Middlezoy & Othery Village Schools

2026-27 Prospectus

Striving to

“Be the best we can be!”



Welcome to our schools. Middlezoy and Othery are two, small schools situated in the heart of the beautiful Somerset Levels.

Our ethos is "To be the best we can be", whilst developing a love of learning and inspiring our children to become life-long learners. Our high standards for teaching and learning, our broad and balanced curriculum and wide range of enrichment opportunities help ensure that our children flourish. We pride ourselves on our strong pastoral care and ethos where every child is cared for and valued. Our children are happy and enthusiastic learners who show compassion and respect to each other.

Our aim is for our children leave us as happy, confident, independent individuals with a positive outlook on life and resilience to take on their next challenge.

I hope that this website will give you an insight to our schools. Up to date information can be found in our newsletters, latest news and class pages.

Since September 2023, we have all been situated at the Othery School site. We are always happy to show visitors around, so if you would like to come and visit our wonderful schools or require any further information, please contact the School Office, you would be very welcome.

Mrs Lindsay Hayward
Headteacher



Please call us on 01823 698464 or email the office:
office@othmid.ppat365.org

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Contact information:

Address:
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Telephone: 01823 698464

Email: office@othmid.ppat365.org

Website: www.middlezoyandotheryschools.co.uk

Staff & Governors

Teaching Staff	Support Staff
Mrs Hayley Silver	Mrs Sarah Greedy Mrs Chelsea Hale Miss Izzy Harris-Dugdale
Mr Jake Cornish	Mrs Dawn Brown (HLTA)
Mrs Natalie McNamara Mrs Lindsay Hayward	Mrs Rachel Hall Mrs Jodie Nevard
	Mrs Paula Higgs (ELSA)

Office & Premises

Miss Heidi Braithwaite	Mr Simon Howard

Breakfast club and Lunchtime Supervisors

Mrs Dawn Brown	Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs Paula Higgs	Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs Chelsea Hale	Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs Rachel Hall	Breakfast Club/Lunchtime Supervisor
Miss Izzy Harris-Dugdale	Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs Sarah Greedy	Lunchtime Supervisor

After School Provision

Mrs Rachel Hall

Governors- LGB

Mrs Nicola Mannion - Chair	Mrs Lindsay Hayward- Headteacher
Mrs Hayley Silver – Staff Governor	Mr Richard McElwaine- Vice Chair
Mrs Emma Shepherd – Parent Governor	To be Appointed (Clerk to Governors)
Miss Sophie Hayball – Governor (Director Appointed)	Mr Justin Thorne (Director Appointed)

Our Aims and Values

At Middlezoy and Othery Primary Schools we will always aim to:

"Be the best we can be."

We will:

- Ensure good and outstanding teaching with a culture of high expectations and high attainment where all our children can reach their full potential and take pride in their achievements.
- Create a safe and stimulating environment, providing a learning experience which meets the needs of all.
- Enable children to develop as independent, motivated learners with creative enquiring minds.
- Promote and develop pupils' spiritual, moral, and cultural growth via the delivery of the agreed Somerset RE syllabus (representing all faiths) and daily Collective Worship of a mainly Christian character.
- Provide good examples that children will use as a reference for positive behaviour.
- Encourage children to care for and respect themselves, the local community and others.

Our School will be recognised for:

- Its welcoming, positive ethos where all children are happy and thrive at school.
- High academic standards
- Artistic, sporting achievement and consideration towards others and their needs throughout the world.

Our children will:

- Feel cared for and secure in school.
- Be proud of their school and their personal contributions to its success and the wider community.
- Have good self-esteem and confidence in their individual strengths.
- Be aware of their role in the wider community.

Excellent behaviour and respect will be instilled in our children throughout the curriculum and through the role models set by all members of staff. We will apply our Behaviour Policy in a consistent manner.

Admissions/Applying for a School Place

Do you have a child due to start school in September 2027, or do you need to move schools in the academic year?

Come and visit our friendly schools. We are happy to show you around, at any time.

Please contact the school office to book a suitable time.

Children join school during the academic year that they are five. To apply for a place, an application form must be completed. 'Starting school' applications must be made to the Local Authority. The closing date for reception year applications for September 2026 is 15 January 2026.

If you are looking to change schools or are moving into our area, you are also welcome to visit. In-year application forms are available directly from the school.

Come and join our unique and happy schools.

