MINERVA NEWSLETTER 3

6th NOVEMBER 2026

Welcome Back!

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half-term break. It was a pleasure to welcome children and families back—this term is set to be both busy and exciting!
We are continuing to build strong partnerships with families and external organisations such as **Bristol Beacon**, **Hillfields Community Garden**, and the **local library**. These collaborations enrich our children's experiences, offering opportunities like expert-led music lessons, planting activities, and choosing books to read for pleasure.

It was wonderful to see so many families join us last term for our **reading Children Learning in Class (CLIC) sessions**. This term, we will be inviting you to join us for a maths lesson followed by a parent drop in to speak with members of the senior team.

Last term, many classes enjoyed attendance rewards such as **eating lunch outside**, **extra playtime**, and a **small, sweet treat**. Attendance remains a key priority, as we want every child to be well and able to enjoy all the exciting plans. As we head into the colder months, we expect to see more coughs, colds, and temperatures. We will continue to encourage children to **"catch it, bin it, kill it"** and wash their hands thoroughly to help keep everyone healthy.
Over the next two months, we will be opening our doors to families considering our school for their children starting next September. It is a special time to **showcase the vibrant, nurturing environment we have built together.** Many parents of our current Reception children have shared how delighted they are with how quickly their children have settled in—making friends, growing in confidence, and embracing learning with joy. If you know someone, all the dates and details are on the website. https://minervaprimaryacademy.clf.uk/open-event/

Jenny Harvey (Principal)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH





Black History month is marked across the UK every October, to recognise the history, achievements and contributions of Black people and communities.

This year's theme is Honouring our communities, encouraging us to recognise the people whose everyday actions help their communities grow more.

At MPA, we have participated in talk assemblies, whole school assemblies and used our citizen time to celebrate Black History Month. Each year group researched a different significant person, exploring their life, achievements and lasting impact.

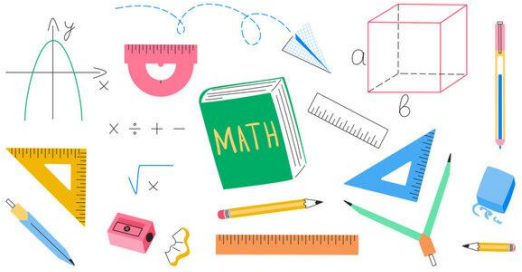
On Wednesday, each class held a showcase of the children's learning and families were invited in to celebrate their work.

CELEBRATING MATHS ACROSS THE MPA

Across the school, pupils have spent Term 1 developing key mathematical foundations through a focus on place value and arithmetic skills. Children have deepened their understanding of number, increased fluency with calculations, and practised efficient methods to improve accuracy.

These essential skills will support future learning and enable pupils to apply their mathematics confidently across a range of topics.

Year 3 and 4 have also focused on developing their multiplication knowledge through daily booklets to improve recall.



HILLFIELDS COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our Year 3 children enjoyed their local walk to Hillfields community garden, where they made their own plant pots and planted seeds to take home.

They learnt about caring for plants and will now be responsible for looking after their seeds and watching them grow!





YEAR 1 – WE ARE SCIENTISTS

Year 1 had a fantastic time being scientists this term and learning all about Magnetism.

We learnt about what made magnets attract and repel, tested materials to see which ones were magnetic and had fun in our learning together time exploring different types of magnets.





CELEBRATING DIFFERENCE – MINERVA GLOBAL CITIZENS



This learning sequence is a unit within our **Minerva Global Citizens curriculum** which explores that everyone is unique and should be proud of who they are.

Together we learn to **recognise our similarities and celebrate our differences.** 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. 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'.**

The updated guidance from the Department for education for the teaching of **Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE)** have enhanced the focus of courtesy and manners and strengthened the content on the nine protected characteristics in law within this unit of learning.

MODESHIFT AWARD-

Mode shift - we have successfully achieved Good for our Active schools Modeshift Award.



This is down to all the events we have ran last year, including Dr Bike sessions for children and parents, Bike o ween, be bright be Seen stay and play and air quality workshops. These all aim at raising awareness for the children the benefits of active travel. We are looking forward to arranging more workshops again this year.

Platinum Award

We are delighted to share that our school has been awarded the **OPAL Platinum Award**, the highest level of recognition within the OPAL programme.

The OPAL programme is an internationally recognised school improvement initiative that helps school enhance play opportunities for all children. Based on research into children's physical, social and emotional development, OPAL encourages play that supports wellbeing, creativity and learning.

