



Asterdale News

Asterdale Primary School Newsletter

Together we can ...

Newsletter Number 6

January 29th 2021

Lockdown 3

We wanted to take this opportunity to say a really big 'WELL DONE' and 'THANK YOU' to each and every single member of the Asterdale community for everything that you are all doing during this current lockdown. We know things might not be easy, juggling home schooling, deciding to return to school, work commitments or 'just being home'. You are doing a brilliant job and we applaud you all—be that the home learners or the children attending school. We thank you for 'just being there' for our children and supporting them in whatever way you can. We encourage you all to 'stay in touch' - using the Dojo app, email, via phone or a wave across the car park at collection time.

Things continue to look different at school for the time being, but we know with the strength of 'Team Asterdale', we will get through this together. We are grateful to our families and our incredible staff team (teaching and teaching assistants), for the provision of learning in many forms, supported by the admin team, premises teams, midday and catering teams—we thank you all.

We now know that school will be closed for the half term holiday period, from 12th Feb and returning on Monday 22nd February for key workers and vulnerable children.

The Government have indicated they would like to reopen schools from March 8th, but we are not yet sure what form this will take. As soon as we know, we will let you know.

We will therefore plan a new home learning pack, with exchange day being on Friday 5th Feb, when pack 2 can be returned and pack 3 collected by the home learners. Thank you.

Digital Reading



We are delighted to launch our 'e-book' reading scheme over the next week. Asterdale has committed to the 'Big Cat' e-book library, with banded reading books being available on digital devices. Staff in school will allocate books to pupil accounts to enable reading to continue to take place without access to physical books. We hope to launch the scheme on Friday 5th February. Our thanks to Mrs Sheard who has co-ordinated the work.

Brrrr!!!

Now that the weather is getting colder, even with some snow, we are making the most of the outdoor opportunities! It really is the most amazing thing to be able to take learning outside on such days.

Please could we ask that all children attending school are prepared for being outdoors —whatever the weather! This may mean bringing boots, coats, hats, scarves, gloves, spare socks or other clothing to school. We love being outside but want the pupils to stay as warm and dry as they can!



Welcome letter from the new Trust CEO

Our Academy—Odyssey Collaborative Trust welcomed a new CEO - Mr Ian Dewes to the CEO post at the beginning of January. Mr Dewes has been making contact with all the 6 schools in the Trust and has asked us to share a letter of introduction with all our families:

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing a short message to introduce myself as the new CEO of the Odyssey Collaborative Trust. Asterdale Primary School was one of the founder members of the trust and I am pleased to be working with the school's staff to help ensure your child has the best education possible. I started in this role at the beginning of January and while there are obviously restrictions in place because of the pandemic I have enjoyed visiting Asterdale Primary School and meeting the staff and pupils who are currently in school. Of course, due to the current situation, not all pupils are able to be in school at the moment, so I have recorded an assembly video for all of the children to see over the coming days. As well as being known to the children, I hope to make my role and the work of the trust visible to parents and one way I will do this is through a termly newsletter which will be sent out before Easter.

Before joining Odyssey, I worked as the executive headteacher of a group of schools in Rugby. Before that I taught and led schools in Warwickshire and London. My new job title - CEO - is one that in some ways seems more at home in the business world than schools, but I am a teacher by trade and my focus, and the trust's, will always be on making sure children experience a high-quality education.

I would like to finish by thanking you for the support you have given Asterdale Primary School this term. There have been major changes to way schools operate, often at very short notice. Staff have worked hard to adapt to these, but as a parent of three children I appreciate the challenges this has created for families, particularly those who are home-schooling. Hopefully we will be able to return to normal sooner rather than later.

Best wishes,
Ian Dewes

Headteacher Recruitment

Most of our school community are aware that Mrs Forrest postponed her planned retirement from July 2020 until July 2021 (it will definitely take place this summer!!).

The Board of Governors and the Trustees from our academy trust (Odyssey Collaborative Trust) have begun the process of inviting applications for a successor to Mrs Forrest for September 2021. We will of course keep you all updated with information.

And finally

As we close this newsletter, on behalf of the pupils, staff, governors and the wider community, may we thank you all for everything you are doing! Please do not hesitate to contact any of us at school if you need further information at all.

You are all doing a great job!



Future Events

| Date | Event |
|----------------|---|
| Fri 12th Feb | Break up |
| Mon 22nd Feb | Pupils return to school |
| Fri 19th Mar | Inset day—no pupils in school |
| Thur 1st Apr | Break up |
| Mon 19th Apr | Pupils return to school |
| Mon 3rd May | 'May Day' holiday - no pupils in school |
| Fri 28th May | Break up |
| Mon 14th June | Inset day—no pupils in school |
| Thur 22nd July | Break up |

