



MINERVA NEWSLETTER 3

22nd November 2024

Although we are only a few weeks into term 2, it has been busy. We have enjoyed sharing all the great things about our school with new perspective parents who have been visiting during and after the school day. Many have made comments about our curriculum offer that goes far beyond the academic such as our focus on oracy, enrichment for everyone and explicitly teaching the seven learning dispositions that make up the 'Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory'. This has resulted in our children achieving outcomes that exceed national averages and more importantly prepares them well for their transition to secondary school and beyond.

Two classes have already enjoyed trips, with year three particularly enjoying walking across the suspension bridge, learning how it was made and then trying to make their own bridge. Year four continue to attend their weekly swimming lessons making progress every week and most of year five are now confident enough to take their cycling skills on to the pump track. A big thank you to parents and carers who help to make these learning opportunities successful.

As we enter the colder months, we are starting to see an increase in children and colleagues with coughs, colds and temperatures so we are still encouraging all children to 'catch it, bin it, kill it' and wash hands thoroughly. We want everyone to be well to enjoy all the things that are planned in school throughout the rest of the term. Excitement is already growing for the winter performances. Children who have been learning to sing and play instruments with Bristol Beacon weekly, can also showcase their progress with an audience.

Yours faithfully

Jenny Harvey Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AND SENDCO



We are pleased to share that after a rigorous recruitment process we are delighted to announce that Miss Gibson will be our Assistant Principal and SENDCo from January 2025. Until then she will continue in her role of SENDCo. Congratulations Miss Gibson!

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Last Friday children learnt about Remembrance Day and made poppies. On Monday we spoke about it as a whole school and held a two minute silence to remember the people who help us and those who are no longer with us because of fighting.

As citizens, Year 5 respected Remembrance Day by learning about the significance of the poppy symbol. We read the poem 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae and then designed our own poppy wreaths. We worked together using our ELLI Bee skills, and produced some beautiful artwork which we hung on our doors to encourage our friends to honour the day



YEAR 3—CLIFTON SUSPENSION BRIDGE

Year 3 enjoyed a trip to the Clifton Suspension Bridge last week. As Geographers last term, we were learning about the physical and human features of the South West.

The children learnt all about Isambard Kingdom Brunel and the history of the bridge. They even got to design and build their own bridges!



YEAR 6—LIFE SKILLS



Year 6 visited the Life skills Centre and had a fabulous experience learning a range of skills they will be able to use for life. They were able to practise road safety, safety in the home and garden, and even how to keep themselves safe in public spaces such as the beach and near train lines. They loved the experience and were excited to share with us their key learning in our floor books when we returned.

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 counties in the UK and beginning to recognise key locations in Europe. As historians and geographers, they visited Clifton Suspension bridge and saw the Avon Gorge and the River Avon.

Year 6 have extended their learning about mountains in the UK and are now investigating what we find above and below Earth's surface! This year we will be weaving more fieldwork skills into geographers' lessons and across the curriculum. This will be included in our local area walks, and visits. This term we have also used our Talking Thursday/Tuesday sessions to highlight fieldwork skills and develop our understanding around our local area. This year our new Eco-schools' representatives will focus on use of water, biodiversity, and being a global citizen. Ms Prosser will lead this group, and we look forward to seeing what they achieve this year!

YEAR 4 - VUE CINEMA



Year 4 had a fantastic time visiting Vue cinema. We watched Paddington in Peru which links closely to our authors and geographers' topics for next term.

It was great to see the children using their spider power to make links between our learning.

BIKE-O-WEEN

We had a spooky start to term with Bike o ween . It was great to see so many spooky creations - a lot of time and effort had gone into decorating your bikes and scooters. We also reminded children about being bright to be seen on dark



WE ARE MINERVA GLOBAL CITIZENS

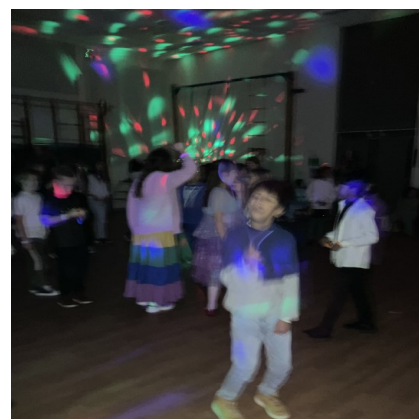


Celebrating Difference is a unit within our **Minerva Global Citizens curriculum** which explores that everyone is unique and should be proud of who they are. Despite our differences we are all children, families and colleagues who are part of the MPA community sharing our school values of **'Safe, Respectful,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

SCHOOL DISCO

A great time was had by all on Thursday night at the annual school disco. Lots of fancy outfits, snazzy moves and fun! A huge thank you to the Friends of Minerva for putting on such a great event and all the parent helpers who gave up their time to make sure it went smoothly, everyone had fun and the hall was spotless afterwards.

The money raised from this event is going towards equipment to develop out lunchtime provision. If you weren't able to support this event then don't worry the Winter Fair is happening soon - Friday 13th December.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 27th November 9.15am -10am.	Open Morning for pupils new to reception September 2025.
Wednesday 27th November 12.15pm-3.00pm	YR 5 Trip Bristol Met – Willy Wonka & the chocolate factory
Tuesday 3rd December 8.45am-9.15am	Yrs 1 & 2—Children learning in class (C.L.I.C)—Parents welcome
Wednesday 4th December 9.00am -9.30am	Pre-school -WOW Wednesday—Parents welcome.
Wednesday 4th December 8.45am -9.15am	Reception WOW Wednesday—Parents welcome.
Thursday 5th December 8.45am -9.15am	Yrs 3, 4, 5 & 6 Children learning in class ((C.L.I.C)—Parents welcome.
Friday 13th December 3.30pm -5.00pm	Winter Fayre in the main playground & hall. All welcome.
Monday 16th December 2.15pm -2.45pm	Winter Performance - Pre-school, Reception & Years 1 & 2.
Tuesday 17th December 9.15am -9.45am	Winter performance - Pre-school, Reception & Years 1 & 2.
Tuesday 17th December 2.15pm - 2.45pm	Winter Performance - Years 3,4,5 & 6.
Wednesday 18th December 9.15am -9.45am	Winter Performance - Years 3,4,5 & 6.
Wednesday 18th December	Favourite Jumper Day & Christmas school dinner.
Friday 20th December	Whole school class parties (in the afternoon) - Reception to Year 6
Friday 20th December	Last day of Term 2 for all pupils.