



Together We Can...

Asterdale Primary School

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Acting Headteacher: Mr J O'Leary
Chair of Governors: Mr S Higginbotham

September Newsletter



6th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to another exciting year of learning at Asterdale Primary School. I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break. As we begin this school year, our 'together we can' ethos remains central to all that we do – including recognising the importance of Asterdale being at the heart of our community through working closely in partnership with all stakeholders to further grow our school.

Below are some back to school reminders for all.

As always, if you need to contact me you can either email, message via class dojo, make an appointment or find me on the gate before/after school.

Kind regards
Mr O'Leary
Acting Headteacher

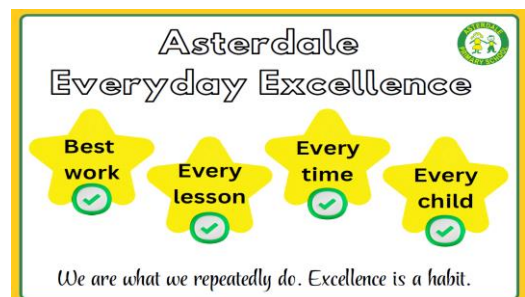
Staffing welcomes:

We welcome Mrs Stuart (Year 6 teacher – Deputy Head) and Mrs Seviour (Year 1 teacher) to our teaching team this year. Please see hello when you see them around school!

Asterdale Everyday Excellence:

An important school improvement driver for us all this year is 'Asterdale Everyday Excellence' which strives for all aspects of school life to deliver excellence through good habit-stacking for learning.

Pupils have been introduced to this in assembly this week:



Class newsletters:

These will be sent half-termly by all class teachers with all class specific learning updates. Look out for these over the next week.

Attendance & Punctuality:

'Every minute counts' – Good school attendance is the biggest contributor to making progress. As a result, attendance and punctuality will continue to be monitored closely to maximise learning opportunities for all. Reminder: school starts at 5 to 9. Gates open at 8.45am.

Uniform and presentation expectations:

Belonging to our school community with pride in our appearance is important for us all in building our togetherness and collective identity. Our pupils have returned to school super smart and ready to learn – thank you parents! Please ensure your child adheres to our uniform expectations – in particular:

- No leggings
- Footwear should be plain shoes or black trainers (no large logos please)
- Medium to long hair to be tied up
- PE kits should be wherever possible black pumps for indoor kit (unless agreed individual circumstances with class teacher in advance)
- Stud earrings only (no hoops) – please remove on PE days
- No other jewellery, nail varnish or make up

Messages from the office:

Tuck: Drinks are available again for 30p for pupils in Years 1 to 6 to buy daily.

Medications: All medications must be prescribed by a doctor in original packaging with child's name clearly shown – consent forms must be completed at the office before administering any medicines. Please inform the school office of any emerging/new medical allergies or updates.

Absence: All absences should be called through to the school office for every day of absence by no later than 8.30am. Class dojo messages can also be sent but please wherever possible inform the school office too.

Contact details: Please check closely that the office has most recent contact details updated as we return to school this September.

Equipment:

To support with maximising space in classrooms, we politely ask that large bags are not brought into school by children. School book-bags can be purchased from the school office which are sufficient for storing essential items only. Draw-string PE bags are also advised for best storage.

Forest Schools:

We are very proud that our excellent Forest School provision continues as part of our core learning offer for all pupils this academic year delivered by Mrs Sumner & Mrs Williams. Forest Schools sessions will begin later this term with Year 1 and Year 5 (further info to follow).

Year 6 – West Park Open Evening:

This will be held for prospective new Year 7 pupils for Sept 25: Monday 23rd September 5-7pm

Key dates this term:

Some early arranged dates to be aware of: (subject to change)

- 23rd Sept: School photographer in – (individuals and family pics)
- 27th Sept: European Day of Languages: non-uniform day (info to follow)
- Week beg 1st Oct: Harvest Festival: School donations/collection (info to follow)
- 10th Oct: Hello Yellow Day 'wear yellow' – (World Mental Health Day) – Fundraiser £1 per child
- 24th Oct: PTFA Asterdale Annual Pumpkin Competition

- INSET Days: 25th October, 6th January, 14th February, 16th June

- Christmas arrangements:
 - 11th Dec: Early Years Christmas Stay & Learn Events
 - 13th Dec: Christmas dinner day & Christmas jumper day
 - 17th Dec: KS1 Christmas Nativity Performances (2.30 & 6pm)
 - 18th Dec: LKS2 (Yr 3 & 4) – Christmas Concert
 - 19th Dec: UKS2: (Yr 5 & 6) – Christmas Concert
 - (PTFA Christmas event dates to follow)

- Parents Progress Evenings:
 - Tues 22nd & Weds 23rd Oct
 - Tues 1st & Weds 2nd Apr

- Y6 Transition Days: 1st, 2nd & 3rd July
- Weds 23rd July - Y6 Leavers Celebration (pm)

- Sports Day – provisional date: Tues 8th July

- Fri 18th Jul – End of Year reports sent out
- Tues 22nd Jul - Open afternoon to visit new classes & meet new class teachers

Messages from our PTFA:

Autumn at Asterdale is always fun, and this year is no different! We have lots of activities planned to help raise money for our school and make learning even better for our children.

We want to welcome all new families to Asterdale! - As a new parent or carer, you're automatically part of our PTFA (Parent Teacher and Friends Association). We love meeting new people and would be thrilled if you want to help out. If you're interested, you can reach us at PTFA@asterdale.odysseyct.org.uk , find us on social media, or just come say hi in the playground.

We also have a new way to support our school! If you download the 'Asda Rewards app', look for Asterdale in the 'cash-pot' section, and add us, the school will get £1 each time you shop. It won't change your own rewards.

Don't forget about our 'Pumpkin Dressing Competition' on the morning of Thursday, October 24th, and our end-of-term disco coming soon. Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram for more details.

