Whole-School

Newsletter

Asterdale Primary School November 2026

Newsletter 3:



Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back after the October break. I hope you all enjoyed a really restful half-term. All of our wonderful children have arrived back this week full of enthusiasm to continue their learning as we begin the countdown to Christmas! As always, thank you for your continued support working in partnership striving for 'everyday excellence' with us all at Asterdale. Printed copies of this newsletter are available at the school office.

Kind regards
Mr O'Leary
Headteacher







Our focus Asters values this half-term:

EMPATHY:

(linking to Anti-Bullying Week and World Kindness Day):
Learning about empathy is important for our learners as it helps them understand how others feel and promotes treating everyone with kindness, care and respect. It helps pupils to build friendships, support one another and make sure everyone feels valued and included.

SELF-BELIEF:

Self-belief helps our Asterdale learners recognise their strengths and believe they can achieve great things. It gives them the confidence to try new things, overcome challenges and always strive to be their everyday excellent best.

Everyday excellence golden box winners:

Congratulations to our Golden Box winners from last half-term! We hope you enjoyed your prizes...

Our golden box had a record number of tokens to draw from, demonstrating great everyday excellence across school at the beginning of this year.

Staffing - Welcome to Team Asterdale...

We extend a warm Asterdale welcome to our new office admin assistant, Ms Waŝ.
Ms Was will be working closely alongside Mrs Hartshorn whilst Miss Broughton is enjoying her maternity leave with her gorgeous new baby girl.

Attendance & Punctuality

This year - our focus target for monitoring school attendance centres around PUNCTUALITY.
Already, our 8.45-8.55 soft starts are designed to support with a prompt start to learning.
Lateness really impacts a settled start to the day as all classes begin their day with important Morning Fundamentals practise.
Classes can win 'punctuality points' (additional team points) this year for consistent school punctuality.
Please support being ready and on time as we move through this school year.

Attendance = Excellence

Attendance is everyone's business

This week's attendance...

Class	%
Nursery	96.1%
Reception	99.2%
Year 1	94.8%
Year 2	91.4%
Year 3	91.1%
Year 4	97.4%
Year 5	95.4%
Year 6	99.1%

Whole School:

95.7%



Well done to Years 6 & Reception for being our attendance leaders this half-term so far!

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

Parent governor election

As we look to evolve our strong Governing Body further this year, we will be recruiting for an additional parent governor to join our friendly & committed governing team.
Information about this role in shaping future school development will follow later this term.

Parent Consultation Week - follow-up:

Thank you to all parents/carers for attending our parent meetings before half-term to discuss pupil progress at the beginning of the year. An extra thank you for your valued parent feedback through our Autumn parent surveys. An overview of findings is attached below:

PTFA Halloween Disco - Thank you !

Thank you to all who came along to our Halloween Disco event!

This raised over £750 for our school PTFA to invest back into supporting our children's learning and funding wider enrichments at Asterdale.







Events this term...

Wednesday 11th November:
Remembrance Day
(various remembrance items are on sale in school each day)

Friday 13th November:
For promoting Anti-bullying Week & Children in Need, children are invited to wear 'odd socks' and 'wear spots' (normal school uniform) - (no charge)

In-school enrichment learning will also capture:

- Diwali
- Outdoor Classroom Day
- World Nursery Rhyme Week
- Road Safety Week
- Christmas events

Uniform reminder:

A reminder that children's hair should be tied back in school for safety purposes.

Outdoor items

Pupils should all have a daily winter waterproof coat in school.

Please remember to keep a pair of wellies in school all week too so that all children are able to enjoy our OPAL playtimes each day.

Christmas at Asterdale



Our Christmas programme for 2026:

Take a look at the various different events upcoming for our Asterdale community as we enter the festive season...

More information to follow for these – but save dates for your diaries for:

- **Fri 4th Dec - Christingle event at St Werburgh's Church (Years 1 – 6)**
- **Mon 7th Dec - 2.45pm: Years 3 & 4 - Christmas Concert**
- **Weds 9th Dec - 2.45pm: Years 5 & 6 - Christmas Concert**
- **Weds 9th Dec - (9.10-10.00am) Nursery Christmas Stay & Learn Event**
- **Fri 11th Dec Non-uniform day – (donations for fayre)**
- **Tues 15th Dec - (2.30 & 6pm) - Years 1, 2 & Reception classes – Nativity Performances**
- **Weds 16th Dec - (9.30am) - Years 1, 2 & Reception classes – Nativity Performance**
- **Weds 16th Dec - 3.00-4.30pm - Asterdale Christmas Fayre**
- **Weds 16th Dec - Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumper Day**
- **Fri 18th Dec - Last day of term – Non-uniform day (£1 donation)**
- **Please note: Pupils return to school Monday 4th January**

Parent survey feedback

Autumn 2026

Thank you to all parents and carers who completed our recent Parent Survey.
Your feedback is invaluable and helps us celebrate what is working well while identifying areas where we can continue to improve. The survey responses were overwhelmingly positive and highlighted the strong relationships between home and school.

