

Asterdale News

Asterdale Primary School Newsletter



October 20th 2017
Number 2

Together we can ...

Pupils, staff and governors have been busy over the latter part of the school year working towards a 'motto' that sums up everything about Asterdale Primary School. The final decision has been made and we are delighted to launch our new 'motto' – 'TOGETHER WE CAN ...'.

We think you will agree this really does promote everything we can achieve together, working in partnership with pupils, staff, governors, parents, carers and the wider community.

Eon Workshop

Pupils in Y6 enjoyed a special day of learning all about reducing energy and saving money through a wonderful drama session. This involved working in teams and finding out why and how we should reduce energy. The Y6 children presented a short performance to the rest of the school during afternoon assembly. Well done to everyone!

Sports Teams

Asterdale Primary School is proud to announce the launch of our sports teams for this academic year. Mrs McCormick and Mr Evans have been working with the pupils, coaching and arranging a range of inter-school matches. So far, Y6 children have played St Werburgh's, St John Fisher, Dallimore and Redhill schools at 7-a-side football. The spirit of the Asterdale pupils is to be commended, playing with determination and commitment, with a win, some draws and some losses. The teams were a credit to the school – well done and we are very proud of how they represent Asterdale.

Watch out for more fixtures for the year ahead!

School Council

Our school community have been learning more about one of our key British Values (democracy) at the start of the term. This work is very closely linked to our annual event of electing a new president for the School Council. Eight Year 6 children opted to stand during the election campaign and prepared brilliant manifestos which were presented to the children during our 'hustings' assembly. An active week of campaigning then took place, followed by a voting event. The declared president was Ashli who will be supported by the vice-president Hannah for the year ahead. A school council has been formed and meetings have been planned to contribute to the work of the school.

Key areas for development this year will be a continued commitment to support national charities and to raise funds for a trim trail for the field area.

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 and should be paid in advance. Payment for the whole term (until Dec 20th and allowing for the inset day) can also be made at a cost of £79.20. Cheques should be payable to Derby City Council.

A reminder to all families in Reception, Y1 & Y2 that the Universal Infant Free School Meals programme is available, offering a hot meal at lunchtime at no cost to parents/carers. Any families in YR-6 who think they may be eligible to claim for Free School Meals, please ask in the school office or see the school website for more information. Children may also bring sandwiches to eat at lunchtime. We request that 2 weeks' notice is given to the office to make any changes to the usual lunchtime pattern.

Miss Robinson and the catering team are busily planning the Christmas lunch menu.

This will be served on Thursday December 7th and any children who usually have sandwiches and would like a Christmas lunch, are invited to pay for a meal on this day. The cost is £2.20 and bookings for Christmas lunch need to be made by Monday 13th November, by sending £2.20 in a named sealed envelope to the Class teacher (please note this payment is non-refundable as food orders need to be placed). Children who usually have a hot meal at school will receive the Christmas menu.



Attendance – every day counts

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 via the school email address (admin@asterdale.derby.sch.uk).

Could we remind all carers and parents that school is not able to authorise term time holidays, unless in exceptional circumstances. Any families who feel their request for a term time holiday meets exceptional circumstances, are politely requested to complete a 'Leave of Absence' form available from the office or the school website at least 2 weeks before the anticipated holiday.

Thank you for continuing to promote positive attendance in school with your child.

Applications for Secondary School (2018)

A reminder to all parents and carers of Y6 pupils, that applications for secondary places for September 2018 need to be submitted to Derby City Council by October 31st 2017. The preferred option is an online application via Derby City Council (admissions page), although paper copies can also be submitted.

If any families need more information or advice, please do get in touch with Mr Evans or Mrs Forrest.

