



# THE COLLABORATION OF MIDDLEHAM CE (VA) AND SPENNITHORNE CE (VC) SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

1<sup>st</sup> December 2017

Tel 01969 623592 [admin@middleham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@middleham.n-yorks.sch.uk) [www.middleham.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://www.middleham.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Tel 01969 623474 Fax 01969 622731 [admin@spennithorne.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@spennithorne.n-yorks.sch.uk) [www.spennithorne.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://www.spennithorne.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Dear Parent, Carers and Friends

## AVAILABILITY

Next week, I will be in Middleham on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and in Spennithorne on Tuesday and Friday.

## MESSAGE FROM PASSENGER TRANSPORT - ADVICE IN SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Integrated Passenger Transport ([www.northyorks.gov.uk/schooltransport](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/schooltransport) )

In periods of bad weather it is necessary to take extra precautions to ensure that the safety of pupils is not compromised. It is not possible to provide precise instructions to cover every eventuality; the following notes reflect "good practice" which should, if followed, ensure children's safety.

1. Please remember that there may be occasions when it is not possible to operate the morning school transport journey, or the journey may operate late. You must ensure that your child can be safely looked after if there are problems. Please remember that you are responsible for their safety until they have got on the school bus or taxi. If the morning school transport journey does not operate and you decide to take your own children then you must also be prepared to collect them at the end of the school day.

2. There may be circumstances when the Head teacher decides it is necessary for children to be sent home from school early. In the case of primary school children it is essential that the school is able to contact you or a nominated responsible person at short notice. Please make sure that the school has up-to-date contact information. In the case of secondary school children please make sure that they can be looked after safely and that they are aware of what the arrangements are.

3. There may be rare circumstances where the transport is not able to operate the afternoon journey, in which case you will be contacted by the school.

Integrated Passenger Transport, County Hall, Northallerton. DL7 8AH  
Tel: 01609 780 780 E-mail: [schooltransport.services@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransport.services@northyorks.gov.uk)

## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY – TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

The school council are asking all children, staff and visitors to either come to school or attend the school Christmas dinner wearing a Christmas jumper/top etc. for a donation and really get into the swing of the Christmas dinner. Monies raised will go towards both school's chosen charities.

The chosen charities for the year are Swaledale Mountain Rescue for Middleham and in Spennithorne, they have chosen Guide Dogs for the Blind.

## CARETAKER REQUIRED 5 HRS PER WEEK

Middleham School is currently looking for a keen and willing person to cover 5 hours a week to fulfil the caretaking role at the school. Roles would need to be discussed but primarily the suitable candidate would need to open the school each morning, undertake minor maintenance, check heating and lighting and carry out various checks. If you are interested, please contact Middleham School on the number above.

## Y1/2 SKIPPING EVENT

I had the pleasure of accompanying the Y1 and 2 children to a cluster event at Catterick Leisure Centre on Thursday with the other local schools. The children had a great time and were a credit to our schools.

## Y5/6 RESIDENTIAL

I had intended to do a parents' presentation regarding Edinburgh in the new year but due to a few parents asking questions, I have decided to bring this forward.

I will be holding an information session at both schools on the following dates/times:



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- **Spennithorne Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm**
- **Middleham Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm**

Can you please let Mrs Ramsay or Mrs Martin know if **you are or are not** intending to attend.

## WENSLEYDALE CUB GROUP

Wensleydale Cubs are organising the first of two *bring a friend* taster nights aimed at recruiting prospective new members to the pack.

On Tuesday December 12, from 6.15pm to 7.30pm, there will be Christmas by the campfire at Hill Top Farm, Moor Road, Leyburn with a little bit of bush craft skills and marshmallows thrown in for good measure. Dress warm and bring a torch.

The second is on Tuesday January 16<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the scout hall for fun and games from 6.15pm to 7.30pm.

Cub scouts are for boys or girls aged 8 to 10 ½.

Contact Helen Sunter on 01969 624806, email at [helen@hilltopfarm.cc/](mailto:helen@hilltopfarm.cc/) for more information or just turn up.

## CHRISTMAS PLAYS

The Christmas plays will be performed on the following dates and times:

MIDDLEHAM	SPENNITHORNE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dress Rehearsal Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 1.45pm</li> <li>• Evening performance Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 6pm</li> <li>• Day performance Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 1.45pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dress Rehearsal Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2pm</li> <li>• Day performance Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2pm</li> <li>• Evening performance Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 6pm</li> </ul>

## CHRISTMAS HAMPER

If you have any items for the Christmas Hampers that are being made by The Friends of both Middleham School and Spennithorne School, we would appreciate them in school at your earliest convenience.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

Cards should be back in school next week.

## PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

The deadline for applications is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2018**.

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-admissions>

## HOLIDAY REQUEST

As a school, we are required to encourage good attendance from all pupils. It is very easy for days off to mount up. Therefore, if you are requesting leave in an exceptional circumstance, leave will only be authorised if your request hits both the criteria on the form and that your child's attendance is above 95%.

