



Welcome back to school!

Dear parents/carers,

A huge welcome back to all of our Asterdale community to begin another exciting new school year together. I hope you all enjoyed the warm summer break and enjoyed time to relax and recharge with your families. As we begin this year, please see below for various updates and reminders.

You can find me on the school gate daily or at the school office should you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards

Mr O'Leary

Headteacher

Asterdale Everyday Excellence

As we begin a new school year, our children have displayed excellent recall and displaying of our school 'Asters values' which are a key part of school life in helping all learners to thrive. This half-term, our two key focus values are:

Aspiration – learners will be reflecting about their goals and targets for this year and how to be their best version of themselves ('best of me') in both their learning and wider-school attitudes and behaviour.



Teamwork – learners will engage in new enrichment team events as well as building relationships and connections in their classes with their new teacher/s.



INSET Days for 26-27:

A reminder for this years INSET Days:

Friday 4th September

Monday 23rd November

Friday 12th February

Monday 21st June

Monday 26th July

Full term dates can be found [here](#).

Site safety upgrades:

Over the summer break, upgrades have been made to our school boilers as well as additional site fencing installed.

These have been possible through funding support from both the Department for Education and our school academy: Odyssey Collaborative Trust.

Immersion Week

We have welcomed all learners back to school and launched this academic year with our new 'Asterdale Immersion Week'.

This has provided all learners with opportunity to engage in a range of activities to settle any 'back to school' worries as well as chance to practice key essentials skills and expectations in their new year groups.

Take a look on class dojo pages for activities that children have enjoyed this week...



ASTERDALE:

Where 'everyday excellence' is
achieved through putting
CHILDREN and CHILDHOOD first

THE 14 FOOD ALLERGENS



MOLLUSCS

Including land snails, whelks and squid.



EGGS

Can be found in cakes, sauces and pastries.



FISH

Found in pizza, dressings and Worcestershire sauce.



LUPIN

Lupin can be found in bread, pastries and pasta.



SOYA

Various beans including edamame and tofu.



MILK

Butter, cheese, cream and milk powders contain milk.



PEANUTS

Can be found in cakes, biscuits and sauces.



GLUTEN

In food made with flour such as pasta and bread.



CRUSTACEANS

Such as crab, lobster, prawns, shrimp and scampi.



MUSTARD

Can be in liquid or powder form as well as seeds.



NUTS

Including cashews, almonds and hazelnuts.



SESAME

Found on burgers, bread sticks and salads.



CELERY

Including stalks, leaves, seeds and celeriac.



SULPHITES

Found in dried fruit like raisins and some drinks.

Allergy Awareness

At Asterdale, we are an allergy-aware school. Please see a reminder of allergens to be aware of. A further reminder: we are a no-nut school and being allergy-aware is everyone's responsibility in keeping our children safe.

As part of this, and in response to updated guidance following the implementation of Benedict's Law, from September 2026, Asterdale Primary School will not distribute any sweets/cakes for birthday or special events. These are not to be brought into school for these occasions.

Office reminders:

Permissions on arbor:

We ask for all parents/carers to read and review their permissions, allergies & medical information at the beginning of this school year (including forest schools). This can be accessed through the Arbor app. Should you have any difficulties, please contact the school office to discuss and support.

Happiness Hub

As part of our continual upgrade and review of spaces & places at Asterdale, leaders have secured funding to create our school 'Happiness Hub' which is a dedicated space for all children to access in our school and where mental health and wellbeing comes first.

This space is used as a bridge between classroom learning and adapted provision.

Children can spend time in this great space for relaxing and regulating with various strategies to support them to be at their best all day, every day.

Staffing update:

We are pleased to welcome back Mr Fullerton to Team Asterdale. Mr Fullerton returns to the site manager role at our school. Say hello to him on the gate in the morning!

Vacancies

We are always looking for enthusiastic playworkers to join our school team.

If interested in joining our lunchtime team as a relief playworker as we continue our OPAL playtimes journey, please contact the school office for more information.

Year 7 Open Day

A note for current Year 6 parents: West Park open evening will be held from 5pm – 7pm. More information for this can be found on the Year 6 class dojo page.



Asterdale Ark

All are invited to take a look at our Asterdale Ark store (located in the nursery entrance space).

Here you can find great quality pre-loved uniform & everyday household essentials – free for all to access in supporting our community.

Class Dojo

Please check individual class dojo page for class specific information and updates for this term.



Safe parking

A plea upon return to school for maintaining safe parking outside and around our school grounds at collection and drop off times. Please park responsibly - this ensures safety for our whole-school community.



Everyday Reading: Homework

At Asterdale, our only set essential homework for all learners is EVERYDAY READING.

We ask for all children to read for 5 minutes, 5 times every week.

Reading is the key to unlocking all areas of learning. Please support with this at home and ensure your child's reading diary is kept up to date. Diaries are checked daily in school and half-termly awards are available for consistent excellent reading across school.



What are we working on at Asterdale...

Asterdale was graded 'strong' in many aspects of our work at our most recent Ofsted inspection (March 26) which recognises the excellent work that happens at our school every day.

Moving forward, we continue to strive to get even better with 5 clear school improvement projects which will further grow our school:

1: Curriculum – further developing an exceptional curriculum learning offer for all children through quality knowledge-rich lessons in every subject

2: Personal development – growing every child's learning offer beyond the academic with enrichment opportunities and practising life skills as well as developing a broader awareness of world faiths and diversity

3: Everyone a leader, everyone a learner – At Asterdale, everyone matters and everyone can achieve and develop their skills (children, staff and across our community)

4: OPAL – We continue to develop our playtimes offer to ensure that 20% of the school week provides the richest offer possible for every child

5: Inclusion – Getting it right for every child, every time through adaptive teaching and showcasing our everyday nurturing ethos.

Upcoming dates this half-term:

- 14th Sept – In-school launch of 'My Happy Mind'
(our dedicated wellbeing hour every Monday morning)
- 15th Sept – Flu vaccinations
- 25th Sept – School photographer visit
- 25th Sept – European Languages Day
- 3rd Oct – Early Years Open Day
- 9th Oct – Hello Yellow Day for supporting young people's mental health (non-uniform day: wear yellow: £1 donation)
- 14th & 15th – Parents evening meetings
- 21st Oct – PTFA Halloween Disco
- Fri 23rd Oct – Break up for half-term

Places available: Asterdale Early Years

Early Years: Ofsted Graded Strong (March 26).

We welcome all to visit us for our Early Years Open Morning on Saturday 3rd October (10am-12pm) for an opportunity to explore our amazing facilities in both our Nursery and Reception classes at Asterdale.



We have spaces available for Sept 27 (Reception class) as well as Nursery spaces for this academic year too. We hope to see you there!

First week back : Attendance :

Attendance = Excellence 		
Attendance is everyone's business		
This week's attendances:		Whole School: 97.4%
Reception	98.2%	
Year 1	97.8%	
Year 2	93.7%	
Year 3	99.1%	
Year 4	95.8%	
Year 5	99.2%	
Year 6	98.7%	
Well done to Year 5 for being our attendance winners this week! Our whole-school minimum attendance target is 97% for all learners. This means missing no more than 5 days per year. Did you know... 5 minutes late every day = 3 lost days learning per year		