



Asterdale Primary School

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Together We Can...



Acting Headteacher: Mr J O'Leary

Chair of Governors: Mr S Higginbotham

Newsletter 7

10th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and a belated happy new year to you all.

It has been an icy cold start back to the Spring term at school this week! As per previous letter this week, school is also currently responding to necessary repairs following hall damage over the Christmas holidays. Once again, thank you to all staff and parents for your cooperation and support this week. We have kept school 'open for business' and learning has continued uninterrupted which is really great.

Please continue to check class dojo for class and wider school updates including class-specific newsletters.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mr O'Leary
Acting Headteacher



Staffing

- **Welcome back to Miss Ford** who returns to our staff team following her maternity leave this term. Miss Ford will be teaching Reception on Wednesdays and Year 5 on Thursdays & Fridays.
- **Acorns update** – Mrs Partridge has been recruited as our Acorns wraparound care supervisor both AM and PM with immediate effect.
- **Site manager** – We continue to search for a new Asterdale site manager. If interested, more information for this can be found via class dojo or via the [Odyssey Collaborative Trust website](#). Alternatively, contact the school office or Mr O'Leary to discuss further.
- **Mid-day supervisor** – We are looking to recruit a mid-day supervisor to join our staff team. If interested, please contact the school office.

SEND parent meetings:

Mrs Fray begins in her role as our Asterdale SENDCO this term and there is opportunity for any parent meetings with Mrs Fray on Tues 28th January. If you wish to arrange to speak with Mrs Fray, please contact the school office.

Asters values

We are currently gathering pupil views for images that best summarise our school Asters values. Any parent feedback is also welcomed!

If you have any suggestions for inspirational images or quotes which capture the meaning of each of our values well, please let us know.



Uniform reminders

As we begin 2025, can I take this opportunity to revisit our uniform expectations – particularly for:

- Jewellery is not permitted in school for safety. Earrings should not be worn on PE days.
- Footwear should be plain black shoes please.
- Hair should be tied up wherever possible.
- Weather appropriate coats should be worn to school – winter coats
- Bags – we request that small sized school bags are brought to school to help with storage

Odyssey Trust song

Asterdale, as part of Odyssey Collaborative Trust, will be learning a new Trust-wide song this term. Ask your child all about it from next week! ([the link for this is here too](#) if you wish to practise at home)



Derby Music Centre

If you play an instrument or you enjoy singing (or even both) and are of school age, then Derby Music Centre invites pupils to join a music group. They are offering a FREE term to all new members who are currently doing a whole class instrumental programme and free visits are welcome. More info can be found [here](#)

Forest Schools

Any photographs of the gifted miniature trees from before Christmas would be great to see!

Forest school sessions this half term begin Weds 15th Jan for Year 3 (AM) and Year 6 (PM)



Reading books

School leaders have prioritised investment and significant spending over the Christmas period to refresh our reading books for pupils with newly purchased book titles across all book bands. Please see further letter from our English Lead Mrs Stuart for more information.

Attendance = Excellence



Attendance is everyone's business

For week beginning 6th January:

This week's overall class attendances:

Reception	98.9%
Year 1	97.5%
Year 2	99.4%
Year 3	94.6%
Year 4	98%
Year 5	96.7%
Year 6	92.7%

**Whole
School:**

96.7%



Well done to Year 2 achieving our highest class attendance this week!

Did you know... 5 minutes late every day = 3 lost days learning per year

Our individual class and whole-school target each week = 97% minimum

INSET Day – reminder

A reminder that Friday 14th Feb this half-term is an INSET day