## PARENT VIEW

If you would like to share your views about our school with OFSTED, please use the following website:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>



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## SPENNITHORNE NEWS

### READING

Reading is a vital skill to develop not only a love of reading but a love of learning and can open up new worlds. To achieve such a lifelong skill, it is vital that you support this at home and read with your child on a regular basis, regardless of their age. Share books with them, you read a page, they read a page, read together, read their favourite book, talk about what has happened, what could or might happen or why the author has written it in such a way. Read books, read newspapers, read recipes, read match reports; **SIMPLY READ!!**

We understand that homes are busy places but one to one reading with a parent has massive benefits and forms part of an evening routine.

We have noticed there has been a fall in children reading at home and a fall in reading ability has been noticed for those not reading at home. As part of our expectation and home school contract, we ask you read at least 3 times with your child each week but to encourage them, we give a child a merit if they have read 5 or more times.

We want what is best for your child but need your help and support too.

### EASY FUNDRAISING

With Christmas on the horizon, it's the perfect time to get friends signed up and raise donations for Friends of Spennithorne School when they shop online.

Share your unique referral link with your friends and family today using the ready-made tools below.

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofspennithorneschool/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

Already, the Friends have collected £5 from this in a few weeks.

There are no catches or hidden charges and Friends of Spennithorne School will be really grateful for your donations.

### FILM CLUB

This has now finished for the year. It will restart on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

### ZUMBA

Zumba restarts on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

### HAMPER

The Friends of Spennithorne have kindly agreed to donate the chocolate hamper goods to the School Council who will use this to raise money for our school's chosen charity but are asking for any items which could go into a festive hamper; chutneys, jams, biscuits, presents sitting in the back of your cupboard? All donations, chocolate and otherwise will be gratefully received. Please get them into school by Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at the latest.

### LATE ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL

If you arrive at school after start at 8.45am, please go to the Main Entrance (school office) at the front of the school to gain access, so that you can ensure you are registered and uphold school safeguarding procedures.



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## WARM COATS

Now the weather has turned a lot colder, please can you make sure your child has a warm coat and appropriate footwear to wear for outdoor play sessions and lunchtime break.

## UNIFORM

Uniform is now available from both Tesco and now School Trends, in response to your requests. All uniform can be ordered online from either supplier.

<https://www.schooltrendsonline.com/uniform/SpennithorneCEPrimarySchoolDL85PR>

[www.tesco.com/ues](http://www.tesco.com/ues).

## NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE WARNING

**Following the season's first sharp frosts, North Yorkshire Police would like to warn drivers of the risk of cars being stolen whilst defrosting. Thieves look out for unattended cars being defrosted with the engine left running.**

Research has shown that 40% of drivers let their car's engine clear icy screens before they drive off. But they are at serious risk of losing their car if they pop back indoors and leave the engine running, even for a moment. Unfortunately, car owners will also get a cold reception from their insurance company as loss by leaving keys in an unattended vehicle is specifically excluded from motor insurance policies.

Don't hand the thieves and early Christmas present!

### **Tips for defrosting your wind screen safely and effectively:**

- While you use a scraper and de-icer on the outside of your car, starting the engine, switching on heated rear screen and mirrors and allowing air-conditioned air to circulate to gently warm the glass is the most effective way to clear frosted glass.
  - Stay with the car all the time - if you must go back indoors switch off and lock the car.
    - Do not drive off until all of the glass is clear
  - Remember not to leave wipers in 'auto' when frost is expected - if wipers are frozen to the glass the wiper motor could be damaged. Don't try to force frozen wipers off the glass
- Never use just-boiled water to clear glass – it could crack the glass, freezes quickly and could ice your wipers to the glass
- Clear all snow off the car, a soft brush is effective – making sure the front grille is clear (otherwise there is risk of the engine overheating)

## WRITER OF THE WEEK

This week's, the following writers have been recognised:

Foxes: - Matthew H. for great use of adjectives in his poem.

Rabbits: - Monty W. for independently writing a sentence after phonics.

## MATHEMATICIAN OF THE WEEK

This week, the following mathematicians have been recognised:

Foxes: - Emilia S. for good work on halving numbers.

Rabbits: - Shay L. for counting objects accurately beyond 20.



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Mrs. Shepherd would like to apologise for her mix up last week! Last week's 'Writer of the Week' was Danny P. for a descriptive, nocturnal poem and this week's is as above.

## CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS

The library is open at Spennithorne Church on the following days: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month 10.00/12 noon

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EYFS-Y4 flu vaccinations – 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Christmas Play -11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December  
Edinburgh Parents Info Evening – 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 5pm  
Christmas lunch -19<sup>th</sup> December  
Christmas party – 21<sup>st</sup> December  
Carol service – 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
End of term – 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
Whole school swimming starts (10 weeks) 12<sup>th</sup> January  
Y3/4 Cluster Dance Event – 2<sup>nd</sup> February  
Rotary Presentation – 5<sup>th</sup> February  
Parents' Evening – 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February  
Sports Kit Day – 9<sup>th</sup> February  
HALF TERM – 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February  
World Book Day – 1<sup>st</sup> March  
Cross Country – 8<sup>th</sup> March  
Mothers' Day Lunch – 9<sup>th</sup> March  
Sport Relief – 23<sup>rd</sup> March  
End of Term – 29<sup>th</sup> April