

MIDFIELD MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER
EDITION

WHAT'S
NEW?

Welcome
Back!

Dear Parents/Carers,
I'd like to start by sharing how delightful it has been welcoming you and the children all back to school this week.

Most children have effortlessly settled into their new classes and despite the very warm weather this week, there has been a real sense of excitement and positivity in and around the school.

The children have already made a great start towards advancing their learning and this year we are looking forward to working with you more closely as co-educators to help the children at Midfield truly succeed and achieve.

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To support this, earlier this week, Class Teachers shared with you their own termly newsletters detailing the learning plans for this term ahead. We are also going to be holding welcome meetings next week where information will be shared with you about children's learning expectations for the year

Mr Osborn
Headteacher



Who's Who in the School Leadership Team?

If you have any queries, questions or concerns that your child's Class Teacher cannot resolve, please speak to one of the following staff members.

Miss Smith - Head of Early Years

Mrs Spicer - Reception Senior Teacher

Mr Carter - Senior Teacher for KS1 (Years 1 and 2)

Mrs Cummings - Senior Teacher for LKS2 (Years 3 and 4)

Mrs Fenton - Senior Teacher for UKS2 (Years 5 and 6)

Mrs Eede - Head of Tree House

Who are the school's Senior Leaders?

Mrs Brooks - Assistant Headteacher

Miss Major - Assistant Headteacher

Ms Moyle - Assistant Headteacher

Mr Le Conte - Deputy Headteacher

Mr Osborn - Headteacher



SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS!!!



At the end of last term, we asked for feedback for on all elements of school life. We are very grateful for those who took the time to complete these questionnaires. And for the fantastic feedback regarding the increased provision for enrichment activities linked to the £1 club. This will be continuing this year and hope to share information about this shortly.

One of the key pieces of feedback was about the reduction in school trips since Covid; there was an increase in these last year but we acknowledge we can do better!

This year therefore, teachers have been asked to plan a trip, visit, experience or excursion at least once per term. Wherever possible, we will be utilising public transport to keep costs low.

Teachers will be in contact soon with more information about these visits.



Music at Midfield

This term we are thrilled to be welcoming new Music Teachers to Midfield Primary School. As a result of a collaboration between ourselves and the Bexley Music Hub - children in KS2 will be accessing a bespoke high quality Music Curriculum delivered by specialists.

Fear not parents of our younger pupils, our Early Years and KS1 Teams have received training in delivering a new music programme called Charanga and will be following the new Model Music Plan created by specialists in the Department for Education.

In addition to our curriculum music offer, last term, we wrote to parents inviting them to express interest about their child learning an instrument in small groups. We are delighted to share that these have been arranged, lessons will be starting next week and Mrs Eede is contacting families individually to discuss payment methods for the term.

These small group instrumental lessons are now oversubscribed but we are working on increasing capacity. If you didn't get back to us before the summer, don't worry - we are opening a waiting list from Monday. Please let Mrs Eede know if you'd like to join a waitinglist for a particular instrument.

Time to update



New School Day Timings

Thank you to everybody for working with us this week as we adapt to the new school day timings. This week we have exercised a small bit of flexibility as we recognise the changes are new. From next week, the school timings are as follows and **gates will close promptly at 8.50am**

Phase of School	Start of Day	End of Day
Early Years (Reception)	8.50am	3.20pm
Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)	8.50am	3.20pm
Key Stage 2 (Years 3 – 6)	8.50am	3.25pm

At the end of the school day, gates will be opened at 3.10pm for parents to access the collection points on the playground areas.

Free School Meal Applications



Mayor of London Funding for School Meals

This week saw the launch of the Mayor of London's funding scheme for all children in London Primary Schools to have a free school meal. This is part of a 1 year project to support London families with the cost of living crisis. Many children at Midfield this week have taken advantage of this and today we served approximately 100 meals more than usual! This is of course wonderful, but naturally it is taking a little bit longer to get through kitchen service and so as such, we have adjusted our lunch times so that lunch is now done in two different sittings.

