

# Newsletter



Asterdale Primary School

Feb-Mar 26

## Spring is coming...



Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back after the half-term break. We have now reached the half-way point in the school year! As we move into the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year and a short half-term, it is a time to reflect on progress made and our whole-school shared vision of 'everyday excellence' as we strive to achieve our very best in every aspect of school life.

Every learner has made personal progress since September which should be really celebrated.

Please look out for class newsletters coming out this week on dojo. As always, should you need to speak with me - catch me on the school gate or arrange an appointment via the school office. Please note: safeguarding matters cannot be discussed on the gate.

Kind regards  
Mr O'Leary  
Headteacher



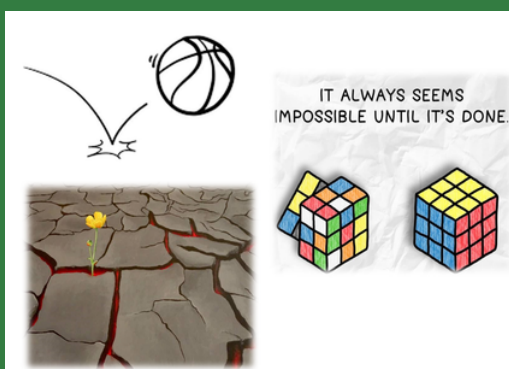
### Focus value this half term:



#### RESILIENCE

##### What we teach our Asterdale learners:

Never give up and always keep persevering. Resilience helps us to always 'bounce back' even when things are tricky at first. Resilience helps us to keep going and 'be at our best'.



IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE.

### Parents Evening

Dates for Spring parents evening meetings will be:

Tues 24<sup>th</sup> March & Weds 25<sup>th</sup> March

Telephone appointments can also be made during this week if more convenient.

For booking appointments, we will be using the Arbor app for this - more information to follow

### World Book Day

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March is World Book Day!

Children are encouraged to dress up for this day in any way preferred including PJs / favourite book characters (no charge). We look forward to celebrating 'all things reading' together!

### Science Week

British Science Week will also take place in March!

The theme this year is...

'What's your curiosity?'

We will be celebrating this with experiments across school to spark our curiosity!

## The Seeds of Happiness...

Please ask your child about their daily 'Seeds of Happiness' activities.

A whole range of different activities for supporting children's wellbeing & happiness have been happening around school!



## PTFA Valentines Disco

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our PTFA disco last half-term!

It was lovely to see so many faces having a great time!



## Colour Run...

Save the date ...

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June - our PFTA will host an exciting 'Colour Run' event in school as we celebrate all things diversity together at Asterdale. More information to follow soon!

## Parent forum

Next parent forum event:

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2.50-3.20pm

Focus: Meet the Governors & School Improvement

## 'Easterdale'

Our annual Easterdale competition will take place Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. More info to follow. We can't wait to see your creations!

## Stay & Learn Events

Thank you to all parents/carers who came along to our Maths Stay & Learn events last half-term. These provide opportunity to experience our learning in-school together - I hope you found them useful.

This half-term, we will take a reading focus and be hosting 'Books & Breakfast' for World Book Day!

## OPAL Playtimes Update

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

### Parent Play Champions!

Parents - we need your help! If you would be interested in helping as part of our Opal journey, we are searching for Parent Play Champions to join us in helping to collect resources, join some meetings and help re-design our outside space! Contact the office or Mrs McCormick / Mr O'Leary if interested!

### Upcycled Loose Parts



We will happily receive any items from home to our Opal Donations Store!

## INSET Days 2026

A reminder of INSET Days this year:

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May & Mon 29<sup>th</sup> June

Break up for Easter: Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March

Last day of term: Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> July

# Office Updates

## Medi-tracker:

This term, we have began using 'medi-tracker' for reporting first aid incidents to all parents/carers. Please make sure we have your correct email address for this - visit the office if you need any help.

## Lates:

Punctuality - please be on time for learning. Lateness impacts a smooth start to the school day for pupils (see information below). Pupils arriving late are required to sign-in via the school office each day.

## Relief mid-day supervisors:

We are always looking for additional relief mid-day playworkers / supervisors to join our amazing team. If interested, please contact the office for more information.

