



MINERVA NEWSLETTER 2

10th November 2023

Although we are only two weeks into a new term, so much learning has happened within and beyond the classroom that I thought I would share some of my highlights.

Our new children who joined preschool and reception last term have settled really quickly and are now enjoying the weekly forest school sessions in our nature area. If you look on X (formally twitter) you can see them toasting brioche, making, and using mud paints and exploring the plants and flowers. Children go out regardless of the weather and even made the most out of the mud slide!

Our year 3 musicians went out on their second trip of the academic year to the newly opened Bristol Beacon to join other children from across the city to learn and perform together. We are proud that every child at MPA is able to listen and appraise different types of music, compose, perform and learn musical notation. Our plan is to increase this with opportunities to perform some of their compositions at 'Pop up events' in the playground.

As part of our Minerva Global Citizen's curriculum, we aspire to teach children how to be responsible and active citizens of the future. This started before the summer with classes going out into the school grounds watering, topping up the bird feeders and litter picking. This continues for one class every week. New for this term is for one class each week to go beyond the school to develop our community links and demonstrate their 'Safe, Respectful, learning'. Westbury on Trym class were the first visiting the Silver Explorers at Hillfields library to talk and read books. Whilst our term 2 focus for Children Learning In Class (CLIC) is maths, you can also look through the class Global Citizen's floor book to see all the amazing learning, pupil voice and photos.

Jennifer Harvey Principal

WE ARE MUSICIANS

Year 3 were some of the first visitors to the newly reopened Bristol Beacon. As musicians we are supported to explore different instruments in class and were treated to a music lesson at the Bristol Beacon. We learnt about body percussion, performed songs, and helped conduct the whole group. We listened to a vibraphone being played and discussed how the music made us feel. Thanks to the adults who supported, or offered to support, our trip. We love being musicians!



WE ARE GEOGRAPHERS

As Geographers across the school, we have been learning about the countries in the UK and the counties that make up England.

Year 2 have been creating maps of our school grounds and learning how to use a key. Year 3 have also extended this by learning about various countries in Europe. As historians and geographers, they visited Clifton Suspension bridge and saw the Avon Gorge and the River Avon



Year 6 have been investigating what we find above and below Earth's surface! They used potatoes to explore how contour lines help us determine the height of mountains.

Congratulations to our new Eco-Warriors. Their first job will be to complete an audit and further the great work that has already been started when we gained our green flag award at the end of last year.

BIKE-O-WEEN

We are so lucky to have such a creative community, and this was fully demonstrated on Bike-o-ween. You can see from the photos all the wonderful creative designs. Mrs Westbury enjoyed judging and handing out prizes to children where they had shown some key Minerva learning - recycling, homemade and teamwork. All children who took part received a certificate to congratulate them for taking part.

We are hoping that the creativity we saw in this in school event will be seen again during the Hillfields Lantern Parade (18th November).



BE BRIGHT BE SEEN

Thank you to everyone who stayed in the playground after school on Monday 6th November for the stay and play with a theme of Be Bright and Be Seen.

There were lots of bright clothes! As the clock change and we head into the autumn and the winter, the evening become a lot darker.

In a recent whole school assembly, we discussed how we can stay safe on our way to and from school or when out and about in the community when it is darker: wearing bright clothing, wearing reflective clothing, staying on the pavements, crossing as the designated spaces, and staying with an adult.



MINERVA GLOBAL CITIZENS



Celebrating Difference is a unit within our **Minerva Global Citizens curriculum** which explores that everyone is unique and should be proud of who they are. Despite our differences we are all children, families and colleagues who are part of the MPA community sharing our school values of **'Safe, Respectful, Learning'**.

It is essential that children and young people learn to accept someone who may have a different lifestyle, appearance, or outlook to them. Together, we learn about and celebrate our similarities and differences.

We teach children about our diverse communities, raise awareness, and promote acceptance around themes such as disability, racism, power, friendships, and conflict. Children learn to accept everyone's right to 'difference', and most year groups explore the concept of bullying – what it is and what it isn't, including cyber and prejudicial bullying. We include a whole school anti-bullying week where we reinforce the key messages including the importance of everyone having trusted safe adults and our definition of bullying **'Several times on purpose STOP'** and advice to **'Start telling other people'**

We have a parent workshop on bullying on **Friday 17th November at 2pm** – all welcome.



This week there is a battle between the houses. The more you play, the more correct answers you will get! The winners will be announced in assembly next Friday. Please ask your teacher if you need a reminder of how to log on

FRIENDS OF MINERVA

A MASSIVE Thank You to Friends of Minerva for helping raise a spooktacular amount of **£150** from the Halloween cake sale.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 14th November	Open Evenings 3.30pm – 5.30pm for 2024-25 Reception classes
Friday 17th November 2.00pm	Anti bullying parent workshop
Friday 17th November	Children in need -Wear spots to school day (non-uniform day)
Monday 20th November	School Photos (Please make sure your child is wearing their uniform)
Tuesday 28th November 8.45am to 9.15am	KS1 CLIC (Parents invited to see children learning in class) Year 1, Year 2 & including Year 4
Wednesday 29th November 9am to 9.30am	Pre-School EYFS WOW Wednesday (Parents invited into class)
Wednesday 29th November 8.45am to 9.15am	Reception EYFS WOW Wednesday
Thursday 30th November 8.45am to 9.15am	KS2 CLIC (Children learning in class) Year 3, Year 5 & Year 6
Thursday 7th December 3.30pm to 5.00pm	Winter Faye
Monday 11th December 2.15pm to 2.45pm	Nativity Pre-school / Reception & Years 1 & 2
Tuesday 12th December 9.15am to 9.45am	Winter performance Pre-school / Reception & Years 1 & 2
Tuesday 12th December 2.15pm to 2.45pm	Winter performance Years 3,4,5 & 6
Wednesday 13th December 9.15am to 9.45am	Winter performance Years 3,4,5 & 6
Friday 15th December	End of Term 2 (Christmas holidays)
Tuesday 2nd January	Inset Day
Wednesday 3rd January	Term 3 we welcome all pupils back gates open 8.45am