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

Fri 20 th Oct	Break Up
Mon 30 th Oct	Return to school
Tue 31 st Oct	Carved pumpkin competition Hallowe'en fancy dress - £1 donation to PTFA funds
Wed 1 st Nov	Autumn disco – 5-6pm (EYFS, Y1&2), 6.15-7.15 (Y3-6) - £1.50
Fri 3 rd Nov	Open Morning – prospective parents for EYFS 2018 – 10-11am
Mon 13 th Nov	Blue Sky Fashion Show (PTFA) – 7pm - school hall
Tue 21 st Nov	Eco Council visit to Council House, to meet the Derby City Mayor
Mon 27 th Nov	Inset Day – no pupils in school
Fri 1 st Dec	School Christmas Fair – school hall
Wed 6 th Dec	Theatre Visit – Y1-Y6 – Derby Arena – Beauty and the Beast
Thur 7 th Dec	Christmas Lunch in school
Tues 12 th Dec	KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Nativity Performance 2pm & 6.30pm
Wed 13 th Dec	KS2 (Y3-Y6) Performance 2pm & 6.30pm
Thur 14 th Dec	KS2 (Y3-Y6) Performance 6.30pm
Fri 15 th Dec	EYFS (YN & YR) Nativity Performance – 10am
Fri 15 th Dec	Secret Santa in 'The Hub @ Asterdale'
Mon 18 th Dec	EYFS (YN & YR) Christmas Party (pm)
Tues 19 th Dec	Break up

Spring Term 3&4 Jan-Apr 2018

Wed 3 rd Jan	Inset Day – no pupils in school
Thur 4 th Jan	Pupils return to school
Fri 16 th Feb	Break up
Mon 26 th Feb	Return to school
Wed 21 st Mar	Parent Consultation Evening 3.45-5.30pm
Thur 22 nd Mar	Parent Consultation Evening 3.45-6.15pm
Fri 23 rd Mar	Break up

Summer Term 5&6 June-July 2018

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

Harvest Festival

We held our school harvest festival yesterday, welcoming Reverend Berry to lead the proceedings. Thank you to all the children who sang so beautifully or presented readings for our harvest assembly.

Our thanks also to all the families who were so generous with their donations of dried and tinned food items or bathroom products. These items will be distributed by the Lions to people in the locality.



PGL

Some pupils from Y5 & Y6 recently attended an outdoor residential activity weekend at Caythorpe Court, Grantham, enjoying a host of activities such as rafting, high ropes, abseiling, fencing and archery.

The children are to be commended for their team working skills and for trying out many new things. The staff were incredibly proud of them all.

Our grateful thanks to Mr Evans, Mrs Sheard, Mrs Williams and Miss Brocklehurst who led the residential trip.



Arrival and dismissal to school

Could we take this opportunity to ask parents and carers if they could assist with supporting a safe arrival and dismissal to school for our children. We request that the access to school is via one of the two pedestrian pathways – next to 'The Hub' or the Nursery buildings. We are getting increasingly concerned about children and families using either of the two car parks to walk out of school, due to the presence of moving vehicles. Similarly, can we ask that bikes and scooters are pushed and not ridden when on school grounds. This will help keep our children safe.

Similarly, could we ask that prompt arrival to school is encouraged each day, between 8.45-8.55am to either the junior or infant playgrounds or 9am for Nursery children. Could we ask that the front door is only used as a last resort in genuine cases and that children arriving after 8.55am will be marked as late in the register. The Education Welfare Officer from the Local Authority is monitoring punctual arrival to school for our children. Thank you for your support with this.

PTFA

We are very grateful for the extensive amount of work the PTFA put in to support the school and facilitate enrichment activities for our children. At the recent AGM, new officers were elected – Lorraine Caplan as Chair, Lisa Griffin as Treasurer and Michelle Jakeway as Secretary. We thank Evonne Williams as the retiring chair. The PTFA are exploring an idea of PTFA representatives for each class and more details will follow in the new term. Please also see the PTFA newsletter which has also been issued today.

And finally...

Thank you to all our children and families for their support over the last term. On behalf of the staff and governors, we hope you have a relaxing holiday break.