

Asterdale News

Asterdale Primary School Newsletter

Together we can ...



Welcome Back!

It is hard to believe that school has only been open for just over a week and we would like to congratulate our children for a successful and settled 'first week back'. There is certainly a very positive buzz and enthusiasm within each classroom and it has been wonderful to hear the children's news and the next steps in their learning. Thank you to all our family members for supporting this transition.

There are several events and activities taking place over the next few weeks and information about these can be found either on our school website or on the attached calendar.

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need further information.

September 20th 2018
Number 1

Ofsted

You will all be aware that last Wednesday, Asterdale received a one-day inspection from Ofsted. As a school community we are incredibly proud of our children and all that they achieve in school and it is a privilege to be able to highlight our school to external visitors, such as Ofsted. Our pupils welcomed the Inspector and were only too keen to tell him all about life at Asterdale. They demonstrated and shared their love of learning, of their positive friendships and all the things they enjoy doing at school.

The Inspector, Mr O'Malley is currently preparing the report of the Inspection findings and we anticipate this will be published in approximately 3-4 weeks.

May we take this opportunity to thank all the family members who had the chance to meet with Mr O'Malley or complete the recent parent questionnaires or online 'Parent View' surveys.



School Council

Our Year 6 pupils are busy preparing for the annual 'School Council' elections – a very important activity in the Asterdale Calendar. The nominees are preparing their speeches and encouraging the pupil population to 'vote for them'! It is an exciting time of year and will be followed by class representatives being selected to serve on the School Council for a year.

The work of the School Council is very important as it helps shape the ideas, activities and future direction of the school from the children's point of view, whilst supporting the British Value of 'democracy'. We thank Mrs Williams for the co-ordination of the School Council. Good luck to all!

Defibrillator Fund

Many thanks to all the families who have contributed and continue to date to the Defibrillator fund. It currently stands at a tremendous £1006! Mrs Strecker is working with local providers of defibrillation units to work out costings. Thank you once again.

Jeans for Genes Day

As a school, we support several national charities throughout the year and have proposed starting with a commitment to the 'Jeans for Genes day'. All pupils are welcome to wear their jeans along with their regular school sweatshirt/jumper on Friday 21st September for a £1 donation to this fund. Mr Evans has led an assembly this week to raise awareness.

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'.

Asterdale Acorns

Our breakfast and after school provision continue to operate each morning and after school in the 'Hub', led by Mrs Harrod, Miss Warren and we welcome Miss Frost to the team in the afternoon. The provision is open from 7.30-8.55am and 3.30-6pm.

Asterdale Acorns can offer 'ad hoc' or drop in arrangements if families need care either for a 'one off event' or in an emergency.

Prices are as follows:

Before School	7.30-8.55	£6
Before School	8.15-8.55	£5
After School	3.30-4.45pm	£8
After School	3.30-6pm	£10

Please do speak to either Mrs Harrod or Miss Warren in the Acorns team or colleagues in the school office. Alternatively, the Acorns staff can be contacted on their dedicated email Acorns@asterdale.derby.sch.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 10th September to Friday 26th October 2018 are welcome to do so – the price will be £77. Cheques payable to Derby City Council please.

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.

May we ask that dinner money is paid in advance of the children taking a meal and that dinner money debt does not accumulate. Thank you.

Attendance

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 by using the school email address (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.

Last year, (2017-18) our overall school attendance was 95.9% which was below the Government target of 96%. We are hoping to improve on this data this year and will be displaying weekly attendance percentages within school.

PTFA

We are very grateful to many of our parents and carers who support the pupils in school via many events, activities and very valuable fundraising. The first meeting for this year is planned for Mon 24th Sept at 3.45pm and will take place in the Green Room. All are welcome to attend this meeting and help to share ideas for the year ahead.

We hope you will be able to join us.



European Day of Languages

Mrs Sumner is busy organising our 'European Day of Languages', to be held on Wednesday 26th September. This is promising to be an exciting day of activities that have a 'European' flavour – including visiting speakers, conversation, clothing, food and other events.

