



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

19<sup>th</sup> January 2018

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)

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Dear Parent, Carers and Friends

## AVAILABILITY

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

## SNOW

Unfortunately, we were unable to open yesterday as several teachers could not get in. I tried but got stuck on the bridge over the A1 by Marne Barracks.

Hopefully, the contact system worked effectively. If it didn't, could you let us know so that we can make adjustments for next time.

## ATTENDANCE

When the school is closed linked to instances such as weather, this does not affect your child's attendance. However I am extremely concerned about general school attendance and the attendance of specific children. Last term average attendance was 91% which is very low. There are some children whose attendance is below 90%. These are categorised as persistent absentees and may be subject to contact from the Education Welfare Officer.

Please help us by encouraging full attendance and not taking leave of absence in term time (holiday entitlement of 10 days has not existed for several years). As a school we are judged on many things including attendance.

## FACEBOOK

We are live!! Both schools have been inviting parents to join our new Facebook page (Spennithorne Middleham Primary Schools) and any photos of events will be posted in our closed group which we have invited you to join. If we have missed you, please do not be offended. We just couldn't find you or you don't use Facebook. Please request to be our friend and we will then invite you to the closed group where we will post pictures of events.

Any posts are subject to admin approval as it is designed as a place to celebrate what we do in our schools.

## TRIPS AND EVENTS

As a set of schools, we like to organise events, which add and enrich the curriculum. This however, costs money and we kindly request parents make a voluntary contribution towards these trips. Sadly, we have noticed that some people are choosing not to pay. We would never disadvantage a child who did not or could not pay but this impacts on our very small budgets. As stated in our educational visits policy, if insufficient contributions are not received, we may have to cancel the trip which would mean the children lose out.

This is also the case with swimming. We ask for a voluntary contribution for the cost of the coach, paying for the swimming tuition as this is part of the National Curriculum.

## SCIENCE DAY

This will be rescheduled for a future date as it was cancelled due to snow and The Wensleydale School closing too.

## NORTHALLERTON LIBRARY – THE WONDERS OF SPACE

Selby and Northallerton libraries are working with University of York's Astrocampus and bringing Space to our fingertips on 13 and 14 February 2018, during half-term.

At Northallerton Library, visitors will be able to explore the wonders of space in the Cosmodome: an inflatable planetarium. They can discover the stories behind the constellations and take a tour of the night skies; fly past the planets and find out about stars exploding! Shows last for 20 minutes and are suitable for all ages, children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets for the session are £1 per person, available in advance from Northallerton library. Advanced booking is essential as spaces are limited.



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For more information and to book your tickets, please contact Northallerton Library.

If you are not a member of the library, join now. It is FREE. Visit your local branch or log on to [www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraries)

To find out more about University of York's Astrocampus please visit: [www.astrocampus.org.uk](http://www.astrocampus.org.uk)

To book, please contact Greg Kubas (01609 79 8402)

<b>Wednesday 14 February</b>		
<b>Northallerton Library</b> 1 Thirsk Road, Northallerton, DL6 1PT <b>Tel: 01609 53 3832</b>	10.30am	Cosmodome – 1 <sup>st</sup> session*
	11am	Cosmodome – 2 <sup>nd</sup> session*
	11.30am	Cosmodome – 3 <sup>rd</sup> session*
	12noon	Cosmodome – 4 <sup>th</sup> session*
*Spaces limited. Tickets for the session are £1 per person, available in advance from Northallerton library	1pm	Cosmodome – 5 <sup>th</sup> session*
	1.30pm	Cosmodome – 6 <sup>th</sup> session*
	2pm	Cosmodome – 7 <sup>th</sup> session*
	2.30pm	Cosmodome – 8 <sup>th</sup> session*

## SCHOOL FOCUS

This term, the focus across both schools will be on presentation, working hard to develop their cursive script and ensuring that spelling of words which we feel they should know e.g. key words is being demonstrated.

## SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DROP IN SESSIONS

Drop in sessions for children up to the age of 4yrs 11months will be held at Bedale Health Clinic, Sussex Street, Bedale between 9.30-11.30 on the following dates:

7<sup>th</sup> March 18, 9<sup>th</sup> May 18, 11<sup>th</sup> July 18, 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 18 and 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 18.

## 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%.

## SPENNITHORNE NEWS

### MORNING ROUTINES

Could we please ask that children try to organise themselves coming into school on a morning, helping them to become more independent unless you need to speak to a teacher or have a prearranged agreement.

### 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>



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

## **WRITER OF THE WEEK**

This week, the following writers have been recognised:

Foxes: - Jack C. for good ideas about characters in a story.

Rabbits: - Evie H. for writing a detailed story.

## **MATHEMATICIAN OF THE WEEK**

This week, the following mathematicians have been recognised:

Foxes: - Evie F. for a good grasp of fractions.

Rabbits: - Holly J. for a good understanding of halves and quarters.

## **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**

Y3/4 Cluster Dance Event – 2<sup>nd</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