

Asterdale News

Asterdale Primary School Newsletter

Together we can ...



Science Week

We recently participated in the National Science Week programme and all classes have been involved in a range of exciting activities that has deepened their understanding of science in the world around us. The most striking piece of science work over the last two weeks has been the arrival of 10 eggs and an incubator. The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed watching the eggs hatch and then caring for the fluffy chicks in the purpose built brooding box. Watching the changes in the chicks in a very short period has been amazing and certainly enjoyed by the children. The official naming ceremony was an event by itself, although trying to remember which chick was 'Egg Sheeran' or the other selected names was a challenge at times!

Corresponding science activities have taken place in school, particularly with trays of eggs! The awe and wonder shared by staff and children has been magical.

Our very grateful thanks to Mr Evans, our science co-ordinator for organising and facilitating the whole event.

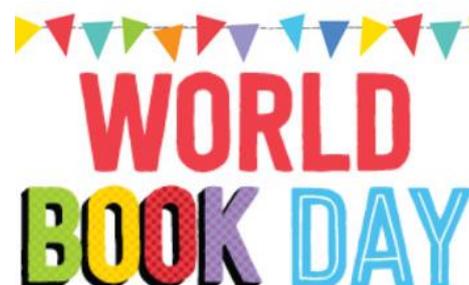


March 22nd 2018
Number 5

World Book Day

A wonderful day was held in school to celebrate 'World Book Day 2018'. The children all looked fabulous in their range of costumes, reflecting a favourite character from a book. The pupils also had the opportunity to participate in a number of activities linked to books and story writing.

Many thanks to Mrs Sheard for organising the day.



Parents' Evenings

Our thanks to all the families who were able to join us at the recent parents' evenings held in school. This year, we have been trialling an earlier start time for some appointments and would welcome your feedback regarding the opportunity to meet with staff at an earlier time.

Grateful thanks also to members of the PTFA who have organised a staffing rota to provide a 'creche' facility, keeping the children entertained with a range of craft activities.

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 (Apr 9th – May 25th 2018 – allowing for Bank Holiday Monday) can be made at a cost of £74.80. 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.

May we respectfully remind all families that we will not let dinner money debt accumulate. We thank those families who make payment in advance of the school meal being taken. Families are provided with a note each week informing them of any outstanding debt and we value a prompt response in settling the debt. We will advise families if debt accumulates beyond two weeks and suggest that sandwiches are brought to school until the debt is cleared. Thank you for your help and support with dinner money payment.

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.

Our current attendance data is checked and monitored each week. The Government target is 96% with Asterdale Primary School tracking at 94.2%, which is a drop on the term before. The 'attendance champions' for the term are Year 6, with 96.4%. Congratulations to Y6 pupils.



Online Safety

As a school, the safety of our children whilst at school is a very high priority. As part of our internet awareness, the teaching of online safety is covered at an age appropriate level.

To further enhance the skills and knowledge of all our staff, Asterdale is planning a staff training twilight on Wednesday 16th May. We have secured an opportunity for two parent's information sessions to be held on the same day, one during the afternoon and a repeated workshop during the early evening for any families to attend. More details will follow nearer the time.



Parent Governor Vacancy

An invitation will be sent out on Monday 9th April to invite any parents from Asterdale who would like to be considered for a role on our Board of Governors. The role of a Governor is to support the work of the school, helping shape the direction and strategic decision making. No previous experience is required as full training will be given. The role will involve approximately 6 meetings a year (usually held between 4-6pm on a weekday), plus occasional visits into school to support with monitoring and evaluation.

We are particularly keen to hear from willing nominees who have any experience in finance, helping make budgetary decisions and monitoring, although this is not essential. Asterdale values the role that parents play in contributing to their work of the school. If you need further information, please see either Mrs Forrest, Mr Evans, Mrs Stanley or Mrs Williams (current chair).

Y5 Taster Day

Our pupils in Year 5 have recently spent an enjoyable day at West Park, finding out about life at Secondary School, particularly enjoying experiencing Science in the purpose-built laboratory at West Park, where great things were achieved with Bunsen numbers!

Inset Day

A reminder that school will be closed to pupils for staff training on Friday 22nd June.

School Council

Our School Council continues to remain busy throughout school. They have recently met with the new catering manager, Mrs Thomas and have been busy contributing ideas to the new Summer Menu which will be launched on April 9th, with lots of exciting new dishes. The school lunch menu will be available on the school website.

PTFA

Our PTFA continue to work to support the school – many thanks to all the volunteers who have supported the many recent events.

Spring Disco

A very big thank you to the children who joined us for the Spring Disco, where a fabulous £327 was raised. A special thank you to our DJ - Gary Williams. New for this year was the selling of chips and 'chip butties' by our catering team. These both appeared to be incredibly popular and our grateful thanks to Mrs Thomas and Miss Thompson for facilitating this.

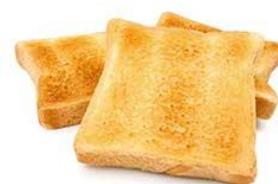
Easter Egg/Hat Competition

This was held earlier during the week and a splendid turn out of decorated eggs and hats displayed by the children. Thank you again to the PTFA for the generous donation of prizes and for judging the competition in school.

The PTFA are busily organising the annual Summer Fair, planned for July 2018. A PTFA planning meeting will be held in the Green Room on Monday 16th April 2018 at 3.45pm. All parents/carers are welcome to attend.

Toast

We have been amazed by the success of the recent sales of 'toast' at morning break time. Our catering team, supported by a team of Teaching Assistants. At its peak, somewhere in the region of 185 slices of toast were prepared and served to the children waiting patiently in line!



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.

Summer Term 5&6 (Apr-July 2018)	
Mon 9 th Apr 2018	Return to school Y6 visit to DCFC (Pride Park) 9-12noon
Mon 16 th April 2018	School Photographer – Class Photos PTFA Meeting – Green Room 3.45pm
Mon 7 th May 2018	School closed to pupils – Bank Holiday
w/b Mon 14 th May 2018	Sats Week – Y2 & Y6
Fri 18 th May 2018	West Park staff to visit Y6 (transition)
Fri 25 th May 2018	Break up
Mon 4 th June 2018	Return to school
Thurs 7 th June 2018	Y6 Parliament Trip (London)
w/b Mon 11th Jun 2018	KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Phonics Screening Test
Fri 22 nd June 2018	Inset Day for staff – no pupils in school
Tue 3 rd July	Induction day at West Park for Y6 pupils
Wed 4 th July 2018	Sports Day
Thur 5 th July 2018	Reserve Sports Day
Wed 18 th July	Reports to Parents
Fri 20 th July 2018	Open Afternoon 2.30pm
Mon 23 rd July 2018	Y6 Leavers' Service 2pm Y6 BBQ 5pm PTFA School Summer Disco 6.15pm (all year groups)
Wed 25 th July 2018	Break up

And finally...

Thank you to all families for your support and understanding over the last term, especially with the challenges that the snowy weather has presented.

We hope everyone has a Happy Easter and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 9th April 2018.

