

Asterdale News

Asterdale Primary School Newsletter

Together we can ...



December 20th 2018
Number 3



PTFA Events

The PTFA have been busy preparing for the Christmas activities we have enjoyed at school. The first of these was held on Friday 7th December, which was the Christmas Fair. It was wonderful to see so many families attending the fair, supporting the stallholders and helping with the fundraising to help with projects in school. The rendition by the violins was incredible and our thanks to Mrs Creswell for co-ordinating the music. Santa in his grotto was as busy and popular as ever. A staggering £742 was raised. Thank you to Santa himself and to Ms Graham for expert photography.

The second PTFA event of the year was the 'Secret Santa' shopping experience for our children. The children were very excited to be 'organising' their Christmas shopping for their family members. Again, many thanks to the PTFA members who facilitated this event. A tremendous £100 was raised.

We thank all the PTFA team who organise our fundraising events throughout the year. Additionally, 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.

Look out in the new year for the next PTFA meeting to plan the next fundraising event.

Asterdale School Choir

Our very own Asterdale choir, led by Mrs Williams and supported by Mrs Sumner have had the privilege of performing to a number of live audiences during the term. The first of these was at the 'School Choir Competition', at the Intu centre in Derby. Three songs were performed in front of a capacity crowd in the shopping centre. From the 27 schools who entered, Asterdale was selected to compete in the live final with 4 other schools. A very polished performance was presented, with the children really doing themselves and the whole school proud. Fantastic positive feedback was given from the judging panel and Asterdale were identified as 'runners up'.

The festive hats certainly contributed to our finale performance, as did the welcome support from extended family members. The crowd appreciation and participation were fabulous! Many congratulations to all.

A huge thank you must go to Mrs Williams as the leader of the choir and Mrs Sumner for her support during rehearsals. It is no easy task developing the singing talents of our children and perfecting it to this level. Thank you once again to everyone.

School Council

Pupils in our school council continue to be busy across the school. They are currently organising their next fundraiser – the 'Christmas bling' day on Thursday 20th December.



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'.

Access to school and parking

The new electronic gates are now complete and fully operational. We thank all families for their patience during the initial set up period.

We have been working extensively with teams from the local police, the Local Authority (Highways section) and also local councillors to maintain a safe access to and from school for our children. This especially applies to parking outside school, on Borrowash Road and we thank all families for their considerate parking. The Golf centre next door to school have kindly offered parking during their standard opening hours and we would encourage all school users to maintain a safe parking position that does not impede vehicle or pedestrian access outside of school. The safe parking work will continue into the new year.

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 7th January to Friday 15th February 2019 are welcome to do so – the price will be £66.00. 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 9.30am 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 96.01% which is in line with the Government target of 96%. Thank you to all.

Christmas Events

Our Christmas festivities began at the end of November, when the children in Y1-Y6 were treated to a performance of 'Pinocchio' by a theatre company. A small cast entertained the children, with many costume and scene changes during the retelling of the Pinocchio story.

Other events have taken place during the month of December, beginning with a super Christingle service in church. The children enjoyed a Christingle orange each, decorated with sweets and a candle. We are very grateful to Asda in Spondon who kindly donated the oranges, to Mrs Strecker for co-ordinating the creation of the Christingles and to Mrs Edwards for leading the service. Thank you to the staff and the pupils who helped to assemble the Christingles.

The film nights held this term have proved to be incredibly popular, inviting all children in the school to attend one of two Christmas films. We hope to build upon this in the new year and offer further cinema nights.

We were incredibly proud of all of the performances in the week before Christmas and congratulate all of the children for their contribution. We have a wealth of talent in school and it was fabulous to showcase this with our families – from the youngest EYFS children, through to Years 1&2 and the final Y3-Y6 contribution. 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 annual carol service took place at St Werburgh's Church in Spondon on Monday 17th December. The children sang and read beautifully in church and it was wonderful to be able to share the service with so many family and friends. The nativity tableau was beautifully presented by the children and thank you to Father Julian and Reverend Berry for their support.

The Nursery and Reception classes were treated to a fabulous 'end of term' party by 'Mrs Sparkle' and her wonderful magic and of course the surprise visit from Santa..

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

The children are taking part in their school Christmas lunch on Thursday 20th December and we thank Mrs Burke and her team for the special Christmas food.



Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported the recent Scholastic Book Fair in school, especially to Mrs Sheard and Mrs Strecker for the organisation of the event. Children had the chance to buy books and help support the development of our own library stock.

Dogs at School

May we remind all families that for the safety of all, the school grounds are a 'dog free zone'. We ask that any dogs brought to school remain outside the external perimeter fence on Borrowash Road. Thank you for your co-operation and support.

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 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 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
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
Sat 13 th July	PTFA Summer Fair – 10.30am
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

And finally ...

As we prepare to break up for this Christmas term, may we take the opportunity to thank everyone for all the support they have given to the school over the last year. It is very much appreciated by us all.

On behalf of the pupils, staff, governors and PTFA, may we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We look forward to welcoming you all back on January 7th 2019.

