



MINERVA NEWSLETTER 2

13th October 2023

What a fantastic few weeks children have had at MPA.

Enthusiasm for our ambitious curriculum has been further enhanced by linking learning in the classroom as scientists, historians and geographers with field work and trips to places such as Cossham hospital (Y1), the Suspension bridge (Y3) and Life skills centre (Y5).

Whenever MPA children go out on trips they are able to demonstrate what it means to be a Minerva citizen with their manners and our 'Safe, Respectful, Learning' values.

Our wildlife area continues to excite children especially on the colder morning with cobwebs and insects and even better, EYFS classes are now regularly using it for learning with 'forest skills' type activities. The team are starting to plan for the children to have hot chocolate and safely toast marshmallows on the fire pit. A huge thank you to our parents, grandparents and MPA community for ensuring we can achieve these wonderful experiences for our children. There are many more opportunities to help out for as little as 1 hour a week.

It was lovely to see so many families join our 'Children Learning in Class's or 'WOW Wednesday' event last week. If you missed it, the team shared how we teach reading, all the opportunities your children have in school to read daily and how you can help at home. Here is the link that is on our website if you want to find out more.

<https://minervaprimaryacademy.clf.uk/our-academy/1-to-1-reading-workshop/>

Daily reading at home, learning the vocabulary and information on the printed knowledge organiser is our home learning across the school. Once children are in KS2 and more independent, additional weekly home learning is set via TEAMS. This develops children's skills ready for secondary school where all learning is set online.

Next term our focus for the CLIC sessions is the teaching of maths at MPA. I hope even more families can attend.

I wish everyone a happy and safe half term holiday.

Jennifer Harvey Principal

LINGUISTS

This half term we celebrated The European Day of Languages. The children learnt that Europe is home to 24 official languages and made links to geography. We celebrated our linguist's curriculum using songs and storytelling to inspire us as French speakers.

At Minerva, from Years 1- 6, the children learn French. We explore French through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. We use an online tool called 'Language Angels' to support our teaching and learning. In order to support your children's French learning at home, the children will have access to 'Language Angels'. Log on to <https://www.languageangels.com/>

Click login and then pupil login. The children will need to use their class login and password.

User name: MPA(enterclassname) e.g. MPAclifton MPAbedminster

Password: FrenchMPA

Once you are logged on, please click on 'Level 1' This is because we are currently in the second year of our catch up Linguists curriculum.

This half term you can also enjoy this free French Halloween game <https://view.genial.ly/615c27d06595ff0dbf4b86c9>
From next half term we will also have a Language of the term that represents our MPA Community. The first one will be Polish.



YEAR 6 LIFESKILLS

On Thursday 5th October, Year 6 visited the Lifeskills Centre in Bristol. They had an amazing morning! They learnt so much about being a safe and respectful global citizen and represented TEAM MPA brilliantly. Some of the lessons they took away with them included: what to do if there is a fire at home, including making a practise call to the emergency services, how to cross roads safely and how much stopping distance cars need depending on how fast they are travelling. They learnt about safety in the kitchen, in their gardens, how to shop for items and check they get the right change, how to put someone into the recovery position if there is an accident. We hope that they will remember these lessons for life, and it has certainly added to them becoming 'secondary ready.'

"It was really fun and it teaches children how to be safe in an exciting and realistic way." Luke

"The centre was so cool, there was a car inside, even a grocery store! I learned about how quickly a fire can happen and why we need to be safe and get out quickly." Najma



HARVEST SOUP 2023

Children had a really busy week chopping vegetables for our Harvest Soup. It was great to see children taking part and enjoying the chance to chat and chop!

We now have two delicious soups prepared in our freezer - Potato and Carrot and Carrot and Sweet Potato.

We are all looking forward to tasting it soon.



WE ARE HISTORIANS

As Historians this term we have been celebrating Black History Month. We learn about people from different cultures and communities from all over the world throughout the year however, this hasn't always been the case in history education. BHM is a special opportunity to celebrate black people, culture and achievements that have been overlooked in the past.

We have been learning about the Bristol Bus Boycott in our whole class reading lessons and talking about how we can make a difference. Each year group has been looking at the question 'How can we be active citizens in our community?'. To support this learning, they have been learning about an inspirational person from Bristol who is black. On Monday 16th October from 2.45pm our EDI and Oracy ambassadors will be showcasing their year groups learning for parents to come and see.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 19th & Friday 20th October	October Inset days
Monday 23rd Friday 27th October	October Half Term
Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October	The Sports Project half term holiday club
Monday 30th October	Welcome pupils back at 8.45am for Term 2
Tuesday 31st October 2023	Bikeoween
Tuesday 31st October 2023	Deadline for secondary school applications (Year 7 applications)
Tuesday 31st October	Friends of Minerva will sell Halloween cakes in the main playground
Tuesday 2nd & 14th November	Open Evenings 3.30pm – 5.30pm for 2024-25 Reception classes
Monday 6th November	Be Bright Be Seen after school stay & play till 3.45pm
Thursday 9th November 2023	Friends of Minerva Disco