



MINERVA NEWSLETTER 6

26th January 2026

Happy New Year to all our wonderful Minerva community!

We have had a fantastic start to the term. Across the school, children have been thinking carefully about their aspirations for the future and setting new learning goals, both in school and beyond. It has been inspiring to see their enthusiasm, ambition, and commitment to their education and hobbies.

As a staff team, we have also spent time reflecting on our aspirations for every Minerva child. Working together with children, colleagues, and a number of parents, we have created a new vision statement for our school. This statement captures our **core values and the qualities we believe matter most for our learners**. We are excited to share it with you.

Our Vision

At MPA, we champion every child by nurturing strong, positive relationships and setting high expectations within an inclusive and supportive environment. We are committed to building a community of safe, respectful, and confident learners. We value every voice, empowering all students to become independent, lifelong learners who pursue their aspirations and contribute with compassion to both the school and the wider world.

Later this term, when you join us for **Children Learning in Class (CLIC)** sessions, you will have the chance to see this vision in action—how we work, learn, and grow together at Minerva.

Warm regards,

Jenny Harvey

Principal

FREE SPACES AVAILABLE IN OUR PRESCHOOL CLASS

All children are entitled to 15 hours of free childcare per week from the term following their third birthday. At Minerva, we admit children into our preschool class in September, January, and April.

We currently have spaces available in our Wednesday/Thursday/Friday class. If you would like more information, please speak to the school office.

RODEO MENU 15TH JANUARY 2026



We are pleased to share that our Rodeo menu was a great success, with many more children choosing to enjoy a hot, free school meal.

The children were very excited about the themed lunch, and we are delighted to announce that **14 pupils from Minerva Primary Academy have been entered into the Cabot Learning Federation prize draw**, where the winning entry will receive a **brand new bike**.

We wish all our pupils the best of luck!

WE ARE GEOGRAPHERS

As Geographers KS1 have been consolidating their knowledge of our local area and Year 2 have linked this to our Historians topic by visiting the SS Great Britain.

We have also continued to use and explore our local community by visiting the library, Hillfields Park, and Cossham Hospital. KS2 have been extending their knowledge of locations around Europe and comparing continents around the world. Reminder that we have marking Switch Off Fortnight in school for the next two weeks!

PE FOCUS: BUILDING BALANCE AND STRATEGIC THINKING ACROSS TWO TERMS

Over the past two terms, our Key Stage 1 and 2 students have been immersed in a dynamic and engaging Physical Education program designed to develop both **physical control** and **tactical awareness**. The curriculum has centred around two key themes: **balance** and **invasion games**, offering a rich variety of activities that challenge coordination, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Term 1: Mastering Balance and Movement

The first term focused on activities that build core strength, stability, and spatial awareness. Students explored creative challenges such as:

- **River Crossings** – Working in teams to navigate imaginary rivers using limited equipment, encouraging cooperation and planning.

- **Balance Circuits** – Combining static and dynamic balance tasks to improve posture and control.

Partner Challenges – Activities that required trust and communication, reinforcing social skills alongside physical development.

These sessions were not just about staying upright—they were about **thinking ahead, adapting to obstacles, and supporting one another**.

Term 2: Invasion Games and Tactical Play

The second term introduced students to the exciting world of invasion games, where strategy meets speed. Through games like **Steal the Treasure**, **Capture the Flag**, and modified versions of football and netball, pupils learned:

- How to **create space and maintain possession**.

- The importance of **quick decision-making under pressure**.

How to **work as a cohesive team**, balancing attack and defence.

These activities provided a safe and fun environment for students to experiment with tactics, develop resilience, and celebrate success together.



Why It Matters

This two-term focus has been about more than physical fitness—it's about **confidence, collaboration, and creativity**. By blending balance challenges with strategic games, we've helped students build a foundation of skills that will benefit them in sport and beyond.

SWITCH OFF FORTNIGHT



Between **19th January and 30th January**, Minerva is taking part in **Switch Off Fortnight!** Our goal is to save energy, reduce costs, and help protect the planet by switching off as many lights and electronic devices as possible throughout the school.

Everyone is working hard to turn off anything we don't need, especially during lunchtimes. Our **ECO Warriors** are leading the way, supporting the whole school in this mission and helping us meet our recycling targets too!

PERSONAL SOCIAL HEALTH ECONOMIC EDUCATION (PSHE) THE FOCUS IS DREAMS AND GOALS



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 starting 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.

Next week, we will also be holding our annual raising aspiration careers event. This year the whole school will be involved. We want to thank and welcome all our speakers from our community. Children are looking forward to listening and asking questions of our visitors about their careers.



ROBIN HOOD PANTOMIME



On Thursday 15th January the whole school enjoyed a wonderful live performance of Robin Hood.

The afternoon was full of excitement, songs and 6/7!

Thank you to Friends of Minerva for part funding the event and to all the families who made donations towards the performance.

YEAR 6

Year 6 have demonstrated fantastic creativity in their writing across both fiction and non-fiction. In fiction, they wrote detailed setting descriptions designed to build suspense, using carefully chosen vocabulary and imagery to engage the reader.

The children showed great focus and confidence, taking pride in producing high-quality writing for different purposes and audiences.

Year 6 have also been excellent athletes in gymnastics, demonstrating strong balance, control and rhythm. They have worked hard to link movements smoothly, showing improved coordination. Their positive attitude and teamwork have been a pleasure to see.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 30th January	Raising Aspirations/Careers event.
Tuesday 3rd February, 8.45am-9.15am	C.L.I.C. for Years 3, 4, 5, & 6
Wednesday 4th February (Preschool 9am-9.30am or 12.15-12.45pm, Reception classes 8.45-9.15am)	WOW Wednesday for Preschool & Reception
Thursday 5th February, 8.45-9.15am	C.L.I.C. for Years 1 & 2
Friday 13th February	Last day of term 3.
Monday 23rd February	Inset day – School closed to all pupils.
Tuesday 24th February	Welcome all students back for Term 4 –