



MINERVA NEWSLETTER 4

12th January 2024

Welcome to a new term and 2024. It has been lovely hearing how families spent their winter break and children's favourite part of it. For some it was receiving presents, whilst for others it was visiting family and friends or learning a new skill.

The MPA staff Team started the year with a day of professional development training. We also welcomed Mr. Moyo and Miss Verdu to Minerva and wished Mrs Campagnaro well as she starts her maternity leave. Over the last week we have also welcomed new children and families to our school. Since September we have had 48 new children start our school who have all settled quickly being supported by the wonderful children already at MPA.

As always, it has been a busy start to the term, with new States of Being units beginning, trips being planned and applications for pupil play leaders being launched. Our pupil leadership groups are growing from strength to strength benefiting from their strong oracy skills and passion for making a difference.

I am privileged to work with such a dedicated team of colleagues. I am often taken aback by the huge effort that our entire team put in to making school run smoothly each and every day. Alongside this, the work on our curriculum and teaching is continually being reviewed as Team MPA strive to ensure the children at Minerva get the best deal we can give them. In addition to the academic rigour, we really believe in making memories and providing opportunities for our children that span beyond classroom-based learning. Lots of maths learning has taken place this week in the playground.

Thank you to all the staff, children and families we are so lucky to have at Minerva who all work together to create an environment that is truly special. Here's to an enjoyable and successful 2024.

Warmest wishes
Mrs Jenny Harvey

WE ARE PHILOSOPHERS

Last term MPA were learning as **Philosophers**, with a range of activities to promote discussion and awareness of **world celebrations**. In class, we have learned about **Diwali and Christmas**, allowing all children to share their voice and experience around their own traditions and culture at home. All classes took part in **Interfaith Week** in November, where we focused on how and why it is important to listen and talk with others who have different faiths and none. We talked about how important tolerance and respect is between communities of people. **Thank you** for supporting your child with their home learning – writing and drawing about what 'Peace' means to you as a family. We have also welcomed in Rev. Pippa and Rev. Lizzie, Encounter Christianity and a team of local volunteers to **explore the Christian nativity story** in an active way with the children. The children were very engaged and interested, plus very polite to our visitors. These sessions allow our children to hear about religious beliefs, forming and communicating how their own beliefs may be similar or different.

They use their **confident oracy skills** to share their ideas with their class.



ECO-WARRIORS 2023 –24



Following a launch assembly at the end of term 1, children from every class applied to become our new ECO warriors. They presented their ideas on how to improve our local environment and community thinking about the future of our planet. Seventeen children were successful and have started building on the success of the ECO warriors from last year.

Green Flag

2023

The new warriors have carried out an environmental audit of the school grounds, our curriculum and our use of different resources. The priorities we have identified are :

- *to consider the amount of **water** we use as a school and at home to reduce consumption.
- *to reduce the amount of **litter** within our school and local community.
- *to reduce **single use plastics** within the curriculum, at lunchtime and within our policies.

We will also continue to promote and improve the priorities from last year – waste, biodiversity and energy.

CITIZENS



This unit of learning is part of our '*Minerva Global Citizen*' curriculum where children consider their dreams and aspirations for the future. They look at examples of people who have overcome challenges to achieve success, discuss what they can learn from these stories and how our 'Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory (ELLI)' powers can help i.e. our resilient starling and growth mindset butterfly. Children across the school identify barriers to achievement and discuss how they

would overcome them. We believe if someone has something to strive for this encourages a sense of purpose and when they work together it can develop a sense of belonging.

During our weekly in class citizens time on Friday our focus this term is on developing children's mental and emotional health. In an assembly last week children learnt and practised strategies such as finger breathing and muscle squeezing. You can join us for a *Children Learning in Class, WOW Wednesday or parent event* later in the term to find out more see our what's coming up or poster.



VISIT TO HILLFIELDS LIBRARY

All our classes have been for a visit to our local library, Hillfields . This has been a fantastic opportunity for them to borrow books, listen to stories and explore our local community.

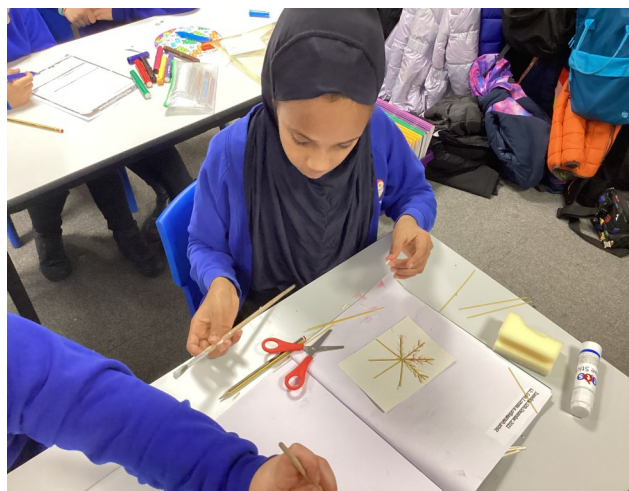
There are more visits planned for this term, if you are interested in going along with your child's year group, please speak with your class teachers. We have sessions on Tuesday or Wednesday, between 10:30 am and 12:00pm.



YEAR 4

Since the beginning of Year 4, we have been going swimming every Thursday. The children walk to the pool, with help from some lovely parents, to support our Healthy Me curriculum. Everyone has been enjoying learning how to swim and working hard to improve their technique.

In class we have been learning as artist. We have been looking at collagraph prints. The children all created their own unique designs using recyclable materials and had a go at creating a repeated pattern with some fantastic re-



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 18th January	The Hobgoblin Panto of King Arthur for all pupils.
Tuesday 30th January 8.45 - 9.15am	Years 1 & 2 parents welcome to join C.L.I.C focusing on Mental Wellbeing .
Wednesday 31st January 8.45 - 9.15am	Pre-school & Reception parents welcome to join WOW Wednesday.
Thursday 1st February 8.45 -9.15am	Years 3,4,5 & 6 parents welcome to join C.L.I.C focusing on Mental Wellbeing .
Thursday 1st February, 9.00 - 10.00am	Parents invited to join Mental health & well-being session being held by Ellie Bloom.
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 3.30 - 6.00pm	Parents evenings held in school.
Tuesday 28th March	Last day of term 4 for all pupils.
Monday 15th April	INSET DAY - school closed for all pupils.
Tuesday 16th April	First day of term 5 for all pupils.