Did you know that school funding is linked to eligible free school meal families?

Whilst being able to provide free school meals is fantastic, it's really important that those who are eligible for means-tested free school meals still apply. Not only does this affect our school budgets and staffing, but it also means that after the Mayoral offer concludes next summer, your child will continue to receive free school meals for the remainder of their time with us.

To apply today, visit this website or speak to a member of the school office team who will help you complete the application form.

<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/FreeSchoolMealsApplicationForm>



Facilities and Estates Updates

This term we are welcoming Mr Brendon Barnes as the new Lead Caretaker here at Midfield.

He has been very busy over the summer holidays undertaking maintenance work, overseeing contractors and supporting school staff with new term preparations.

I'm sure you'll all join us in shouting 'Hurrah' after we have finally had confirmation that the pathway leading to the school from Midfield Way is going to be replaced. We are hopeful that this will take place before or during the October half-term period.

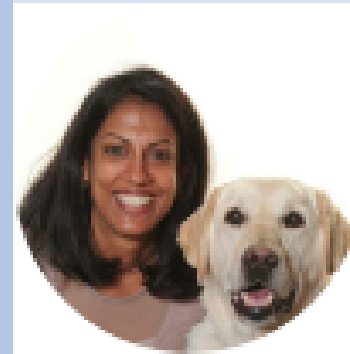
RAAC Concrete Updates

We wrote to you last week regarding the highly publicised RAAC issue facing many schools at the moment. We continue to work with the DfE and will keep you updated if anything changes and/or we hear anything that might affect Midfield

Play /Animal Therapy at Midfield

Nina Balachander is a Therapeutic Play Practitioner who works with children (and their families) to overcome difficult emotional or psychological situations that is preventing a child to reach their full potential.

Nina Balachander's role includes promoting children's emotional health and well-being, and running specific interventions such as play and creative arts therapy. She also works alongside her Therapy dog Skye, to provide weekly support to those children that need it.



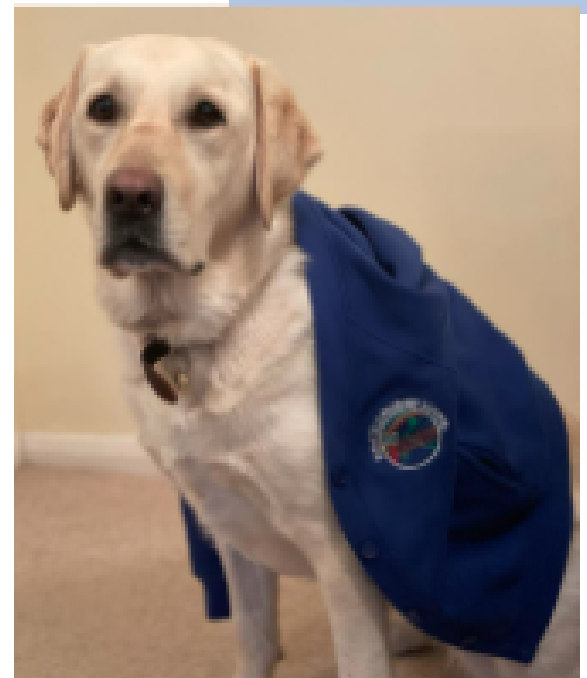
Skye joined Midfield Primary over a year ago. She has brought significant benefits, educationally and emotionally, to children she has worked with. Research has shown many advantages to therapy and reading dogs in school.

The benefits of a school dog

School dogs have been proven to help develop pupils' reading skills, improve behaviour, attendance and academic confidence, as well as increasing student understanding of responsibility and in the development of empathy and nurturing skills.

