

# Asterdale News

Asterdale Primary School Newsletter  
Together we can ...



July 24<sup>th</sup> 2018  
Number 7

## The Secret Garden

Our children in Y1-Y6 were treated to a fabulous performance of 'The Secret Garden' by a travelling theatre company on July 19<sup>th</sup>. The production was amazing and thrilled our pupils – songs, poems, music, drama and wonderful set changes, scenery and lighting. It was wonderful to offer this level of enrichment to our curriculum and to see the awe and wonder it generated.

## Inset Days 2018-19

A reminder to families that our Inset days have been planned for 2018-19 and are as follows:

Thur Sep 6<sup>th</sup> 2018  
Fri Sep 7<sup>th</sup> 2018  
Fri Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018  
Mon Mar 18<sup>th</sup> 2019  
Mon June 17<sup>th</sup> 2019

## Summer Fair

Thank you to all the family and community members who were able to join us on July 13<sup>th</sup> for our spectacular Summer Fair, organised by our PTFA. It was a wonderful afternoon, with a range of stalls, activities and entertainment to be enjoyed in the summer sunshine. A staggering £600 was raised from the event, which will help towards supporting many of the projects in school. An additional £300 was raised at the disco. A huge thank you to all the members of the PTFA Committee who have been working so tirelessly for many weeks and months to plan and organise the event – thank you from all the pupils, staff and governors at Asterdale!



## PTFA

The Asterdale PTFA have worked extensively throughout the year to raise funds which have supported many elements of school life. Fundraising events this year have involved school discos, Christmas and Summer Fairs, non-uniform days and a school raffle. The funds raised have totalled a grand amount, of which £3000 has been used as a donation towards the first of two trim trails. We are grateful for the support towards the Easter competition, sports day refreshments, transport for school trips and enrichment activities in school.

It goes without saying that as a school we thank the PTFA for their support and commitment to voluntary support the work of the school and welcome new members to join at any time. More information about the PTFA will follow in the new term.

## Statutory Tests

Our children in Year 6, Year 2, Year 1 and Reception are to be congratulated for their performance in the recent Sats, phonics and EYFS assessments, held in May and June. Their determination to do well is to be congratulated. We expect to process the results during the summer.

## 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 (Sept 10<sup>th</sup> – Oct 26<sup>th</sup> 2018) can be made at a cost of £77. 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](mailto: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 95.1%, which is a drop when compared to last year. The 'attendance champions' for the whole year are Year 1 children. Congratulations to Y1 pupils.



## Congratulations!

Many congratulations to Mrs Williams who has successfully secured a position as a 'Parliamentary Teacher Ambassador'. She recently attended a series of workshops and conferences at the Houses of Parliament, liaising with other teachers from the country, learning about life in Parliament and meeting a selection of MPs and speakers. Mrs Williams has returned to school with a wealth of ideas and activities that will support the work of the School Council and deepen the understanding our children have for local and national Government. The theme also supports the work of one of the 'British Values' – democracy. Well done Mrs Williams!



## Governor News

We are delighted to welcome two new governors to the Asterdale team. Mrs Laura Tivey has been elected as a parent governor and Mr Simon Higginbotham co-opted to the Board. Governors help shape the direction of the school at the strategic level, offering support and challenge throughout the year. The Governance team is now complete and consists of the following members: Evonne Williams (Chair and Local Authority governor), Kate Carey (Vice-chair and co-opted governor), Ros Chee, Lisa Griffin, Laura Tivey (parent governors), Lorraine Caplan, Sue Pringle, David Evans, Sally Stanley, Simon Higginbotham (co-opted governors), Linda Holland (staff governor), Karen Forrest (Headteacher) and Deepa Jamal (clerk to governors). In addition to meeting formally, governors support the work of the school. We thank them for their continued support.

## Uniform

As we begin preparations for the new school term in September, may we take this opportunity to remind all families of our school uniform, which consists of:

- grey or black trousers, skirt, pinafore or tailored shorts
- a white or yellow blouse/shirt/polo shirt with a collar
- bottle green cardigan, sweatshirt or jumper (with or without school logo)
- yellow or green striped/checked dress
- black or brown sensible shoes or smart black trainers (no logo)

Our school PE kit consists of:

- black plimsolls
- black or navy shorts
- plain white t-shirt (no collar)
- suitable storage bag to leave in school

Please could all uniform be named. Items with the school logo can be purchased from Morley's in Chaddesden who supply our school uniform.

We are very proud of our smart appearance in school and thank you for your support in maintaining this.

## Staffing 2018-19

It's hard to believe how quickly the time has passed this academic year and that our thoughts are already turning to September 2018. The children have had the opportunity to meet their new class teachers and participate in transition activities.