Schools are assessed through a rigorous process that evaluates the quality, variety and inclusivity of play opportunities available to pupils. Evidence is gathered over time through observation, audits, action planning and visits from OPAL mentors who assess how well play is embedded within the school's culture and everyday life.

Achieving Platinum status reflects our whole school commitment to ensuring that every child has access to meaningful play experiences.

This outstanding achievement places our school amongst the highest performing OPAL schools nationally, with **only 1% of participating schools reaching Platinum level.**

The award recognises the dedication of our staff, pupils, academy councillors and families in helping create an outdoor environment where children can explore, make friends and build confidence.

We are incredibly proud of this achievement and of the positive impact OPAL has had on our pupils. Thank you to everyone who has supported our OPAL journey. We look forward to continuing to provide exceptional play opportunities and ensuring play remains an important part of the school community.

YEAR 4 – SHOWCASE OF LEARNING

Our Year 4 children have started their swimming lessons this term! They have been spilt into six ability groups to help them develop their skills at their own pace. Everyone is making great progress and building their confidence!

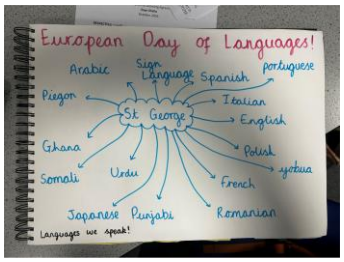
Year 4 have been enjoying their extra practice for times table facts each week, they are making fantastic progress and showing increasing confidence.







EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGAGES



On Friday 25th September we celebrated the European Day of Languages as global citizens.

Each year group researched a European language using children as the experts! We are so lucky at Minerva to have so many children and families who speak more than one language, and this was a perfect opportunity to celebrate these languages throughout the whole school!

In EYFS, children and staff learned and practised songs. In years 1 and 2, they listened to stories in Ukrainian and Bulgarian.

The children and staff in key stage 2 explored and celebrated Portuguese, Turkish, Romanian and Polish. It was a great afternoon of shared learning where some of our children became the experts of the learning teaching their friends and staff something new.

BIKE-O-WEEN AT MPA

On Monday 2nd November, Minerva Primary Academy held it annual Bike O Ween event. We had children decorating their bikes and scooters to celebrate Halloween. It was great to see so many children scooting and biking at the end of the school day to parade their designs. We also had a few donations of cakes and biscuits to sell at the Friends of Minerva sale at the end of the day. This event raised just over £50 and this will go towards developing our play area even more. Thank you to everyone who came and supported the event.





MPA DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 11th November	**Interfaith feast – 3.15pm -3.45pm.**
Monday 16th November	**Parent SEND drop-in session 2.30PM.**
Monday 23rd November	**Inset Day – school closed to all pupils.**
Tuesday 24th November	**School open to all pupils – Gates open 8.40am.**
Tuesday 8th December	**C.L.I.C – Child learning in class- Years 3,4,5 & 6 – Arithmetic 8.45am – 9.15am with parent drop in with SLT after CLIC in the community room.**
Wednesday 9th December	**WOW Wednesday in class (Pre-School) 9.15am – 9.30am Mastering numbers with parent drop in with SLT after CLIC in the community room.**
Wednesday 9th December	**WOW Wednesday in class (Fishponds & Kingswood) 8.45am – 9.15am Mastering numbers with parent drop in with SLT after CLIC in the community room.**
Thursday 10th December	**C.L.I.C – Child learning in class- Years 1 & 2 – Mastering numbers 8.45am – 9.15am with parent drop in with SLT after CLIC in the community room.**
Thursday 10th December	**Friends of Minerva – Winter fair – 3.30pm – 4.30pm.**
Monday 14th December	**Winter performance – Years 3,4,5 & 6 – 2.30pm – 3.00pm.**
Tuesday 15th December	**Winter performance –Pre-school, Reception, Years 1 & 2 - 9.15am -9.45am.**
Tuesday 15th December	**Winter performance –Pre-school, Reception, Years 1 & 2- 2.30pm – 3.00pm.**
Wednesday 16th December	**Christmas dinner day & wear your favourite jumper day.**
Thursday 17th December	**Winter performance – Years 3,4,5 & 6 9.15am- 9.45am.**
Friday 18th December	**Class party's pupils to wear school uniform with a change of clothes for the afternoon – 1.30pm – 2.30pm.**
Friday 18th December	**Last day of term 2 – for pupils.**