



# MINERVA NEWSLETTER 4

## 16th December 2024

As we approach the final week of this term, I am filled with pride and joy reflecting on all the learning that has taken place across the school both in the classroom and beyond. Our Minerva 'Global Citizens' enrichment trips have been enjoyed weekly by many, with one group of children singing carols and another crafting with the Silver Explorers group. Further afield trips have provided invaluable cultural opportunities, learning and unforgettable memories for our pupils.

I am delighted to see our children continue to actively work towards their individual Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory achievement cards. These cards are a great way to recognise and encourage personal growth. Additionally, our weekly celebration assemblies continue to be a highlight, where we come together to acknowledge and celebrate the successes of our pupils. Many children are now also sharing their achievements outside of MPA, which include medals and certificates for tennis, football, taekwondo, gymnastics and swimming.

We have an exciting week ahead with performances, parties, and a festive dinner planned. These events are a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a school community. This term has been a testament to the resilience, creativity, and enthusiasm of our pupils and staff. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and, most importantly, our wonderful pupils. The hard work and commitment make our school a special place.

Wishing you all a joyful and restful holiday. I look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for another exciting term in the new year.

Warmest Regards,  
Jenny Harvey (Principal)

### YEAR 3 - LEARNING IN CLASS



Year 3 have had a very busy term with trips, Christmas in a Box and working towards our Winter Showcase in amongst all our usual learning!

We have been working on teamwork and communication in Athletes where they have completed challenging team games as a year group. In Musicians, we have been learning the Glockenspiel and working on being an active audience. As Authors, we have been writing setting descriptions and instructions about how to survive in a rainforest and how to play a magnetic game.

### YEAR 5 - BRISTOL MET CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY



Year 5 were lucky enough to be invited and secure tickets to Bristol Metropolitan Academy's production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We attended the matinee show which started at 1pm.

With the recent buzz around wearing pedometers, what better way to get a few steps in than walk to Bristol Met for the show. After an early lunch, we paired up in our groups and walked the 1.6-mile journey to the big high school.

We loved the show! Highlights include the great acting and characters, humorous and specific scenes, and some of the reactions from our peers. We feel very lucky to have experienced a wonderful show that clearly took a lot of hours of practice and preparation! It makes us excited to be on stage for the Winter Showcase!

### YEAR 1- FOREST SCHOOL



Year 1 have enjoyed exploring Forest School this term and welcomed in Reverend Pippa and Reverend Tom from local churches to lead a Hazelnut Wonderful World session. We enjoyed being outside in the Autumn sunshine, making leaf crowns and looking for insects. We listened to a story of migration and change, having chance to touch some Autumn artefacts.

In Maths, we have been revising our number bonds to 10 and moving on to using them more confidently when looking at part whole models. We can use counters or our fingers to help us find the missing part. We explored the concept of part and whole by cutting up

real fruit. We are practising our Oracy skills all the time, but in maths we have been practising using our good oracy skills of standing to speak, looking at the speaker, starting our sentences with "I think..." to reason and justify our mathematical answers.

In Phonics, we have continued to look at alternative graphemes. This is where we learn new spellings for sounds/ phonemes we have already learnt during Reception. We are really working on remembering these alternatives and then using them in our writing. We have been writing in Historians and Authors this term. As Historians, we have been looking back at what school was like in the past and using a variety of sources to order events in chronological order. We have welcomed a special guest in to speak to us about her time at Hillfield's Infants and Junior Schools in the 1960s. In Authors, we enjoyed reading Meerkat Mail, then learning about postcards and writing one back to ourselves. Next week we will post this!

We have been computer scientists, looking at the parts of a laptop and writing our very own name labels on a laptop each. Well done Year 1!

## PARENT FORUM

Thank you to the parents who attend the parent forum on Monday 9th December. It is always really valuable to hear feedback and to answer questions that parents have so that we can work together to help improve the school for all. We discussed some of the points raised from the recent parent survey and we spent a bit longer discussing lunchtimes. We thought it might be helpful to share what lunchtime currently are like and why we have made certain decisions.

### Lunchtimes

Lunchtime is between 12:00 and 1:00. Our youngest children eat first in the dinner hall, with Reception children eating at 11:45, year 1 at 11:50 and year 2 at 11:55. These children all stay in the hall until 12:15 so they have plenty of time to eat. Year 3 and year 4 children come in to eat at 12:15 and year 5 and year 6 at 12:35. Children have a minimum of 15 minutes to eat and stay sat at tables chatting with friends. If children need longer to eat they can stay in the hall with the older children to finish. If children are school dinners they sit at a table first and are called up to collect their food a table at a time. This supports children to wait safely in a short queue.

At the end of lunchtime the doors are opened and the children are encouraged to walk back to their classrooms. We don't expect children to line up and wait as we recognise that queuing and waiting doesn't support children to have a settled start to the afternoon. In KS2 the afternoon session starts with a reading for pleasure session to help them transition back to learning. In EYFS and KS1 the children start the afternoon with a carpet session to support their transition.