Animal assisted interventions can:

- Teach empathy and appropriate interpersonal skills
- Help individuals develop social skills
- Be soothing/calming
- Improve a child's ability to pick up on social cues which are imperative to human relationships
- Therapy dogs have been shown to support emotional regulation through the positive impact on the autonomic nervous system
- Show that children working with therapy dogs have experienced increased improved motivation for learning, resulting in improved outcomes
- Therapy dogs are being used to support children with their social and emotional learning needs, which can also aid literacy development.



The whole pastoral team will be continuing their work to support the children of Midfield Primary.

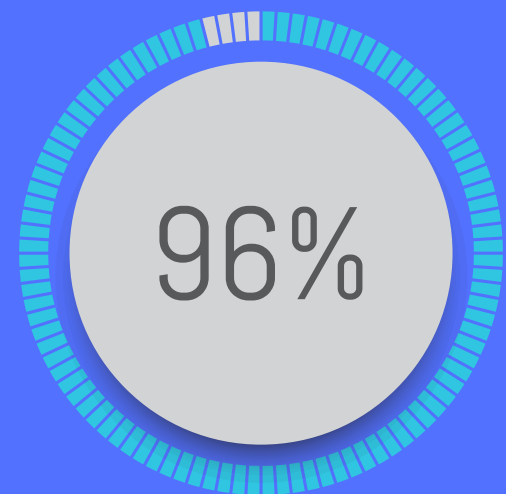
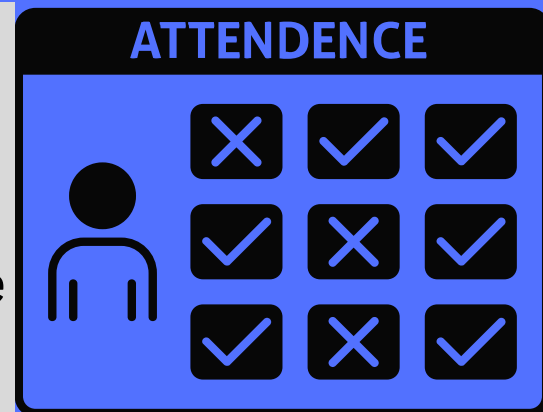
Polite Notices



This week we have noticed a lot of litter on the playgrounds at the end of the school day. If you are bringing your children in a snack for the end of the day, please can you check that this rubbish goes into the bins on the playground or is taken home with you.

Attendance

We continue to strive towards excellence and the only way we can do that is if your children are in school. We recognise that on rare occasions they may be poorly, but when this is the case - you must contact the school everyday they are absent. Failure to do so may result in a home-visit from school or the Education Welfare Officer. It's far more straight forward if you just call and let us know the reason for the absence and/or provide us with an update each day they're poorly. Our Attendance target this year is 96% which takes into consideration usual childhood illnesses.



WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU ALL THIS YEAR AND HOPE TO SEE YOU DURING THE TEACHER PRESENTATIONS NEXT WEEK. FOR THOSE UNABLE TO MAKE THESE DATES, THE PRESENTATIONS WILL BE UPLOADED ONLINE FOR YOU TO ACCESS

OUR VALUES:

Ambition
Collaboration
Fairness
Respect


Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

Our vision is for Midfield Primary School to inspire, challenge and nurture the individuality of the next generation. We aim to prepare pupils for all stages of their education as well as equip them with high aspirations for their future and lifelong learning.

Be a part of...

MIDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

PARENTS SAY:



- *Midfield has always exceeded our expectations. It is an amazing school with amazing staff*
- *My child has made excellent progress since attending this school. She is very proud of her school and talks enthusiastically about her experiences*

OPEN DAYS

Thursday 21 September '23 @ 9.30am
Thursday 12 October '23 @ 9.30am
Thursday 12 October '23 @ 5.00pm
Wednesday 29 November '23 @ 9.30am
Wednesday 29 November '23 @ 5.00pm
Monday 8 January '24 @ 9.30am

**Call or email the office to
book your place TODAY!**

MIDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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