



# MINERVA NEWSLETTER 4

## 2nd February 2024

We are nearly at the end of another fantastic term of learning and enrichment. I love seeing children share their learning and how proud they are of the progress they have made since September. Children who make the most progress are often the children who recognise the importance of our seven Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory (ELLI) skills of self-agency, resilience, perseverance, active curiosity, making links, innovation, and learner relationships. Whilst we have been explicitly teaching ELLI for several years, we still focus on one skill every term. Thank you for supporting your children with home learning such as persevering with their daily reading, encouraging them to find out more by visiting the library and learning with siblings. It all makes such a difference.

Beyond the classroom, our pupil leadership groups have been active. Play leaders have now been appointed and have started their training. They learn a new playground game every Friday then teach and lead other children the following week. Our ECO warriors have been auditing the classroom recycling bins and providing feedback on how we can improve. As it is Safer Internet Day next week, the pupil council have been discussing online safety, considering what it is, the dangers and how we can all stay safe. This will form our new child friendly online safety policy.

As always, it was great to see so many of our families join us this week to find out what the children have been learning: how to look after our mental health and strategies they have learnt for their toolkit. Many children shared what they do already to look after their mental health such as singing, stroking their cat, cycling and reading a good book.

Jenny Harvey      Principal

### WE ARE HISTORIANS

This term Year 2 have completed their next historians unit with a focus on the Victorian era.

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February, Year 2 were lucky enough to visit the SS Great Britain! We completed a workshop that included dressing up, playing with Victorian toys, and exploring artefacts.

We also had a tour of the ship and saw the difference between the areas for rich passengers and the areas for working class passengers. There were even sounds and smells to help us imagine what it would have been like to travel to Australia in the Victorian era.

Thank you to the staff, parents, and carers who made it a fantastic day!



### ACADEMY COUNCIL

We currently have a vacancy on our academy council for a parent representative. As we are a diverse and inclusive school, we are looking for a member to reflect this diversity. We would particularly welcome applications from parents of Years 1 & 2 pupils and /or those where English is not their first language.

Academy Councils are responsible for holding the Principal and their Leadership Team to account. For the quality and effectiveness of the academic experience of the pupils, with the aim of securing effective school improvement and ensuring all children have a positive experience whilst at Minerva.

We meet as a council termly and attend termly meetings in school.

For more information, please speak to Mrs Westbury or leave a message at school office and I will give you a call.

Bridgett Sutters

Chair of Academy Council

## THE HOBGOBLIN :THE STORY OF KING ARTHUR

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January the whole school experienced the wonder and magic of a live show. The children were enthralled by the story and the skill of the three performers as they captivated the audience for over an hour. A big thank you to the school community for supporting the Friends of Minerva events as they were able to help partly fund the event reducing the cost for all pupils across the school.



## WE ARE COMPUTER SCIENTISTS

As Safer Internet Day is on the 6<sup>th</sup> February, the children at Minerva have all been learning about e-safety during their assemblies this week. We have discussed the importance of staying safe online and some of the ways that we can do that both while using devices such as iPads. Children have talked about their trusted adults both at school and at home to remind them of who to speak with if they have a problem while they are online.

As well as this, lots of classes have been using laptops to learn more about online systems and how we can share information through networks and routers.



## WE ARE MUSICIANS



In Year 1 we have been enjoying being Musicians over the past week. The children have learned what pulse means in music. The pulse like our heartbeats is always regular even when it gets faster or slower.

We listened to some different pieces of music and tried to tap the pulse of the music as we listened first with our hands and then with some instruments. We also had our first look at musical notation and tried our hands at being composers.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 9th February	Last day of term 3 for pupils.
Monday 19th February	First day of term 4 for all pupils.
Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th February 3.30pm-6.00pm	Parents evenings held in school for Years 1 to 6.
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day—more information to follow.
Friday 8th March	Friends of Minerva Mother's Day sale.
Tuesday 19th March 8.45am-9.15am	Children Learning In Class-Years 1 & 2.
Wednesday 20th March 8.45am-9.15am	WOW Wednesday –Pre-School & Reception.
Thursday 21st March 8.45am-9.15am	Children Learning In Class-Years 3,4,5 & 6.
Friday 22nd March	Friends of Minerva Easter sale in main playground.
Tuesday 28th March	Last day of term 4 for all pupils.
Monday 15th April	<b>INSET DAY</b> - school closed for all pupils.
Tuesday 16th April	First day of term 5 for all pupils -gates open at 8.40am.