



MINERVA NEWSLETTER 5

12th December 2025

As we approach the final week of this term, I am filled with pride and joy reflecting on the incredible learning that has taken place across our school—both in the classroom and beyond.

Over the past few weeks, we have placed a special focus on **writing**. It is always wonderful to see children proudly sharing their work and talking about their ideas. At MPA, every child has the opportunity to listen to and explore a text read aloud before using it as inspiration for their own writing. This approach continues to spark creativity and confidence in our young authors.

Many of our classes have achieved their **pom-pom reward** for consistently demonstrating our core values: *Safe, Respectful, and Learning*. To celebrate, classes have enjoyed special activities such as visits to Hillfields Park, hot chocolate in our nature area, and fun games afternoons. Pupils use their oracy skills to discuss options and then vote democratically—a great example of learning in action!

I am also thrilled to share that many children entered the **CLF-wide New Year Card Competition**, showcasing their creativity and growing skills. A huge congratulations to **Mabel in Year 6**, whose winning design will be made into cards for the whole community. What an achievement!

Looking ahead, we have an exciting week planned with **performances, parties, and a festive dinner**. These events are a wonderful opportunity for us to come together and celebrate as a school community. During Monday's assembly, we reflected on how small acts of kindness can bring hope and make a real difference to others—a message that feels especially important at this time of year.

Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and, most importantly, our amazing pupils. Your hard work and commitment make MPA such a special place.

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

Warm regards,

Jenny Harvey
Principal

CHRISTMAS OPAL CREATIVITY



If you joined us for one of our CLIC or WOW events this week you may have spotted one of our festive sculptures.

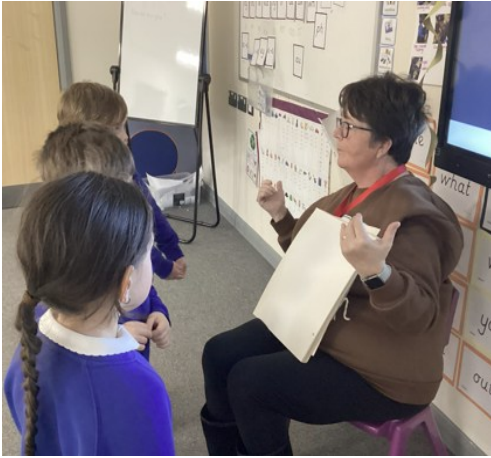
Over lunchtime this week, children in our nature area have gathered resources to have fun creating a tree, Santa and a reindeer for everyone to enjoy.

Santa was often seen being hugged by the children!

YEAR 1-WE ARE HISTORIANS

Year 1 have been historians this term! We've been exploring what school life was like 60 years ago. One of the biggest surprises was discovering that there were no computers and the toilets were outside!

We also met Kath, who went to our school as a child and later worked here. She kindly answered our questions and showed us some amazing pictures of what children used to wear.



YEAR 4 - WE ARE LEARNERS

Year 4 have had a very busy, fun filled term and the children chose some of their highlights to share .:

Swimming has been 'The best type of PE lesson ever' - Miss Kemp and Mrs Delaney are so proud of how far they have come and how much their confidence in the water has grown!

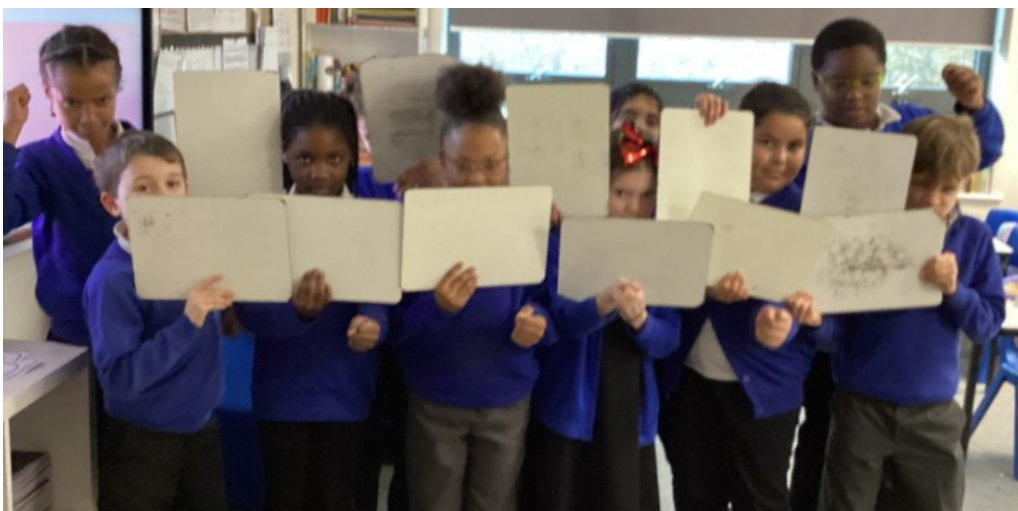


Mastering number has improved our times tables so much - we wish we could do more than one session a day.

We have loved being authors this term as we were able to create our own maps of magical lands to describe - this was 'Our favourite authors yet' and the children all produced some fantastic setting descriptions.

We also really enjoyed learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in historians - creating freeze frames of one of the famous battles was great!

We can't wait to see what fun next term will bring!



SHOWCASE OF ORACY



This term, MPA have continued to shine in one of the most important areas of learning: oracy. In the classroom pupils are becoming confident, thoughtful, and articulate speakers. Improved oracy is helping our pupils grow not just academically, but socially and emotionally. They are learning to agree and disagree respectfully, build on each other's ideas, and speak with confidence to a range of audiences— skills that will serve them well far beyond the classroom.



TRAVEL PLAN AWARD FOR MPA!

Well Done Minerva ! We have been awarded a GOOD Travel Plan award - for all our efforts to increase levels of walking and cycling to school .

Well done to parents and carers too for helping to reduce car journeys and improve healthy habits .

Keep it up Minerva !

WE ARE DESIGNERS

Year 1 visited Cossham hospital as part of their structures unit. They learnt what a structure is, explored different structural properties, and experimented with techniques they could use when creating their own designs. Each child then produced a prototype inspired by the tower at Cossham hospital.

Year 5 worked on a textiles project, creating bunting that represented them as individuals. They had the opportunity to experiment with a variety of techniques, including sewing, tie-dye, and appliqué. Throughout the project, there was a strong focus on revisiting the five-step design process: *discover, define, develop, deliver, and evolve.*



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 5th January	Inset day – School closed to all pupils.
Tuesday 6th January	We welcome all pupils back into school – Gates open at 8.40am.
Thursday 15th January 2pm-2.50pm	Pantomime in school.
Monday 23rd February	Inset day – School closed to all pupils.
Tuesday 24th February	We welcome all pupils back into school – Gates open at 8.40am.