The school canteen will be serving an international meal with an Italian theme (meatballs, spaghetti and an ice cream dessert). Children who usually bring sandwiches are invited to buy a lunch if they want to (£2.20). Pupils are also invited to wear colours from a European flag or a European sports kit (eg football shirts).

We hope the children all enjoy the day and thank you to Mrs Sumner.

External groundworks

The external groundworks at the front of the school are nearing completion and certainly have improved the visual appearance as you enter school. The tarmac surface is finished and the electric gates are well on their way. In time, the designated pedestrian access during the day will be via the single gate, with the intention of closing the big metal sliding gate near the Hub during the school day. These measures have been taken to increase the site security and safety for our children and we thank all families for their support and understanding during the development works.

Community support

Mr Fell (our caretaker) has been working with employees from Celanese in Spondon, who have generously given their time to help with maintenance projects in the outdoor environment. The fences have all been treated and are looking very smart and the garden in "The Hub" has been renovated. We are very grateful to the Celanese employees who have been able to help and to the management team who have facilitated this support to their local school. We hope this partnership work will continue for more exciting projects over the year.

Can you help?

During the summer, the garden borders close to the school have been weeded and tidied up. We have noticed that a few of our borders have 'gaps' within them and we wondered if any families had any garden plants they were 'splitting' that could be planed in our spaces? The plants need to be 'child friendly' with no sharp parts or poisonous berries to them. If you can help, we will gratefully receive the plants at any time and pop them in the borders – thankyou.

And finally ...

Thank you for your continued support at school and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need further information about any school related matters.

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 (Sep-Oct 2018)

Fri 21 st Sept	Jeans for Genes day – £1 donation	
Mon 24 th Sep	PTFA welcome meeting and AGM – 3.45pm in the Green Room	
Wed 26 th Sep	European Day of Languages – event in school	
Fri 5 th Oct	Open Afternoon – prospective parents (2019) 2.30-3.30pm	
Tue 9 th Oct	Parent Consultation Evening 3.45-5.30pm	
Wed 10 th Oct	Parent Consultation Evening 3.45-5.30pm	
19 th - 21 st Oct	PGL Residential	
Fri 26 th Oct	Break up	

Autumn Term 1 (Oct-Dec 2018)

Mon 5 th Nov	Return to school	
Tue 13 th Nov	Open Morning – prospective parents (2019) 10-11am	
Fri 23 rd Nov	Inset Day for staff – no pupils in school	
	School Christmas Lunch	
Wed 19 th Dec	Choir performance at Asda	
Fri 21 st Dec	Break up	

Spring Term 3 (Jan-Feb 2019)

Mon 7 th Jan	Pupils return to school	
Mon 11 th Feb	RSPB Big Bird Watch & sponsored walk	
Fri 15 th Feb	Break up	

Spring Term 4 (Feb-Apr 2019)

Mon 25 th Feb	Return to school	
Mon 18 th Mar	Inset Day for Staff	
Wed 3 rd Apr	Parent Consultation Evening 3.45-5.30pm	
Thur 4 th Apr	Parent Consultation Evening 3.45-5.30pm	
Fri 12 th Apr	Break up	

Summer Term 1 (Apr-May 2019)

Mon 29 th Apr	Return to school	
Month of May	KS1 Sats period	
w/b Mon 13 th May	KS2 Sats Week	
Fri 24 th May	Break up	

Summer Term 6 (June-July 2019)

Mon 3 rd June	Return to school	
w/b Mon 10 th June	KS1 Phonics Screening Test	
Mon 17 th June	Inset Day for Staff – no pupils in school	
Wed 3 rd July	Sports Day	
Thur 4 th July	Reserve Sports Day	
Wed 17 th July	Reports to Parents	
Fri 19 th July	Open Afternoon for all parents 2.30pm	
Tue 23 rd July	Y6 Leavers Service 2pm Y6 BBQ 5pm PTFA School Disco 6.15pm	
Thur 25 th July	Break up	