## Bags 2 School

Reminder for our latest Bags 2 School collection:

Please can all bags be brought to school by no later than 9am Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you!



## Punctuality Matters



### Every minute of learning counts

**8.45am-8.55am: Gates open: soft start School day begins.**

Your child has arrived on time to meet friends and settle ready for learning.

**9.00am: Gates are closed no later than 9am.**

Children who arrive after 9am must be signed in late at the office.

5 minutes late = 3 school days lost a year.

**9.15am: Registers will close at 9.15am. If your child arrives after 9.15 it will be marked as unauthorised and will affect your child's attendance record.**

15 minutes lost = 9 school days lost a year.

## Site improvements:

### Safety Fencing

I am pleased to inform that following successful bidding applications, Asterdale has secured significant funding support from Odyssey Trust to enable further improvements to our school fencing and gate systems in the Summer term.

## Staffing update:

Welcome to Mrs White who has joined Team Asterdale as our new School Business Manager.

Over half-term, Miss Johnson (teaching assistant) has left our teaching team - we wish her luck in her next adventures. We welcome Mrs Dembovskis who will join us early March.



## Mrs Edwards

Congratulations to Mrs Edwards who is our Asterdale 2026 'Thrive Award' winner - in recognition of her long lasting and wide-reaching impact & contribution to our whole-school community.



## Smart Phone Free Childhood

At Asterdale, we recognise the value of digital technology in supporting learning and play at home for all children.

However - the impact of too much screen time can also be significant. Therefore, we are encouraging parents to take a look at the 'Smartphone Free Childhood' campaign.

[You can find out more information here.](#)

We're part of the



**SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD**  
**Schools Network**

## Big Walk & Wheel Event

We are taking part in the Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge.

The challenge runs from 16th to 27th March.

It's free to take part and we would love everyone to be involved.

What do you need to do?

Encourage your child to walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school during these days. If you drive to school, could you walk on these days or park a little further away from school so that you could include a walk too?

Please park respectfully.

The Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing.

To help you prepare: Walk Wheel Cycle Trust has developed a handy Parent Page. It is packed with advice to help you have a hassle-free journey to school.

For more information about the event go to [www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk](http://www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk).

Enjoy the challenge!



## Rucksacks

At the beginning of the school year, it was requested for pupils to only bring bookbags to school to help keep our classrooms tidy due to space limitations. Several rucksacks have started returning to school. Please wherever possible help us to keep our school spaces as purposeful as possible by only bringing bookbags into school.

## SEND

### Parent Appointments

If any parents wish to book a 1:1 meeting with our SENDCO Mrs Fray to discuss any individual child matters please make an appointment via the school office. Thank you.

# Homework reminder

A reminder that for ALL children our homework expectation is to read for 5 minutes 5 times per week and for this to be recorded in reading diaries consistently.

Please support your child with this as we know that reading is the key to all learning success!

## Everyday Reading



(at least)  
5 minutes reading

5 times per week



## Non uniform day

Forest Schools Fundraiser!

Help us to raise funds to further enhance our fantastic forest schools provision.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March £1 per child



## Attendance = Excellence



Attendance is everyone's business

Attendance up to: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Class	%	<b>Whole School:</b>  <b>95.9%</b>	
Nursery	96.1		
Reception	95.7		
Year 1	94.8		
Year 2	97.3		
Year 3	95.5		
Year 4	97		
Year 5	95.8		
Year 6	95.5		

Well done to Year 2 for being our attendance leaders this year so far!

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

# Early Years - Nursery Open Day

Saturday 21st March

We are hosting an Early Years Open Day in March to showcase our superb Nursery provision. We are passionate that our Early Years provides the best start for all children! Please share amongst friends, family & on social media too! If interested in coming along to see our amazing environment and to find out more, please contact the office.

All are welcome!



**OPEN DAY  
10-12PM  
Saturday  
21<sup>st</sup> March  
2026**



## Asterdale Primary & Nursery School

Welcome to our Early Years Nursery Provision (3-4 year olds)

Our nursery is purpose-built to provide a warm, welcoming environment for your child to begin their learning journey.

**WE OFFER:**

- 15/30 hours flexible provision
- High quality resources
- Child-centred curriculum
- Qualified experienced teaching staff
- Forest school learning
- Wrap around school care

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