In the playground we have different zones so the children can choose where they want to go based on what they want to do:

- The MUGA is supervised by Miss Reid so that she can support positive play, reinforce expectations and make sure the children have the right equipment. Miss Reid is also first aid trained so if there are any bumps or scrapes in the MUGA they can receive first aid straight away. We have set times for years groups to access this space so that children are playing with others of a similar age and size.
  - Zone 1 (closest to the hall) is a quiet area under the canopy and the climbing area and sand pit. In addition the Studio (far end of the hall) is open from 12:30 - 1:00 so that children can access the library or quiet games such as Lego.
  - Zone 2 (the stage and willow tunnel hill) can be accessed by all children for imaginative/creative play.
- Zone 3 (closest to the MUGA) is where we have a playpod so that children can access loose parts as part of their play.

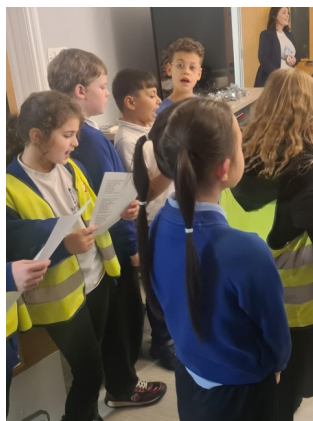
Over lunchtime we have a large number of adults on duty; 15 adults in total. These adults are a mix of SMSAs, TAs and members of SLT. The adults are positioned in different zones/locations so that all areas of the playground can be monitored and play can be supported. These adults all wear a Hi-Viz jacket so that they can easily be spotted by children. We also have a dedicated first aider in Zone 1 wearing a green first aid jacket, Miss Reid as a first aid in the MUGA and a additional first aider where needed.

We do have additional, invite only, provision for some children to support them to have a positive lunchtime experience in smaller spaces. Currently Reception and Pre School children spend their outside time in the front EYFS playground with adults supervising. In the spring term we will begin to introduce the Reception children on to the main playground. They will wear Hi-Viz jackets so can easily be seen and will have an opportunity to practise this without the rest of the school there first. If the Reception children don't feel confident to go on to the main playground they will have the option to stay on the EYFS playground.

We hope that this information has been useful. Please look out for information in the new year about our work with OPAL (outdoor play and learning) who will be supporting us to develop even more play opportunities at breaktime and lunchtime. If you want to find out more about this there will be a meeting for parents - keep an eye out for the date.

### CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT COSSHAM GARDENS CARE HOME

Some of the year 4's went to Cossham Gardens on Friday 13th to sing Christmas songs to the residents.



They did a fantastic job singing "12 days of Christmas, Rudolph the Red nose Reindeer and Wish it could be Christmas everyday". The residents enjoyed their singing and sang along with the children.

After a short break, the children received a request to sing 12 days of Christmas again before they returned to school.

### BRISTOL BEACON



As a school we are proud to be one of only ten schools in Bristol to work and learn in partnership with the Bristol Beacon Earth song project. From Y2 onwards our children have specialist music teachers who come to MPA weekly to deliver whole class or small group singing and instrumental lessons.

Recently, our pupil council asked peers from their class how we could further improve our school. One suggestion was more opportunity to learn to play an instrument.

Therefore, we are sharing with parents the link to Bristol Beacon website and their team of experienced musicians. <https://bristolbeacon.org/learn-to-play/>

### INFORMATION FROM HILLFIELDS



Hi, we're Sarah and Sam from Hillfields Community Garden, a local charity working in the area. It was so nice to be at the Winter Fair and speak to so many of you. We organise a lot of groups, activities and workshops locally within the community. If you'd like to find out more and connect with us here are a few ways: - WhatsApp Community (there is no chat, your details are private and we only share local activities) <https://chat.whatsapp.com/F1ZgfPPO35b33A2YXA7j9T>

- Email us at [engage@hillfieldscommunitygarden.co.uk](mailto:engage@hillfieldscommunitygarden.co.uk) to find out about local volunteering opportunities

- visit our Facebook or website : <https://www.facebook.com/HillfieldsCommunityGarden> and <https://www.hillfieldscommunitygarden.co.uk/>

\*What's on this week in Hillfields\*

### WINTER FAYRE



What a wonderful festive event! There were delicious cakes, warming drinks, winter crafts for sale, year group prepared games, a raffle and even a Santa's Grotto. It was lovely to see so many children, parents and family attend the event and support the school to raise money. The years 1 to 6 had a bit of a competition to see who could raise the most money. They spent time planning their stall, advertising it and preparing the resources.

The year groups can use their money to restock wet play resources or buy resources for a pom pom treat. Money raised at the rest of the fair will be used to help buy resources and equipment to develop breaktimes and lunchtimes.

A huge thank you go to the Friends of Minerva parents who gave up their time to organise and run this event.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 9.15am – 9.45am	Winter Performance - Years 3,4,5 & 6.
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Favourite Jumper Day & Christmas school dinner– Replace your School jumper with your favourite jumper.
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Pre-school class party
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school class parties (in the afternoon) - Reception to Year 6
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of Term 2 for all pupils.
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>INSET day– School closed for pupils</b>
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	We look forward to welcoming all pupils back for Term 3 – Gates open at 8.40am.