



MINERVA NEWSLETTER 10

8th May 2026

May already feels like a wonderful change of pace, with warmer, drier weather welcoming the start of the summer term. It has been a fantastic beginning, with more children learning outdoors in our playground, making the most of opportunities to be active within our local community and enjoying trips that enrich their learning further afield.

These experiences play an important role in children's personal development and are a key part of our **Minerva Global Citizens curriculum**. We believe it is essential for children to develop skills for life and grow into active, responsible young people. We are always delighted to receive positive feedback from volunteers and members of the community who comment on how polite, engaged and helpful MPA children are. This reflects the hard work we put into teaching and practising our school values of being **Safe, Respectful and Ready to Learn**.

Alongside the focused learning taking place in classrooms every day, there is a real sense of excitement and joy coming from our enrichment activities. During weekly music assemblies, children are enthusiastically learning new songs in preparation for our whole school summer showcase. Our rock band—featuring keyboards, percussion and string instruments—is improving week by week and will soon have the chance to perform.

After school clubs at MPA, including drama, running, gardening and wellbeing, continue to be well attended. Children are having fun while learning new skills and building positive relationships with peers beyond their own class or year group. We hope these opportunities spark new interests that grow into lasting passions and future ambitions.

Next week, all Year 6 children across the country will take part in their **SATs (Statutory Assessment Tests)**. Our children are excited to show what they have learned during their time at MPA, and we are incredibly proud of the effort, resilience and determination they have already demonstrated. We wish them all the very best.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend

Jenny Harvey
Principal

YEAR 3 - WE ARE LINGUISTS

As part of being a linguist, we learn how to greet people in one of our community languages each term!

There are an astonishing 42 different languages spoken by our children and families and we pick one each term to learn and celebrate.

This helps us to welcome new members to our school and encourages everyone to try speaking a new or different language each term (even the adults!)

We use these languages in our registers and always start an assembly with the greeting.

This term we are learning Arabic, but we have also learnt Romanian, Kurdish, Polish and Somali this year!

Ask your child if they can remember how to say 'good morning' in each of these languages and can they teach you?

PRE-SCHOOL - SHOWCASE OF LEARNING

Preschool has had a fantastic start to term 5, filled with exciting learning and new experiences.

The children have loved discovering the life cycle of a chick whilst caring for real chicks in the classroom, as well as building their maths skills through matching, sorting, and comparing amounts.

They've been developing early writing patterns on whiteboards and making the most of outdoor learning with sand, water, and climbing.

The children have enjoyed story time in the playground with the warmer weather and enthusiastically practicing for sports day!



YEAR 6 SHOWCASE OF LEARNING

As SATs week approaches, we would like to celebrate the fantastic efforts of our Year 6 students. Over recent weeks, they have shown focus, resilience and determination as they prepare for their assessments, and their commitment to revision has been impressive.

Classrooms have been full of thoughtful discussion, careful problem solving and a positive attitude to learning. From practising reading comprehension to strengthening mathematical reasoning and grammar skills, pupils have approached each task with maturity and enthusiasm. They are supporting one another, asking excellent questions and taking pride in their progress.

SATs are just one part of our pupils' learning journey, but the skills they are developing perseverance, organisation and self belief –will support them well beyond these tests. We are incredibly proud of how calm and confident they have become.

Well done, Year 6 –keep going, you are doing brilliantly! Thank you to families for your continued support.

MINERVA GLOBAL CITIZENS



This term as part of our 'Minerva Global Citizen' learning our PSHE unit is 'Relationships'.

Healthy relationships are crucial to living a happy and fulfilling life, that includes positive peer relationships, safe online interactions, relationships with different adults in school and at home and those within our local community. This puzzle will help children understand the value of friendship and family. It will also teach them conflict resolution and communication skills to help when navigating through the adult world.

Learning is progressive and age appropriate from reception to year 6. This unit teaches children the essential building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships. We believe that children should learn about relationships as well as the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up in an age-appropriate way. The unit provides lots of opportunity for our children to practise and demonstrate the *Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory* skill of learner relationships (bee).

WE ARE PHILOSOPHERS

Before the Easter holidays, our school was buzzing with thoughtful discussions and creative activities! Many year groups took on the role of *Philosophers*, exploring how Christians celebrate Easter and learning about the resurrection story of Jesus. During the same week, we also discovered the story of Passover, helping us to understand different traditions and beliefs.

We rounded off the week with some fantastic Easter competitions. EYFS and Key Stage 1 children enjoyed creating beautiful Easter bonnets, which they proudly paraded around nature area for everyone to admire. Thank you to all the children and families for your amazing effort—there were some truly wonderful designs!

Meanwhile, Key Stage 2 pupils put their creativity to the test by making detailed Easter gardens. Many children worked incredibly hard, showing great care and imagination in their designs.

All entries were carefully judged, and prizes were awarded in each year group. A big well done to everyone who took part—you made it a very special celebration!



PRE-SCHOOL & RECEPTION—EGG HATCHING PROGRAMME

This term, our children in Pre-school and Reception were delighted to take part in a wonderful egg hatching programme. The children watched in excitement as the eggs slowly hatched, checking on them each day and talking about the changes they could see.

The highlight for many was the opportunity to gently hold the chicks. The hands-on experience helped develop children's understanding of the world, children's confidence and curiosity. It was a magical experience that sparked lots of thoughtful questions and lasting memories.



CLF BIG BAKE WINNERS

Twenty-two Big Bake winners from seven CLF academies visited the new Mokoko Bakery at Spitfire Hangar last week to experience what it's like to work day-to-day in a commercial bakery and five of our students were able to take part. They had a fantastic time.

The visit was arranged as a reward for the event's winners, and gave learners the opportunity to hear from Senior Head Baker, Piper Willets.

It was fascinating to hear Piper's journey to becoming a professional baker, being responsible for inventing new recipes, leading teams of bakers, sourcing the best ingredients and using maths and science daily to ensure all Mokoko's products come out at the highest standards.

Our winners took part in a practical session, learning a range of piping techniques and some tips of the trade, including the best way to fill the piping bag with minimum mess.

After a tour of the bakery, meeting the team responsible for producing hundreds of sour-dough loaves, croissants and cookies on a daily basis, all the winners had the chance to select their cake or pastry of choice from behind the counter.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 20th May- 9.15am-10.15am	Pre-school & reception – Sports day in the main playground.
Thursday 21st May 9.30am – 10.30am	Years 3,4,5 & 6 – Sports day—Hillfields park.
Thursday 21st May 2.00pm -3.00pm	Years 1 & 2 – Sports day Hillfields Park.
Friday 22nd May 3.15pm	Friends of Minerva – Ice Lolly sale in the main playground.
Friday 5th June 3.15pm	Friends of Minerva – Ice Lolly sale in the main playground.
Friday 12th June	Friends of Minerva – Fathers day sale in school more information to follow.
Thursday 25th June 1.45pm—3pm	Come and celebrate the International day of play.
Friday 3rd July	CLF CONFERENCE DAY –School closed to all students.