



Together We Can...

Asterdale Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr J. O'Leary

Governors Co-Chairs: Mrs C. Burgess & Miss G. Hulse



1<sup>st</sup> December

Dear Parents/Carers,

Christmas season is upon us!

We have an exciting 3 weeks ahead of us before the Christmas break with lots of festive fun as well as important learning to enjoy.

See below for some updates and messages. As always, thank you for your continued support working in partnership striving for 'everyday excellence' with us all at Asterdale.

**Mr O'Leary**  
Headteacher

PS: I hope the elves are behaving!



This half-term's focus value:

Empathy is...  
 SEEING with the EYES of another.  
 LISTENING with the EARS of another.  
 FEELING with the HEART of another.

From assembly this week...

Our whole-school December Christmas message:

Give a Gift of Kindness  
this Christmas...



Every child: Remember to show at least 1 act of kindness every day this December...



## Staff & recruitment – update:

School Business Manager:

We extend a huge congratulations to Mrs Duckworth, who following a successful recruitment process, will be leaving us at Asterdale to become our Odyssey Collaborative Trust Finance Officer in the New Year. You will be missed!  
We welcome Mrs Natalie White as our new School Business Manager who will join us after Christmas.



We also welcome Mrs Goodall (teaching assistant) who joins Team Asterdale this week!

## Parking

A polite reminder following some recent feedback from local residents.

Please park respectfully and considerately outside and around school.

This includes parking mindfully within the golf course space too. Many thanks.



## Christingle this week – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

We are excited for our school annual Christingle celebration this week as we step into Christmas....

Parents/carers are welcome to join us for the Asterdale march to Church, leaving school at approx 1pm.

Following the service, children can be dismissed from the church to adults to go home by class teachers.

All children not collected from church will walk back to school for collection as usual at 3.30pm.

Children are asked to please bring an orange in to school no later than Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.



## Tuck shop:

Following feedback from our recent parent forum, our office team have researched and enhanced our tuck shop offer for pupils which has launched this week. Please do let the office know any feedback or extra ideas if you have any too...



	
<b>Asterdale Tuck Shop</b>	
Orange Juice	30p
Apple Juice	30p
Strawberry Milkshake	40p
Chocolate Milkshake	40p
Biscuits	20p
Raisins	20p
Cereal Bars	50p

## Parent events:

See below information for 3 parent events upcoming in the next 3 weeks...

# PARENT FORUM



**Thursday 4th December 9-9.40**

Parents are invited to join our next parent forum. Discussions will focus around:

Our community offer (incl. PTFA)

Our OPAL playtimes project

Personal development - our 'Asterdale Offer'

If you wish to come along, please let the office know! Many thanks, Mr O'Leary

# SEND - COFFEE MORNING



**Thursday 11th December**

**9-9.40**

Opportunity to meet with our SENDCO (Mrs Fray) to ask about school SEND provision and discuss any individual concerns.

# BYSTANDERS WORKSHOP



A bystander is a person who is present when something happens but doesn't act.

**I CAN**  
do something about it

I know how to  
do this safely

**I WILL**  
do something about it

Choose to be an active bystander.  
It can change a situation for the good

**STAND UP. STAND STRONG. STAND TOGETHER.**

**SAFE & SOUND**  
Transforming young lives

**fearless**  
Part of Communities  
Partnership 011 22 111

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
**9-9.40**

## Asterdale in the news!

Our 'everyday readers' raffle winners who recently visited Waterstones have had an article published in the Derby Evening Telegraph to celebrate all things reading!

FIVE enthusiastic young readers from Asterdale Primary School were treated to a special trip to Waterstones in Derby, where they each chose a book purchased for them by the school as a reward for their dedication to reading.

The school has recently launched its new "Everyday Reading" initiative, which encourages pupils to develop a regular reading habit.

Head teacher John O'Leary said: "We are asking children to make it a habit to read five times a week for five minutes outside of school. Those children who do that receive a token which goes into a raffle."

The five pupils whose names were drawn in the raffle visited the Waterstones store in St



Five go on a mission to choose book prize

News

Peter's Street to select their books - with one child from years one to six chosen.

Emilia, aged 10, said: "It was really nice to go into the shop and look at all the books. I chose the book Inkheart."

Fellow pupil Emilia, aged 8, selected the children's classic Funny Bones. "It was very hard to pick because there were lots of books to choose from," she said.

Deputy Head Katy Stuart, who has been leading the initiative, said: "We're very proud of all the children who have been reading every day. We do lots in school to encourage reading, but this is something they are doing in their spare time, away from school, so it is really fantastic that they are making the time to read."

## Attendance = Excellence



Attendance is everyone's business

### This half-term's attendance so far...

Class	%	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">Whole School:</p> <p style="font-size: 36px; font-weight: bold; color: black;">95.5%</p>	
Nursery	97.5%		
Reception	94.2%		
Year 1	95.7%		
Year 2	98.5%		
Year 3	95.9%		
Year 4	98.5%		
Year 5	92.4%		
Year 6	91.8%		

**Well done to Years 2 & 4 for being our attendance leaders this half-term so far!**

Our whole-school attendance target is 97% for all learners.



# Christmas at Asterdale



## A reminder for our upcoming Christmas events this month...

- Christmas baubles in the community (all pupils will design & make a special Christmas bauble to display in the local area as part of our enrichment program) – **please bring these in this week!**
- Stay & craft events (for KS2 Yrs 3,4,5,6 and Early Years): - come along and join us in classes for 'all things Christmas!' with some festive crafts, tunes and all-round Christmas fun

Early Years	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	18 <sup>th</sup> Dec
2.15pm	9-9.45am	9-9.45am	9-9.45am	9-9.45am

- 5<sup>th</sup> Dec - (afternoon): Whole-school Christingle event (Years 1 to 6)
- 12<sup>th</sup> Dec - PTFA Secret Santa event
- 12<sup>th</sup> Dec - Carols around the tree event (3.20 / after-school)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Dec - Nativity performances KS1 (2.30pm & 6pm)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas dinner day & Christmas jumper day