Please call us on 01823 698464 or email: office@othmid.ppat365.org

Starting School

To help children settle smoothly into school we start them full-time from the first day of term. We find that our children are happy to be in for full days, but we can be flexible with our entry arrangements to best suit the needs of you and your child.

We invite parents to a meeting in the Summer Term before the children start in September. Your child will also be invited into school during the latter part of the Summer Term to enable them to meet their new teacher.

These meetings provide an opportunity for you to tell us anything about your child that will help us care for them and enable them to settle into school. This can be an anxious time for parents, so I really want to reassure you that we make every effort to make this transition fun and enjoyable for all.

Helpful Hints:

Sometimes parents worry about how they can best prepare their child for starting school, but it's really very simple. Children take their cues from you – if you talk about starting school as an exciting and fun thing that is a normal part of growing up, your child will respond in a similar vein.

In due course, we will pass on other more specific hints, but for now we would encourage you to be positive about starting school and work on giving your child the gift of independence.



Helping your child develop skills in the following areas, prior to starting school, is incredibly helpful to both them and us!

Can your child put on and remove their uniform (including shoes)?



Can they recognise their name on their uniform?



Can they find their own coat and do it up?



Can they use the toilet independently and wipe their own nose?

Can they use a knife and fork to cut up & eat their lunch?

Can they follow simple verbal instructions?

These sound like simple things but can help enormously to make a child feel capable rather than helpless. It really does not take long for our children to settle in and find their feet.

The School Structure & Routines September 2026

For the academic year 2026-2027, all children will be taught at Othery Village School.

The school will be organised into 3 mixed age classes, covering the three key stages of primary education.

CLASS:	TEACHER:	YEAR GROUP/S:	STAGE:
Unicorns Class	Mrs Silver	Reception Year 1 Year 2	Foundation Stage (FS) KS1
Phoenix Class	Mr Cornish	Year 3 and 4	KS2
Dragons Class	Mrs McNamara Mrs Hayward	Year 5 and 6	

The School Day

Year Group	Morning	Afternoon	Total Time
FS & KS1/2	8:45 am – 12 pm	1pm – 3.15pm	32.5 hours per week
KS2	8:45 am – 12pm	1pm – 3:15pm	

The school gates will open at 8:30 a.m. Registration will be taken at 8:45 a.m.

Year R and KS1 will have a morning break between 10:15 & 10:30 a.m.
KS2 will have a morning break between 10:30 & 10:45 a.m.

Year R & KS1 arrange have an additional afternoon break.

Our school day ends at 3:15pm.

School Meals

All children from Reception to Year 2 are entitled to a free hot meal daily. These meals are offered 5 days a week and provided by Lavender Country Kitchen, based in Street. Children can choose from one meat/fish, vegetarian or jacket potato main course, plus a choice of main dessert, or fruit or yoghurt. There are also packed lunch options available. Older children in KS2 can also order lunches, these cost £2.65 per day. The menus are updated every term and adhere to Government standards.

Meals must be booked and paid for using ParentPay weekly in advance. Selections need to be made by the end of the day on the Monday prior to the week required.

Alternatively, children may bring a packed lunch to school in a named, unbreakable standard-sized lunchbox.

We ask that you ensure your packed lunch contains a nutritionally balanced meal and that sweets, chocolate, fizzy and highly-flavoured drinks are not included as part of a lunch box.

In England, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically receive free school meals.

For older students, eligibility is based on receiving specific benefits.

Starting in September 2026, the Universal Credit earnings threshold is eliminated, meaning every child in a household receiving Universal Credit qualifies, regardless of income.

You can apply directly via the link below:

https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/school-life/free-school-meals

School Minibus

To assist parents in transporting children from Middlezoy to Othery school for the academic year 2026 – 2027, we currently offer a free minibus service. This may change in the future.

Priority has been given to children registered to Middlezoy School. Places are limited and can only be requested via the school office.

The bus leaves Middlezoy for Othery at 8:30 am.

At the end of the day the bus collects pupils from Othery at 3.15pm and returns them to Middlezoy for 3:20 pm.

Having our own Minibus also means it is easier for us to go on local trips out, like Dunster Castle, sporting events and swimming.



School Uniform

We take great pride in our presentation which extends to our appearance as ambassadors for our schools. We are incredibly proud of our uniform and encourage our children to wear it with pride.

