

Asterdale News

Asterdale Primary School Newsletter

Together we can ...



February 15th 2019
Number 4

World Book Week

Asterdale Primary School will be supporting World Book Day this year through a range of activities and events linked to books, reading and storytelling, during the week of March 4th – March 8th.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be set up in the hall every afternoon (March 1st – March 8th) and children are welcome to dress as a book character from their favourite story on Thurs 7th March. The pupils in Y1-Y6 will have the opportunity to be part of a 'reading adventure' afternoon on Friday 8th March – an interactive theatre production to capture the children's imagination when reading.

We would like to invite all children and parents/carers to join us on Wed 6th March between 8.30-9.30 for a 'reading breakfast'. We will be serving croissants, pastries and drinks and invite our families to bring their favourite story to school to share at our 'reading breakfast'. We have received a donation of books from a parent at school and we hope to launch our first 'book swap'. We invite parents and carers to donate any unused reading material in exchange for a book from our collection. We hope you can make it!



PTFA Events

The PTFA continue to be busy in school helping to raise funds to support a range of enrichment opportunities in school.

A super 'Valentine's Disco' was held on Wednesday 14th February, hosted by our resident DJ – Gary Williams. Thank you to Gary for his DJ work and to the staff and PTFA volunteers who were able to help.

Thank you to everyone for their support.

Staying safe online

This week, the pupils in school have been learning how to keep safe when online. There have been special assemblies and all the children have been involved in activities in their own classes that raise awareness of keeping safe on line, when using the internet.

All children have received an information leaflet to share with their families about how to stay safe on line.



School Council

Pupils in our School Council are planning more fundraising activities. The next one will be a bake sale/cake stall during the week of April 1st. More details to follow.

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

We continue to work with the local police, the Local Authority (Highways section) and local councillors to maintain a safe access to and from school for our children. This especially applies to parking outside school, on Borrowwash Road and we thank all families for their considerate parking.

The Golf centre next door to school have kindly offered parking during their 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. We respectfully ask that families please do not park on the pavement, especially on the side adjacent to school as this can prevent wheelchair users and pushchairs from accessing school.

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 25th February – Friday 12th April 2019 (allowing for Inset day on Monday March 18th), are welcome to do so – the price will be £74.80. Due to a change in banking arrangements, please could all cheques now be made payable to Asterdale Primary School.

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 95.76%, which is below the Government target of 96%.

Events in School

School continues to be busy with many aspects of teaching and learning. We are proud that we have been able to offer our children a range of enrichment activities that enhance their learning.

One of our key areas of focus this half term has been to support the RSPB 'Big Bird Watch' programme. The children had a very informative assembly led by volunteers from the RSPB, which was then followed by workshops and a bird watch in the school grounds. Nursery and Reception children counted birds at home and have submitted their information to the school. A very special thank you to the volunteers from the RSPB and Mrs Sumner for the organisation.



The Big Bird Watch was also in partnership with an Asterdale 'sponsored walk' – around the school grounds for Nursery and Reception children, to the park on Hobson Drive for Y1 & Y2 and a bigger walk to Elvaston Castle for Y3-Y6. The weather was perfect and a very enjoyable day was had by all. Thank you to Mrs Sumner, Mrs Williams and all staff who assisted and to the wonderful number of family members/governors who were able to join us. We hope to raise lots of money from sponsorship, which will be used to fund outdoor projects and our forest school's area. The total amounts raised will be shared when we return to school.

This term, pupils in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 were treated to a fabulous performance of 'Wiggly Things' – a tale about a very hungry caterpillar which was performed by a theatre company from Derby University. Our children were to be complemented on their concentration and thoroughly enjoyed the show.

Our Y5 pupils have been taking part in a PSHE project called 'The Right Road' that helps with decision making and building confidence. This has proved to be very enjoyable and will continue after February half-term.

A range of after school clubs continue to be offered at school. This term the children have been able to take part in 'Clay Creators', Science club, choir, archery, tri-golf, street dance, hockey and a daily lunchtime club, which gives our children a choice to stay in at lunchtime and take part in a range of activities such as craft, chess, art etc.

'Asters'

We are delighted with the success of our weekly 'Aster' challenge, where pupils are rewarded for making the right behaviour choices, earning them an 'Aster' token. Spending the tokens or 'Asters' in the 'Asterdale shop' is proving popular, as is saving for bigger rewards. Popular items include wearing no school uniform for a day, wearing slippers to school, hot chocolate and cake with Mrs Forrest, iPad at lunchtime or buying items such as stationery sets, books or crayons.

Congratulations to all the children!

Advance Notice of Inset Day Sept 2019

We would like to let all families know that Friday 6th September 2019 has been planned to be a staff Inset Day and school will be closed to all pupils. Children will need to return to school on Monday 9th September 2019.

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 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
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

World Record Holder to visit school

As we write this newsletter, we are anticipating the arrival of Leigh Timmis on Friday 15th February. Leigh is the world record holder for the fastest cycle across Europe, achieving a solo bicycle expedition of 44,000 miles over seven years, across 51 countries. Leigh is due to share his epic journey and hopefully inspire the children.

We are very much looking forward to his visit!

And finally ...

As we prepare to break up for half term, may we take the opportunity to thank everyone for all the support they have given to the school over the term. It is much appreciated by all in school.

Dates for your diary

A reminder that school will be closed to pupils on March 18th and June 17th due to staff Inset Days.

Parents and carers will be receiving information when we return to school about the parent/teacher consultation evenings on the 3rd & 4th April. We hope many parents and carers will be able to join us to discuss the progress of their child with their child's class teachers and support staff.

On behalf of the pupils, staff, governors and PTFA, may we wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 25th February 2019.