Nursery	Mrs Stanley, Mrs Smith & Mrs Noble
Reception	Miss Knowles, Mrs Briers & Mrs Wynne
Year 1	Mrs Edwards & Mrs Ward
Year 2	Mrs McCormick, Mrs Williams, Miss Mikolajczak & Miss Brocklehurst
Year 3	Mrs Sheard & Mrs Barley
Year 4	Mrs Hawkes, Mrs Sumner, Mrs Holland, Mrs Waite, Mrs Noble & Miss Warren
Year 5	Mrs Prescott & Miss Brocklehurst
Year 6	Mr Evans, Mrs Williams, Mrs Strecker & Miss Brocklehurst
Asterdale Acorns	Mrs Harrold & Miss Warren

## School Council

Our School Council has certainly been very busy during the past year, beginning last September with the 'hustings' to establish council members and then working with commitment and dedication during the year. They have helped shape the day in school, liaising with the catering team for menu choices, completing surveys, promoting themes days, finding out preferences for the tuck shop at the disco, acting as tour guides for visitors to the school, helping plan lunchtime activities and so on. One huge achievement has been their incredible fundraising campaigns – non-uniform days, bake sales etc, raising an amazing £585. The contributions raised have been shared between the trim trail fundraising and the defibrillator fund. Well done to all and thank you for the contributions from the school community.

## Thankyou!

As a school, we extend our very grateful thanks to a dedicated team of parents who have taken the bold step and challenged themselves to run a combined total of 400 miles during the month of June. Their goal was to raise sufficient funds for a defibrillator unit to be purchased and located outside of school. The parents range from existing runners to never having run before – a challenge on many levels, including the additional challenge of running in soaring temperatures throughout the month of June!

The committed group have met at various times during the week, running after dropping the children at school, or just before school collection or meeting during the evening. The initial mileage target was 400 miles, the group attaining 415 miles in total. The grand total raised so far is an incredible £607 – fabulous and a big thank you!

Any further donations are always welcome towards our 'defib campaign' which currently stands at an amazing £907.



## Summer Music Festival

Several children in the school receive violin lessons from our music teacher, Mrs Creswell, assisted by Mrs Bland. The parents and children were treated to a spectacular afternoon of beautiful music, played by the children on their violins, to an incredibly high standard. We are grateful to Mrs Creswell for her weekly tuition and for inspiring the children to give such a stunning performance during the music festival.

## Sports Day

The children are to be congratulated for their efforts during our recent sports day, in which they competed in a variety of races and events in their respective team colours. Many thanks to Mrs McCormick for organising the afternoon, to the PTFA for the provision of refreshments, to the family members who were able to join as spectators and as participants!

## Summer Visits

Several summer trips have taken place in recent weeks – visits to the National Adventure Forest, White Post Farm, Twycross Zoo, The Nottingham Caves and Galleries of Justice Museum. Our children were a credit to the school and we are very grateful to the staff and volunteers who organised the trips.

## 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 2018)	
Thur 6 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Inset Day for staff – no pupils in school
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Inset Day for staff – no pupils in school
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Return to school - pupils
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parent Consultation Evening 3.45-5.30pm
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parent Consultation Evening 3.45-5.30pm
19 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	PGL Residential for Y6 pupils
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Break Up
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Return to School - pupils
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Inset day for staff – no pupils in school
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Break up
Spring Term 3&4 (Jan – Apr 2019)	
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Return to school - pupils
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Break up
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Return to school - pupils
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Inset Day for staff – no pupils in school
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	Parent Consultation Evening 3.45-5.30pm
Thur 4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Parent Consultation Evening 3.45-5.30pm
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Break up
Summer term 5&6 (Apr – July 2019)	
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Return to school - pupils
Month of May	Y2 Sats period
w/b Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 Sats week
w/b Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Y1 Phonics Screening Test
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Inset Day for staff – no pupils in school
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Sports Day
Thur 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Reserve Sports Day
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Open Afternoon – 2.30pm
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Y6 Leaver's Service – 2pm Y6 BBQ – 5pm
Thur 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Break up

## And finally...

It goes without saying that our summer newsletter is always written with such happy memories. We are saying goodbye to our current Year 6 who are all moving on to new schools and to new experiences at West Park, Merrill Academy, Lees Brook School, St Martin's, and St John Houghton School. We shall certainly miss them and we hope they remember their time at Asterdale with happy thoughts. We wish Haiden, Cain, Niall, Ashli, Storm, Charlie, Izzy, Savannah, Malachi, Nathan, Spencer, Louisa, Lewis, Jarrell, Blessing, Jack, Maddie, Luca, Preston, Holly, Abi, Ashton, Elijah, Jamie, Alicia, Reece, Rebecca, Hannah and Isaac all the very best. It has been lovely sharing this time with you and we know you have all got your own special memories of Asterdale! With our good wishes and 'good luck!'

On behalf of all the staff, pupils and governors, we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and look forward to seeing the children on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 7<sup>th</sup> from 8.45am, with the bell ringing at 8.55am. Happy holidays to all!

