

# Asterdale News

## Asterdale Primary School Newsletter



September 19<sup>th</sup> 2017  
Number 1

### Welcome Back

Welcome to all our children and families as we start the new academic year. A special welcome to pupils joining Asterdale for the first time – either as part of our Nursery, Reception or within other year groups in school. We hope all our children settle well to their new classes. We also welcome new staff colleagues – Miss Sawford, Miss Warren, Miss Arning, Miss Knowles and Miss Morton to our team.

May we take this opportunity to say how smart the children are all looking in their uniforms this term. Our very grateful thanks to all families for their support in the wearing of the correct uniform. Please could all children ensure they have a PE bag in school each week?

As a school, we promote an 'open door' policy, where we openly invite parents to share important information regarding their children. Staff are often available for a brief catch up (approximately 5 mins) first thing in the morning, or after school to pass on important details. If parents require a longer period, appointments can be made with staff to discuss any concerns you may have. Sharing information is something we value very much and really does support your child's learning.

### Nursery Places

There are Nursery places available for any children who are 3 or 4 years old. Some families may be eligible for the new 30-hour Government funding which has started this month. Some parents are entitled to claim up to 30-hours of free Nursery/After School care from Sept 2017. The 30-hour provision can include access to breakfast and after-school club.

Please contact Mrs Stanley at school to arrange a visit if you are interested. Additionally, Mrs Stanley is collecting names of children aged 0-2 years who may require a place in the future.

### PTFA

Asterdale Primary School has a dedicated group of parents, teachers and staff who have supported the work of the school by fundraising for resources or supporting the planned programme of trips and visits throughout the year. Such purchases in the past have included sunhats, cameras, ICT equipment, playground toys and of course the fantastic donation towards the new shelter in the infant playground – 'The Barn'. As a school, we are very grateful to the PTFA for organising such events as discos, Christmas and Summer fairs, sponsored activities and non-uniform days to raise additional funds for use in school. All the money raised goes directly back to the school, for the benefit of the pupils. Our big target this year is to raise money to install a trim trail at school. We need approximately £15,000.

The PTFA is currently looking for new members. The first meeting of the year, will be the AGM to be held very soon in school – date to follow. All parents, carers and family members will be warmly welcome. Please do join us to lend your support.

### Jeans for Genes Day

As a school, we would like to support several national charities this year and have proposed starting with a commitment to the 'Jeans for Genes day'. All pupils are welcome to wear their jeans along with their regular school sweatshirt/jumper on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September for a £1 donation to this fund. Mr Evans has already led an assembly next week to raise awareness.

## Term Time Holidays

Our thanks to all families who support our Attendance Policy at school. May I take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers that following a Government announcement in September 2013, school is no longer able to authorise absence for holidays during term time, unless in exceptional circumstances. If any family feel their holiday request meets the requirements for exceptional circumstances, please do come and talk to myself (Mrs Forrest) as Headteacher. The request needs to be made at least two weeks before the holiday. Leave of absence request forms are available on the school website (<http://asterdaleprimaryschool.co.uk/>) under the section 'forms and letters'.

### Asterdale Acorns

Our brand new breakfast and after school provision has opened this term in the new 'Hub @ Asterdale building'. This facility offers parents and carers the opportunity to have dedicated before and after school care on the school site from 7.30am until 6pm.

Additionally, the Asterdale Acorns team can offer 'ad hoc' or drop in arrangements if families need care either for a 'one off event' or in an emergency.

Prices are as follows:

Before School	7.30-8.55	£6
Before School	8.15-8.55	£5
After School	3.30-4.45pm	£8
After School	3.30-6pm	£10

Please do speak to either Mrs Harrold or Miss Warren in the Acorns team or colleagues in the school office. Alternatively, the Acorns staff can be contacted on their dedicated email [Acorns@asterdale.derby.sch.uk](mailto:Acorns@asterdale.derby.sch.uk).

### Dinner Money

Dinner money is charged at £11 per week or £2.20 per day and we appreciate payment either by cheque or cash every Monday morning please. Families who wish to pay from Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 are welcome to do so – the price will be £68.20, allowing for Inset Day on Oct 2nd.

A reminder to all families in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 that the Universal Infant Free School Meals programme is available for pupils in these year groups, offering a hot meal at lunchtime at no cost to parents/carers. Children are also able to bring sandwiches to eat at lunchtime. Any families in Y3-6 who think they may be eligible to claim for Free School Meals, please ask in the school office for more information.

May we ask that dinner money is paid in advance of the children taking a meal and that dinner money debt does not accumulate. Thank you.

## Attendance

Attendance and punctuality at school is monitored closely each week. We ask that parents/carers notify school by 9.10am each day if their child is likely to be absent and the reason for the absence. Voicemail messages can be left on the main office phone (01332 662323) or by using the school email address ([admin@asterdale.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@asterdale.derby.sch.uk)).

