



Middle Barton School

Newsletter

Friday 17th January 2025



Head's News

Welcome back to school 2025!

The children have come back with such enthusiasm and ready to learn. It was lovely to hear so many children talking about their 'Brilliant Beginnings' day as they left school on the Tuesday after the Christmas break.

New Year, New Initiatives in school!!

We are having a real focus on reading this term. Just before Christmas the children (not Reception) took part in a range of assessments and once these were completed, we looked at how we can then support the children to ensure all children are progressing well. We noticed that for some children the main barrier was reading. We know that reading is a fundamental skill that impacts on all areas of the curriculum and is therefore vital to a child's education. As part of our homework policy, we ask that children read frequently at home (ideally daily) but we are also aware that some children are not always keen to read so we decided as a school to try a 'Reading Challenge' to hopefully encourage/inspire more children to be reading regularly. Instructions were posted on dojo on Tuesday

and we will be looking at each class's jar in assembly to see how things are progressing.

We also launched 'WOW- the walk to school challenge' last Friday. The children all seemed very enthusiastic after the assembly and we have already seen a decline in the number of cars in the morning and more children walking,

biking or scooting to school- a great start!

Our Year 4/5 children have also begun their art pieces for the Cotswold Arts in School project which then leads to an exhibition- Sculpture at Kingham Lodge. We are looking forward to working with Abigail (artist) and seeing our sculptures transform ready for the exhibition in May.

Our Year 5/6 swimming team took part in a gala this week and did tremendously well and we are all very proud of them. Please read Roxy and Mollie's report.

Attendance

Target 97% This year to date: 95.7% (creeping up!)

Last week 98% This week: 99.5%

I also wanted to share with you an article from the Oxford Mail-

<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/24814750.school-absence-rates-revealed-oxfordshire-schools/>

The article is predominantly based in poor attendance in schools but as you scroll down, Middle Barton School is mentioned in a very positive way! 'At the other end of the scale, Oxfordshire schools with near-perfect attendance rates include Middle Barton Primary School and St Laurence CE School. Both primary schools recorded just two students – about two per cent of the total pupils – with persistent absences over 10 per cent and no absences beyond 50 per cent.' (This was based on attendance data from 2023/24)

This week's assembly



In the news this week

UK Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, has stated that building new homes is a 'top priority.' The government has announced changes to planning rules, aiming to make it easier to build homes in the countryside. Local areas have been set targets to deliver a total of 370,000 new homes each year in England.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > What type of home do you live in? What are the advantages of where you live? Is there anything you find difficult about it?
- > Talk about the area around your home. What facilities are there?
- > Ask an adult whether they know of the nearest 'green belt' areas close to where you live.

Dates for the diary

<https://www.middlebartonschool.org/school-calendar-and-term-dates/>

Tuesday 21st January – swimming lessons start for Oak class

Thursday 23rd January – Willows visit to Banbury Museum

Wednesday 29th January – CNPS Hockey Tournament 3.00 – 4.45pm (named children)

Wednesday 5th February – CNPS Ball Skills Festival 3.00- 4.45pm (Y4)

Friday 7th February – CN Music Festival session for Y5 and Y6 9.15-10.30am

Monday 10th February – Bikeability Level 2 for Y5

Tuesday 11th February – Bikeability Level 2 for Y5

Wednesday 12th February – Bikeability Level 1 for Y4

Wednesday 12th February – Acorns stay and play 2.15-3.00pm

Friday 14th February – FOMBS cake and book sale after school

Friday 14th February – HALF TERM

Monday 24th February – BACK TO SCHOOL

Friday 28th February – Clothes Swap after school

Monday 3rd March – Rags to Riches collection

Morning run

Great work everybody! I am so pleased to see more than sixty pupils enjoying the outdoors before school, especially a large number of Acorn children! This week we can announce that another four intrepid runners have achieved their certificates – congratulations to all of them!

Half Marathon – Millie

Marathon – Jayden, Asher

Two Marathons – Albie L

Special mentions: Orlaith Bo, William, Pippa Hay, Alfie G, Arya, Jack, Steil, Ben, Minnie, Tom, Millie, Henry, Isabelle B, Jess, Archie M, Nate, Alfie A, Eva and Amelia M.

