This year the Summer Fayre will take place after school on the 3rd July, more details coming soon. Raffle tickets will be available at the chocolate bingo, each child will also bring some home for families and friends to purchase.

FOMASS Dates for Diaries

26.03 Chocolate Bingo, Middleham Key Centre, 5.30pm
10.06 Bag2School collection
03.07 Summer Fayre, 3.15pm, Middleham School



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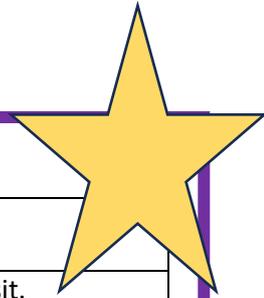


School Attendance

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 **94.5%**

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



Stars of the week 06.03.26

Maple Class	Layla for super creativity during drama and music sessions. Well Done
Birch Class	Hayden for sharing his horse riding knowledge with everybody following our school visit. Rileigh for writing a brilliant setting description with lots of detail
Sycamore Class	Jude for hard work in our English sessions. Harry for a super growth mindset and believing in himself.
Oak Class	Josh W for being an excellent and caring friend to others in his class. Jack D for showing that he can accurately use language features in his non-chronological report

Diary Dates

- 13.03 Y5 Murder Mystery event, more information coming soon
- 16.03-18.03 Oak Class residential
- 17.03 Final Sports After School Club
- 19.03 Y3/4 tennis cluster event, more details for pupils involved coming soon
- 19.03 Final Thursday After School Club
- 19.03 Red Nose Day, 'wear red'
- 20.03 Birch Class at The Wensleydale Tournament of Song
- 25.03 Easter Service at St Michael and All Angels Church, Spennithorne, 2pm.
- 27.03 School Closes for Easter Holidays
- 13.04 School closed for staff training day
- 14.04 School Reopens
- 20.04 Parents Evening at Middleham for Maple, Birch and Sycamore
- 21.04 Parents Evening at Spennithorne for Maple, Birch and Sycamore
- 12.05-15.05 Y6 SATS week
- 17.06 Y3/4 Sacred space event at Ripon Cathedral, more information coming soon
- 18.06 Y5 Sports event at The Wensleydale School , more information coming soon



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