



Asterdale Primary School

January 26

Welcome back!

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back after the Christmas break! I hope you all had a restful holiday filled with joyous moments.

All of our children have returned to school with an eagerness to impress and continued displaying 'everyday excellence' in their learning and behaviour across school. See below for some Spring term updates. Please see class dojo pages for individual class newsletters too. As always, should you need to speak with me - catch me on the school gate or arrange an appointment via the school office.

Kind regards

Mr O'Leary

Headteacher



School Values & Teams

At Asterdale, we are very proud of our 6 school values which are an essential aspect of school life and preparing all learners for the future. This year, we are evolving our school values further within our 'school teams'.

Our previous 4 school teams have been replaced by 6 new school teams each named after a school value.

As usual, children will collect team points for their new teams weekly & celebrate these in assembly.

Children will have opportunity to work with in their new teams across school in our dedicated 'enrichment time' slots as part of our Personal Development programme.

Team captains & Vice captains for each value have been selected this week too.



EMPATHY



ASPIRATION



RESILIENCE



SAFETY



SELF-BELIEF



TEAMWORK

Outdoor shoes

A reminder: please can all children bring a spare pair of outdoor trainers to school to change into for field use at playtimes & lunchtimes. These can be kept at school for daily changing into. Wherever we can, we want to use our field space whilst keeping inside school as mud-free as possible!

Drop off / collections

Safeguarding reminder: Children should be walked inside school gates every day by their adults. Children younger than Year 6 are not permitted to walk home without an adult.

Phones

Safeguarding reminder: Phones are not permitted on school site for use before / after school by children.

Weather

It has been a very cold start to January! Please ensure children arrive at school with appropriate footwear & warm clothing (coats, hats, scarves, gloves).

The Seeds of Happiness...

Putting children's wellbeing & happiness at the centre of our school approach.

In supporting all learners to thrive and be at their best, we will be introducing a dedicated daily mindfulness & wellbeing slot as part of our teaching timetable this year.

Asterdale has joined a Derby-city Wellbeing Project called 'Teach Happy: The Seeds of Happiness' which promotes the importance of championing the 'science of wellbeing' for both staff and children.

All children will have chance to join in with varied activities as part of their 'everyday Asterdale experience' from this term.



Welcome to Miss Robinson

Welcome to our new Early Years teacher, Miss Robinson, who will be teaching Reception class alongside Mrs Edwards. Do say hello if you see her around school!

Faith Visits: Yr 3 + Yr 4

These will be rearranged following necessary postponement this week due to weather. Dates will be communicated in due course as part of our British Values and RE Learning.

OPAL update

This term, we will begin our Opal Playtimes journey with an audit of our current school provision. All donations of loose parts / toys from home would be gratefully received!

Y4 residential meeting

This will take place: Tuesday 13th January @ 9am for any parents of children in Year 4 with questions about our planned residential learning away experience.

Parent forum

Next parent forum event:
Wednesday 28th January 9-9.30am
All welcome! Please let the office know if you are able to come along.

Upcycled Loose Parts



INSET Days 2026

A reminder of INSET Days this year:
Friday 13th February
Friday 22nd May
Monday 29th June

Attendance & Punctuality

Office reminder: As we begin 2026:

Attendance expectation:

97% minimum for all learners.

Punctuality matters!

Please be on time ready for learning. Gates open at 8.45am to enable a soft-start to the day.

Wherever possible, appointments should be made outside of school hours to avoid impacting on important learning time.

Who leads what at Asterdale?

Safeguarding team:

Mr O'Leary - DSL

Mrs Stuart, Mrs Harrold, Mrs McCormick, Mrs Partridge - (Deputy Safeguarding Leads)

Behaviour / Attendance:

Mr O'Leary, Mrs Harrold, Miss Hartshorne

Curriculum, Teaching & Assessment: Forest Schools:

Mrs Stuart

Mrs Sumner & Mrs Oakes

Early Years:

Mrs Edwards & Mrs Hughes

Sustainability Lead:

Mrs Seviour

Personal Development:

Mr Seaman



Subject Leadership:

English - Mrs Stuart

French - Mrs Stuart

Phonics - Mrs Edwards

Computing - Mr Seaman

Mathematics - Mrs Carter

RE - Mrs Edwards

Science - Mrs Hawkes

Design Technology - Mrs Hawkes

PSHE - Mr Seaman

Art & Design - Mrs Hughes

PE - Mrs McCormick

Geography & History - Mrs Seviour

Music - Mrs McCormick

Site team:

Mr Bilsby

Admin Team:

Mrs Broughton

Mrs Forster

Miss Hartshorne

Asterdale Governors

Meet our Governing Body:

Asterdale's Governing Body undertake regular monitoring visits to support & challenge school leaders to make continual improvements to our school offer across many aspects.

See below a list of our governors and their responsibilities:

Co-Chairs: Cari Burgess & Gabrielle Hulse (wellbeing, pupil premium, leadership)

Mr O'Leary (Headteacher - safeguarding lead)

Paul Appleton (achievement)

Maxine Bull (early years, curriculum & quality of teaching)

Chi Fox (attendance & behaviour)

Karen Bilsby (parent governor - personal development)

Clerk to governors: Clare Colmore