



# Asterdale Primary School

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**Together We Can...**



Acting Headteacher: Mr J O'Leary

Chair of Governors: Mr S Higginbotham

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## Newsletter 6

13<sup>th</sup> December 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

Here is the final newsletter for this Autumn term and also for 2024! As we approach the last week of term, there are many exciting additional festive events to look forward to (see reminders below)

Thank you in advance to our parent community for supporting our festive schedule this year and also a further thanks to all of our wonderful children and their teachers for the efforts involved in putting these extra events together!

Wishing all of our Asterdale community a relaxing Christmas period filled with festive fun and special moments. Last day of school is Fri 20<sup>th</sup> December - have a restful break!

Reminder – school returns for pupils on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January. (Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan is an INSET Day)

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mr O'Leary  
Acting Headteacher

### Staffing

Welcome back to Miss Ford who returns to our teaching team in January following her maternity leave. Miss Ford will be teaching Year 5 on Thursdays & Fridays and Reception class on Wednesdays.

We wish Miss Stacey good luck as she leaves our Acorns team this term – thank you for all your hard work with our evening wraparound care provision.

### **Site manager vacancy**

Could you be our new morning site manager? We are looking for a hard working & committed site manager to join our Asterdale team! More information about the role can be found via the [Odyssey Collaborative Trust website](#) You can also contact the school office or Mr O'Leary if interested.

### **SENDCO**

We welcome Mrs Fray as our new Special Educational Needs Coordinator following Mrs McCormick's resignation from this role at Asterdale. Mrs Fray joins us as a highly-experienced SENDCO – please see a welcome message from her below:

*Dear Asterdale families,*

*I am taking over the role of SENDCO at Asterdale Primary School. I am looking forward to continuing the great work which has been ongoing. I will be based at Asterdale for one day a week so you will see me as you bring your child to school. I will be holding SEND consultation sessions in the New Year where you can book an appointment to come and discuss your child's needs with me. I look forward to meeting you all. Merry Christmas.*

### **Assembly focus – Advent Kindness**

Assemblies this week have focussed on showing empathy and understanding for others at Christmas time.

Some thought-provoking popular Christmas adverts were shared with pupils about ways to choose the free gift of kindness for all and using the Christmas season as an opportunity to show gratitude towards others.

Pupils were challenged to try and create their own Advent Kindness Calendar during December too.



**Empathy**

### **Caring for our community**

Within the reception area of our Nursery building, the Asterdale Ark is quickly assembling with a wide-range of support items to take freely for our school community (incl. uniform, food items, toiletries, household essentials)

If you require any other support in any other ways, as always contact us so that we can arrange support however possible.

Donations are always appreciated in supporting to maintain stock.

We hope that the Asterdale Ark becomes a useful aid and helping hand for all wishing to access it!



### **Year 6 – Residential**

Exciting news! Letters went out this week about our 2025 Year 6 Residential. Reminder from the office that initial deposits of £20 are due by Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec to secure places (paid via School Money). Please contact the office if you need to discuss payment.



## **Reading Ambassadors**

Our KS2 reading ambassadors have made a great start to their roles and are reading closely with allocated pupils from different classes in supporting promoting the importance of reading daily.

You may see them commenting in your child's diary to further promote reading at home.

Reminder – reading ambassador reading does not replace quality reading at home with an adult.



## **Trees!**

Every child received a gifted miniature tree sapling this week for Christmas from school. Thank you to both Forest School and PTFA for coordinating this for all pupils.

We hope these can be planted at home for each child as part of our wider nurture ethos during the festive season. If anyone cannot plant their tree at home and would rather plant it within the school grounds, please let class teachers know.



## **Santa!**

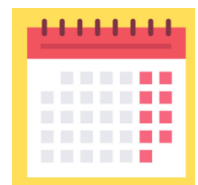
Santa made a guest appearance this week at Asterdale! He was very pleased with the behaviour of all pupils and passes on his positive feedback for all parents & carers!



## **INSET Days 2025**

Reminder of school INSET days for 2025:

- Mon 6<sup>th</sup> January
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February
- Mon 16<sup>th</sup> June





# Christmas at Asterdale



Events for the last week of term:

**Week beginning: 16<sup>th</sup> Dec**

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Dec – KS1 Nativity performances (2.30pm & 6.00pm) – ticket only event (£1)**

**Weds 18<sup>th</sup> Dec – Elf Escapade fundraiser (PTFA):**

Pupils can bring running shoes for a gentle jog around the school grounds!

All individual sponsorship forms are asked to be returned no later than Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec

**Weds 18<sup>th</sup> Dec – UKS2 Concert (Years 5 & 6) – (free ticket event) - (2.45pm)**

**Free concert tickets  
can be collected at the  
office per family**

**Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Dec – LKS2 Concert (Years 3 & 4) – (free ticket event) - (2.45pm)**

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec – School breaks up.**

**Please note: pupils return to school Tues 7<sup>th</sup> January.**