What You Told Us

- Children are happy, safe and well supported
- Parents overwhelmingly agreed that their children are happy at Asterdale and feel safe in school.
- Many comments highlighted the welcoming atmosphere, positive relationships and caring nature of staff.
- Parents described the school as a nurturing environment where children feel valued, supported and encouraged to succeed.

High expectations are valued

One of the strongest areas of feedback was the school's high expectations for every child.
Parents recognised our commitment to helping children achieve their best academically, socially and personally.

Communication has improved

Many parents praised the school's communication through Class Dojo, newsletters and school updates. Parents particularly valued seeing photographs, hearing about daily learning and receiving information about upcoming events.

Personal development matters

Parents recognised the school's work in supporting children's wider development, including confidence, resilience, wellbeing and social skills. Initiatives such as OPAL play, Forest School, school values and enrichment experiences were highlighted positively.

Parents would recommend Asterdale

Parents expressed strong confidence in the school and the vast majority indicated that they would recommend Asterdale to other families.

What Parents Said We Do Well

- Creating a happy and welcoming school community.
- Providing a safe environment where children feel supported.
- Maintaining high expectations for all pupils.
- Building positive relationships with families.
- Supporting children's personal growth and confidence.
- Offering engaging experiences and opportunities beyond the classroom.
- Providing caring, dedicated and approachable staff.

Areas for Further Development

- Shorter newsletters
- More frequent updates about children's learning and progress
- Continued consistency in messages shared with families
- Broader range of enrichment and clubs
- Some parents indicated they would like to know more about the role and impact of the Governing Body.

Our Next Steps

In response to your feedback, we will:

- Continue to build on our strong pastoral care and safeguarding provision.
- Explore ways to make communication even clearer and more accessible.
- Review opportunities to expand enrichment and after-school club provision.
- Increase opportunities for parents to learn more about the work of our Governing Body.
- Continue to provide high-quality learning experiences and maintain high expectations for every child.

We are extremely grateful for your continued support and partnership.
We remain committed to working together to ensure every child thrives at their 'everyday excellent best' at Asterdale.

Kind regards
Mr J O'Leary
Headteacher

The door is always open...

for parents to come and have a chat about SEND

Whether your child is already identified as having SEND or not, you are **always welcome.**



Your child's needs matter



Pop in and make an appointment to see me.

We can talk about your child's needs, how we can support them, and any questions you may have. No question is too small!

Contact: **Mrs Stuart**
Deputy Head and Inclusion Lead

senco@asterdale.odysseyct.org.uk
or on Class Dojo
Just get in touch!

Together we can help

ASTERDALE EARLY YEARS

PLACES AVAILABLE FOR SEPT 2027

COME AND DISCOVER ASTERDALE...

NURSERY

We offer a warm and nurturing Nursery provision for 3-4 year olds, with wrap-around care. Jan 2027 and Easter 2027 starts available.



RECEPTION

Our Reception class provides the perfect start to your child's school journey, with a child-centred curriculum and a caring, experienced team.



COME AND VISIT

DATE: TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER
TIME: 3.45-4.45PM

Join us at our Open Afternoon to have a look around our Early Years provision and find out more about life at Asterdale!

Address: Borrowash Road, Spondon, Derby, DE21 7PH
Phone: 01332 662323
Website: www.asterdaleprimaryschool.co.uk

Ofsted graded Strong

Odyssey Collaborative Trust







FREE NURSERY TASTER SESSIONS

Come and experience our amazing Nursery setting with a free visit session...
Our Ofsted 'Strong' graded provision 'gets it right' for every child...

- Flexible 15 / 30 hours provision
- Enrichment-focused curriculum
- Forest school learning
- Wrap-around school care
- High quality resources & teaching
- Amazing grounds & facilities

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