Uniform		
Navy blue 'V' neck sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan White blouse or polo shirt School Tie (Compulsory Key Stage 2/Optional Key Stage 1) Grey knee length skirt or pinafore dress or Tartan pinafore dress Blue/white checked or striped summer dress White, grey or black socks Black or grey tights Grey long or short trousers Black flat shoes (sandals in summer) Grey or black socks		

Please make sure that all your child's clothing is clearly named as it helps us to reunite lost property with the rightful owner.

Any found, unnamed items can be reclaimed via the School Office.

We do not insist that children wear jumpers with the logo, however, uniform with the school Logo can be purchased from: **www.printsofwales.co.uk**

Every Wednesday, all children have a PE session in School. On Wednesdays, children should come to school in their PE kit.

Swimming Kit	PE Kit
 One-piece swimming costume  Sport style swimming trunks Swimming hat (optional) Goggles Towel	White T-shirt  Navy blue shorts  Black or white socks Trainers or daps (for indoors) Navy blue jogging trousers and a blue hoodie for outside wear in winter months  Named drawstring bag

Uniform Requirements

- Footwear – shoes (& winter boots) should be sensible, flat and must be black or navy. Trainers should only be worn on PE days
- Jewellery - children should not wear bracelets, rings or necklaces in school.
- The following items of jewellery are acceptable: earrings – simple studs only
- Watches – a plain "tell the time" type watch. Simple 'Fitbit' style watches can be worn, but for safeguarding reasons, we do not allow any devices that connect to the internet
- Hairbands and accessories should be in school colours or neutral colours and of an appropriate size
- Extreme hair styles are considered inappropriate, and parents are asked to avoid them. They include spikes and tramlines. Long hair should be tied back securely.

Our Curriculum

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

When 4-year-olds enter school, they bring with them a wealth of experience and knowledge about the world in which they live. Our aim is that their learning should build on these early experiences and be based on rich and stimulating 'hands on' activities.

The EYFS sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old. These standards are broken down into age ranges to monitor the development of your child. During their first year of school (Reception) most children complete their EYFS ready to start learning based on the National Curriculum (NC) in Year 1.
The EYFS is broken down into 7 areas of learning, and your child will mostly be taught through games and play.

The areas of learning are:

PRIME AREAS	SPECIFIC AREAS
• **Communication and Language (C&L)**	• Literacy (L)
• **Physical Development (PD)**	• Mathematics (M)
• **Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)**	• Understanding the World (UW)
	• Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

The Class Teacher assesses the children at the end of their year in Reception. This assessment is based on classroom observation - your child won't be tested. It uses the early learning goals, which can be found in the Early Year's Framework.

The National Curriculum

As children move from the end of Foundation Stage, they start to work to the guidelines provided by the National Curriculum to provide an appropriate transition into Year 1 and then on through to Year 6. There is clear progression throughout the years.

Our curriculum has been developed to ensure that our children leave us with outward looking attitudes celebrating similarity and difference between peoples, places, cultures and beliefs. We endeavour to offer a range of enrichment opportunities to all children throughout the year.



Special Educational Needs (SEN)

We promote high standards of education for all our children, including those with SEN. Where necessary we work closely with other statutory and voluntary bodies to provide support for children with SEN to ensure we fully meet their needs.

Please ask to see our SEN policy and SEND document for further details. Both policies are available on our website. Appointments can be made with our **School SENCo, Miss Ellie Booth** via the school office.

Equal Opportunities

We aim to provide equal opportunities for all at Middlezoy and Othery Schools and celebrate diversity. Diversity and inclusion is woven throughout our curriculum and as one of the British Values, is regularly discussed in both lessons and assemblies.

Extra-Curricular Provision

Othery and Middlezoy Schools are committed to providing a rich variety of learning, both throughout the day and through our After School clubs and provision. We include as much as we possibly can through school funding and our very generous PTA, but occasionally need to ask for voluntary contributions.

