



Together We Can...

Asterdale Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr J O'Leary

Chair of Governors: Mr P Appleton

September Newsletter



12th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to another year of learning at Asterdale Primary School. We have already completed one full week of exciting learning. At the heart of our approach this year remains providing high quality learning consistently for all pupils across the curriculum, as well as fostering personal development and wider opportunities for every child.

We continue our whole-school drive for 'everyday excellence' in all aspects of school life this year. Please ask your child about our 'best of me' attitudes as we begin September back to school habits...



Our 'together we can' ethos remains at central to Asterdale in growing our school and our community. We look forward to working closely with all stakeholders in partnership to ensure all learners reach their potential this year.

Our school focus values this term are...



As always, please dojo/find me on the gate before/after school or contact the school office should you wish to discuss anything further.





Kind regards
Mr O'Leary
Headteacher

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 posted on class dojo.

Staffing welcomes:

We welcome the following staff to Team Asterdale this September:

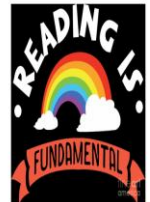
				
Mr Seaman: Yr 4 teacher	Miss Lomas: Yr 3 Teacher	Mr Bilsby: Site Manager	Mr Cotton: Student Teacher (Yr 6)	Ms Joshi: Student Teacher (Yr 1)

Mr Cotton and Ms Joshi will be working closely alongside class teachers in their allocated classes to support wider teaching and learning delivery.



Read Every
School Day

Everyday
Reading



This year, homework is centred around reading...

Reading every school day is the best way to support your child to make maximum progress and access the curriculum to thrive.

This year, every child has been introduced to our 'everyday reading' pledge to encourage all to read 5 times for 5 minutes every week.

Class teachers will monitor this closely to track and praise reading at home. There will be prizes and rewards for those classes and individual children consistently meeting reading expectations.



5 minutes
reading



5 times a
week

Supporting our pupils' personal development and wellbeing...

Houses

Soon, we will be further strengthening our school colour teams and using these to establish Asterdale 'houses' where pupils will engage with a range of activities that develop their cultural capital opportunities within our personal development programme.

A competition to name our team 'houses' will soon be launched!



Making 20% of the school day 'excellent'

Playtimes equate to 20% of the school week and are essential for supporting pupils to be at their best. This year, we will be further developing our playtime provision to provide the best playtime experience possible for all learners.

Further information to follow about this. In the meantime, if anyone has any spare wellies at home that they would like to donate to support us with purposeful playtimes, we would be most grateful. Thank you!

Did you know...

- *Up to 50% of primary school children only play outside at school*
- *Screen time: For 5-10yr olds now takes up around 4 ½ hours a day*



Year group learning expectations:

Following parent feedback, [expectation booklets](#) relating to learning that children will be covering for each year group can now be found on our school website for Key Stage 1 and 2 (Years 1 to 6).



These aim to provide parents/carers with an overview of key learning objectives and taught content in all year groups linked to our long-term teaching plans across school.

Behaviour:

All learners deserve an environment free from low-level disruption with consistently Positive learning behaviour. This directly reflects our 'everyday excellence' approach.



We pride ourselves on our excellent behaviour expectations at Asterdale, which are well established across school.

A change this year – should pupils unfortunately ever receive a 'green card', parents will be informed by class teachers to share this communication on the day that the card is given.

Stay and Learn events...

In response to parent feedback – we are expanding our ‘stay and learn’ opportunities this year across whole school.



Stay and Read!

This half-term, all classes will host a ‘stay and read’ session to welcome parents into our new classroom environments and to enjoy some quality reading time.

Keep a look out on class dojos for these times and dates.



Book bags – thank you for your support:

Thank you to all parents/carers who have supported our book bags for all learners request this year.

This has really helped in maximising space in our classrooms and reducing trip hazards.

Visit the ark – FREE uniform

Our ‘Asterdale Ark’ resource is very well stocked at the beginning of this academic year following many generous parent donations over the summer (thank you!)

We all want uniform to be readily available and affordable for all.
The Ark is situated in our Nursery provision entrance area.



Back to School Reminders...

Attendance = Excellence



Attendance is everyone’s business.

Attendance is always a key priority for us all at Asterdale with consistent school attendance being the biggest contributor to children making progress. As a result, attendance and punctuality will continue to be monitored closely to maximise learning opportunities for all.

The main school gate opens daily at 8.45am to allow all pupils a ‘soft start’ to the school day.

School gates will close at 8.55 ready for registers to begin.

Please be on time to best support your child in beginning their day ready for learning.

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)
- Years 4, 5 and 6 may wear their PE kit to school on allocated PE days.
- Stud earrings only (no hoops) – please remove on PE days
- No other jewellery, nail varnish or make up

**EVERYDAY
EXCELLENCE**
*We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence is a habit.*

Messages from the office:

Arbor app –

Thank you to all parents who have signed up to access our new communications app 'Arbor'. Asterdale will use this platform for many aspects of school procedures this year. If you are unable to connect, please contact the school office.



Absences –

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 be sent to inform teacher - but please inform the school office too.

Debts –

We are aware of outstanding debt payments. Please contact the office team to discuss to arrange payment approaches if required.

Appointments –

Every learning session counts. Wherever possible, appointments should be made out of school time to prevent vital missed learning for pupils.

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.

Contact details and permissions -

Please check closely that the office has returned any most recent contact details and various requested permission forms as we return to school this September.

Mid-day supervisor vacancy:

We are advertising for a mid-day supervisor (Mon – Fri) to join our amazing team.

If this role may be of interest, please contact the school office to discuss further.



Forest Schools:

We are very proud that our excellent Forest School provision continues as part of our wider personal development learning offer for all pupils.

Forest Schools sessions will begin later this half-term for Year 1 and Year 3.

A note from Mrs Sumner and Ms Oakes:

We are on the hunt for any donations of Autumnal items...

- Conkers
- Pine cones
- Helicopter seeds
- Acorns
- Wool
- Huge dried leaves



Healthy lunchboxes

Healthy lifestyles is an important part of our PSHE coverage for all learners. To support this, please send healthy lunch box items to school for your child to enjoy.

We are an allergy-aware school...

Any products containing nuts or traces of nuts are not permitted at school. At school, we have children identified with nut allergies and therefore nut products, and products containing traces of nuts are not to be brought in to school - (this includes peanut butter sandwiches, Nutella products and snickers snack bars)

Please check ingredients wherever possible to help keep all safe.



Harvest

We will be collecting food donations for Harvest festival this half term!

Any non-perishable food good would we greatly received in supporting our local community. Donations can be brought to school from Monday 15th September onwards.

Thank you!



Gates

Reminder - our gate system for all to follow is below:

All parents/carers are asked to use the main school gate for drop offs and collections every day.

The pedestrian gate at busy drop off and collection times is not to be accessed.



Some early diary dates...

A list of dates and further information will be communicated shortly...

- Fri 26th September – European Languages Day
- Weds 8th October - Rock Kidz enrichment day (in school)
- Friday 3rd October – Harvest celebration
- Friday 10th October – Hello Yellow Day (mental health awareness)
- Monday 20th October – School photographer in
- Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd October – Parents consultation evenings
- Thursday 23rd October – PTFA Halloween Disco



An early nod to Christmas...

- Fri 5th December (PM) Christingle celebration
- Tues 16th December (Performances at 2.30pm & 6pm)
- Further Christmas programme arrangements will be shared soon



What an amazing first week back at school!

Have a great weekend,

Mr O'Leary & Team Asterdale