To meet our safeguarding requirements, school will endeavour to contact parents by phone or text to request information regarding pupil absence. Thank you for your support with this.

Last year, (2016-17) our overall school attendance was 95.9% which was below the Government target of 96%. We are hoping to improve on this data this year and will be displaying weekly attendance percentages within school.

## Future Events

We can offer a summary of planned events for the year ahead – further information regarding other activities will be sent out nearer to the time.

### Autumn Term 1&2 Sep-Dec 2017

Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Inset Day for staff – no pupils in school
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Open Afternoon – prospective parents for EYFS 2018 - 2.30-3.30pm
13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	PGL Residential
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Individual school photos. Siblings can arrive for family photos from 8.30am
Tue 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parent Consultation Evening 3.45-5.30pm
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parent Consultation Evening 3.45-6.15pm
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Break Up
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Return to school
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Open Morning – prospective parents for EYFS 2018 – 10-11am
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Inset Day for staff – no pupils in school
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Theatre Visit – Y1-Y6 – more details to follow
Thur 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Lunch in school
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Nativity Performance 2pm & 6.30pm
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS2 (Y3-Y4) Performance 2pm & 6.30pm
Thur 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS2 Performance 6.30pm
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	EYFS (YN & YR) Nativity Performance – 10am
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	EYFS (YN & YR) Christmas Party (pm)
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Break up

### Spring Term 3&4 Jan-Apr 2018

Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Inset Day for staff
Thur 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Pupils return to school
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Break up
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Return to school
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Parent Consultation Evening 3.45-5.30pm
Thur 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Parent Consultation Evening 3.45-6.15pm
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	Break up

### Summer Term 5&6 June-July 2018

Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Return to school
w/b Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Sats Week – Y2 & Y6
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Break up
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Return to school
w/b Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Jun	KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Phonics Screening Test
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Inset Day for staff – no pupils in school
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day
Thur 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Reserve Sports Day
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports to Parents
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Open Afternoon 2.30pm
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Leavers Service 2pm Y6 BBQ 5pm PTFA School Summer Disco 6.15pm
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Break up

## A visit from the Mayor

We recently welcomed the Mayor of Derby City Council, Councillor John Whitby to join us at school this past week. Mr Mayor attended our morning assembly, sharing information about the work he undertakes as the Mayor and highlighting an awareness of environmental and eco issues. An enthusiastic 'question and answer' session followed, with the children quizzing the Mayor quite extensively. Mr Mayor then enjoyed a tour of the school and surrounding grounds, led by two of our eco council (Hannah and Alicia). He was particularly impressed by our outside space, especially our woodland walk and forest school zones.

Year 5 & Year 6 children were then joined by Mr Mayor as part of their eco project, recycling clothes to make a vast number of scarecrows, which I am sure you have spotted on the way in to school! We think you'll agree that they look very impressive and that no birds will dare to fly too close!

Our grateful thanks to all the children for their interaction and conduct during the mayoral visit and to Mrs Sumner, Mrs Williams, and Mrs Strecker for co-ordinating the visit.

## External groundworks

As many of you know, we have been surrounded by metal fencing as part of the school building work for some time. We are pleased to announce that the heras fencing at the rear and to the right of the school has now been removed, allowing the landscapers full access to tend to the green space.

The final part of the project is to re-landscape the two 'mounds' of earth to the front and left-hand side of the school, which are currently slightly higher than we would like. Bowmer & Kirkland will therefore begin groundworks on these two areas from September 25th. Car parking and access to/from school may be slightly hindered for a short period of time. We will of course keep you updated but are delighted that the remedial work can begin very soon.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

## Big Talk Project

Staff at school are launching an exciting new project this week – 'the Big Talk Project'. This will involve a whole commitment from all staff and children, supported by parents and carers at home to help our children become even better at writing, by starting with becoming a better 'talker'. Each week, staff will send home 'talk homework' for you to complete with your child. It will consist of a question, an idea or a topic to talk about with your child, to encourage everyone in the family to talk about the topic, sharing opinions and ideas. By talking with your child, you will be helping them form idea into sentences that they can use in their writing.

The children will be encouraged by staff to 'talk' about the topic in school. The project is co-ordinated by our literacy co-ordinator, Mrs Sheard, but adopted by us all. Please do speak to staff if you need more details.

## Thankyou

A big thankyou to everyone who took the time to complete the 'Medial/Allergies/Food Guidance' questionnaire. This information is very much appreciated.

## And finally...

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our children and families a happy start to the term and as always, remind parents and carers that our door is always open if you wish to share any concerns at all.

There are many exciting projects and activities planned for the children for the term ahead and we hope to be able to share some of the work with you.