Examples of regular activities include:

Swimming Lessons at Huish Pool for KS2
Residentials for Year 6 children
Weekly music lessons in KS2 for all
Breakfast Club and After School Provision
Extra-Curricular after-school clubs- such as: lego, gardening, arts and crafts and board games
After-school sports clubs for KS1 and 2 (alternated termly)
Specialist sports coaching
Family Learning opportunities

Full details of these and much more is available on our website or through the school office.

https://www.middlezoyandotheryschools.co.uk/

Attendance and Punctuality

We place a high importance on all children being at school ON TIME and EVERYDAY.
Our attendance target is above 96%.
Attending school on time each day is critical for educational success.
Please see the table below for how reduced attendance relates to lost hours of learning:

Descriptor	Attendance	Whole Days absent	Lost Hours of Learning
Excellent	100% - 99%	0 – 2	0 - 10
Good	98% - 96%	4 – 7.5	20-37.5
Requires Improvement	95% - 91%	9.5 - 17	47.5 – 85
Persistent Absentee	90% - 86%	19 – 27	95 - 135
Critical	85% - 80%	28.5 – 38	142.50 - 190

Please note, children should not be taken out of school for holidays in term-time unless it meets the government's exceptional circumstances criteria. Details of this can be found in the policies section on our website.

Absence

If your child is absent from school for any reason, we require a phone call with reasons for their absence before 9:15 a.m. on each day of absence. Schools are required to record all absences - these are absences with and without the school's permission. Information about these absences are recorded on the child's report and sent to the Local Education Authority and to the Department for Education.

The prior notification of an appointment e.g., at the dentist, ensures that a child receives his/her attendance mark on the register.
If your child falls below 90% attendance (which is the marker for being persistently absent from school) without good reason, you will receive a letter. If following this the attendance does not improve, then you will be asked to come in and attend a meeting to discuss ways in which we can support your child/children.

GDPR - Data Protection

Information provided by parents and held by the school is used solely for administrative and educational purposes. Some information is shared with the Local Authority purely for statistical analysis. Pupil information will be passed to the child's next school to facilitate easy transfer. All personal data is treated in absolute confidence. Parents have the right to view data. We politely request that all contact information is kept up to date.

Safeguarding & Keeping Children Safe

At Middlezoy and Othery Primary Schools we are committed to the highest standards of safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all our children and young people. Our school expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The outcomes of this are that children and young people, at our schools, feel happy and safe. We aim to provide a caring, safe environment in our school alongside a curriculum in which children's self-esteem and independence are nurtured, as well as developing an understanding of how to keep themselves safe in the community and in the ever-changing wider world, including online.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs Lindsay Hayward, Head Teacher, ably assisted by Mrs Hayley Silver (DDSL).

School Security

It is important that we know who is on our premises. We ask that parents/carers/visitors report to the school offices on arrival. If children arrive late, we ask that you accompany them to the office before going through to class. If you would like to talk to your child's teacher or another member of staff, please arrange this via the Othery school office. The end of the school day is the best time to chat to one of the teachers wherever possible.

Health and Safety

The children are taught about all aspects of safety on a regular basis and we encourage them to take appropriate care in all they do.

Visiting & Volunteering in School

We positively welcome and appreciate input from parents, parents/carers and teachers working together, offering mutual support, can help the children to be happy and successful at school.

If you feel you would like to help, please contact the class teacher. This is always subject to capacity and of course the relevant safeguarding checks.

Parents/carers are invited to our celebration events throughout the year. We always try to give as much notice as possible for these special events. Parents/carers are sent termly Diary Dates of all upcoming events, as well as being able to visit the school website for all information, letters and dates.

PTA (Parents, Teachers Association)

As a school, we are very fortunate to have a strong, enthusiastic and dedicated PTA core group. Their main aim is to provide memorable events for our children and families. The group supports the school in many ways including organising fundraising events including the school fairs. The PTA are incredibly supportive, they are a much-valued member of our school community. Every parent is automatically a member, so please do come along to one of the meetings to see what they do. The dates for these can be found on the newsletter. There is also a dedicated PTA page on our school website.

Recent events and fundraising have included:

- Year 5/6 Apprentice Challenge
- Smarties challenge
- Bags for help
- Othery Street Fayre
- Own Clothes Days
- School Discos
- Break the Rules Day (The children's favourite!)

The PTA have funded many enrichment activities and events including, but not limited to:

- Year 6 Leavers' Hoodies
- Year 6 Tobogganning
- School Discos
- The amazing whole school Christmas Lunch
- Trip to the pantomime
- Waterproofs for Outdoor learning
- Residential Coach Travel
- Easter Crafts and Eggs for all
- Science Workshop
- Trip to Coates Willow, Secret World and Lyme Regis
- And much, much more!



If you have any unanswered questions, please contact the school office. One of our team will be happy to assist you.