



MINERVA NEWSLETTER 2

9th October 2026

It continues to be a busy and exciting start to the year at MPA, and I am delighted to share some of the highlights from the past few weeks.

As part of our **Minerva Global Citizens Curriculum**, every child took part in our Term 1 enrichment activity: **making vegetable soup**.

The children developed and improved their peeling and cutting skills while learning about healthy eating and food preparation. Most importantly, they thoroughly enjoyed tasting the delicious soup they had made themselves! The wonderful aroma of fresh vegetables and homemade soup has filled the school, making MPA smell absolutely lovely throughout the week.

We are also thrilled to launch, for the first time, a **Key Stage 2 Choir** at MPA. Choir members will learn a variety of songs and will have opportunities to perform in school, within the local community, and alongside children from across Bristol. The response from our pupils has been incredible, with more than **70 children expressing an interest** in joining, despite there being only 25 places available this term. **Pearl from Bristol Beacon** is just as excited as we are about this new opportunity. Given the enthusiasm shown by our children, we are already thinking about running the choir again in both the spring and summer terms so that more pupils can take part.

Thank you to all the families who attended our recent **Parents' Evening**. It was a valuable opportunity to meet your child's teacher, hear about how they have settled into their new class, and learn more about the progress and achievements they have already made this term. Strong partnerships between home and school play such an important role in supporting children's success, and we appreciate your continued support.

We would also like to invite families to our upcoming **Children Learning in Class (CLIC)** events next week. These morning sessions provide an excellent opportunity to see how we teach phonics and reading in school and to gain ideas about how you can support your child's learning at home. If you are new to our school and would like more information, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to sharing more of our children's successes with you throughout the year.

Best wishes, Jenny Harvey Principal

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL—PASSPORT PROJECT



University of
BRISTOL

This year, our Year 5 pupils will be taking part in the **PASSPORT Project**. Run by researchers from the University of Bristol, the project explores ways to help children develop healthy, active lifestyles.

The children will wear an activity bracelet to monitor their movements over a week in three different terms. The first week will be later this month and we know they children will be very excited.

This is an amazing opportunity for our children to explore their own healthy habits and take part in real life research!

YEAR 2 –WE ARE MUSICIANS



In Year two we are lucky enough to be musicians every single week at school.

We have a visiting music teacher called Pearl who teaches us new songs, helps us learn important vocabulary and helps us to learn about rhythm and percussion.

The children have already learned some new songs about a spider and a bumble bee.

Tuesday is always an exciting morning for us!

YEAR 6—LIFESKILLS



Year 6 had a wonderful trip to the Life skills Centre in Bristol. Life skills is an immersive, interactive village designed to teach life-saving safety skills through realistic scenarios and exciting experiences.

Their aim is to give children and young people the confidence needed to make informed, independent decisions, paving the way for a safer and brighter future.

Life skills is a centre of excellence in safety education and during the visit our pupils explored essential topics relating to their personal development, safety and well-being.

Pupils were able to take part in activities that allowed them to take personal responsibility for their safety by assessing risks and managing situations accordingly.

As always, our pupils came away from the trip stating it was one of their favourite trips!



HARVEST SOUP 2026



This week, our classrooms were filled with the delicious smells of autumn as children across the school took part in making Harvest Soup.

Children donated a range of vegetables and worked together to chop, stir and taste the soup they had made.

The children showed fantastic teamwork and care when handling the ingredients and many were excited to try vegetables they hadn't tasted before.



SHOWCASEING OF PE



PE has started well this academic year with all pupils still having lots of time outside being athletes due to the good weather!

Pre-school and Reception have been exploring their new spaces with plenty of physical challenge, climbing and risk taking with the wide range of resources used outside creatively. They have particularly enjoyed swinging lots, sliding down a zip line and climbing across the giant web!

Key Stage 1

Year 2 have been mainly outside as athletes, creating games to play with each other that include rules. They have been using the vocabulary of attacker, defender, sportsmanship, defender and rules.

Key Stage 2

At the other end of the school, Year 6 have been playing Throw Tennis, working on skills of working to outwit their opponents.

In the hall, they have been doing a variety of team and cooperation games using equipment and strategy.

This includes games like Cross the River.

MPA—PUPIL COUNCIL



We are delighted to share that we have **appointed pupil council representatives** from each class.

Last week children used their oracy skills to discuss and decide the learner behaviours and qualities needed to be successful in the role and be a representative of MPA.

Children put themselves forward for the role and then other children in class all had a vote using the British value of democracy. In our first meeting the pupils shared some brilliant ideas on how we can improve MPA for everybody.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 nasal spray – 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.