



MINERVA NEWSLETTER 1

18th September 2026

A very warm welcome to all our families as we begin a new academic year at Minerva Primary Academy. I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer, spending quality time with family and friends and making the most of the sunshine.

Our team has been working hard to ensure that children have settled smoothly into their new routines, classrooms and friendship groups. This term, our priority is **building strong relationships** with both children and families. We know that positive partnerships between home and school are essential in helping every child thrive.

There are many ways we work and connect with families, including ClassDojo, our Welcome Picnic, and home visits in Early Years. Many parents tell us that one of their highlights is receiving a positive, personalised message about their child, and we are committed to continuing these meaningful connections throughout the year.

Our staff have worked diligently to create **classroom environments that are engaging, inclusive and supportive**, ensuring that every child feels valued and ready to learn. We look forward to welcoming families into school through our first Parents' Evening later this term, our Children Learning in Class (CLIC) events, and our Parent Forums.

At Minerva Primary Academy, we believe every child should feel **safe, be respectful and develop a love of learning**. We explicitly teach and model these values, providing children with opportunities to practise and reinforce our expectations through classroom routines and Habit Assemblies.

We want our school to be more than just a place of learning. We strive to **create a community** where children grow, connect, explore and develop the lifelong skills of independence, responsibility and resilience.

For those families who are new to MPA, members of the leadership team are available in the playground each morning and afternoon, at the gate and barrier, to offer support, answer questions and ensure that everyone feels welcome.

Thank you for your continued support. We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to working together to ensure every child achieves success.

Wishing all our families a wonderful weekend and a happy, successful year ahead.

Jenny Harvey Principal



This term in citizenship (Personal Social Health and Economic Education) the focus is
'Being Me in My World'

This learning sequence teaches and supports children to know they are part of different teams within our Minerva community.

The children discuss, rehearse and review our routines and expectations of **'Safe, Respectful, Learning'**, in class, around school and within our wider community. This unit is crucial in our curriculum to support children's **sense of self, responsibilities and belonging**. It also develops into pupils understanding their place in the global community.

In school we have many children modelling to others how they are **taking responsibility for themselves, our environment and others**. Children have already been litter picking in the playground, wrap around club have been watering and weeding in our nature area and individuals have been helping children who are new to MPA. Well done for being fantastic examples of a **Minerva Global Citizen**.

CITIZENSHIP

You may be aware that the Department for Education have updated the statutory guidance for schools regarding relationship, sex, health education.

At MPA will have ensured our staff team have received training and are confident to use the new resources and deliver the content. We use an online platform 'Jigsaw' which has been updated to meet the new requirements. The first unit '**Being me in my world**' has very few changes. Some lessons have been refreshed with an enhanced focus on citizenship and democracy.

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6970e7e67e827090d02d42e0/>

Relation-

[ships education relationships and sex education RSE and health education for intro 1 September 2026 .pdf](#)

WELCOME PICNIC

On Wednesday 9th September we enjoyed a sunny Welcome Picnic in our playground with lots of families. The children enjoyed playing in the playground, parents took the opportunity to catch up with other families and the MPA team loved speaking to families from current and previous classes. The MPA team also enjoyed catching up with pupils who now attend local secondary schools - it's always nice to hear how everyone is getting on.

Friends of Minerva (FOM) supported the event by selling drinks and snacks. Throughout the school year this group of volunteers support lots of whole school events and help raise money that we can put back in the school to improve provision for all children.

If you would like to be part of this team of volunteers and support planning, preparing and running events please drop them an email and they will be in touch - friendsofmpa@gmail.com.

YEAR 3—SHOWCASING OF LEARNING

This week we welcomed back Year 3 and 4. Many of these children have been experiencing their first week upstairs, as key stage 2 children. Year 3 have had Music lessons with Pearl.

Year 4 started their swimming lessons this week. This is every Friday.

This week we have worked really hard on our class routines and getting to know our new classrooms and teachers. We have made class charters and started our Geographers topic learning about cities and counties in the UK. Keep an eye on Class Dojo for lots more updates.



RECEPTION CLASS—SHOWCASING OF LEARNING

Fishponds Class have been settling in and exploring our new environment.

We have been making friends and challenging ourselves physically.

We always stop for snack time and story, with singing at the end too!

We are having lots of fun!



INCLUSION AT MPA

Since the start of the school year, we have been exploring how we can create a strong sense of belonging in our new classes.

Together, we have been learning about the different needs, strengths, and experiences of children across the school, and how we can support one another to be successful learners.

By understanding and celebrating our differences, we are building classrooms where everyone feels valued, included, and able to achieve their very best.



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



Congratulations to all the children who participated in the Summer Reading Challenge by reading 6 books.

Reading for pleasure is such an important part of our lives, it supports life-long learning and developing vocabulary and imagination.

We thank all the parents who supported their children to visit the library and borrow books!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 6th October	Parents evening – 3.30pm -6pm.
Wednesday 7th October	Parents evening – 3.30pm -6pm.
Tuesday 13th October –8.45am-9.15am	CLIC- Child learning in class (phonics)- Years 1 & 2.
Wednesday 14th October— 9.15am-9.30am	WOW – Wow Wednesday in class (phonics)-Pre-school.
Wednesday 14th October— 8.45am-9.15am	WOW – Wow Wednesday in class (phonics) Fishponds, Kingswood classes.
Wednesday 14th October	Individual school photos, Please wear full school uniform.
Thursday 15th October—8.45am—9.15am	CLIC- Child learning in class- Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 - Reading.
Friday 16th October	School nurse – Flu Immunisation – Reception to Year 6.
Wednesday 21st October	Last day of Term 1 for all pupils.
Thursday 22nd October	Inset day – school closed to all pupils.
Friday 23rd October	Inset day – school closed to all pupils.
Monday 3rd November	First day of term 2 – We welcome all pupils back into school – gates open 8.40am.

