



# MINERVA NEWSLETTER 6

## 8th March 2024

Welcome to a term that has already seen snow, sunshine and showers!. As always, it has been a busy start to the term. Children across the school have been engaged and enjoying learning as Minerva Global Citizens and authors. The leadership had the pleasure of going into every class last week so see the learning that is taking place. It is always amazing to look at the progress the children have made since September. In addition to the academic rigour, we really believe in making joy filled memories and providing opportunities for our children that span beyond classroom-based learning.

Enrichment opportunities have included; classes visiting Hillfields library, supporting our local community by litter picking and sorting our recycling. Many children (and parents) have demonstrated their creativity by making and decorating cakes for the 'CLF bake off' and with their World Book Day costumes. This is the Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory skill of the phoenix. Thank you to the fantastic children and families that we have at Minerva for their hard work and for working as a team to create an environment that is truly special.

Mrs Jenny Harvey Principal

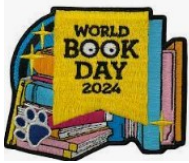
### INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY



This month we celebrate International Women's Day. This is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. In the assembly on Monday, we revisited the nine protected characteristics by law. Previously we have raised the profile and celebrated Black History Month, LGBTQ+ history month and later this month we will have a Neurodiversity week. Across the school we learnt and discussed Katherine Switzer who entered and completed the 26.2 miles of the Boston marathon in 1972, even when women were not permitted. Children spoke about her great courage to have a dream and achieve it through her resilience and determination.

The theme this year is 'Inspire Inclusion'. Who inspires you to achieve your dreams? Through all our assemblies we support the children to understand how British values link back to our own values of 'Safe, Respectful, Learning'. Everyone should be treated fairly and respectfully.

### WORLD BOOK DAY- THURSDAY 7TH MARCH



It has been a pleasure to see lots of children choose to dress up for World Book Day! We have had a reading for pleasure filled day, starting with paired reading between classes of different ages, followed by an incredible assembly where we talked about the importance of finding the books you love to read, and making time in your day to read them.

This afternoon, the children went to a different classroom to listen to a range of stories for MPA Book Club, such as Harry Potter, Gangsta Granny, The Day the Crayons Quit, and The Gruffalo. Thank you to parents who supported their children to make costumes. Don't forget to get your £1 book using your voucher and share the love of reading with your families.



## 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

## BUG CLUB



### Bug Club

During lockdowns we invested in Bug Club so that all children could access high quality and phonetically decodable books while at home.

Over the past year Minerva has invested in buying lots more books that are appropriate for children of all reading ages and stages across our school. We recognise the importance of reading physical books regularly to support daily reading practise.

We have also been really impressed with how well children and families are using the reading folders to transport books to and from school so that reading practise can happen every day in school and at home.

We are now at a point where we no longer need online books and therefore **Bug Club will be stopping at the end of February**

Children across the school access the local library (Hillfields) each school year so if you want to access a wider range of books please remember to use this fantastic free resource.

## 'MINERVA GLOBAL CITIZEN' - PSHE UNIT IS 'HEALTHY ME'

Classes across the school learn about how to stay healthy on the inside and outside. Learning is progressive and age appropriate from reception to year 6.

It covers two main areas. **Emotional or mental health** which is about children learning and discussing relaxation techniques, being safe, friendships, body image, relationships with food and managing stress.

**Physical health** is where children learn and discuss eating a balanced diet, physical activity, rest and relaxation, keeping clean, drugs and alcohol and basic first aid.

Ask your child what they are making. If they do not know yet, they can look at the display in school.



## MPA BIG BAKE OFF



On Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> March we held the Minerva Bake Off competition and we were blown away by the entries. We had over 45 children take part in this competition and the creativity was over flowing! During the day we had the very tricky job of choosing a winner and who would represent Minerva at the regional CLF final 'Big Bake' on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March. After a lot of consideration, we decided upon places- **1<sup>st</sup> Irfana, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dante and 3<sup>rd</sup> Zuri** .

It was such a difficult decision to make and we were so impressed with the creativity we also had a list of runner ups (see below). Pictured here is Irfana who was the winner. She is holding two of her designs. Irfana used her Phoenix power to create uniquely designed cupcakes to represent the different ELLI skills (learning powers) that we use at Minerva. In her designs she had used a range of techniques and included a lot of details.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP

During assembly on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February, as a whole school, we explored why sleep is important and what we can do to make sure we get a good nights sleep. The children were able to share why sleep was so important; to help your body to rest, to help your body to recover from illness and to help your brain to rest so it can remember new things you have learnt.

During the assembly we found out what we can all do to help make sure that we have a good nights sleep. This included:

- Going to bed at the right time so you get enough sleep
  - Going to bed and getting up at the same time each day and not having lie ins of more than 1 hour at the week-end
  - Keeping the room temperature below 22 degrees
  - Making sure you don't eat or exercise 2 hours before going to bed
  - Keeping the space where you sleep dark with no bright lights
- Putting away devices such as phones, tablets and computers an hour before bed

We used the following chart from <https://www.sleepfoundation.org/> to look at how much sleep everyone needs and we used our math skills to work out when we should all be going to bed.

### Recommended Sleep Times By Age Group

Age group	Age range	Recommended hours of sleep
Infant	4-12 months	12-16 hours (including naps)
Toddler	1-2 years	11-14 hours (including naps)
Preschool	3-5 years	10-13 hours (including naps)
School-age	6-12 years	9-12 hours
Teen	13-18 years	8-10 hours
Adult	18 years and older	7 hours or more

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Friday 15th March</b>	Red Nose Day—Pupils can wear a red accessory.
<b>Tuesday 19th March 8.45am—9.15am</b>	Years 1 & 2 C.L.I.C (Children learning in class showcasing our oracy skills).
<b>Wednesday 20th March 8.45am—9.15am</b>	WOW Wednesday Pre-school & Reception classes
<b>Thursday 21st March 8.45am—9.15am</b>	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 C.L.I.C (Children learning in class showcasing our oracy skills).
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2.45pm</b>	Parents welcome to see Early years & Years 1 & 2 Easter bonnet parade.
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Years 3,4,5 & 6 Easter Garden Competition.
<b>Tuesday 28th March</b>	Last day of term 4 for all pupils.
<b>Monday 15th April</b>	INSET DAY - school closed for all pupils.
<b>Tuesday 16th April</b>	First day of term 5 for all pupils.