

Asterdale News

Asterdale Primary School Newsletter

Together we can ...



October 25th 2018
Number 2

PTFA Events

The PTFA have met for the first meeting of the academic year and have planned several events and activities, which have included the Halloween Disco held this week. We extend grateful thanks to Gary Williams as our resident DJ for the evening. On Friday 26th October, we hold our annual decorated pumpkin competition when the children are invited to decorate a pumpkin and bring to school from 8.45am. There will also be a 'non-uniform' day, when the pupils may like to dress up in Halloween costumes for a £1 donation to PTFA funds.

On Monday 12th November at 3:45pm the PTFA will be holding their AGM, including the election of new officers. A PTFA questionnaire is in the process of being circulated to gauge valuable feedback for the future shape of the Asterdale PTFA. On behalf of staff at school, we would like to thank the PTFA members who organised the recent creche facility during our parent consultation evenings – thank you to all.



European Day of Languages

We recently held a very successful European day of languages in school. The children learnt new phrases and used these very well during conversation. A range of European art, geography and history was also studied during the day. The day started with a wonderful French breakfast which was baguettes and croissants with jam followed by a lovely Italian lunch comprising of Italian meatballs, pasta and ice cream. We were fortunate to be joined by Mrs Alvis, who supported the language conversation opportunity – many thanks!

Grateful thanks to Mrs Summer for organising the day.



School Council

Recent school council elections have taken place. The voting was organised by Mrs Williams and resulted in the election of Esther as president and Kelsey as vice president. Congratulations to the Year 6 pupils who participated in the two elections. The remaining council roles and class representatives are being established.

The first event they have organised has been the 'wear purple' for polio day, when all the pupils in school were invited to wear purple accessories for a 50p donation towards polio research. We welcomed a visitor from the Rotary club who told the children all about the campaign and donated 500 crocus bulbs which we hope to plant in the school grounds and will look wonderful next spring. A tremendous £67 was raised towards the campaign.

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'.

PGL

Some pupils from Year 5 & Year 6 recently attended the school residential experience at the PGL site at Caythorpe Court near Grantham. Asterdale staff were very proud of the children, overcoming their fears in activities such as high ropes, trapeze, zip wire, fencing, rifle shooting, challenge tasks and the awesome giant swing. Their exemplary behaviour and team working skills are also to be celebrated.

Tremendous thanks to the staff team of Mr Evans, Mrs Williams, Mrs Sheard, Mrs Forrest, Mrs Strecker and Miss Mikolajczak for accompanying the children and sharing the experience with them. A brilliant weekend!



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 5th November to Friday 21st December, allowing for Inset day on Friday 23rd November are welcome to do so – the price will be £74.80. 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.

Our attendance data from the start of the school term is currently at 96.5% which is in line with the Government target of 96%. Thank you to all.

Jeans for Genes

Mr Evans recently organised the 'jeans for genes' day, when all pupils were invited to wear their jeans for a £1 donation towards genetic research charities. We raised a fabulous £166.

Harvest Assembly

Many congratulations to all the children who performed so brilliantly in our Harvest Assembly, including story telling, poetry, singing and a 'ready, steady, cook feature' too.

We were delighted with the harvest produce which had been donated across the school and will be distributed by the Lions Club to local causes.



Remembrance Day

The children will be taking part in a Remembrance Day Assembly on Friday 9th November. Prior to this date, poppies and other items will be available for sale in school from Monday 5th November

Please bring in any money donations after the holiday if you wish to buy any 'Remembrance' items. We will also be welcoming our local MP – Pauline Latham who will be working with the School Council on Parliamentary aspects and it will be a welcome return to Rev Eleanor Berry who will be joining us for the service.



Gated Access

We are hopeful that the electrical installation work will be completed during the half term holiday on the pedestrian and vehicle gates within the visitor car park. This project work has taken longer than we anticipated and we hope to be fully operational at the start of the new term. All access to and from school after 9.15 and before 3.15pm will need to be via the pedestrian gate in the centre of the fence in the visitor car park. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our children safe.

Y7 Secondary School places Sept 2019

A reminder to all parents/carers of children in our current Year 6 – all applications for secondary school places for September 2019 must be submitted to Derby City Council Admissions department by 31st October 2018. Applications can be made either online to <https://www.derby.gov.uk>, selecting education section then schools and colleges, or by completing a paper application form, available from the Local Authority.

The Giving Machine

Asterdale PTFA have a dedicated page on 'The Giving Machine' website, that supports the school in fund raising. Any family members who shop online at large retail stores such as Amazon, Waitrose, John Lewis, eBay, Marks & Spencer, Sainsburys, Next, Boots, George, Debenhams, Argos, Tesco, Trainline and many more, are invited to log into The Giving Machine and nominate Asterdale as the receiving group and continue shopping through the Giving Machine pages. Percentage donations are then sent to the school PTFA fundraising account, helping towards supporting projects in school.

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.

On behalf of all the staff, governors and pupils may we wish you all a happy and relaxing break from school and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new term.



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 2 (Oct-Dec 2018)

Mon 5 th Nov	Return to school
Mon 12 th Nov	PTFA AGM and meeting 3.45pm
Tue 13 th Nov	Open Morning – prospective parents (2019) 10-11am
Fri 23 rd Nov	Inset Day for staff
Fri 30 th Nov	Advent Service in school for pupils
Fri 7 th Dec	Christmas Fair PTFA 3.45pm
Tue 11 th Dec	KS1 Nativity Performance 2.15pm & 6.30pm
Wed 12 th Dec	KS2 Performance 2pm & 6.30pm
Thur 13 th Dec	KS2 Performance 6.30pm
Fri 14 th Dec	EYFS (YN & YR) Nativity Performance 10am
Fri 14 th Dec	Secret Santa for pupils (pm)
Wed 19 th Dec	Choir performance at Asda
Thur 20 th Dec	School Christmas Lunch - £2.20
Fri 21 st Dec	Break up

Spring Term 3&4 Jan-Apr 2019

Mon 7 th Jan	Pupils return to school
Mon 11 th Feb	RSPB Big Bird Watch & sponsored walk
Wed 13 th Feb	PTFA Valentine's Disco 5-6pm & 6.15-7.15pm
Fri 15 th Feb	Break up
Mon 26 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
Wed 10 th Apr	PTFA Easter bonnets & decorated egg competition
Fri 12 th Apr	Break up

Summer Term 5&6 June-July 2019

Mon 29 th Apr	Return to school
Month of May	KS1 Sats period
w/b Mon 13 th May	KS2 Sats Week
Fri 25 th May	Break up
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
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 2.30pm
Tue 23 rd July	Y6 Leavers Service 2pm Y6 BBQ 5pm PTFA School Disco 6.15pm
Thur 25 th July	Break up