

Asterdale News

Asterdale Primary School Newsletter

“Together we can ...”



January 9th 2018
Number 3

Mrs Wilde

The whole school community is still in tremendous shock following the death of Mrs Wilde before Christmas. We extend our very grateful thanks to all the Asterdale families who have been so supportive at this very difficult time and for all the floral tributes. We are planning to liaise with the family to work towards a fitting dedication and tribute to Mrs Wilde.

PTFA

Our grateful thanks to all the PTFA volunteers who have worked so hard in the weeks leading to Christmas, helping to organise many activities that have raised so much money and contributed greatly to the work of the school. The School Christmas Fair was a huge success, raising an incredible £404 for PTFA funds. The visit to Santa certainly was as popular as ever. The recent Secret Santa and ‘Letters to Santa’ events were equally well received by our children.

We would also like to pass on our thanks to all the families who have been able to support the work of the PTFA during this year. As a school we have ambitious plans this year, hoping to raise a significant contribution towards the purchase of a trim trail for the children of Asterdale.

Look out in the New Year for the next PTFA meeting to plan the next fundraising event.

Anti-Bullying Week

Asterdale pupils have recently been part of the National Anti-Bullying Week, which took place towards the end of November. For this year, our school renamed the event ‘Kindness Week’ and incorporated a whole range of activities that promote kindness to all. Anti-bullying messages were reinforced at an age appropriate level. Pupils were involved in a range of workshops, assemblies and class activities that extended knowledge and understanding. The project began with a launch of “Speak out Stay Safe” by visitors from the NSPCC who hosted Key Stage assemblies and workshops. This was followed by a superb anti-bullying assembly from our own School Council pupils, who equally raised awareness about this very serious message. Our motto for this year is “Make the choice. Choose kindness.”

We feel very privileged at Asterdale that we have such a kind and caring group of children who support each other in a variety of ways.

Asda Cheque Donation

We are delighted to inform you that Debbie Jones, the Asda Community Liaison Officer, visited school on 28th November to present us with a cheque to the value of £500.00. Thank you to all parents, carers, friends and staff who supported our school by collecting the green tokens. A big thank you also to the PTFA who put our school forward for the token collection.

Nursery Waiting List

Mrs Stanley is collecting names of children who may possibly require a Nursery place at some time in the future. It’s never too early to put your child’s name down – please contact Mrs Stanley via email s.stanley@asterdale.derby.sch.uk or telephone the school or nursery office.

Christmas Events

Many Christmas festivities and events have taken place during the month of December.

Our Christmas lunch was a huge success and enjoyed by the staff and children alike. Thanks to Miss Robinson and her catering team for preparing and serving a lovely feast.

After a great deal of preparation and rehearsal, the performances of 'Twas the Night of Jesus' Birth' by the KS1 children was wonderful and a delight to see. Equally, the performance of 'The Magical Carpet Ride' by the EYFS children was superb. Pupils in Key Stage 2 performed a 'Victorian Christmas' so brilliantly. Thank you to all family members who joined us for the performances and to share the talents of our children. It goes without saying that we are grateful to all the members of the staff team who work with such commitment and dedication to facilitate such productions and really do give our children a 'chance to shine'. Thank you.

The children participated in a wonderful Christingle service in school on Friday 15th December, led by staff and pupils. Our thanks to the pupils for making the beautiful Christingles and also to Asda for the donation of the fruit.

Our Christmas cookery club has been extremely active, making Christmas cakes, mince pies, gingerbread men and cupcakes. Our thanks to Mrs Williams, Mrs Strecker, Miss Stacey, Finja, Mr Stocker and Jack who helped with the club.

The children enjoyed a range of treats before Christmas – including the EYFS party with special guest entertainer and a wonderful visit to Derby Arena to see a live performance of 'Beauty and the Beast'. Thank you again to everyone who helped make these events so memorable for our children.

Our final event of the Christmas period took place on the last day of term – the 'Christmas Bling Day', organised by the School Council. Children really went to town 'blinging' their school uniforms with tinsel, sparkles, jewels, and glitter. A tremendous £200 was raised during the day which has been donated to the family of Mrs Whilde to contribute to a fund of their choice. Thank you to everyone for donations.