Helpful to other track users: Harley, Noah and Albie L

Acorn stars of the week: Pippa Har and Isaac

Maple stars of the week: Lucy and Albie C-D

Willow stars of the week: Isla-Grace and Alex

Oak stars of the week: Hayley and Georgie

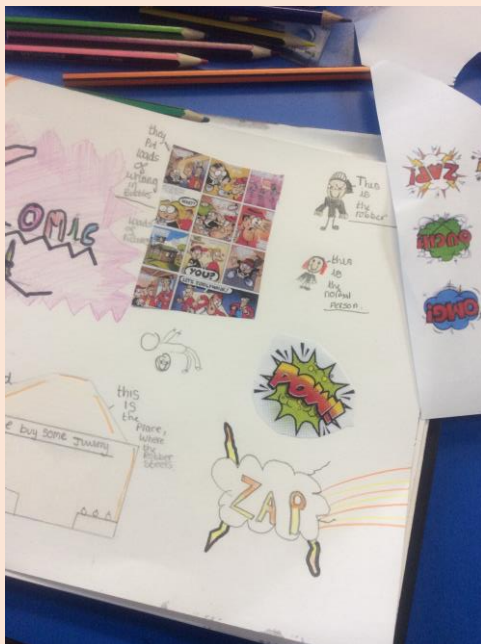
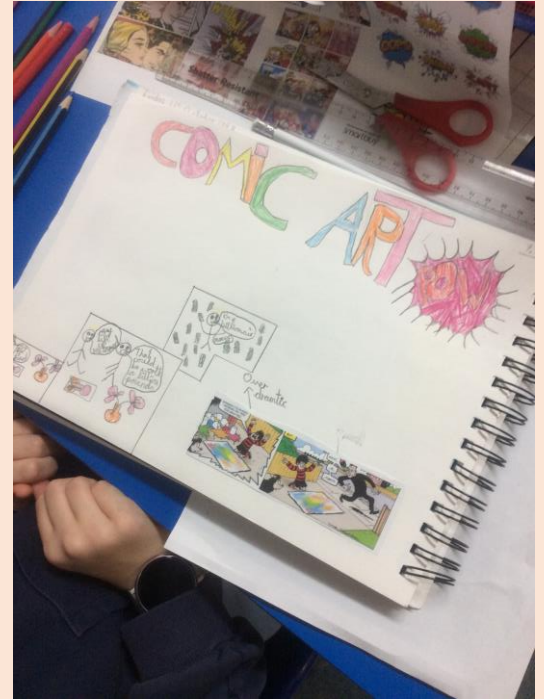
Stars of the week: Mia and Xander





Oak Class

We have had a great start to 2025 in Oaks Class. In Brilliant Beginnings we spent the day creating our own comic strips, beginning with deciding on our story line and exploring different characters to then creating our final design. The end results were fantastic! In Music this term we are focusing upon the traditional African song 'Shosholozza', in our first lesson we practised the song acapella style and this week began playing a chord progression on the keyboards. In English we began exploring our new text 'The Hound of Baskervilles', looking at the different cliffhangers within the novel to use as a model for our own cliffhanger narrative.



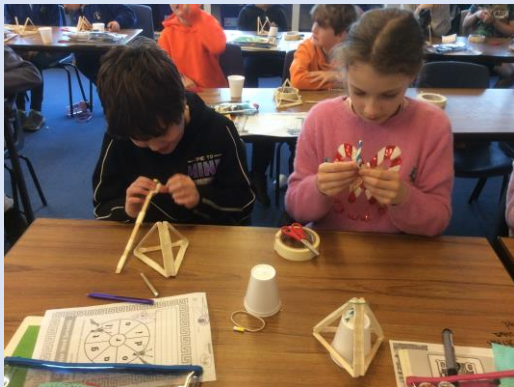


Willow Class

The children have started designing Web pages in computing - this was trickier than we first thought! Many of the children chose an animal theme to base their web pages on.

Willows have also continued their Romans topic and have enjoyed handling artefacts from the Oxfordshire Museum, including a scent bottle, coins, pottery, cosmetic implements and nails.

We had an exciting morning on Wednesday when a visiting artist called Abigail came to discuss our contribution to the Cotswold sculpture show. She showed us some of her previous work and we discussed the materials we may wish to use, focussing on recycling and not buying. We sketched out our ideas, which were amazing, including solar systems, underwater scenes and a variety of wildlife. Our next stage is to decide on which design to create..





Maple Class

Maples have been getting back into the swing of it after Christmas. We have started learning about our great inventor this term - Louis Braille - and will be exploring this more in the weeks to come. Year twos have been exploring shape and some have begun working on their cursive handwriting. Year three are multiplying and dividing 2-digit numbers with exchanging!

In preparation for their art project later in the term, Maples have been creating some mixed media portraits.





Acorn Class

This week in Acorns we have all taken part in a writing assessment, the children all enjoyed writing about an adventure under the sea, everyone is making progress. In geography we are beginning to learn about the seven continents of the world. We love our continents song!

We are enjoying our cooking sessions with Mrs Horner and this week started to make owls on toast!



CNPS Swimming Gala

A report from Roxy and Mollie

For this year at Chipping Norton School all the Primary Schools took part in swimming gala. There were many contestants and the competition was high.

We did two lengths of any stroke for a warm up and then sat in the space named Middle Barton School.

The five races we did were: Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke, Medley relay and a float relay.

Overall, we came second in small schools and **first in a breaststroke final** against all nine other schools and **first in a float relay**. We came second in all the other races! We all loved it and hope that next year will be as great.





Our focus for this term:

By Mollie and Katherine:

Walk to school challenge

This year the children at Middle Barton school will be taking part in the WOW walk to school challenge.

WOW challenge

The WOW challenge is a fun way to earn badges and help children walk to school more. You can compete in your class and can help the environment. Walking to school helps children feel happier and healthier.

On Monday there was a baseline survey to see how the students travelled to School:

Class name	walk/wheel	driven	Cycle	Park & stride	scooter	bus	taxi	other
Total	43	53	2	5	1		1	
Oak	17	8	0	3	0			
Willow	5	16	1	0	0			
Maple	10	13	1	2	1		1	
Acorn	11	16	0	0	0			

On Friday we could already see a huge improvement, with more children doing Park & Stride:

	walk/wheel	driven	Cycle	Park & stride	scooter	bus	taxi	other
Total	56	19	5	20	5		1	

Safeguarding Children - what to do if you think a child is at risk of abuse or neglect:

Immediate danger - if you think a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999.

Immediate concern - if you have a concern about a child, please call MASH on 0345 050 7666.