

# Asterdale News

Asterdale Primary School Newsletter

Together we can ...



April 11<sup>th</sup> 2019  
Number 5

## World Book Week 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March 2019

We have had an amazing week in school celebrating 'World Book Day' this year, involving all the children, staff, plus many of the parents and family members. The first event was a fantastic 'reading breakfast' shared by 55 adults and 75 children, eating a range of breakfast pastries, croissants and enjoying hot drinks and juice. It was magical to see so many adults and children joining us in school and celebrating the love of reading by sharing a book. The hall has never looked so busy! Thank you to everyone who joined us for this event – we have received many positive comments and certainly hope to repeat the activity in the future.

Our World Book Day involved dressing up as characters from our favourite books and again it was wonderful to see so many of the children taking part and taking on new character roles. The morning assembly gave all the children (and staff!), the chance to showcase characters from their favourite book – again another wonderful day. Thank you to all the parents and carers who helped with costumes for this event.

The final day of World Book Week at Asterdale saw the hall turned into a wonderful reading adventure, where the children visited different styles of books, to find clues and solve puzzles, all in a mythical and magical setting! The children were fantastic and responded incredibly well to the range of challenges, trying to locate the dragon who had seemingly managed to sneak into our school! The whole experience was wonderful and really motivated the children.



The children were treated to a magical 'fish and chip' lunch prepared by our catering team and supported by our midday colleagues. Our very grateful thanks to Mrs Sheard for organising the events during Book Week and to all staff colleagues for their support in facilitating such a wonderful series of activities.

## School Council

Pupils in the School Council have been very busy with their fundraising activities, organising a bake sale at the beginning of April. We are very grateful for the donations of cakes and for the 'buying' of the baked goods. A tremendous £150 was raised to help towards Bronwyn Caplan's (ex-pupil) fundraising campaign for her charity climb up Mount Kilimanjaro.

## Thank you!

We are delighted to have received a very kind and generous donation of a beautiful wooden bench, given by the family of Mrs Wilde, a much loved colleague who sadly died in December 2017. There are plans currently taking place to install a 'butterfly garden' near the Nursery and KS1 playground to allow our children the chance to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the outdoors. We will keep you posted.



## 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 Mrs Forrest. 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'.

## Exciting News!

After many months (and even years!) of fundraising through school and the PTFA, we are awaiting the installation of two brand new trim trails – one on the grassy area next to the KS1 playground, to be available for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children and the second one in the grassy area near the KS2 ramp for pupils in Y3-6.

This is following some tremendous fundraising, including a generous donation of £3,000 from the PTFA and support from additional grants and the school budget. We expect the work to start in early May and take approximately 2-3 weeks. We will hold a 'grand launch' in school!



## Attendance

Attendance and punctuality at school is monitored closely each week. We ask that parents/carers notify school by 9.30am 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.

Our attendance data from the start of the school term is currently at 95.76%, which is below the Government target of 96%.

## Orienteering at Asterdale!

We have recently installed a permanent orienteering course in the school grounds and staff have taken part in a twilight training session. Orienteering is all about exploring the outdoors with maps, running or walking to marker points and collecting clues. It is a great opportunity for our children to be outside whilst promoting skills such as map reading, team work, fitness and problem solving. We hope to launch orienteering in school after Easter.

There are a range of orienteering events that take place locally and are great for family activities. Have a look at the local Derby club - Derwent Valley Orienteers (fixtures page) at <http://derwentvalleyorienteers.org.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 Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019 – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (allowing for a Bank Holiday on May 6<sup>th</sup>), are welcome to do so – the price will be £41.80. Please could all cheques be made payable to Asterdale Primary School.

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. We encourage any families who are eligible for Free School Meals to complete a registration form (if not already done so) as the school does receive additional funding to help support the learning needs of our children. Please ask in the school office if you need more information.

## Congratulations!

Very many congratulations to Mrs Sheard, Mrs Sumner, Mrs Prescott and Miss Metcalfe who recently took part in the Derby 10km run. Training has been taking place since Christmas and we are very proud of their achievements, completing the course in 1hr 10mins. The four staff colleagues have also raised over £800 towards our defibrillator fund – a fantastic amount of money. Our very grateful thanks to all the children, parents, staff and friends of the school who contributed towards this incredible amount of money which will be put towards our ever rising total. Thank you!

## Parent Governor Vacancy

An invitation will be sent out after the Easter holiday, to invite any parents from Asterdale who would like to be considered for 2 vacancies 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 Mrs Forrest, Mr Evans, Mrs Stanley or Mrs Evonne Williams (current chair).

## PTFA Events

The PTFA continue to be busy in school helping to raise funds to support a range of enrichment opportunities in school.

A super 'Valentine's Disco' was held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, hosted by our resident DJ – Gary Williams. Thank you to Gary for his DJ work and to the staff and PTFA volunteers who were able to help. A fantastic £360 was raised at this event.

The PTFA organised the decorated egg and decorated Easter hat competition this week, enabling our children to 'showcase' their very creative talents. There were some incredible creations. Prize winners were selected from each year group and all participants received an Easter goody.

The next event for the PTFA is our superb 'Summer Fair' – planned for Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July. We are hoping for beautiful weather and that many of our families and friends will be able to join us. Stalls can be rented by individuals or groups if required. Please contact Lisa Griffin or Lorraine Caplan via the school.

Thank you to everyone for their support.

## 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 April – May 2019	
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Return to school
Month of May	KS1 (Y2) Sats period
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – school closed
w/b Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 (Y6) Sats Week
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Break up
Summer Term 6 June – July 2019	
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Return to school
w/b Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> June	KS1 (Y1) Phonics Screening Week
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Inset Day for Staff – school closed for pupils
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Asterdale's Got Talent – 7pm (more details later)
Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Y6 Induction Day – West Park
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Sports Day
Thur 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Reserve Sports Day
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> July	PTFA Summer Fair – 10.30am
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports to Parents
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Open Afternoon 2.30pm
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Y6 Leavers Service 2pm Y6 BBQ 5pm PTFA School Disco 6.15pm
Thur 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Break up
Autumn Term 1 Sep – Oct 2019	
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Inset Day – school closed for pupils
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Return to school for pupils 8.55am

## Dates for your diary

A reminder that school will be closed to pupils on June 17<sup>th</sup> due to a staff Inset Day.

We would like to let all families know that Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019 has been planned to be a staff Inset Day and school will be closed to all pupils. Children will need to return to school on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

## Parent's Evenings

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the recent parents' evenings to discuss the progress of your child. Staff are always happy to meet with families, either at the 'drop in' level for very brief catch-ups in the morning, or longer appointments can be made if needed.

## And finally...

Thank you to all families for your support for the school over the last term. We hope everyone has a Happy Easter and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