Mayor's Council House Visit

At the end of November our Eco Council had the opportunity of visiting the Mayor's Chambers, which has 500 years of Derby's civic treasures lining the walls. They were also shown around the Council Chambers where debates etc. take place. At the end of the tour they were able to chat with the Mayor and ask questions.

Community activities

Asterdale has been incredibly busy last term, liaising with a team from the local police force who shared a serious message about firework safety. The PCSO team revisited us at school to present an assembly all about online bullying, which was followed by workshops in classes.

Our school participated in road safety awareness week, where again very important messages were discussed, and some fantastic role play acting took place on the playground.

Film Festival

Thanks to Mrs Sheard for arranging the wonderful visits to the cinema at the beginning of November. KS1 children had the opportunity to watch "Boss Baby" and KS2 children were able to see "Moana."

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 until Friday 16th February 2017 are welcome to do so – the price will be £68.20.

A reminder to all families in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 that the Universal Infant Free School Meals programme is available for all these pupils, 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 school 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. Please note that if any families do let dinner money debt become two weeks in arrears, then your child will be asked to bring sandwiches from home until the debt is cleared. Please note that we have to pay our suppliers in advance for all food purchased. Thank you.

Poppy Appeal

This year's Poppy Appeal in November raised a grand total of £227.12. Thank you to all pupils and staff who made donations.



Mrs Prescott

Many congratulations to Mr & Mrs Prescott and big brother Oliver as they welcomed the birth of a second son – Alexander, born on Dec 3rd 2017 at 9.52am.

Bowmer & Kirkland

You may have noticed that over the last six months or so, that an extensive amount of project work has been undertaken with the team from Bowmer & Kirkland to reinstate the external grassy areas to a safe and acceptable play space for our children. This has been a lengthy project and we are grateful to our caretaker Mr Fell, B&K and the Education Funding Agency who have been able to support the completion of the external areas. Hopefully by the Spring all the grass will be fit and ready for the children to use.

Finja Arning

We said 'goodbye' to Finja Arning as we broke up for Christmas. Finja is a German Student from the University in Osnabruck who has been with us since early September, supporting in every classroom. We are grateful for the support and help she has given to us at Asterdale.

Asterdale Acorns

Our on-site before and after school club continues to grow and grow, being open from 7.30-8.55am and 3.15-6pm each school day. There are spaces available for regular bookings and for 'one off' days should any families need care. Please see Mrs Harrold in Acorns or liaise with the school office.

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.

Spring Term 3&4 (Jan – Apr 2018)	
Wed 3 rd Jan 2018	Inset Day – no pupils in school
Thur 4 th Jan 2018	Return to school for pupils (8.55am)
Fri 16 th Feb 2018	Break up for half-term
Mon 26 th Feb 2018	Return to school
Wed 21 st Mar 2018	Parent Consultation Evening 3.45-5.30pm
Thur 22 nd Mar 2018	Parent Consultation Evening 3.45-6.15pm
Fri 23 rd Mar 2018	Break up
Summer Term 5&6 (Apr-July 2018)	
Mon 9 th Apr 2018	Return to school
w/b Mon 14 th May 2018	Sats Week – Y2 & Y6
Fri 25 th May 2018	Break up
w/b Mon 11 th Jun 2018	KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Phonics Screening Test
Fri 22 nd June 2018	Inset Day for staff – no pupils in school
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 24 th 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

Donations

We welcome any donations of wellington boots and outdoor clothing for our 'forest school' box, if any families have any items that they no longer need at home. Our children really value their forest school time and we like to keep spare items in school 'just in case'. Thankyou.

And finally...

As we welcome the children back to the new school term this January, we would like to extend our thanks to all families for the support they have given to the school over the last term.

From a personal point of view, I am very grateful to Mrs Stanley and Mr Evans who have covered the headship role in school during my recent absence. In addition, my grateful thanks to all my staff colleagues who have continued to support the work of the school. I am looking forward to returning to school on Monday 22nd January.